

For Immediate Release

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FWBBC President Speaks at Free Will Baptist Heritage Conference

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College president Matt Pinson spoke four times August 6-7 during South Georgia Association's historic Free Will Baptist Heritage Conference which met in concert with the quarterly meeting at New Hope Free Will Baptist Church in Jesup. Under the leadership of Moderator Wayne Miracle, some 160 pastors and members from four local associations came together Friday evening and Saturday morning for the conference and business sessions.

Dr. Pinson addressed the group on the subjects: "Renewal Through Retrieval: On the Value of Tradition," "Our General Baptist Heritage and Roots in the Reformation," and "Traditional Values: Things We Can Learn from Our Tradition." The fast-paced, 50-minute lectures were tightly researched and designed to raise awareness regarding the significance of Free Will Baptist origins and doctrine, and the importance of those traditions in a shifting postmodern culture.

Moderator Wayne Miracle said, "The seminar was extremely well received, and we've had many positive responses from those who attended. One of our goals was to be proactive regarding a market-driven approach to ministry and call our churches back to a more biblically-centered ministry. Dr. Pinson was the ideal choice to handle the subject—he understands the issues confronting our churches today, and he is most capable of articulating how to explain and deal with the cultural and theological challenges."

A spirited question and answer exchange followed Dr. Pinson's second lecture Friday evening. During a scheduled book-signing, attendees purchased copies of his books, *A Free Will Baptist Handbook* (1998) and *The Washing of the Saints' Feet* (2006). Both volumes focus on Free Will Baptist heritage, beliefs, and ministry. Conferees also purchased Heritage Conference DVDs as well as copies of two other Pinson books, *Four Views on Eternal Security* (2002) and *Perspectives on Christian Worship* (2009).

“One pastor who attended called thanking me for scheduling the Heritage Conference,” Reverend Miracle said. “He said that as Brother Pinson spoke during the seminar it seemed that a light came on in his mind, and suddenly he understood the issues and the cultural battles confronting our churches. I think all of us had several of those ‘Ah Ha’ moments during these seminars.”

The Free Will Baptist Heritage Conference was sponsored by South Georgia Association’s Executive Board. The gathering was also an unofficial open-house for host New Hope Free Will Baptist Church’s 300-seat sanctuary. A first-ever Friday night session was added to the quarterly meeting schedule, and officials minimized Saturday business to allow Dr. Pinson more time to speak.

Following the conference, Pinson traveled to Statesboro and preached Sunday morning at New Life Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church where Moderator Wayne Miracle pastors.

Dr. Pinson said, “What a great weekend to remind us of the importance of Free Will Baptist doctrine, polity, and heritage. I was delighted for the opportunity to speak to the South Georgia Association on a subject that stirs me and is dear to my heart. It was a time to remember what is so special and unique about our denominational heritage. I hope to continue sharing the story with other Free Will Baptists beyond Georgia.”