

For Immediate Release

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South Carolina Pastor Mike Edwards Joins FWBBC Staff

NASHVILLE, TN—Reverend Mike Edwards, pastor of Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church (Turbeville, South Carolina), will join the Free Will Baptist Bible College staff in a dual role this summer, according to David Williford, vice president for institutional advancement. Edwards has been named director of the college's annual fund and will travel as a fundraiser and public relations representative with FWBBC's Institutional Advancement Office. He will also serve as men's resident director and live in Goen Hall with his wife Karen, who has been named assistant to the resident director.

Mr. Williford said, "Mike is a 1995 FWBBC graduate. In addition to being a strong supporter of the college wherever he pastored, he encouraged a number of students to attend, including his own children. He understands financial principles and is a respected community leader as a pastor and father. He brings spiritual energy and denominational insight to the table. He's just what we need both on the road and on campus."

Called to preach in 1987 and ordained in 1989, Reverend Edwards pastored 22 years in three states—South Carolina (Turbeville), Indiana (New Castle), and Georgia (Jesup and Norman Park). While enrolled at FWBBC, he served five years as men's resident director. During that time, his wife Karen was employed as secretary to the dean of students. The Edwards' three children all graduated from FWBBC—Chris (2008), Courtney (2010), Kristen (2010).

"We're delighted that the college is bringing another experienced pastor on campus," said Dr. Jon Forlines, vice president for student services and dean of students. "Brother Edwards will be able to mentor the young men in Goen Hall, plus he has a proven ability to function within an organizational structure."

Reverend Edwards resigned his church on May 1. He will transition from his successful ministry with the Horse Branch Free Will Baptist Church and relocate to Nashville in July.

President Matt Pinson said, "Because we've faced the most difficult economic climate in the college's history which forced us to make cutbacks, we believe it's a key time to add new personnel in fundraising and public relations, just as we did in recruitment, to increase financial support for and raise awareness for the college. What we need now is more people in external relations who can go out among our churches, pastors, and donors and raise money, so that we can deal with the harsh economic climate, do an even better job educating leaders for Free Will Baptist outreach, and restore faculty/staff salaries. That's why bringing a respected pastor/leader like Mike Edwards on board is a step in the right direction to both strengthen the college financially and reinforce the link between FWBBC and its ministry to the Free Will Baptist denomination. We welcome Mike and Karen to the college family. They served on the campus previously and continue the tradition of providing mature spiritual leadership for our students"

