

For Immediate Release

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FWBBC Hosts GO10 Celebration

NASHVILLE, TN—Nearly 200 people gathered on the front lawn of Davidson Hall at Free Will Baptist Bible College Saturday afternoon, June 19, for a cookout and a live gospel bluegrass concert as FWBBC hosted a GO10 Walk for the World event. Sporting tennis shoes and bright T-shirts, GO10 walkers pushed through 93-degree temperatures marching the final mile of the day from Nashville's Centennial Park to the tree-shaded FWBBC campus.

Following the hour-long cookout and fellowship time, everyone moved inside Memorial Auditorium at 4:00 p.m. for a rousing 50-minute program that included three standing ovations. GO10 project director Joe Wilson told attendees that the 2,500-mile march which started in Glennville, Georgia, in April had 1,000 miles to go, and that the event had already raised \$355,000 for International Missions.

A 22-voice Alumni Choir, accompanied by a 10-piece orchestra, sang "Go Into All the World," an anthem recognizing the legacy of Laura Belle Barnard and others in world missions outreach, written and directed by Dr. James Stevens, chairman of the FWBBC Music Department. This marked the first time the song had been sung publicly. As the choir and orchestra crescendoed with high notes and timpani rolls, the congregation in Memorial Auditorium rose in spontaneous ovation.

The program moved quickly to a dramatic presentation, featuring a recitation by Dr. Mary Wisheart, former WNAC executive secretary-treasurer and English professor at FWBBC, who portrayed Laura Belle Barnard describing her decision to become a missionary, her ministry in India, and her years as a missions instructor at FWBBC. The presentation, under the direction of AnnaGee Harris (FWBBC drama director), brought laughter and tears from the audience, and was accompanied by a verbal summary Free Will Baptist history that climaxed with a second standing ovation.

James Forlines, general director of Free Will Baptist International Missions, thanked FWBBC for hosting the event and recognized Joe Wilson for his leadership in the GO10 project. The third standing ovation came as Forlines described the hard work and commitment that Wilson had given the GO10 Walk for the World celebration.

“We will not forget,” Forlines promised to all who answer the call to missions. More than 350 missionaries have followed in Laura Belle Barnard’s footsteps. Forlines spoke of Miss Barnard’s dynamic prayer life and her dedication to world missions even after she retired and returned to Georgia.

In his closing remarks, President Matt Pinson reminded the celebration participants: “Free Will Baptist Bible College is committed to the Great Commission. God did use Laura Belle Barnard, and He continues to use people like her today. We thank God for Free Will Baptist International Missions and for the part that FWBBC has played in educating and preparing missionaries to serve around the world.”

By 5:00 p.m. Saturday, the alumni choir was silent, the standing ovations ended, and people returned to their weekend schedules. But early Monday morning on June 21, with the temperature headed toward 96 degrees, Joe Wilson and the GO10 walkers gathered on the FWBBC campus to begin another 30-mile hike. By 7:00 a.m., they were marching west again toward Oklahoma City, one day closer to completing the historic 2,500-mile trek.

PHOTO: The Alumni Choir sings “Go Into All the World.”