

NAFWB NEWS

2022 FREE WILL BAPTIST NATIONAL CONVENTION

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Honor Where Honor Is Due...

VERTICAL THREE LEADER CELEBRATES 25 YEARS IN A CRUCIAL ROLE

To show *honor* means to “treat with high respect and high regard.” Honor should be set aside for individuals and circumstances worthy of the gesture. In fact, in Romans 13:7 the Apostle Paul told the church at Rome to “Pay . . . honor to those you owe honor.”

Free Will Baptists as a whole owe a debt of honor to an individual who has done as much as anyone to shape the young people of our denomination during the last quarter century. Students from across the globe have been impacted by this man who has been faithful to the calling the Lord placed on his life to train the next generation of Free Will Baptist leaders. This man is Allen Pointer. The 2022 Truth & Peace Student Leadership Conference marks his 25th year as director.

In the early 1980s, Randall House icon Jim Lauthren established what we know today as the Truth & Peace Student Leadership Conference. Dean Jones followed Lauthren as director (1993) before Allen Pointer became director of the conference in the late 1990s.

Building upon the foundation established, Allen has taken Truth & Peace to new heights. Under his direction, Allen has helped thousands of Free Will Baptist young people realize and develop their leadership skills. Students have discovered their true identity in Christ, have been involved in service both near and far, have grown in their relationships with Christ, have been equipped to stand for truth, and have impacted the world for the glory of God.

Not until eternity will we truly know the impact Truth & Peace students have had and will continue to have on the denomination and the world. Much credit for this goes to Allen, his wife Jill, and the many Truth & Peace staff members who have served during his tenure as director.

As we enjoy our time together in Birmingham this week for the National Convention and the Vertical Three Conference, let us take time to give honor where honor is due.

When you run into Allen this week, please take a moment from your busy schedule to stop and show him the honor he deserves. We as a denomination definitely owe it to him. Thank you, Allen, for a quarter century of leadership and training leaders!

About the writer: Derek Altom is director of events and development at Randall House & D6 Family Ministry. Learn more about Truth and Peace:

[verticalthree.com/
ministries/truth-peace](http://verticalthree.com/ministries/truth-peace)

LEADING IS SERVING. LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN!

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From Allen Pointer, Director, Truth & Peace

Since 1984, Truth & Peace has trained thousands of student leaders. Thanks to the vision of Jim Lauthren and the ministry of the staff throughout the years, its influence can be felt behind pulpits and in classrooms and pews across the nation and around the world.

Meet the Speakers

Jim McComas is the CEO and executive director of FWB Family Ministries in Greenville, Tennessee. He previously served 20 years as pastor of Canaan FWB Church in Creston, Ohio, and five years as director of church relations at FWB North American Ministries. McComas is currently a member of the FWB Historical Commission. He has served on the Ohio FWB Board of Directors, and is co-author of *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*, a history of Ohio Free Will Baptists from 1805-2009.

Kent Barwick pastors Colquitt FWB Church in Georgia. He serves on the Georgia State Board of Christian Education, is moderator of the Martin Association of Georgia, and previously served on the Nominating Committee of the National Association. He also serves as chaplain for the Miller County Sheriff's Department and Miller County Fire and Rescue. Kent graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1990 with a degree in Christian Ministry. He and his wife Cheryl are parents of two children (David and Deana) and proud grandparents of five grandchildren (Josie, Ashlynn, Elliot, Mackinzie, and Easton).

Celebrating Three Decades of Student Missions

June 2022 marked 30 years of ETEAM, the high school missions program offered by IM. This year, 72 high school students were assigned to seven teams for a two-week missions experience both in North America and international mission fields.

The first team journeyed to Brazil in 1992, led by Ken and Marvis Eagleton. The former missionaries to Brazil were passionate about awakening the rising generation to the need for Free Will Baptist missionaries. As an IM staff member, Ken envisioned how much a trip to the field would influence students. He decided to put his idea to the test and recruited eight high school students to accompany him and Marvis to Brazil. He called this first group TEAM—Teens Equipped and Active in Missions.

In the early 90s, short-term missions trips were a new innovation. The Eagletons, once pioneer missionaries to Brazil, now became pioneers in mobilizing Free Will Baptists for student missions. In their honor, IM renamed the TEAM program ETEAM in 2001, after Ken’s death. **Today, the E stands for Eagleton.**

In many ways, the program remains unchanged from those early years: a week’s training in Nashville before two weeks on an active field. However, participation has grown exponentially from that original group of eight. Between 1993 and 2022, the number of destinations has grown to as many as 12. Despite language and cultural barriers, students continue to participate in the evangelistic efforts of the missionaries and host churches, preparing and presenting a program in churches, community parks, even on the street. The program remains true to its original intent.

A series of dynamic leaders guided ETEAM over three decades: the Eagletons, Eddie Payne, Matt Markins, Angela Emerick, Alicia Bunch, Courtney (Edwards) Pierce, and Joni Thomas. Most recently, since 2012, the program has been steered by Hanna Mott, an energetic, innovative young leader who brought an exciting and creative vision to ETEAM. Hanna will complete her work in December, and Lauren Herren will follow her in the position.

After three decades, the natural question is whether ETEAM has accomplished Ken Eagleton’s vision from long

ago. The statistics speak (loudly) for themselves when you consider that **20 missionaries and two staff members** participated in ETEAM, and **14 current missionary couples** have served at least once as ETEAM Leaders.

Not only has ETEAM been instrumental in introducing young missionaries to a lifetime of service, it also has motivated families, home churches, and friends to get involved in missions—praying, encouraging, and supporting students before, during, and after their trip.

Doug Little once pondered on the influence of ETEAM: “The full impact will not be fully revealed until the Great Commission has been fulfilled and every tribe and nation gather at the Father’s throne!”



Over the past ten years, I’ve gotten to be part of an amazing group of people who care about the gospel, who care about people, who care about the nations, and who will do whatever it takes to grow the Kingdom and glorify God—that has meant so much to me! I’ve gotten to see God show up huge in places weren’t sure it would happen. ETEAM has meant family to me, grace to me, and a whole lot of excitement for the Kingdom to come.

—Outgoing ETEAM Director Hanna Mott

News, Updates & Announcements

Registration and Exhibits

Registration is open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., BJCC Main Level Lobby. Exhibit Hall 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 will close** 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: 8:30 p.m., BJCC Ballroom B.

Youth Evangelistic Team Program

Watch the 2022 YET program tonight in the Sheraton Birmingham Ballroom, 9:00 p.m.

Book Signing

Matt Pinson, president of Welch College, will sign his new book, *40 Questions about Arminianism*, Tuesday evening after the worship service at the Welch College exhibit.

SEMINAR UPDATES

- + The **Presidents Breakfast** will be held Wednesday, 7:00 a.m. in the Westin Hotel Orchid Boardroom (2nd floor).
- + The **Randall House Board Dinner** will be held Wednesday, 5:00 p.m. in the Westin Hotel Orchid Boardroom (2nd floor).
- + **GPS Experience: A Missions Experience for Every Age** will be held Wednesday, 9:00-11:00 in BJCC East O.

Lost & Found

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