

APRIL 8 *ONE Magazine publishes its premier issue.* The bimonthly publication is mailed free to nearly 60,000 homes after national departments and agencies work together to combine mailing lists. This nearly doubles the number of Free Will Baptists readers reached by any previous publications.



MARCH 15 *Pioneer missionary Dr. LaVerne Miley dies.* The Free Will Baptist minister, medical doctor, missionary, and college professor established a hospital in Ivory Coast, West Africa, where he served as a medical missionary for 19 years while planting eight churches.



10

JULY 17 *Delegates to the national convention in Louisville, Kentucky, make the Free Will Baptist Foundation a separate denominational agency. Bill Evans is named first full-time director.*



AUGUST 29 *Hurricane Katrina strikes the Gulf Coast.* Free Will Baptists respond by donating hundreds of thousands of dollars to relief efforts and sending an army of relief volunteers to the Gulf Coast.

2005

years in print

A LOOK BACK AT STORIES AND EVENTS THAT SHAPED THE FIRST DECADE...

MAY 15 *Dr. Wade Jernigan dies at age 78.* The well-known preacher and educator organized at least 25 Free Will Baptist churches, and played a major role in both Hillsdale College and California Christian College.

JULY 15 *Nearly 400 Free Will Baptists gather in Birmingham for the first Impact,* a one-day evangelistic campaign in the convention city. Three hundred ninety volunteers provide more than 1,000 hours of service, visit 508 homes, distribute 800 flyers, share the gospel 33 times, and rejoice as six people make professions of faith.

JULY 14 *Master's Men celebrates 50 years in ministry.*

DECEMBER 7 *International Missions opens Bulgaria as a new field after the 2001 census indicated less than one percent of the population was Evangelical Christian.*

Free Will Baptist
+ Disaster Relief

JULY 22 *In the wake of Hurricane Katrina,* delegates to the 2006 national convention approve a national Disaster Relief Plan developed by a relief task force from seven states.



SEPTEMBER 15 *International Missions purchases facilities in Chame, Panama, from New Tribes Mission, for a permanent Bible seminary facility.*



JULY 18 *Tim and Lydia Awtrey are approved as the first Free Will Baptist missionaries to Bulgaria.*

AUGUST 24 *Malcolm Fry, creator and director of CTS dies at age 79.*

JANUARY 24 *Herman Hersey, founder and former director of the Board of Retirement and the Free Will Baptist Foundation dies.*

2006

2007

2008

MARCH 21 *Free Will Baptists celebrate two missions milestones: 50 years in Brazil and 50 years in Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast).*



FEBRUARY 20 *The Cuban Free Will Baptist Association celebrates 65 years of Free Will Baptist work in Cuba.*

MAY 2 *Roger C. Reeds, founder of Randall House Publications, dies following an extended illness.*

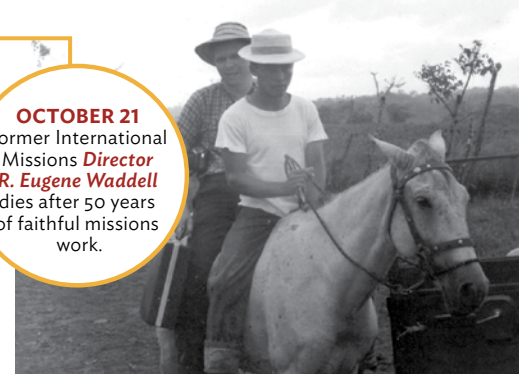
JULY 17 *Delegates to the 2007 national convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, vote to restore the Ridge Church in New Hampshire in light of its historical significance. Master's Men volunteers complete renovations in just over four years.*

OCTOBER 7 *The International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches gathers in Nantes, France, for its fourth triennial meeting. International delegates explore the possibilities of sending missionaries from their own countries.*

OCTOBER 20 *Templo Rosa De Sarón in Monterrey, the first Free Will Baptist church in Mexico, celebrates its 50th Anniversary.*

NOVEMBER 19 *Free Will Baptist Bible College purchases 66 acres in Gallatin, Tennessee, as the home for its new campus.*

OCTOBER 21 *Former International Missions Director R. Eugene Waddell dies after 50 years of faithful missions work.*





APRIL 13
Raymond Riggs, first general director of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions (1953-1959) dies at age 93. During his tenure, the Mission grew from seven to 30 missionaries serving in six countries: Brazil, Japan, Spain, and Ivory Coast in addition to India and Cuba.

JULY 20
Truth and Peace celebrates 25 years. The annual student leadership conference exists to train, motivate, and encourage high school students to impact their world through biblical leadership.

JANUARY 12
Free Will Baptists are among the first to respond to the 7.0 magnitude earthquake in Haiti that resulted in 175,000 deaths. An eight-member team from Gateway FWB Church (Virginia) arrives just before the earthquake. They are among the first American eyewitnesses to the devastation. Their photographs appear on most major news networks, and news agencies follow their relief efforts closely.



2009

2010



SEPTEMBER 23
Randall House launches the D6 Conference, influencing an international shift toward family ministry.

DECEMBER 21
Trula Cronk, pioneer missionary to India, dies.



JULY 20 **Women Nationally Active for Christ** celebrates its 75th anniversary by electing Tennessean Elizabeth Hodges as the sixth executive director.



JULY 9
 At a memorial service for **Reverend O.P. Stokes** and his wife Ruby, attendees learn that the couple left an estate gift of \$1.2 million to four Free Will Baptist ministries: Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, Home Missions, International Missions, and Welch College.



2012

JULY 18
Delegates to the Memphis convention approve changing the name Free Will Baptist Bible College to Welch College after John L Welch and his wife Mary. Welch served as first moderator of the National Association.

SEPTEMBER 7 **Ralph Hampton** dies at age 77. He served as Free Will Baptist moderator nine times (1987-1996) and assistant moderator six times (1981-1987). He also served as an employee of Welch College for 50 years.



JULY 23
Home Missions celebrates 75 years of ministry.



MARCH 15 **Rolla D. Smith** dies at age 92. He served as the general director of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions (1959-62; 1975-86).



JUNE 3 **The Missouri State Association** celebrates its 100th anniversary with 173 churches in 19 associations.

2013

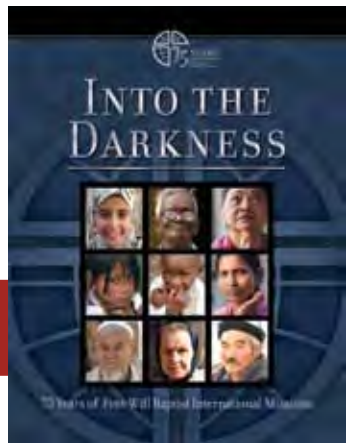


JULY 23 **Foundation Director David Brown** announces a partnership with **Cornerstone Estate Planning** to provide comprehensive estate planning for Free Will Baptists. In less than two years, the program enrolls more than 600 families in 13 states.



APRIL 5
 A total of 65 walkers begin the *Go10 Walk for the World* to loud cheers and applause, with a local law enforcement escort. Over the 84-day, 2,500-mile fundraising effort, nearly 2,000 walkers retrace Laura Belle Barnard's steps across 14 states, carrying a traditional Indian Bible and passing a well-worn baton from group to group. The walk ends at the National Youth Conference after raising more than a million dollars for missions.

JULY 5 *International Missions* celebrates 75 years of ministry on the day Laura Belle Barnard first set sail for India. The anniversary is accompanied by the release of *Into the Darkness*, a comprehensive history of Free Will Baptist missions work from 1935-2010.



JANUARY 5 Bert Tippett, denominational leader and longtime director of communications at Welch College, dies after serving the college for nearly 45 years.



SEPTEMBER 27 The International Missions Board selects Clint Morgan as general director after a year as interim director.



DECEMBER 8 Leroy Forlines retires from his post as professor of Systematic Theology at Welch College after nearly six decades (1954-2011).

2011



JULY 29 Foundation Director David Brown celebrates the \$60 million milestone by announcing a grant program to benefit Free Will Baptist ministries by disbursing \$500,000 over 10 years.



DECEMBER 1
 David Crowe becomes director of Home Missions, replacing retiring director Larry A. Powell.



MARCH 30 After a 25-year quest, a grateful group of believers dedicates the *Villalba Church in Spain*, the first Protestant church on the northwest side of Madrid.

JULY 30
 After a two-year, in-depth process, the *WNAC Executive Committee* recommends the organization become a national department and join *The Together Way Plan* of support. Delegates to the Ft. Worth convention approve the request, and during the same business session, vote to allow Master's Men to cease being a national department in order to merge with Home Missions.



OCTOBER 1
 Randall House launches academic imprint.

2014



NOVEMBER 15
 Major David Trogdon, Free Will Baptist chaplain, receives the Witherspoon Award. The prestigious award is the highest honor a military chaplain can receive.

SEPTEMBER 3 *Home Missions and International Missions* form a unique partnership to organize and implement joint, cross-cultural ministry projects in North America. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is named as the first project.

NOVEMBER 29
 J.D. O'Donnell, former Free Will Baptist moderator and long-time president of Hillsdale College in Moore, Oklahoma, dies at the age of 85.



OCTOBER 18 *Family Ministries* celebrates 75 years by dedicating newly constructed Stokes Academy. The organization, which began in Tennessee in 1939, as the Free Will Baptist Home for Children, now operates facilities in four states, with the largest annual budget of any Free Will Baptist organization.



20