

For Immediate Release

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Milton Fields, FWBBC Vice President, Retires After 17 Years

NASHVILLE, TN—Dr. Milton Fields, vice president for institutional planning at Free Will Baptist Bible College, announced his retirement at the close of the 2010-2011 academic year, according to Provost Greg Ketteleman. The Board of Trustees cited Dr. Fields' innovative educational leadership during their spring 2011 meeting. President Pinson presented Dr. Fields with a plaque recognizing his 17 years of service to the college during commencement. A dinner in his honor is planned for May 26.

Dr. Ketteleman said, "You can't replace professional, creative leaders like Milton Fields. His incredible work legacy and influence at the college set him apart as one of those rare individuals who change the entire educational landscape. He came on board when we needed him and his skills, and he stayed until the job was finished. He never complained. He always delivered results that mattered in a timely manner and with the attitude of a servant-leader. We thank God for Dr. Fields and his gift of love to the FWBBC family as an outstanding, selfless mentor."

Dr. Fields joined the college faculty in 1994 as chairman of the Teacher Education Department after pastoring Free Will Baptist churches 29 years in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi, and serving as a respected teacher and principal in a number of schools (1976-1994). He was named FWBBC's academic dean (1998-2006) and then vice president for institutional planning (2006-2011), during which time he also served on the President's Cabinet.

Converted at age 12 in a Vernon, Alabama, tent revival conducted by his father and FWBBC alumnus Malone Cobb, Fields enrolled at Mississippi State University to become an aeronautical engineer, then transferred to FWBBC in 1964 and answered the call to preach. He felt led to home missions and church restoration work, and spent almost 30 years rescuing struggling churches.

“I have often said that each of the churches where I served as pastor was dead, dying, or dead broke when I arrived,” Dr. Fields said. “But the churches grew, paid off debts, and one of them became a full-time pastorate. Then came the call to FWBBC where for 17 years I have had the privilege of serving with some of the finest Christian leaders anywhere. My greatest blessing at FWBBC has been working with our professional faculty and staff. They are well qualified spiritually and academically.”

Dr. Fields graduated from FWBBC with a B.A. degree in 1967. He subsequently earned a B.S. degree at the University of Alabama (1976), the M.Ed. degree at the University of South Alabama (1980), and the Ph.D. at the University of Southern Mississippi (1983). He served with the Mississippi State Department of Education, the Tennessee State Department of Education, and as an evaluator and team chair for both the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). He also served on the Commission on Accreditation for ABHE and frequently conducted seminars at their annual meetings.

His broad ministerial outreach includes 30 years directing youth camps (1968-1998), as well as moderating associations in Mississippi and Alabama, duties as clerk of the Florida State Association, and serving on state Executive Boards in Florida and Georgia. He wrote articles for *Contact* magazine, curriculum for the Free Will Baptist Church Training Service, and materials for other publications.

President Matt Pinson said, “When I came to FWBBC as president, Dr. Fields was one of my mentors as I transitioned from the pastorate to college administration. He understood what was happening and let me lean on his vast experience as a professional educator, providing time for me to catch up with the learning curve. He’s a good friend and colleague. We look forward to his continuing role with FWBBC as a presidential advisor and a field representative.”

Milton and Helen Fields have been married 46 years. They recently relocated to Ethelsville, Alabama, where Dr. Fields fishes every chance he gets, reads a variety of books, and enjoys gardening in

his home state. He was recently appointed to ABHE's Commission on Accreditation Appeals Board, which means that he will continue to consult with both FWBBC and emerging Bible colleges.

"God is not finished with me yet," Dr. Fields said. "He is just changing my assignment somewhat."

