

PROMOTER

November-December 2019

Volume 40 Number 6

*O give thanks unto the Lord,
for he is good: for his mercy
endureth for ever.*

PSALMS 107:1



WE'RE THANKFUL FOR YOU

On behalf of our church planters and missionaries serving around the globe, we give thanks for your partnership in the gospel. Please continue to provide both prayer and financial support for these families.



Rusty & Brenda Carney
Japan



David & MiMi Reeves
France



Alfredo & Ruth Botello
Bartlesville OK



Joel & Lydie Teague
France



Dennis & Carol Teague
France



Steve & Lori Torrison
Uruguay



Joey & Carol Anne Bilbrey
Florence, AZ



Tom & Laurel Harkness
Media, PA



Heath & Joni Hubbard
Japan



Myron & Julie Scott
Gilbert, AZ



Chris & Megan Davenport
Fredericksburg, Virginia



Randall & Collette Wright
Princeton, Tx

We currently have two families serving in restricted access areas, who are also thankful and value your prayers and financial support. Please contact our office at (405) 912-9036 for more information and resources to encourage support of all of our church planters and missionary families.

Join us online for our Giving Tuesday Facebook event Tuesday December 3, 2019! Check out our Facebook page for more details.



RANDALL UNIVERSITY



Randall University would like to leverage *Giving Tuesday* to finish our year-long #Give60 Campaign. We have asked all friends and alumnus to consider giving at least \$60 to the Dr. Thomas Marberry Christian Ministry Scholarship. We have over 55 students in the School of Christian Ministry. Every year this program has grown and the need to fund these scholarships for our students continues. The growth in this program has allowed us to send out three singing

groups, Abide, Revive, and New Life to our local churches. In addition, with more ministerial students on campus, we are better able to fill the vacancies in our pulpits.

The responses to the #Give60 Campaign thus far have been humbling. We have received single donations of \$60 to \$60,000 dollars, and have already raised over \$135,000 to date! Our current goal is to reach \$150,000, which would provide 15 scholarships for our students this year. Some of you have already given and we are so thankful for your generosity. Several of our donors are willing to give again because they can see what these scholarships are accomplishing. For those of you who have not yet given, there is still time!

We believe the harvest is ready and we want to prepare as many laborers as we can. We need your financial support to make this possible. This year, on *Giving Tuesday*, please consider making a donation to Randall University at ru.edu/give60. Let's work together to reach the goal of \$150,000.



Be the first to download your Randall University app!



Text RUApp to 844-390-2165 to stay in the loop on our NEW APP coming soon! Plus get RU news and information straight to your phone.



Encounter Teen Camp

June 7-12 & 21-26 2020

Early Bird Rate: \$150 before May 13th or May 21st

Regular Rate: \$170 after May 13th or May 21st

To register your church you need to send in two things. 1. A church registration form from our website. 2. A \$1000 deposit

Encounter Kids Camp

July 12-15 & 15-18 2020

Early Bird Rate: \$180 before May 31st

Regular Rate: \$190 after May 31st

To register your church you need to send in two things. 1. A church registration form from our website. 2. A \$1000 deposit

PASSING *the* TORCH

Robert G. Thompson elected 10th President of Randall University

On October 8, 2019, the Board of Trustees of Randall University unanimously elected Rev. Robert G. Thompson as the next President of Randall University. Robert 'Bob' Thompson, who has served as Randall's Vice President for Institutional Advancement for over 18 years, will begin his term as President effective January 1, 2020. Bob succeeds Dr. Timothy W. Eaton, who has agreed to serve as Chancellor of Randall University.

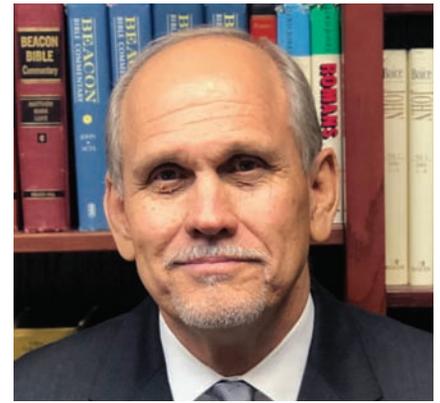
In expressing his thanks to the Board, President-Elect Thompson said, "With the help of God, I will do my best to fulfill the mission of Randall University."

Bob Thompson, a third-generation Free Will Baptist, is the son of Rev. Bailey and Barbara Thompson. He has been married to Carol Christian Thompson for 47 years. They met when they were both students at Randall University (then Oklahoma Bible College). The Thompsons have three children: Christina, Cory, and Craig, plus six grandchildren.

Over his ministry, Bob has pastored churches in Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Before joining the administration of Randall, Bob served as the Director of the Arkansas State Youth Camp. Bob has been active among Free Will Baptists by serving in numerous leadership positions at the district, state, and national levels. He is currently serving as a member of the Foundation Board for the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc.

Dick Terry, Chairman of the Randall University Board of Trustees, extends his thanks to the Presidential search

committee, the Randall Board Members, candidates, alumni, and constituents engaged in the process. Chairman Terry requests continued prayers for the success



of Randall University students, staff, and President Thompson.

"Beloved by God and called to be saints" - Romans 1:7

The image shows a promotional graphic for the book 'The Heart of Your Teen' by Lissy Rienow. The background is a colorful geometric pattern of yellow, red, and blue shapes. At the top, it says 'New Parenting Resource from D6'. The title 'THE HEART OF YOUR TEEN' is prominently displayed in large white letters. Below the title, it says 'AN INSIDER LOOK AT THE PARENT-TEEN RELATIONSHIP'. To the right, there is a small photo of the author, Lissy Rienow, a woman with long blonde hair. Below the photo, it says 'By Lissy Rienow'. The book cover itself is shown in the center, featuring a heart shape with the title 'THE HEART OF YOUR TEEN' and the subtitle 'AN INSIDER LOOK AT THE PARENT-TEEN RELATIONSHIP'. At the bottom of the graphic, it says 'ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY! WWW.D6FAMILY.COM'. There is also a small price tag: 'Price: \$12.99 13-ISBN: 9781614840978'.

HONOR *to whom* HONOR

EVERETT LELAND HORTON
April 30, 1929 – August 3, 2019



Rev. Leland Horton was born in Mountain Grove, MO. He married his best friend Dollie Middleton on November 22, 1950. Brother Leland

pastored churches in Missouri, Iowa and Oklahoma. He loved his wife and his family deeply. Above all, he loved to learn and teach others about his Savior, Jesus Christ.

WALTER "RAY" GWARTNEY
September 25, 1921 – August 23, 2019



Rev. Ray Gwartney was born in Leach, OK. After high school he served his country during World War II in the U.S. Army. Brother Ray married Billye Jean Burkett

on April 15, 1943 in Rose, OK. At his death they had been married 76 years. Bro. Ray was ordained as a Free Will Baptist minister in 1952. He ministered in many Free Will Baptist churches including Smith Chapel in Rose, Locust Grove FWB, Bixby FWB, Pryor First FWB, and Bethany FWB in Broken Arrow where he retired in 1987.

JOHN THOMAS STAGGS
August 25, 1927- August 27, 2019



Rev. John Staggs was born in Oklahoma City, OK. He graduated from Blanchard High School and attended Oklahoma Bible College. He served in

the Merchant Marines toward the end of World War II and in the U.S. Army in Korea for one tour. Brother John married Clara Mannin on April 4, 1953. He ministered for 54 years mostly as a bi-vocational pastor in Oklahoma, Kansas, Washington, California and Texas.

LOUIS JEROME WICKHAM
December 4, 1932 – September 9, 2019



Rev. Louis Wickham was born in Sapulpa, OK. He graduated from Sapulpa High School where he was a 3 year varsity athlete in football and track as well as a Golden

Gloves boxer. After high School Brother Louis enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served as a prison guard. While at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas he met and later married Beverly Smith in June of 1956. He was ordained as a Free Will Baptist

minister in 1963 after graduating from Hillsdale FWB College. After pastoring in Wetumka, Oklahoma, Brother Louis became very active in one of our Norman churches and loved working in the state youth camps each summer. He also pastored the Plaza Towers FWB Church in Moore as well as the Pleasant Hill FWB Church in Norman.

SHERRY PAULINE KONOPINSKI
March 30, 1949 – October 2, 2019



Sister Sherry, wife of Rev. Stan Konopinski was born in Menard, OK. Sherry faithfully served our Lord alongside her husband as he has pastored Free

Will Baptist churches. She is a wonderful example of a godly Christian wife and mother. Brother Stan continues as pastor of the Trinity Free Will Baptist Church in Oklahoma City.

Editor's note: *We are so very grateful for the faithful service that these have rendered to the Lord and to all of us. Please remember to pray for these families in the days ahead.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDMOND | LAWTON | STIGLER

Congregations Celebrate Milestones

On September 8th, the Oak Hills Church in Edmond celebrated their 20th Anniversary. Those attending enjoyed a brief video message by founding pastor, Brad Hanna and messages from former pastor, David Archer and present pastor, Matt Wheeler. The congregation also enjoyed a meal together following

the service.

By the time you receive this edition of the Promoter, The Crystal Hills FWB Church in Lawton will have celebrated their 40th anniversary and the Heaven Bound FWB Church outside of Stigler will have had a special day to celebrate 26 years of ministry.

This is the Will of God

Throughout my ministry I have had individuals come to me with a common question. That question is "How do I determine God's will?" Most of the time the question had risen out of a decision that they were trying to make such as should I change jobs or should I purchase a house or should I move to a new community?

My answer was often the same for such inquiries. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, *Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.* In other words, trust God completely, obey Him completely and then we can have confidence that He will indeed direct our choices. While this instruction did not necessarily give an answer to their specific dilemma, it is a correct formula for walking through this life with confidence. Many times I have spent far too much time worrying about God directing my path and far too little on my own trusting and obeying.

Sometimes it is not easy to help someone determine God's will for a specific decision. There are some things that Scripture is very specific about concerning God's will. One of those is to give thanks. 1 Thessalonians 5:13 says, ***In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus***

concerning you.

We do not have to struggle with whether or not it is God's will to readily give thanks in all circumstances. It is God's will that we offer thanks continually. I know that some who are reading this have immediately come up with some tragic or sorrowful circumstances that would be difficult to offer thanks. I am not unaware that bad things sometimes happen to good people. I am confident, however, that God gives us the instruction that He gives because He loves us and knows what is best for us. The passage is very clear: It is the will of God that we give thanks in everything. It is unimportant that I fully understand why this is so. It is very important that I obey Him even when I lack understanding. Someone rightfully pointed out that the passage doesn't say we must give thanks 'for' everything but rather 'in' everything. I want to do a better job of this.

I am reminded of a precious elderly woman named Sister Hibbits that I pastored when I was in my mid-twenties. She was in the hospital being treated for cancer that had spread throughout her body. I told her one day how very sorry I was that she was having to endure the pain and discomfort that was a part of her illness and treatment. She told me not to be

sorry for she was thankful for her circumstance. She let me know that because of the illness and her hospital stay that she had been able to tell the doctors, nurses and other hospital workers how good God is and how wonderful a life lived for Christ can be. What a testimony!!! What a shining light she was to all she encountered even as her body was wasting away. A few weeks later I preached her funeral service. I don't think I have ever seen so many hospital workers at another funeral throughout the rest of my ministry. Several of them mentioned as they came by the casket just what an amazing woman she was and how much her cheerful attitude and testimony had impacted their lives.

I am convinced that a thankful heart can help us to face every circumstance of life and it very well could point those who observe it to our loving Savior.

Would you join me as you read this by taking a moment to offer thanks to our wonderful Lord? You can have complete confidence that **this is the will of God.**

Mike Wade,
Executive Director
for Oklahoma
Free Will Baptists



Promoter

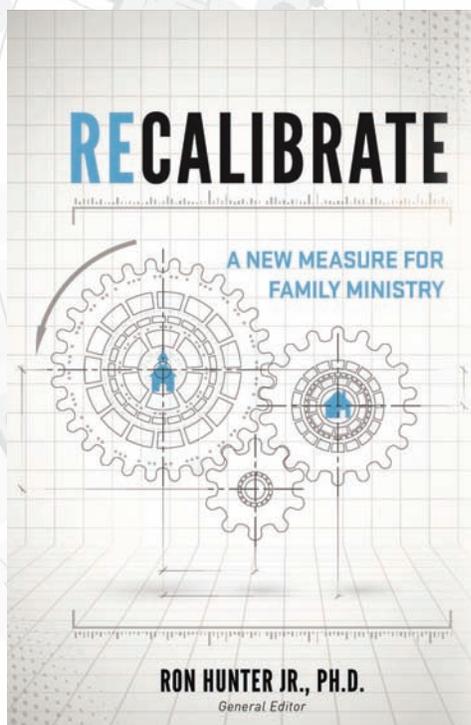
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NEW! from Randall House



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