

For Immediate Release

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### **FWBBC Appoints Gary Fry to Church Relations Post**

NASHVILLE, TN—Reverend Gary Fry, executive director for the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists since 2004, has been named vice president for church relations at Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to President Matt Pinson. Reverend Fry will complete his Missouri duties in January 2012 and begin his FWBBC responsibilities in February.

President Pinson said, “We are delighted that Gary Fry has agreed to join the FWBBC leadership team. He brings a sterling reputation as a denominational leader and Christian gentleman. His commitment to the college and his understanding of FWBBC’s mission is second to none. For 12 productive years, he served on the Board of Trustees, 10 years as chairman. He is exactly what we need as we reach out to churches, parents, and pastors with the urgent message of biblical higher education for Free Will Baptist young people.”

A Missouri native, Reverend Fry has coordinated the work of the Missouri State Association as editor of the *GEM Magazine* and executive director since 2004. He also served on the General Board and Executive Committee for the National Association of Free Will Baptists. A gifted journalist and speaker, Fry writes editorials and articles, and is a frequent participant in leadership conferences.

Converted at age nine and licensed to preach at 16, Reverend Fry was ordained at 17. He graduated from FWBBC in 1972 and pursued graduate studies at Assembly of God Seminary (Springfield) after returning to Missouri as a youth pastor. He later pastored five years in Florida (1976-1981) and served briefly as editor of the state paper, *The Co-Ordinator*. His 23-year signature pastorate at First Free Will Baptist Church in Mountain Grove (1981-2004) marked him as rising leader. During those fertile decades, he led his church to found Mountain Grove Christian Academy and KFFW, a Christian radio station.

“I’m looking forward to this new challenge,” Fry said. “The college won my heart when I was a student and while serving on the Board of Trustees. I believe in the mission of Free Will Baptist Bible College. I believe that FWBBC is the answer to the educational needs of our denomination. I’m eager to meet with pastors regarding what FWBBC can do for their congregations, and how they can help the college build a stronger financial base and increase enrollment.”

Gary and Cynthia (Allen) Fry met while enrolled at FWBBC. They married and had three children; their youngest daughter (Katy) is a sophomore at FWBBC. Their oldest daughter (Jessica) lives in Nashville and son (Thad) lives in Mountain Grove. Cynthia died in 2008. Gary was hospitalized for a time in 2010 with acute statin myopathy and Guillan-Barre Syndrome, but has fully responded to treatment.

“While he was on the Board of Trustees, Gary Fry’s name was associated with the college,” said David Williford, vice president for institutional advancement. “That well-known voice will be trusted by prospective students and parents as he explains what FWBBC offers the next generation of young leaders. He understands the business side of the campus operation. He has first-hand experience as a former student and parent with a daughter enrolled. Gary’s responsibilities will place him in direct contact with Free Will Baptist pastors and churches as we create ministry partnerships and broaden the college’s support base.”

