

For Immediate Release

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### **Arkansas Welcomes FWBBC Preaching Team**

NASHVILLE, TN—The Social Band Association in Arkansas hosted a 10-man Preaching Team from Free Will Baptist Bible College on February 19-20 as a number of local churches opened their pulpits Sunday morning to the ministerial students following a Saturday night youth rally at First Free Will Baptist Church in Jonesboro. Junior student Zachary Maloney preached during the youth rally. Weekend activities resulted in the Preaching Team addressing nearly 1,300 people and traveling over 1,000 miles, according to John Murray, Christian service director and event organizer.

“We have some exciting young people in our churches,” Mr. Murray said. “I was so glad that we had a chance to visit with a number of them after the rally on Saturday. The parents and host pastors were open and welcoming, eager to learn more about the ministry of FWBBC. The Preaching Team filled the pulpits in 11 churches Sunday morning. I was delighted to be with Pastor Randy Scott at Sutton Free Will Baptist Church in Pocahontas. The drive back to Nashville was filled with positive remarks from the young preachers who had great stories to tell of how God moved in the services.”

Fourteen Arkansas students are currently enrolled at FWBBC. Reverend Mark Stripling, pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church in North Little Rock, serves on the college’s Board of Trustees. Student Body Chaplain David Landers is from Arkansas, as are freshman class officers Catie Pointer (secretary-treasurer) and Nick Hewitt (chaplain). Other Arkansas students also provide campus leadership roles in student organizations.

Several students commented on the weekend preaching trip:

*Nick Hewitt (freshman):* “The trip to Arkansas was amazing, especially for a home-state boy like me. It was a great opportunity to represent the college I love and to fellowship with so many believers in the denomination I love as well.”

*Chris Talbot* (senior): "Preaching trips have been a highlight of my time at FWBBC. I appreciate the opportunity to meet the pastors and speak in the churches."

*Phill Easley* (sophomore): "I thoroughly enjoyed this trip and hope to go on many more in the future. What an excellent occasion to gain experience and minister to others."

*Jordan Looney* (junior): "This was my first preaching trip, and I loved it! I enjoyed meeting Pastor Kenneth Winningham and the congregation at Faith Free Will Baptist Church in Jonesboro."

*Greg Smith* (junior): "I met some really great people and made some new friends at Elnora Free Will Baptist Church in Walnut Ridge."

*Zachary Maloney* (junior): "These preaching trips are such an encouragement to me. I had a wonderful time with Pastor Ryan Johnston and his family at First Free Will Baptist Church in Walnut Ridge. Ryan is a great friend of mine."

*Richie Kyburz* (freshman): "What an opportunity to bond more with other preachers on this trip. It's great to share my heart with fellow preachers who have the same passion I do."

*Rob Wilkerson* (senior): "Each preaching trip I go on equips, teaches, and exhorts me in some way that helps build my future ministry. I love the opportunity to preach the gospel for the glory of God."

*Phil Tolbert* (senior): "I always enjoy going on preaching trips, especially to North Central Arkansas. What a blessing it was to be with the pastor and congregation at Sharum Free Will Baptist Church in Delaplaine."

The Arkansas preaching trip began with a Saturday morning breakfast at Shoney's and a windy ride across the Mississippi River, and ended at 8:00 p.m. Sunday evening as the van filled with happy ministerial students unloaded on the FWBBC campus. The next Preaching Team weekend is scheduled April 2-3 in East Tennessee.