

For Immediate Release

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Missouri Volunteers Back at FWBBC

NASHVILLE, TN—For the third consecutive year, Missouri pastor Rick Dement led a five-man work team from First Free Will Baptist Church in O’Fallon on a volunteer mission at Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to Ernie Thompson, cleaning operations supervisor. The group chose August 2-6, the hottest week of the year in Middle Tennessee, to work nine-hour days applying epoxy to floors in the men’s residence hall and painting walls in renovated campus buildings.

“We always look forward to the Missouri Volunteers arriving on campus,” Mr. Thompson said. “When they roll in, we know they can handle the tough jobs, the heavy lifting, and the long hours. All they want us to do is provide a place to sleep at night and point them to the work when the sun rises. They take it from there.”

Western history buff Don Clifton joined the work team this year. The 72-year-old retired carpenter plays a guitar and sings, and spent a month in Wyoming this summer before loading his tools for the trip to Nashville. He has been part of the O’Fallon Church family for two years.

Another carpenter, Mike Hei, returned for his second year. Mike had been laid off five months in 2009 when he made the trip to FWBBC. He now calls himself a “free lance handyman” who stays busy with word-of mouth work referrals. “The Lord cleared my schedule this week so I could be here,” he said. “I’m so glad He did, because I wouldn’t want to miss the time on campus.”

Retired factory worker Roger Drennen and 19-year-old Ben Osterkamp arrived Monday afternoon in a pickup truck with Hei and Clifton, and complete the five-man Missouri crew. This is Drennan’s second work trip to FWBBC and Osterkamp’s third.

“I always enjoy helping out at FWBBC,” Osterkamp said. “I’m not an expert at anything we’re doing, but the guys I travel with are.” A Pre-Med student studying to become a sports orthopedic physician, he plans to “take it overseas” as a medical missionary.

Pastor Dement served three years as Moderator of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists. He now serves on the state Mission Board. “FWBBC is our college,” he said, “and we’re needed here. We want our students educated here. We want them to grow and mature and to be encouraged when they look around after enrolling, knowing that we cared enough to make things look nice for them.”