

For Immediate Release

March 14, 2011

Excitement Sweeps FWBBC Campus During Bible Conference/FORUM11

NASHVILLE, TN—Campus-wide excitement brought a sense of urgency to Free Will Baptist Bible College March 6-9 as Bible Conference/FORUM11 speakers spotlighted “Preaching the Word, Renewing the Family” and challenged hearers to confront contemporary culture with the Gospel. Attendees were assured by every speaker that the church has the message to help today’s families

FWBBC officials said more than 500 people crowded into Memorial Auditorium for 10 plenary worship sessions in the four-day event. Twenty-three morning and afternoon workshops provided a smorgasbord of ideas and creativity for the information-hungry attendees.

“There was an unusual sense of expectancy and enthusiasm at this year’s conference, Provost Greg Kettelman said. “God graciously blessed us with His presence and met our needs through stirring music, passionate speakers, practical workshops, and Christian fellowship.”

Texas pastor and author Voddie Baucham spoke five times Monday on the culture war facing the church and family, and the necessity of intergenerational faithfulness. Educator and preaching professor Haddon Robinson called the congregation to worship three times Tuesday as he addressed dealing with doubts, putting life’s puzzle together when pieces don’t fit, and preaching that listeners can understand.

FWBBC’s vice president for institutional advancement David Williford praised the speakers: “It is a masterful sermon that can both fill the heart and challenge the mind simultaneously. This year’s Bible Conference was filled with messages that did both. Voddie Baucham and Haddon Robinson were indeed masterful. Dr. Baucham’s sermon Monday morning is one of the top five I’ve ever heard. Drs. Garnett Reid and Charles Thigpen demonstrated why they have taught homiletics at FWBBC—their sermons were outstanding. This was one of the best conferences I’ve ever attended.”

Locust Grove, Oklahoma, youth pastor Curt Gwartney targeted parents and long-haul youth ministry in two workshops, and then delivered two presentations Wednesday afternoon on a biblical model for mentoring. Former FWBBC president Charles Thigpen preached three stirring messages on an antidote for this evil age, maintaining a Christian home, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Dr. Garnett Reid, chair of FWBBC's Biblical and Ministry Studies Department, spoke twice—opening Monday 's sessions with "God's '48 Chevy" and closing the conference Wednesday evening with "What's It Worth to You?"

FWBBC faculty members delivered 13 additional workshops ranging from "Spiritual Disciplines for Women" by Librarian Carol Reid to "Biblical Church Growth Strategies That Work" by Pastoral Ministry Program Coordinator Terry Forrest to "More Than Music" by Music Department Chairman James Stevens to "Practical Preaching From the Old Testament" by Campus Pastor Matthew McAfee to "Family Financial Stewardship" by Business professor Rebecca Deel, and others.

The conference featured performances by the College Choir and small groups Rejoice and New Mercy. A special Wednesday morning Alumni Service with speakers Jacob Creech (Class of 1961), Brian Tippett (Class of 1986), and Jack Kettelman (Class of 2001) honored classes from 50, 25, and 10 years ago. The Alumni Luncheon on Tuesday filled Cumberland Cafeteria with smiling alumni who enjoyed the fellowship and a complimentary meal.

Check the college's website (www.fwbcc.edu) from time to time for upcoming information on next year's conference scheduled March 4-7, 2012.