

For Immediate Release

January 27, 2010

FWBBC Students Preach in Georgia

NASHVILLE, TN—Thirteen Free Will Baptist Bible College ministerial students, along with Christian Service Director John Murray, spent two event-filled days (January 16-17) preaching in Southeast Georgia churches. The busy weekend kicked off with a Saturday night area youth rally at New Hope Free Will Baptist Church in Jesup with 125 enthusiastic young people participating in the worship and a post-service fellowship and meal time.

Senior FWBBC ministerial student Thomas Holloway, a Georgia native, preached a stirring message during the youth rally as two people came forward for prayer. Preaching Team members shared a fellowship meal with the young people, encouraged them to consider attending FWBBC, and then went home with designated pastors in preparation for services in 14 churches Sunday morning.

Pastor Tim Horne (New Hope Free Will Baptist Church) said, "We had a great weekend with the young men from FWBBC. It is refreshing to see the passion they have for ministry, and to know we have so many coming through the college who will help fill future ministry opportunities."

By the time the Preaching Team loaded into college vans Sunday afternoon for the 10-hour drive to Nashville, they had ministered to nearly 900 people, and other local pastors had caught the excitement of young preachers in their pulpits and were positive in their praise for the preaching event and what it meant to the Southeast Georgia churches.

Pastor Eric Brown (Pine Level Free Will Baptist Church, Alma) said, "The local church may be the biggest beneficiary of these preaching trips. It lets the congregation know why they should support a college that's miles away from the community and consider sending their children to FWBBC. Even a brief exposure to one student on a weekend like this gives the congregation a sense of the kind of

leaders FWBBC is producing. The preacher boys did a great job representing the college and inspiring others to consider a quality Christ-centered college education.”

Three students made timely observations about their weekend preaching trip:

Justin Johnson (Sophomore): “I was honored to stand in the pulpit at Pine Level Free Will Baptist Church in Alma, the home church of FWBBC’s founding president, Dr. L.C. Johnson. I also made a new ministry friend, Pastor Eric Brown. Within a day or two of getting back to campus from preaching trips, I usually get a friend request on Facebook thanking me for coming to the church. I’m so happy to go preach and get an opportunity to impact others.”

Paul Gillikin (Senior): “One word describes the Georgia preaching trip experience—*refreshing*. As we drove to our destination, it was refreshing to hear young men laugh and praise God and make promises. It was refreshing to see God at work in the Georgia youth rally through music, drama, and fellowship. It was refreshing to sit in Pastor Parnell Aldridge’s home and hear his wisdom and feel his compassion for God’s work at Philadelphia Free Will Baptist Church in Folkston.”

Thomas Holloway (Senior): “The trip was a great time for us to gain more experience in the work to which we’ve been called. On the way to Georgia and back, many of us shared our ministry goals with one another as well as our backgrounds. We were well received by our assigned churches. Plus, we enjoyed the drama performed by a local youth group at the youth rally, and the fellowship with the young people who attended the rally.”

The Preaching Team travels on weekends five or six times each year, according to John Murray, with a core of young men who make every trip and others who join the team as work and class schedules permit. They frequently arrive back in Nashville at midnight or later Sunday night, just in time to grab a few hours of sleep before 8:00 a.m. classes. The next Preaching Team weekend is scheduled February 6-7 in Southern Illinois.