

For Immediate Release

May 4, 2010

FWBBC Takes Proactive Flood Measures

NASHVILLE, TN—After Nashville Mayor Karl Dean announced Tuesday morning that one of the city's two water treatment plants was under water and that reserves had already dropped 15%, Free Will Baptist Bible College administrators implemented the unprecedented measure of dismissing students before graduation for the first time in the institution's 67-year history, in order to comply with Mayor Dean's urgent request to conserve water.

Provost Greg Kettelman said: "This is final exam week at FWBBC, but because of unusual circumstances due to the recent weather system that flooded the area, we are dismissing all undergraduate students to go home who do not have responsibilities at baccalaureate or commencement exercises as soon as they complete final exams. We expect 100 or more students will make arrangements to leave campus early, thus taking some pressure off the city's dwindling water supply. "

The college began experiencing water pressure issues on its West End campus mid-morning Tuesday which affected areas basic to operations, including drinking water, sanitation, food preparation, and showers. A campus-wide alert informed students, faculty, and staff to conserve as much water as possible. However, after Mayor Dean's announcement, administrators decided that more positive measures were necessary.

All other campus events related to the 7:00 p.m. Thursday baccalaureate and the 10:00 a.m. Friday commencement will proceed as planned.

In a related matter, numerous inquiries have been made regarding the impact of widespread flooding on the college's relocation site purchased two years ago in Gallatin.

President Matt Pinson reported that the torrential rains that dropped more than 12 inches of water in Nashville and surrounding areas of Middle Tennessee did not create unexpected problems on the site of FWBBC's 66-acre future campus in Gallatin, located just off Vietnam Veterans Boulevard (SR 386). As college administrators anticipated, flood waters reached the 100-year flood plain portion of the Gallatin property.

President Pinson said: "Let's put it this way—if we had just completed construction on the new campus the way it is designed, *no water* would have entered any campus buildings. That's great news for us in light of the fact that the Army Corps of Engineers is calling this a 1,000-year flood event. Several buildings would have had water near them, but none would have been damaged."

Gallatin's Station Camp High School, located across the street from the FWBBC property, did not experience any flooding.

Pinson indicated that when the college purchased the property in 2008, plans called for athletic fields and green space in the flood plain areas. He personally walked over the Gallatin property on Monday, May 3, the day after the rains stopped, and also spoke with neighbors and others who occupy adjacent properties.

Bob Bass, project consultant for FWBBC's Campus Relocation Task Force, said: "Even with this being the worst flooding event in Gallatin's recorded history, we were still right on target with construction plans. Which means that even if this or a similar event happens in the future, FWBBC is in good shape to build a new campus and be assured of a safe environment for students."