

For Immediate Release

November 19, 2007

FWBBC Selects Gallatin for New Campus

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College (FWBBC) has selected a 66-acre site in Gallatin on which to build a new campus, according to Relocation Consultant Colonel Mark Johnson. The site is a short 26-minute drive from the college's current campus on West End Avenue. College officials signed a contract on November 19. Because of a confidentiality clause, terms of the contract (including purchase price) cannot be disclosed until all required city approvals have been obtained and the contract has been finalized.

President Matt Pinson said, "The Board and administration could not be more pleased with the purchase arrangements. We believe that we received an excellent price from the owner for this prime property on which to relocate. The confidentiality clause will be lifted as soon as the contract has closed, and we will share more details with our constituency."

Mark Johnson said, "We looked at over 100 potential sites in Middle Tennessee before signing a contract on this beautiful land in Sumner County just off Vietnam Veterans Boulevard. The land, which is mostly open and flat with a gentle slope, is a portion of property known as the Franklin Farm which was a Revolutionary War grant."

Colonel Johnson assured FWBBC's constituents that freeway accessibility to the new campus site would mirror what the college enjoys in its current location. "State Route 386 (Vietnam Veterans Boulevard) in Sumner County, a four-lane limited-access freeway, gives the college the same easy-on/easy-off access to the interstate system that is now provided by I-440. The college will be located about three-fourths of a mile from the exit/entrance to SR 386 at Station Camp Creek Road."

President Pinson said, "This property in Gallatin is everything we were looking for in a new campus. It's more than seven times the size of our current campus, which means that we will not have to cap enrollment and curtail new programs. We will have room to construct adequate buildings for instructional needs and to house students."

The larger campus site will allow FWBBC to build outdoor sports facilities for students, and provides plenty of parking space for students, staff, and campus guests. In addition, the college can design a campus from the start to fit current and future needs. The site is near medical and educational resources, surrounded by new housing developments, and is still in the Greater Nashville area.

Pinson explained that Sumner County's exploding economy, along with Gallatin's inviting small-city atmosphere, means that the college will have the benefits of the larger Nashville community as well as the charm and convenience of the Gallatin/Hendersonville communities.

"We have been welcomed by city officials and business leaders," he said. "We believe that we've found our new home after searching long and hard for a new campus."

Station Camp High School, Knox Doss Middle School, and an elementary school now under construction are located across the street from the new campus site. Volunteer State Community College with its welcoming officials and facilities is two miles away. The \$18 million Sumner Regional Healthplex-Wellness Center is under construction less than a mile from the campus site, and will be completed in early 2008.

The site fronts on Bison Trail to the south and Station Camp Creek to the west, and is in the center of Sumner County's booming economic growth corridor. Affordable housing in a wide range of prices is readily available in the area for faculty and staff needs, as well as numerous employment opportunities for students.

Gallatin officials project rapid population growth in the next five years as the area's surging economy attracts high-end shops, malls, jobs, healthcare facilities, and an array of restaurants and housing developments.

President Pinson said that the college originally planned to purchase the Sumner County property in concert with selling its West End Avenue campus in Nashville. However, after the proposed buyer notified the college in March 2007 that he was unable to go forward with the purchase, the college administration and Trustees became convinced of the need to proceed and secure the Gallatin site, even though a timetable for construction start-up on the new campus has not been set. The college has financing in place to purchase the property, and will be talking with donors and friends about their help in offsetting the cost of the land.

"As you can see," Pinson said, "we have a lot of work to do in the next few years. We have our current campus to sell, a new campus to design, buildings to construct, funds to raise, and most important, we have students to teach. Every effort will be made to guarantee an uninterrupted learning experience for our current students and the new students who will enroll over the next few years. The students are and always will be our first concern."

Colonel Johnson said that the college will work with the property owner to satisfy all contractual requirements which will lead to a close and sale of the property.

The decision to relocate the 65-year-old college came in June 2006 following a six-month feasibility study. At that time, college officials projected that it would cost approximately \$30 million to buy land, build a new campus, and relocate.

Dan Downs, property owner and developer, said, "Free Will Baptist Bible College will be an asset to our community providing a Christian education for our future leaders. We are fortunate in Sumner County to have both a two-year community college (Volunteer State) and now a four-year college (Free Will Baptist Bible College)."

Reverend Gene Outland, chairman of the Board of Trustees, said, "This is a great moment for FWBBC. Sixty-five years ago, our fathers walked along Nashville's Richland/West End Avenues and laid the foundation for a dream called Free Will Baptist Bible College. Today, that dream is a reality looking for a new home, a larger home just up the road on 66 acres in Gallatin."

Sidebar

Gallatin Officials Welcome FWBBC

Mayor Jo Ann Graves, City of Gallatin

"Gallatin welcomes Free Will Baptist Bible College. This is truly a historic and exciting time for our city and communities around us. FWBBC will bring us a great college with a tremendous, rich tradition of education and community service. It will change our city for the better, and we could not be more pleased."

Johnny Hayes, Forward Sumner President and CEO

"The college will be a wonderful addition to our community and will provide benefits to our citizens that transcend the pure economics of the project. While the jobs and the new buildings and the use of the land are great, it is the presence of the students that really makes me excited."

Dr. Warren Nichols, President, Volunteer State Community College

"Volunteer State Community College is in support of Free Will Baptist Bible College's move to the area. We are looking forward to working with the college on educational initiatives and enhancing the lives of the residents of our service area."

Clay Walker, Executive Director, Gallatin Economic Development Agency

“This project, because of its scope and complexities, took a real team approach, and we got one from everybody involved. I think that President Pinson, Mark Johnson, and the Board of Trustees saw that togetherness and sense of community, and that it definitely figured into their decision. As an economic development professional, I feel very fortunate to have had this experience. You seldom get the chance to work on something this special.”

Craig Hayes, Councilman

“I am extremely excited about Free Will Baptist Bible College coming to Gallatin. It will be a tremendous opportunity for the city and Sumner County. I am excited that the people of Sumner County will be able to attend and complete their education at a four-year college without leaving the county. I look forward to working with the faculty and leadership at the college.”

R.J. Thompson, Sumner County Executive

“We look forward to Free Will Baptist Bible College being in Sumner County. The college would bring the kind of facility to the county that we want. We know that FWBBC officials and Volunteer State Community College leaders have discussed ways they could complement each other. FWBBC would be a great addition to our community which we would welcome with open arms.”

Photo Identification: FWBBC leaders present for the contract signing.

Seated: President Matt Pinson

Standing (L-R): Sandy Goodfellow, Director of Plant Operations; Mark Johnson, Campus Relocation Project Consultant; Milton Fields, Vice President for Institutional Planning; Greg Kettelman, Provost; David Williford, Vice President for Institutional Advancement; Jon Forlines, Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Students.