

For Immediate Release

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FWBBC Student Preachers Minister to 925 People in Ohio

NASHVILLE, TN—An eight-man preaching team from Free Will Baptist Bible College ministered to 925 people in Southern Ohio on January 29, according to Christian Service Director John Murray who led the weekend evangelistic effort. The seven student preachers, plus Mr. Murray, filled the pulpits of eight congregations during the 850-mile round-trip.

“Most college students sleep in on Saturday morning,” Mr. Murray said, “but these seven young men were up early and loaded into a van by 6:30 a.m. with preaching on their minds. Theological discussions were the topic of the day on the drive north, while praise for the Ohio Free Will Baptist pastors and churches made the ride back to Nashville sound like a revival meeting.”

Pastor Mark Price, pastor of Porter Free Will Baptist Church (Portsmouth), arranged preaching appointments in eight Ohio churches for the FWBBC team. The congregations gave more than \$750 to defray the cost of the two-day trip.

Team members stopped in Morehead, Kentucky, on Saturday to enjoy a feast prepared for them by the parents of FWBBC senior, Zach Maloney. They arrived at Porter FWB Church in time for local pastors to gather at 5:00 p.m. and take the student preachers home with them for Sunday services.

“The busy pastors returned our students Sunday at 2:30 p.m. and were highly complimentary of their preaching,” Mr. Murray said. “But you should have heard the students praising the churches and people they met. Those young men are realizing what I’ve known all my life—Free Will Baptists have some wonderful people, and it is always a delight to meet more of them.”

Several students made observations about the Ohio experience:

Jordan Looney (Senior): “I had the best time on this trip. Pastor Dan Widdig (New Hope Free Will Baptist Church, Lucasville) and his wife were so gracious. It thrills my soul to see how big God is. He doesn’t just work in our local area, but He is working all over the world.”

David Landers (Senior): “I really enjoyed the small but close church atmosphere with Pastor John King and the congregation at Long Run Free Will Baptist Church (Lucasville). The people were so accommodating and welcoming. It was wonderful.”

Cody Balfour (Sophomore): “I had an awesome time! The church (Sciotodale Free Will Baptist Church, Portsmouth) was really receptive to the message. Sunday School was great.”

Greg Smith (Senior): “This was one of my favorite preaching trips. I enjoyed spending time with a down-to-earth family (Pastor Chris Oiler; Union Free Will Baptist Church, Wheelersburg) that’s strong biblically, and teaching their kids about Christ. Brother Oiler is a great pastor to be around.”

Jake Manning (Sophomore): “This was my first preaching trip. What a great experience. I’m ready to do it again.”

Nick Hewett (Sophomore): “The pastor, deacons, and other leaders are strong believers. Their ministry is vital to a community that’s facing drug usage and abusive families. I was delighted to see almost 25 young people in the congregation (Bethesda Free Will Baptist Church, Jackson).”