



God Bless America

TheVision

THEVISION

July - August 2023

Volume 65, No. 4

The Official Publication of Arkansas Free Will Baptists

Arkansas State Meeting Highlights

The 2023 State Meeting was highlighted by its theme: “Heaven.” Arkansas pastors Tim Forman (First Star City), Daniel Young (Mt. Bethel), and Tim Campbell (First Walnut Ridge) developed the John 14:1-6 text with “A Prepared Place,” “A Prepared Path,” and “A Prepared People.” Michael Breshears (Nashville, TN) lead the music in the three worship services. Moderator Tim Landers skillfully guided the association through worship, fellowship, and business.

Attendance continues to edge back to pre-covid numbers as 163 were in attendance, which included 52 ministers, seven deacons, and five missionaries.

Reports were heard from the five state ministries, along with most of our national agencies and a few partnerships. The state board members and officers elected to serve for the 2023-24 year can be found on page seven of this issue. A 2024 State Cooperative budget of \$600,000 was approved.

Mark your calendar for the 2024 State Meeting to be held on Monday and Tuesday, May 20-21st at Camp Beaverfork.





2023 Minister's Retreat

September 18-20, 2023 is the annual Arkansas Minister's Retreat. It will take place again this year in Hot Springs at the Comfort Suites. Keith Burden, former NAFWB Executive Secretary, is this year's speaker. This year, on Tuesday evening, a free barbecue meal (pulled pork and smoked chicken) is being provided to all attendees by the Christian Education Ministry Board.

Mark your calendar and plan on being at this year's retreat.

2023 Ministers' Retreat

September 18-20
in Hot Springs, AR



Speaker:
Keith Burden

Registration

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Cost

\$100 for 2 nights if sharing a room

\$200 for 2 nights for single
occupancy

\$100 _____ or \$200 _____

Registration Deadline
September 1st, 2023

Please Mail to:

AR FWB Ministers' Retreat

PO Box 2110

Conway, AR 72033

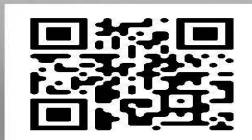
501-329-8193

www.arfwb.org

AS FOR you

2023 NATIONAL
CONVENTION

RALEIGH.
NORTH CAROLINA
JULY 16-19



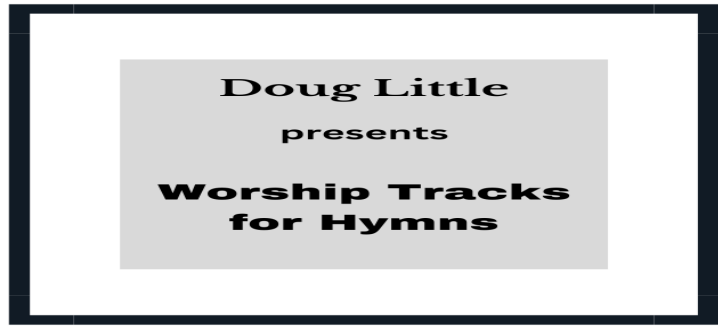
NAFWB.ORG/CONVENTION

Seminars

The 2023 National Convention will feature over
85 seminars and breakout sessions from:

- BOARD OF RETIREMENT
- COMMISSION FOR THEOLOGICAL INTEGRITY
- EXECUTIVE OFFICE
- FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION
- HISTORICAL COMMISSION
- IM, INC.
- MUSIC COMMISSION
- NORTH AMERICAN MINISTRIES
- RANDALL HOUSE
- WELCH COLLEGE
- WNAC

FULL SCHEDULE: NAFWB.ORG/CONVENTION



There is a new option available for churches with limited musical leadership to be able to sing the hymns they love. Doug Little has just released Favorite Hymns Worship Tracks Volumes 1-4 and Favorite Hymns of Invitation Volume 1.

Favorite Hymns Worship Tracks feature the following:

- Audio recording of the hymn with song leader singing or without the voice, with simple accompaniment and harmonies as found in the hymn book
- Video synchronized with the audio that automatically projects lyric slides • No copyright or licensing concerns, as all songs are Public Domain
- No Internet connection required
- Consistent format and layout of lyrics among the sets • Affordable cost: Each set of 10 hymns is \$25.00 if downloaded digitally.
- Format options: Files are MP4 format; they can be downloaded digitally or can be sent on a thumb drive if preferred (\$5.00 additional cost).
- Long-term value: The files will belong to the purchaser to use repeatedly.
- Can use as audio-only if video projection isn't desired. Folks can sing along right from the hymn book rather than a screen.
- Consulting with Doug if desired to help use them effectively
- Multiple uses: congregational singing, fellowship gatherings, nursing home services, shut-in visitation – anywhere folks would like to hear or sing a hymn

Four sets of ten hymns are now available at: <https://www.douglittlesongs.com/worship-tracks/> Each set has a sampler video to get a feel for the songs in that set.

More sets will be released as completed. Suggestions for hymns to be included in future volumes are welcome. Contact Doug by email at doug@douglittlesongs.com or phone (615)419-4180

Pulpit Vacancies

The following churches are searching for a pastor:

- Chester FWB Church, Chester
- Corbin Ferry FWB Church, Lake Providence
- First FWB Church, Fayetteville
- First FWB Church, Jonesboro
- First FWB Church, Newport
- Hope FWB Fellowship, Siloam Springs
- Oak Grove FWB Church, Eaton
- Old Reyno FWB Church, Reyno
- Macedonia FWB Church, New Edinburg

ACTS 1:8

Thank you for your continued and generous support of missions through our ACTS 1:8 program.

***April - May
Receipts***

\$67,719.87

2023

ARFWB Officers & Board Elections

For terms ending in 2026:

Executive Board Josh Moss

Will Harmon

Mission Board Joe Ray Short

Chuck Fitzgerald

ASM Board Matthew Barnett

Trent Bradley

CEM Board Jonathan McEntire

Nick Coleman

AWM Board Lisa Bowden

Janie Campbell

For term ending in 2025:

Randall University Trustee: Jason Nichols

State Officers for 2023-24:

Moderator Tim Landers

Assistant Moderator Kevin Barnett

Clerk Amy Fitzgerald

Assistant Clerk Ben Campbell

**Tentative State Calendar
2023**

July

4 State Office Closed, Independence Day

16-19 NAFWB Convention, Raleigh, NC

September

4 State Office Closed, Labor Day

15-16 AWM Retreat, Camp Beaverfork

18-20 Minister's Retreat, Hot Springs

November

23 State Office Closed, Thanksgiving Day

December

4-5 NAFWB Leadership Conference, Nashville, TN

25 State Office Closed, Christmas Day

PLAN TO GIVE TO THE



World Missions Offering

**AUG
27**

GIVE TO TAKE
THE GOSPEL TO THE
ENDS OF THE EARTH





First FWB Star City

April and May were busy months at First FWB, Star City.

On April 8th, the church held their annual Easter Eggstravaganza. An estimated 500 people were in attendance as over 2,000 eggs were dropped by airplane.

April 28-29th, ladies from the church attended the "Extraordinary Woman" conference in South Haven, MS. They had t-shirts made for the event.

May 6th, fifth grade and under kids came for a "Trikes and Bikes" event. Kids were able to ride their bikes to a fire station, car wash, toy store, grocery store, Railroad tracks, and gas station. At the grocery store, hot dogs, snacks, and drinks were served. It was a fun day.

On May 14th (Mother's Day) the church Master's Men served breakfast to all the mothers before church. It was a much enjoyed feast that warranted a "thumbs up"!





First FWB Star City

On May 18th the church's Senior Saints enjoyed a picnic at Cane Creek State Park. Some brought instruments and enjoyed a time of music and singing.

May 21st the church recognized graduates. One high schooler and six college students were honored. During the service the youth took on roles in every church position from greeters to ushers to class teacher, and even special music. The day's theme was "Guard Your Heart." "Hear No Evil, See No Evil, Speak No Evil" devotions were shared, with a concluding devotion on how to "Guard Your Soul." 35 youth took part. A picnic was held that evening, along with a bounce house. The youth shared testimonies, and served the meal to the church.

The new sanctuary build, a one and one-half year project, is nearing completion. The membership has rallied around the project, continuing to minister in the community. A dedication day is being planned.



First FWB Crossett Youth

Moses said this about God's word, "*teach them diligently to your children*" [Deuteronomy 6:7].

Pastor Joey Johnson and his wife, Amy, are teaching the youth at First FWB Crossett the biblical meaning and practice of communion and feet washing.



We are Better Together!
nafwb

**Our churches need to grow.
We need to disciple our children.
I want to give my all to the Lord.**

These crucial goals require specific actions. Free Will Baptist have adopted the decade-long **3 for 30 Plan**, which involves **reaching** and **training** people and **giving** resources back to the Lord. **When we do these together**, churches and ministries are more likely to grow.

Learn more: nafwb.org/3for30

Essential resources now available from the Executive Office

THREE FOR 30 REACH TRAIN GIVE

NAFWB.ORG/3FOR30

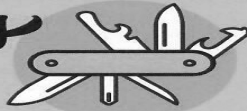


Resources

SOCIAL MEDIA | PODCASTS
CHURCH TOOLS | PRINT RESOURCES



NAFWB.ORG/RESOURCES



From **social media**, **church tools**, and **printed materials** to **Rekindle coaching** and the **Better Together Podcast**, many resources are available to help your church or association grow. Many resources are now offered in Spanish. You can now find all of these resources in one convenient location:

nafwb.org/resources

ONE Magazine is a 64-page, award-winning, and beautiful Free Will Baptist magazine delivered to nearly 50,000 homes across the nation every other month. **ONE Magazine is the best way to stay up-to-date** about the amazing things God is doing through

Free Will Baptists here in the United States and around the world. Also, enjoy inspirational and helpful articles to help you grow in your faith. **ONE Magazine is offered FREE** to subscribers. Access the digital version or **subscribe today**:

onemag.org/subscribe.htm



ONE
magazine
TELLING OUR STORIES

ONEMAG.ORG

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NAFWB NEWS
NAFWB.ORG/NEWS

Sign up for the free bi-weekly email newsletter from the Executive Office.



ONE Magazine is not the only way to hear from the Executive Office. Every other Thursday, the office sends out **NAFWB News**, an email newsletter to keep readers up-to-date about the exciting things happening across the denomination *between* issues of ONE Magazine. The News contains links to new resources, announcements, items of interest from national departments, and updates on upcoming events. Sign up to receive NAFWB News today:

nafwb.org/news

Many Free Will Baptist churches have now completed a **Know Your Community report**. These statistical reports, provided in partnership with Church Answers, consist of U.S. Census Data and ESRI (Environmental System Research Institute) information. They provide an invaluable picture of the communities where Free Will Baptist churches are located and the opportunities available to our churches.

Learn more: nafwb.org/know

WHAT DO YOU REALLY KNOW ABOUT YOUR NEIGHBORS?

know your community



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHURCH ANSWERS
NAFWB.ORG/KNOW

Sometimes, it helps to interact with others who understand ministry. **Growing Together** offers encouragement, brainstorming, and even professional counseling. Engage in book studies, mutual encouragement groups, hangouts for pastors and their wives, and subculture discussions for those who have taken the Know Your Community report. And, when needed, the Executive Office and North American Ministries offers confidential, professional counseling. Learn more:

Learn more: nafwb.org/grow


GROWING TOGETHER
NAFWB.ORG/GROW



The **Free Will Baptist National Convention** will meet in Raleigh, North Carolina, for the first time **July 16-19, 2023**. Make plans to join Free Will Baptists from across the nation for uplifting worship, denominational business, training, and fellowship. For updates:

nafwb.org/convention

Each December, church and denominational leaders from across the nation gather in Nashville for the annual **Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference**. Learn more:

nafwb.org/leader

AS FOR you 2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION

RALEIGH, NC | JULY 16-19



NAFWB.ORG | [@NAFWB](https://www.instagram.com/NAFWB) | [f](https://www.facebook.com/NAFWB) [@](https://www.instagram.com/NAFWB) [t](https://www.twitter.com/NAFWB) [y](https://www.youtube.com/NAFWB) [in](https://www.linkedin.com/NAFWB)

evangelism mo f w b conference

August 25-26 at Camp Niangua

The conference will begin with dinner at 5:00pm Friday evening. The first session will start at 6:45. Two additional 45 minute breakout sessions will follow. Breakfast Saturday morning will be at 7:00am with four sessions to follow. The conference will end by noon on Saturday.

Speakers and Topics include:

- Will Harmon - Why Evangelize & Passion for Evangelism
- Larry Lacefield - Soul Winning & Evangelism as Church DNA
- Aaron Pontious - Messy Church
- John Weaver - Prayer & Fasting
- Chris Davenport - Being a Bridge in Your Community



EVERYONE is invited to attend this **FREE** conference!

For more information email stan@mofwb.org or call 1-866-532-6537

REGISTER ONLINE AT MOFWB.COM

Retreat Schedule

Friday

- 5:00 Dinner
- 6:00 - 6:30 Prayer
- 6:45 - 7:30 Will Harmon - Why Evangelize
- 7:45 - 8:30 Larry Lacefield - Soul Winning
- 8:45 - 9:30 Breakout Sessions (by groups)

Saturday

- 7:00 Breakfast
- 8:00 - 8:45 Breakout Sessions (by groups)
- 9:00 - 9:45 Larry Lacefield - Evangelism as Church DNA
- 10:00 - 10:45 Breakout Sessions (by groups)
- 11:00 - 11:45 Will Harmon - Passion for Evangelism

Breakout Sessions > Messy Church, Prayer & Fasting and Being a Bridge in Your Community

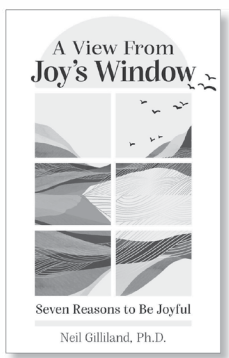
Don't Forget....

Overnight lodging will be provided in the camp dorms. Please bring bedding and toiletries with you.

Sponsored by...



randall house



A View from Joy's Window: Seven Reasons to Be Joyful

Neil Gilliland, Ph.D.

- Provides a look at joy from a narrative perspective
- Establishes the source of our joy as Jesus Christ
- Encourages ministry leaders through a positive, joyful outlook

This book reinforces the truth that our joy is grounded in the person of Jesus Christ and offers a joyful perspective in light of the world's social, political, financial, and religious landscape.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A native of Ohio, Neil Gilliland graduated from Ohio State and received a degree in psychology from Tennessee State University. He and Sheila, his wife of 46 years, served together as house parents in a children's home and missionaries in Cote d'Ivoire. Neil is actively involved in missions leadership, counseling, and has a rigorous speaking schedule. Neil is a published author, as well as an avid sports fan.

VITAL INFO

Available June 6, 2023

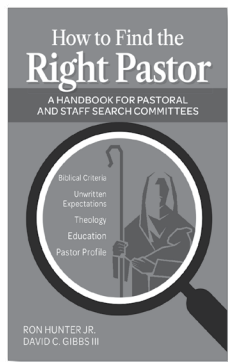
Page Count: 72

Price: \$12.99

Audience: From teenagers to senior adults

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randall house



How to Find the Right Pastor: A Handbook for Pastoral and Staff Search Committees

David C. Gibbs III, J.D. and Ron Hunter Jr., Ph.D.

- Handbook with five key sections and 44 short, easy-to-read chapters
- Serves as an invaluable roadmap to a long-term, healthy ministry hire
- Aids the search committee through the process and provides a quick reference with valuable information

A national ministry leader and a Christian attorney combine their skills to coach your search committee on how to find the right pastor. This book covers five phases of the search process: 1) *Prepare for Your Search*, 2) *Build the Profile*, 3) *Finding and Narrowing to Your Top 3 to 5 Candidates*, 4) *First Interviews With Top 3 to 5 Candidates*, and finally 5) *Top Candidate Visit and the Vote*. You will start with analyzing what the church needs before moving on to evaluating candidates. Afterward, you will discover and identify the issues most likely to cause tension later. Then, explore key categories of review like the biblical criteria expected, education expectations, geographical predispositions, work and ministry experience, spouse expectations, kid-related issues, involvement within the church leadership, social organizations, political involvement, and so much more.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

A well-sought-after speaker and author, David C. Gibbs III, J.D. manages the Gibbs Law Firm and serves as president and general counsel of the National Center for Life and Liberty.

Ron Hunter Jr., Ph.D. serves as executive director and CEO of Randall House & D6 Family Ministry. Ron is a former pastor and a current adjunct professor as well as a published author, director of the D6 Conference, and co-host of the *D6 Podcast*.

VITAL INFO

Available July 3, 2023

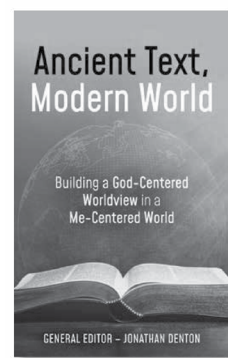
Page Count: 187

Price: \$16.99

Audience: Any church looking for a pastor or staff member as well as the denominational leaders helping in a church's search for a pastor

WWW.RANDALLHOUSE.COM • 1-800-877-7030

RANDALL HOUSE
ACADEMIC



Ancient Text, Modern World: Building a God-Centered Worldview in a Me-Centered World

Jonathan Denton, Ph.D.

- Presents the Bible as a reliable, true, and trustworthy ancient text
- Displays how the message of the Bible informs our ministry and educational practice

This book aims to present the Bible as a reliable, true, and trustworthy Ancient Text that is sufficient for ministry to a modern student with all the complexities, hurts, and mixed messages of a modern world. The focus is not only on the message that the Ancient Text gives to a modern audience but also on how the Ancient Text should inform our ministry and educational practices.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jonathan Denton, Ph.D., has been serving in student ministry for over 20 years. He spent 10 years serving in a church in Mississippi and is currently an Assistant Professor at CSU. Denton desires to train the next generation of student ministry leaders. Contributions by various faculty members of the College of Christian Studies at Charleston Southern University including Peter Beck, Ph.D.; Michael Bryant, Ph.D.; Dondi E. Costin, Ph.D., D.Min.; Ryan Gimple, Ph.D.; Edward D. Gravely, Ph.D.; Ron Harvell, D.Min.; R. Allen Jackson, Ph.D.; Peter J. Link Jr., Ph.D.; Ross Parker, Ph.D.; Benjamin B. Phillips, Ph.D.; Jay H. Strack, D.Min.; and Jonathan D. Watson, Ph.D.

VITAL INFO

Available June 14, 2023

Page Count: 188

Price: \$18.99

Audience: youth/college ministry educators, youth, discipleship, next gen, and senior pastors, Christian school teachers/administrator

WWW.RANDALLHOUSE.COM • 1-800-877-7030

Cooperative Receipts -- April & May 2023

Allen Chapel	1,280.00	Generations Church		Welcome Home	276.08
Arbor Grove	634.37	Grace Fellowship	85.00	West Ridge	1,800.00
Ballews Chapel	1,873.00	Harmony, Russellville		Willoughby	42.00
Bethlehem	3,953.73	Harmony, Warren	4,056.46	Wilson	112.50
Blackland Chapel	1,612.80	Hector	25.00	Woodlawn	475.00
Calvary	1,360.00	Hillview	266.00	Yorktown	379.40
Cavanaugh	25,190.28	Kenner Chapel			
Center Point, Vilonia	568.50	Lake Hills	1,602.41	Individual Giving:	
Centerville	325.00	Lodi	370.26	Cornerstone	
Central, Central City	612.56	Macedonia, Mt. Pleasant		Glenwood	
Chapel Lane		Macedonia, New Edinburg	630.00	Doug Harris	
Clifty Chapel		Maple		Travis Lewis	
Connect Church	1,496.63	Mt. Bethel	3,543.03		
Corbin Ferry	210.00	Mt. Harmony, Saffell	4,731.00		
Corley	258.50	Mt. Olivet		Total Receipts	\$113,333.66
Crossroads, Jacksonville	1,770.68	Mt. Pleasant, Hamburg	31.50		
Daisy	1,282.86	Mt. Vernon	600.00		
Danville	225.00	Mt. View, Charleston			
Eighty-Eight , Rudy		New Bethel	100.00		
Enterprise		New Sulphur	158.65		
Fairview, Warren	70.00	Oak Grove, Atkins	336.80		
Faith, Jonesboro	2,009.00	Oak Grove, Wilmar	133.00		
Faith, Warren	74.87	Old Reyno	527.00		
First Benton	159.00	Oliver Springs			
First Cave City	100.00	Ozark	778.53		
First Charleston	1,499.94	Phillips Chapel	1,666.66		
First Conway		Plainview	394.50		
First Crossett	700.00	Pleasant Valley	2,115.05		
First Dardanelle	237.00	Ranger	529.75		
First Fort Smith		Riverdale			
First Greenwood	2,893.86	Rolling Oaks	1,200.00		
First Hot Springs	90.00	Rose Hill	700.00		
First Jonesboro		Sharon	352.50		
First Malvern	319.50	Slaty Crossing	400.00		
First Mt. Home		South Heights	710.00		
First Mulberry		South Side			
First North Little Rock	1,738.25	Spring Hill	70.00		
First Pocahontas	2,411.94	St. Joe	630.80		
First Star City	3,439.80	Sutton	7,572.09		
First Tuckerman	3,413.60	Union Grove	3,529.96		
First Walnut Ridge	4,887.90	United	1,561.11		
First Warren	1,886.92	Upper Spring Creek	287.50		
Friendship	954.63	Weavers Chapel	1,014.00		

Arkansas
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david@arfwb.org

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