

For Immediate Release

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FWBBC Students Minister in India

NASHVILLE, TN—Four missions track students from Free Will Baptist Bible College traveled to South India in May to get a first-hand view of a different culture and to fulfill their practicum, according to Ron Callaway, missions program coordinator, who accompanied the group. Josh Provow (Missouri), Shawn Richards (Tennessee), Katie Peterson (Florida) and Nathan Franks (Alabama) spent 10 days ministering near the city of Coonoor (at 6,000+ feet), then moved down to the plains for a week where temperatures soared over 100 degrees.

“The pastors and Free Will Baptist Christians welcomed and honored us,” Mr. Callaway said. “Friendships were formed that will continue to grow. The students returned with several important prayer requests and a determination to help support a home for orphans in one of the churches.”

The group was hosted by the South Indian Free Will Baptist Association under the supervision of FWBIM mission representative Pastor David RajKumar and Pastor D. Stanley RajKumar of the Hanna Free Will Baptist Church and director of the Volena Wilson Bible Institute. The Indian Christians walked the students through cultural studies concerning Hinduism, Indian family values, Indian ethical values, evangelistic practices, Indian government, dress, and culture.

In addition to preaching as well as and sharing in youth and children’s services, the students participated in several cultural events. They visited a Karumba tribal village and a home for the blind, deaf, and handicapped Indians operated by Christians. A principal part of the study course involved interaction with people in the Indian culture. Because of their American appearance, the students had numerous opportunities to converse and communicate.

The students landed in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, on May 19 after a 30-hour trip to a time zone more than 10 hours ahead of Nashville’s CST. They returned to the States on June 11 following a three-

week baptism in a different worldview and culture. Josh Provow's wife Lydia gave birth to their second child (Phoebe) while he was in India. Josh begins M.Div. studies in cross-cultural church planting this fall. Katie Peterson begins a master's degree in English this fall; Nathan Franks returns to FWBBC for his senior year; Shawn Richards plans to get married in July and is scheduled to graduate at FWBBC in 2012.

Photo: (L) Shawn Richards, Nathan Franks, Josh Provow, Katie Peterson.