

THREE FOR 30 REACH TRAIN GIVE

NAFWB.ORG/3FOR30

GOALS & OBJECTIVES REPORT* JUNE 30, 2023

PROBLEM: Downward trend in membership and baptisms.

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REACH GOAL: Free Will Baptists will develop a Great Commission mindset, regularly engaging their communities and sharing the gospel.

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REACH OBJECTIVES

1. By the end of 2023, 10% of Free Will Baptist churches will have participated in Know Your Community.

Rationale: We hypothesize if churches know more about the demographic and psychographic characteristics of their communities, they will be more successful in reaching people with the gospel. For example, on the KYC survey, 69% of respondents reported utilizing the KYC results in some way.

Progress: Achieved! Currently, 13% of all Free Will Baptist churches have participated in KYC.

* Reflects data collected from the **3 for 30 Survey** conducted June 2023.

2. By the end of 2023, 24 Free Will Baptist churches will have participated in The Hope Initiative.

Rationale: We hypothesize churches that participate in The Hope Initiative will see more salvations as an outward focus upon sharing the gospel becomes part of the culture of the church.

Progress: Seventeen churches are currently participating in The Hope Initiative.

3. By the end of 2023, 12 Free Will Baptist churches will have participated in Child Evangelism Fellowship activities.

Rationale: You've undoubtedly heard of the "4/14 Window" which shows that, in the USA, nearly 85% of people who make a decision for Christ do so between the ages of 4 and 14. This underscores the importance of reaching children. See [compassion.com/multimedia/the%204_14%20window.pdf](https://www.compassion.com/multimedia/the%204_14%20window.pdf). CEF provides turnkey interventions that churches (or associations) can easily and quickly utilize to reach children in their communities.

Progress: We are aware of nine churches currently utilizing CEF resources.



First FWB Church in Salem, Oregon, partnered with CEF for an egg hunt with 70 attendees and many first-time visitors. CEF brought an inflatable slide and bounce house, provided face painting, and the director of CEF shared the gospel message of the resurrection to the children and parents in their auditorium.

4. By the end of 2023, ten Free Will Baptist associations will have participated in IM's Go Global training.

Rationale: We hypothesize churches that participate in Go Global training will more likely be outward focused and intent upon reaching their communities. For example, note some of the feedback from a recent Go Global training.

What is your takeaway from Go Global and “Global Table”?

- *It is imperative that we spread the gospel.*
- *Makes me want to get my church more involved in our community and raise awareness for the Kingdom.*
- *The importance of praying for and supporting missions to get the gospel to the world.*
- *Missions is important. Supporting those who go and going yourself.*

Progress: IM conducted ten Go Globals in 2022 and has conducted six in 2023.

5. Increase the number of churches that develop outreach activities to area colleges and universities.

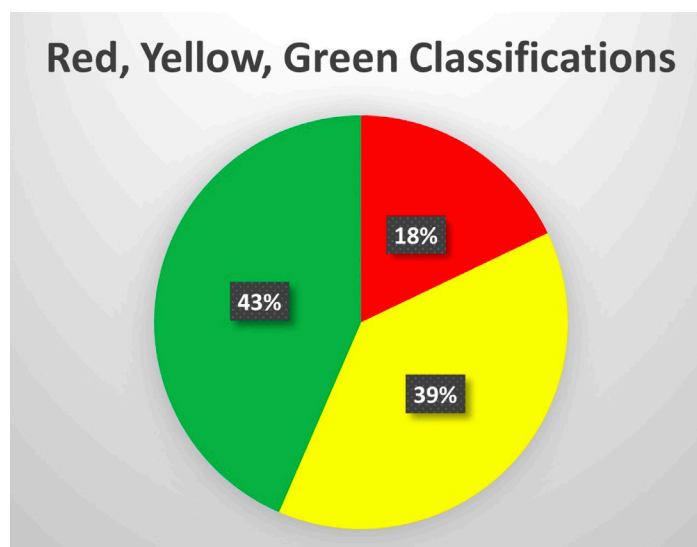
Rationale: In many ways, college students are an unreached people group. On the 3 for 30 Survey, 32 churches indicated a residential college was within a ten-minute drive of their church (six Christian, five private, 20 public).

Progress: We currently have seven churches that report outreach activities to local colleges. We have begun providing resources to churches interested in reaching out to colleges in their areas. If you are interested in these resources, email questions@nafwb.org.

6. Increase the number of churches and associations using Refresh resources.

Rationale: In 2022, state leaders attempted to assess the health of the churches with which they worked. As a result, they classified 43% as green or growing, 39% as plateaued or at risk, and 18% in danger. Refresh resources are designed to help all churches.

Progress: Although we would like to see more churches using Re-Kindle, engagement is at the highest rate ever. We currently have 12 coaches working with 15 churches. We have 28 trained coaches willing to work with churches in their area and another 23 coaches willing to work with any of



our churches via Zoom. Other Refresh resources include online pastor hangouts with Dr. Tim York, pastor's wife hangouts with Mrs. Carolyn Dwyer, and online sessions hosted in partnership with WNAC. For more information, email questions@nafwb.org.

7. Increase the number of pastors participating in NAM boot camps.

Rationale: We believe these boot camps allow pastors (and others in their churches) to develop new strategies and to network with people from other churches to reach their communities more effectively.

Progress: Achieved! In addition to the regularly scheduled full NAM boot camps at the national offices, boot camps on the road have been conducted in Kentucky, California, and Texas. Below are scheduled boot camps. To schedule a boot camp, contact Dr. Brad Ransom at brad@nafwb.org.

Scheduled

- + Missouri, October 13-14, 2023
- + Nashville, October 23-24, 2023 (Full Boot Camp)
- + California, October 27-28, 2023 (Bilingual)
- + West Virginia, March 15-16, 2024
- + Kansas, April 12-13, 2024
- + Nashville, May 6-7, 2024 (Full Boot Camp)
- + Michigan, August 23-24, 2024
- + Nashville, October 7-8, 2024 (Full Boot Camp)
- + Florida, January 20-23, 2025 (Bilingual)

PROBLEM: Downward trend in discipleship activities like Sunday School and small groups, along with a shortage of pastors, deacons, and volunteers.

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TRAIN GOAL: Free Will Baptists will develop a training and discipleship mindset.

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TRAIN OBJECTIVES:

1. Add new Sunday School, Life Group, and Connect classes.

Rationale: We hypothesize more participants in growing activities will lead to more discipleship. Currently, Sunday School enrollment is reported to average 21 people per church. Thirty-two percent of NAFWB membership is reportedly enrolled in Sunday School.

Progress: On the 3 for 30 survey, 31 churches indicated they have added a new class in the last 12 months, and 31 indicated a plan to add a class in the next 12 months.

2. Increase the percentage of churches that use Randall House & D6 Family curriculum.

Rationale: We hypothesize more churches using D6 curriculum will unite our churches and will help D6 remain financially viable.

Progress: Of survey participants, 78% reported using D6 Family/Randall House curriculum.

3. Increase D-Groups.

Rationale: We hypothesize more D-Groups will lead to greater discipleship behaviors in our churches.

Progress: In response to the survey, 36% of participants reported having a total of 66 D-Groups, and 48% of respondents reported planning to start a D-Group in the next 12 months.

4. Increase the number of students who attend Free Will Baptist colleges.

Rationale: Results from the 2019 CDR survey (page 6) indicated almost 60% of our pastors attended a Free Will Baptist institution.

We discovered 59% of our pastors attended a Free Will Baptist college with over 61% of those attending Welch College, 23% Randall University, 13% Southeastern Free Will Baptist College, 5% California Christian College, and 5% other (such as a local institute).

EDUCATION

almost
60%

attended a
Free Will
Baptist
Institution

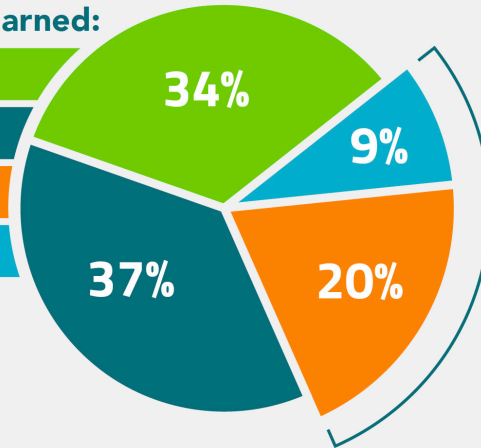
Highest Degree Earned:

High School

Bachelor's

Master's

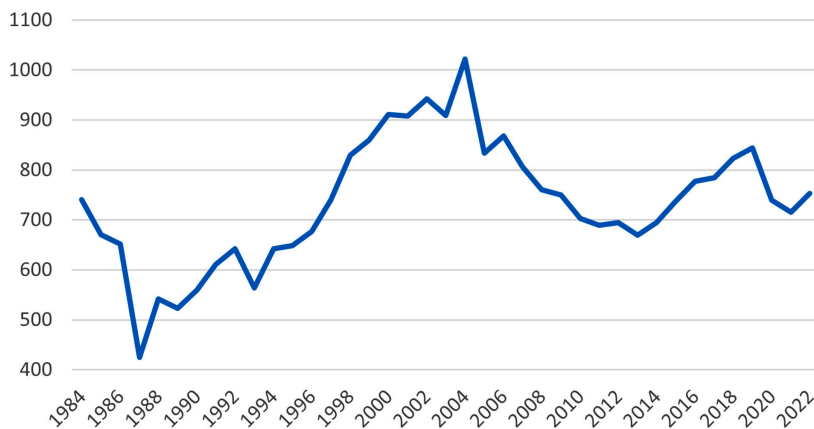
Doctorate



29%
with
graduate
degrees

Survey of Free Will Baptist Pastors

[NAFWB Committee on Denominational Research July 2019]

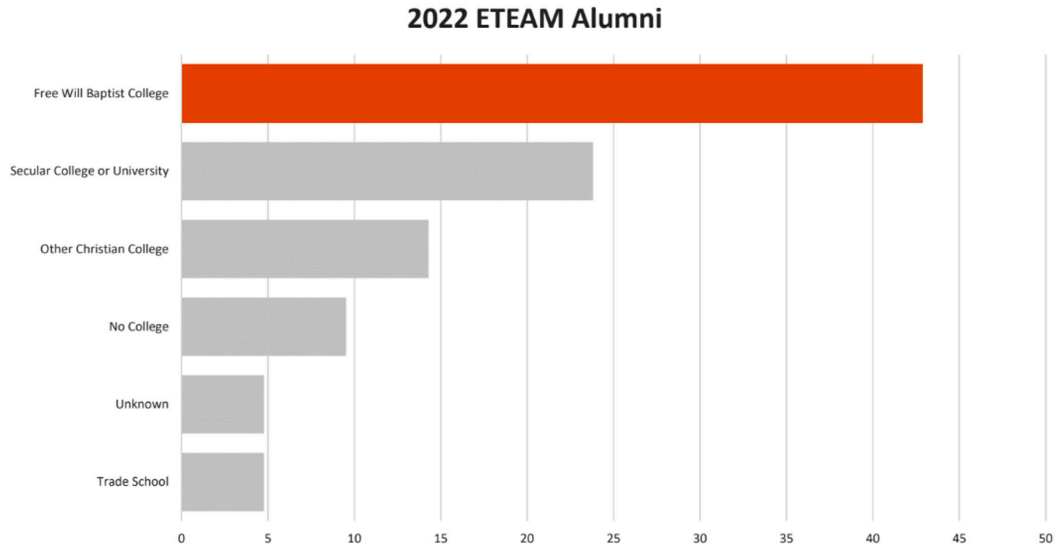


College Enrollment Totals 1984-2022

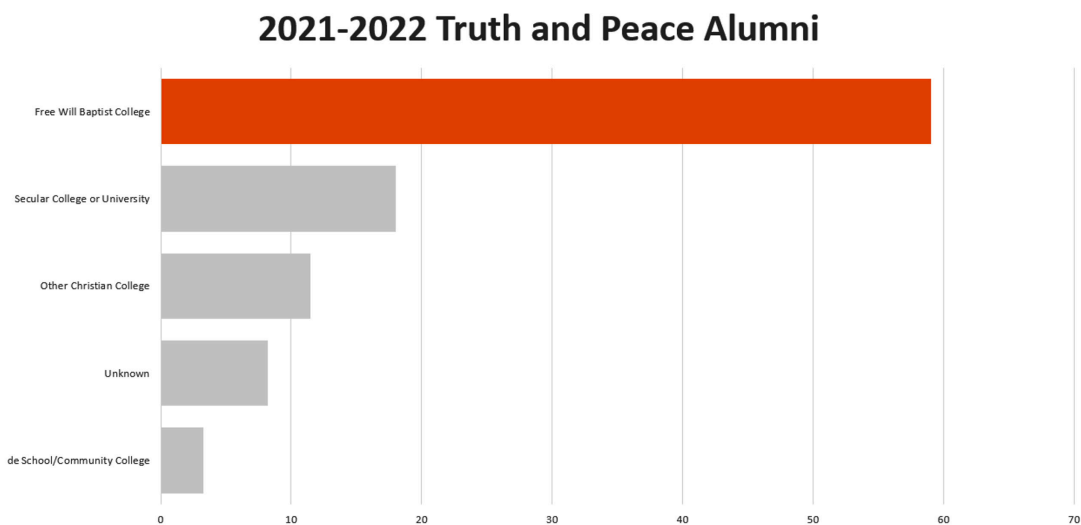
Progress: Pictured is the attendance trend for Free Will Baptist colleges. In fall 2022, 753 students enrolled at Free Will Baptist colleges. Fifteen of those students were from California Christian College, which has since closed. We would like to see over 1,000 students attending Free Will Baptist colleges.

5. Increase the churches that send students to ETEAM and Truth & Peace.

Rationale: We hypothesize churches with students that attend ETEAM or Truth & Peace will be more active, if for no other reason than engaging in activities to help students raise funds.



Only 4.32% of Free Will Baptist churches had a student attend ETEAM or Truth & Peace in 2022. Although the church participation was low, when a student did participate in these programs, they were significantly more likely to attend a Free Will Baptist college. Forty-three percent of 2022 ETEAM alumni attended a Free Will Baptist college last fall.



Fifty-nine percent of 2021 and 2022 Truth & Peace alumni attended a Free Will Baptist college the fall after their graduation.

We hope by increasing the percentage of churches involved in these activities, we can increase the number of students involved in Free Will Baptist ministry.

Progress: We do not have data yet to indicate progress in this objective.

6. Recruit students who attend other Christian colleges to Free Will Baptist churches.

Rationale: Last year, 14.29% of ETEAM alumni attended a non-FWB Christian college. There were 11.48% of Truth & Peace alumni who attended other Christian colleges. Results from the 3 for 30 Survey indicated 49% of respondents had at least one student attend a non-FWB Christian college in the last five years. Of Christian colleges, 43% had a student that attended Liberty University. Note, if you have a student attending Liberty University, please ask them to consider attending New London Church in Forest, Virginia. Our hope is that by getting involved with a Free Will Baptist church, we can help them maintain their Free Will Baptist identity. Better yet, reach out to **Pastor Brandon Baber** (434-515-1575; baberb19@gmail.com) and let him know the student is coming.

Progress: We do not have data yet to indicate progress in this objective.

7. Recruit students who attend non-Christian colleges to attend Free Will Baptist churches near the college they attend.

Rationale: Last year, 23.81% of ETEAM alumni and 18.03% of Truth & Peace alumni attended a secular college or university. Based on the results of the 3 for 30 Survey, 76% of churches indicated they have had students attending secular colleges or universities. Based on these results, it appears more Free Will Baptist youth are attending a secular college or university than Free Will Baptist colleges or other Christian colleges.

Progress: We do not have data yet to indicate progress in this objective.

8. Increase the number of students who participate in Church Training Services (CTS Ministry Expo).

Rationale: Based on the results of the 3 for 30 Survey, 31% of churches indicated they had youth participating in CTS.

Progress: The 3 for 30 Survey provides us with a benchmark for CTS participation.

9. Encourage local and state associations to host training sessions for church workers on the Bible and Free Will Baptist doctrine.

Rationale: Understanding of biblical and Free Will Baptist doctrine is crucial to the growth and vitality of our denomination.

Progress: We do not have data yet to indicate progress in this objective.

10. Encourage associations and presbyteries to emphasize Free Will Baptist doctrine and practice and theological knowledge in the ordination process.

Rationale: Understanding of biblical and Free Will Baptist doctrine is crucial to the growth and vitality of our denomination.

Progress: We do not have data yet to indicate progress in this objective.

PROBLEM: Free Will Baptists are underutilizing their resources.

GIVE GOAL: Free Will Baptists will give themselves wholly to the work of the Lord by giving their talents, gifts, and resources.

GIVE OBJECTIVES:

1. Increase the number of churches and associations assisting other churches.

Rationale: We believe a key to church revitalization is for stronger churches to help struggling churches. The activities of the Salem Association with the Sneads Church provide a good model for Operation Restoration.

Progress: Based on the results of the 3 for 30 Survey, 48% of churches reported engaging in activities to assist other churches.

2. Increase the number of Disaster Response Teams (DRT) to 15 by 2030.

Rationale: DRTs provide a wonderful gospel witness when communities are experiencing great difficulty. We hypothesize DRT participants also grow spiritually through this opportunity.

Progress: We are aware of eight DRTs throughout the U.S.

3. Increase the number of pastors who serve as chaplains to 100.

Rationale: Chaplaincy allows a pastor to impact and be involved with his community in immeasurable ways. We hypothesize pastors who engage in chaplaincy activities will be better situated to reach people with the gospel.

Progress: We are currently aware of 18 pastors serving as chaplains across North America.

4. Increase the number of Free Will Baptists who participate in Disaster Response Teams, The Hanna Project, and College Missions Program.

Rationale: We hypothesize DRTs, THP, and CMP will broaden the participants' visions for service and the Great Commission as only such experiences can.

Progress: Based on the 3 for 30 Survey, 17 churches had participants in Truth & Peace, ETEAM, or CMP, and 11 churches had participants in DRTs.

5. Increase the number of Free Will Baptist pastors who participate in the Board of Retirement and increase contributions.

Rationale: Financially healthy pastors are better positioned to minister. For example, they can make ministry decisions without great concern for their financial well-being.

Progress: Currently, 33% of all Free Will Baptist pastors are participants in the BOR program.

6. Increase Free Will Baptist endowments from \$15 million to \$30 million by 2030.

Rationale: Utilization of endowments is simply being a good steward of the resources given to us. If giving continues to deteriorate, we will need strong endowments to supplement our ministries. Further, we are observing that the churches most in need of our resources (e.g., Rekindle coaching) are the least financially stable. We need strong endowments to meet the needs of pastors and needy churches in the future.

Progress: We currently have \$15 million in endowments, including \$1.1 million in The Together Trust.

Email questions@nafwb.org to learn more about any of these initiatives.

