

# CONVENTION NEWS

2023 FREE WILL BAPTIST NATIONAL CONVENTION

MONDAY, JULY 17 | RALEIGH, NC | [WWW.NAFWB.ORG](http://WWW.NAFWB.ORG)

## HOW TIME FLIES!

CELEBRATING NEARLY THREE DECADES OF **A JOB WELL DONE**

It is amazing how time flies. The 2023 Truth & Peace Student Leadership Conference marks the 26th year Allen Pointer has served as director of the conference.

If Allen were to discuss his tenure as director of Truth & Peace, I'm sure the stories would be endless. It would be intriguing to hear how the conference has morphed through the years. I imagine some stories would make us laugh so hard our eyes would fill with tears. I am sure other stories would fill our eyes with tears because of how God moved in a particular situation at the conference or in the lives of the students.

After the 2023 Truth & Peace Student Leadership Conference, which ends Wednesday night after the CTS Awards, Allen will step down as director of the conference. His impact on the lives of the students in our denomination over nearly three decades is evident. You do not have to look far to find someone serving in our denomination today, whether in vocational ministry or lay leadership, who has been impacted by Allen. Very few individuals in the history of our denomination have had more impact in the lives of young people than Allen.

I have been privileged to serve with Allen for more than two years. His passion for the Lord is infectious. His desire to see individuals come to know Christ and surrender their lives to Him is worthy of imitation. Truth & Peace was never about Allen. For him, Truth & Peace was about seeing students deepen their relationships with the Lord and

grow in their service to Him.

Our denomination owes a huge debt of gratitude to Allen Pointer for serving and leading in such a God-honoring manner. The future success of the Truth & Peace Student Leadership Conference will be built on the foundation that has been built by Allen and those who came before him.

When you see Allen this week, express your appreciation for a job well done and be sure to share your own Truth & Peace memories. After all, before long, we will be talking about how fast the next twenty-five years has flown by.

**About the writer:** Derek Altom is the director of the Vertical Three Conference. Learn more: [VerticalThree.com](http://VerticalThree.com).

**Special Notice:** You'll notice some attendees wearing red lanyards and nametags this year. That is because they are from areas of the world that require "creative access" to share the gospel. **Please refrain from taking or posting photos online of anyone wearing a red lanyard** as a precaution for their safety and the safeguarding of their ministries around the world.

## Meet the Speakers

**Monday: Faron Thebeau** is a third-generation pastor who has been serving Mosaic FWB Church in Rolla, Missouri, since 2017. He also pastored Primera Iglesia Bautista Libre (TX), Evergreen FWB Church (TX), and Bismarck FWB Church (MO). Faron is passionate about cross-cultural ministry. He has served as a pastor of a bilingual church, and has helped translate for mission trips to Mexico and Cuba. He and his wife Abigail have three children: Itziar, Truman, and Dominic.

**Tuesday: Amos Dillard** is the lead church planter at City Lights Church in Chula Vista, California, located between San Diego, California, and Tijuana, Mexico. Involved in church planting since 2015, Amos previously served at Grace City Church in Irvine, California. Amos and his wife Melissa have three kids: Ellie Mae, Addison, and Aiden.

**Wednesday: Ken Cash** graduated from Welch College in 1987 with a degree in Christian education. He and his wife Jayne have since ministered in five Free Will Baptist churches, four in North Carolina and one in Tennessee. Ken also served as a member of the North Carolina State Youth Board. Approved as career missionaries to Bulgaria in May 2020, Ken and Jayne currently serve in the city of Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria. They have two daughters, Rachel and Rebekah, two sons-in-law, Ed Goode and Jeremy Huff, and two grandsons, Hayden and Hudson.

### AS FOR YOU **TAKEAWAYS**

#### **MONDAY**

**If your church is near a college or university, reach out to students.**

**Reach local school students and new workers in your area.**

**Start a ministry to Spanish speakers.**

**Watch podcasts with Tyler Penn (International Students), Faron Thebeau (College Students), and Pastor Shakil (MI): "Take the Gospel to the World Without Leaving Your Neighborhood."**

NAFWB

# North American Ministries Celebrates 85 Years

In response to a growing concern for planting churches in North America, the Free Will Baptist Home Missions Board was formed at the second National Convention held in Bryan, Texas, in 1938. In the decades following, the Lord faithfully provided for the department, which has seen remarkable growth and touched countless lives with the hope of the gospel.

Today, Home Missions (renamed North American Ministries in 2015) has 84 active mission works in 23 states, Mexico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. North American Ministries is the endorsing agent for Free Will Baptist chaplains who minister to service men and women in the armed forces. Currently, 14 chaplains and their families are proudly serving the nation.

With innovative financial programs such as the Church Extension Loan Fund (established in May 1982), numerous free resources, and training events aimed at revitalizing churches, bolstering pastors, and meeting the physical and spiritual needs of local communities, North American Ministries has proven it is still passionate about seeing new churches established and existing churches thrive.

Though church planters continue to start churches nationwide, under the direction of Dr. David Crowe, executive director since 2014, North American Ministries has turned its attention westward and northward, seeking to establish churches in the great metropolitan areas of the Northeast and the rapidly growing cities throughout the West.

Reflecting on the rich legacy of the department over the last eight-plus decades and looking toward the future, Dr. Crowe recently said, "It is amazing to think that in the 85 years North American Ministries has existed since being founded in 1938, hundreds of churches have been planted, thousands of souls have been saved, and tens of thousands of lives have been changed forever through the ministry of this department and its willing servants. If Jesus tarries His return, we hope to be faithful for another 85 years and beyond."

Watch for more exciting information about this exciting milestone: [fwbnam.com](http://fwbnam.com).

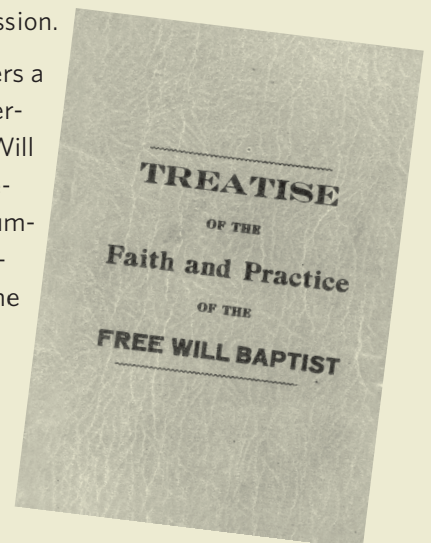
## Back to the Beginning

### RANDALL HOUSE RELEASES COMMEMORATIVE TREATISE


Randall House has published a commemorative issue of the 1935 *Treatise of the Faith and Practice of the Free Will Baptist*, including an introduction from the Free Will Baptist Historical Commission.

The small booklet offers a deeper historical understanding of this Free Will Baptist doctrinal statement. Five hundred numbered copies are available for purchase at the Randall House booth.



All royalties will be donated to The Together Way Trust, an endowment that benefits all Free Will Baptist denominational ministries.



**For more information:  
[RandallHouse.com](http://RandallHouse.com)**

**ETEAM** is a cross-cultural, summer missions experience for high school students who have completed grades 10, 11, or 12.

Scan the QR code to apply or visit [iminc.org](http://iminc.org)  
Applications due in October

 @ETEAMSTUDENTMISSIONS  
 @eteammissions  
 [eteam@iminc.org](mailto:eteam@iminc.org)

# News, Updates & Announcements

## Registration and Exhibits

Registration is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the RCC Main Lobby. The Exhibit Hall (RCC Hall A) will be open until 10:00 p.m. tonight; Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; and Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Note: **the Exhibit Hall closes** from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for evening services.

## Laughter and Latté

Join WNAC for this ticketed event tonight after the service at 8:30 p.m. in RCC Ballroom C.

## Youth Evangelistic Team Program

Watch the 2023 YET program tonight in RCC Ballroom AB at 9:00 p.m.

## Visit the North American Ministries Exhibit

State leaders be sure to stop by the NAM booth to pick up a packet of promo materials and a FREE gift!

## Lost & Found

If you discover lost items, please return them to Convention Registration to be reunited with their owners.

## INSIDER TIP: Visit "Mrs. Faye..."

If you've been to the Sheraton Hotel, you probably know where the coffee is! Cafe Faye is located in the lobby and named in honor of long-time employee Mrs. Faye. Whistling, humming, and smiles greet you along with great coffee. Please stop by sometime and let Mrs. Faye greet you with her smile. As she says about her coffee, **"You know why it taste so good? It's got 90% love in it."**