



The VOICE  
OF  
CALIFORNIA FREE WILL BAPTISTS

December 2009

The VOICE

December 2009

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*Mission's Alive*  
**2010**

March 4&5, 2010

Harmony Free Will Baptist Church - Fresno, CA.

**Featured Speaker**

**Dr. Thom S. Rainer**

- Former president, American Association of Church Consultants  
(a North American society for church consultants)

- Former board member, Home Mission Board  
(now North American Mission Board)



Thom S. Rainer is the ninth president of LifeWay Christian Resources and is responsible for leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention's education, church programs and publishing agency. Rainer assumed his position at LifeWay on Feb. 1, 2006.

**Author of several books including. . . . .**

- *Essential Church (co-author) (2008, Broadman & Holman)*
- *Simple Church (co-author) (2006, Broadman & Holman)*
- *Breakout Churches (2005, Zondervan)*
- *The Unchurched Next Door (2003, Zondervan)*
- *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched (2001, Zondervan)*
- *The Bridger Generation (1997, Broadman & Holman)*
- *The Book of Church Growth (1993, Broadman & Holman)*

# MEN'S RETREAT



Ron Hunter, Randall House Director, to be the speaker for the Men's Retreat.

## Upcoming Dates You Need:

- February 19, 2010—CAFWB Executive Committee meets at 5:00 PM
- February 19, 2010—CAFWB General Board Meets at 6:30 PM
- February 25-27, 2010—California Men's Retreat
- March 4-5, 2010—Missions Alive Conference
- March 5-6, 2010—Women's Conference
- May 13-15, 2010—CA Free Will Baptist State Association
- July 18-21, 2010—National Association of Free Will Baptists in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- September 15-17, 2010—D6 Conference
- September 23-25, 2010—Women's Retreat

## MEN'S RETREAT—EVENT OF GRACE

The male species is certainly not known as the most graceful species of the human race. In fact, men are sometimes rugged and rambunctious. Hopefully we do display moments of grace and certainly the results of grace.

While men are not graceful creatures, attendees of the California State Association Men's Retreat have come to expect divine experiences of grace at our retreats.

One of the finest ongoing events of the California State Association of Free Will Baptists is the Men's Retreat held each year in February. That time is just around the bend. The Annual Men's Retreat is set for Feb-

ruary 25-27, 2010, Thursday evening through Saturday morning.

Each year men from the North to the South and from the East to the West of California gather at Silver Spur Retreat Center. The Retreat is an experience of God's amazing grace, an enjoyment of fellowship, a time of learning from God's Word, a time to pray together, and a time to just "hang out" and bond with other men of faith.

Retreat 2010 is shaping up to be another memorable event. Our 2010 Speaker is Ron Hunter. Brother Hunter is the Director of Randall House Publications. He is a former pastor who still

has a pastor's heart; a great preacher of the Word; and a "man's man." Ron is coming by popular request from among our men.

Remember, the Retreat Center went up in price at the close of last year's retreat; therefore we have to do the same in order to meet expenses. Your investment for these three days of Christian fellowship and encouragement is \$115.00.

You will be receiving the necessary forms for Retreat 2010 in December. Plan not to miss these highlight days. Bring a friend—yes, an unsaved friend. Miracles take place at the Men's Retreats.

**ONE VOICE —  
ONE MESSAGE —  
ONE HOPE —  
ONE SAVIOR**



## LEROY FORLINES TO PREACH AT 2010 CAFWB CONVENTION

Reverend F. Leroy Forlines will be our preacher for the 2010 California Free Will Baptist State Convention to be held May 13-15, 2010. Bro. Forlines is professor emeritus at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, TN as well as adjunct professor of theology at Russian Baptist Theological Institute. He has

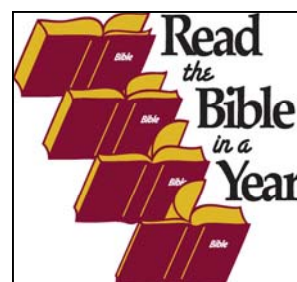
served our denomination well as a leading scholar in the areas of theological orthodoxy and Christian ethics.

His knowledge of postmodernism will help us understand how to meet that viewpoint and lead others through it to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Other features of the

2010 convention include our Second Annual State-wide Brunch, breakout sessions following each evening's service, and fellowship times following each evening service in the college cafeteria.

We hope you'll make plans now to attend.



**God's Word**  
**Alive**  
**Powerful**

The Kilgores also write of their needs:

- Daily Prayer
- Meeting Place
- Traveling Mercies
- Preparation of hearts in Greenfield
- \$15,232.70 in love offerings
- \$4,373.00 in Faith Promise Commitments

Let the Kilgore Family know you are praying for them by contacting them at:

PO Box 2452  
Greenfield, CA  
93927

"We are on Facebook too!! (James Kilgore)"

## NEWS FROM THE KILGORES IN GREENFIELD

According to Joshua 5:9, Gilgal means "the reproach has been rolled away." Joshua and the Israelites were finally in the land of promise, Canaan. After years of slavery, bondage, and desert wandering, deliverance had come. That is something to be remembered, being delivered! But God's people have a tendency to forget. God had a way to help Joshua and the children of Israel to remember. Twelve stones, one for each tribe, were to be placed in the Jordan River right where the priests bearing the ark of the covenant were standing. As soon as the priest's feet had touched the waters of

the un-crossable Jordan, the water stopped and the river bed dried, providing safe and easy passage into Canaan. God also told Joshua to place twelve stones in Gilgal. These stones, in the river and in Gilgal, were to remind the people of what God had done for them. They were also there to raise questions in future generations as to what they meant. The wonderful story of deliverance could be told again and again!

I recently returned to my "Gilgal," the Shafter Free Will Baptist Church to preach and raise support. Over the years I have often returned there to drive by

the church, look through the windows and remember, "This is where I passed from death to life. This is where God saved me!" Everybody needs a "Gilgal." A place to be delivered; a place where they can return after victories and defeats; a place they can show their children and explain it's importance because it is where God saved them and set them to serve Him. Greenfield needs a "Gilgal" and it will have one thanks to your support. May God bless you!

Portions taken from the Heritage FWB Church Newsletter in Greenfield



## CCC NEWS

Life can change drastically in a flash. I found that out October 15 as I attempted to hang a projector screen in the gym while preparing for our Annual Celebration Banquet. I was about ten feet off the floor and reaching for the screen when the ladder collapsed without warning and I crash landed on top of it fracturing my left pelvis, shoulder and multiple ribs.

I spent 15 days in the hospital and rehab before returning home and will not be able to return to the office for a couple more months. I also still face shoulder surgery to repair my rotator cuff, and it will probably be six months before I can use my left arm very much.



What is to be learned from this? I believe God is saying loud and clear that it is time for me to be president and let Him provide paid maintenance personnel. As you know, that is something we have not had during the ten years I have been here. The reason is simple, lack of money.

It is time for CCC supporters to accept the responsibility of providing a part-time paid maintenance person.

The only way that can happen is for income to pick up. Will you help by giving and praying that we will soon be able to hire someone? But do not forget that we will always need volunteers to also help from time to time.



Great things are happening at CCC. Enrollment is up this year and we have some of the best students ever. For the first time in a long time we have students going out representing the college with music, testimonies and preaching. Please call to schedule them to come to your church to minister and recruit your youth.



Thanks for responding to a recently printed request list. We received a very good riding lawn mower from Burl Condit and Village Chapel. Money was also donated for a weed-eater by Gail Ives and a new edger was given by Mike Minasian.

Please pray that we will enroll several new students in January and pray for me as I present the college to several churches back east in an effort to broaden our support base. Several services had to be rescheduled until after the first of the year as a result of my accident.



God has given all of us a new faith challenge. Let's not miss this opportunity to honor Him by responding in faith and allowing Him to bless us and help us go to the next level. The best days of CCC and Free Will Baptists on the West Coast are still ahead.

Wendell Walley  
November 13, 2009

Photos taken from Cal Christian's Facebook Page

## E-TEAM, GET YOUR STUDENTS INVOLVED



Several students from California were involved in this ministry this past summer.

Will a teen in your church carry on the tradition?

Visit [www.fwbgo.com](http://www.fwbgo.com) to find out how you can be involved.

**E-TEAM**—Seventy-six students and 18 team leaders went to nine destinations this summer. Teams were exposed to different cultures and were involved in a variety of ministries: handing out tracts, presenting mimes, singing songs, hosting children's festivals, etc. Students touched lives in Brazil, Chicago, Cuba, France, Hokkaido, Mexico, Spain, St. Croix, and Tokyo.

Copied from ONE Magazine, October-November 2009

## “IT’S A SMALL WORLD...YOUUNITED IN MISSIONS”

**WOMEN’S CONFERENCE, MARCH 5-6, 2010**

**SPEAKER: LYNNETTE MORGAN**

**WHERE: WONDER VALLEY RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER**

California Women Active for Christ invite you to join us as we explore our theme, “It’s a Small World...YOUUnited in Missions.” Speaker Lynnette Morgan will lead us as we explore how we can be more involved in missions in our community, our state, our country, and our world. She and her husband, Clint Morgan, have served Free Will Baptists as missionaries for 30 years and brings a wealth of knowledge and practical experience to our conference.

We will host two short seminars as we begin our conference on Friday afternoon. These will focus on practical ways for us to be involved in missions. Details and times for these will be announced in the January VOICE.

Costs for the conference will be \$100.00 per person for a quad room, 110.00 per person for triple occupancy, 133.00 per person for double occupancy, and 193.00 per person for single occupancy. These costs include supper on Friday and breakfast on Saturday. A deposit of \$50.00 is due on January 15, 2010. There is a \$25.00 registration fee for the conference. Watch for registration materials soon.

Our State Project is to raise \$1,000.00 for the WNAC 20/20/20 Project, 500.00 for CCC, and 300.00 for the Hanna Project. Our Community Project is the Fresno Pregnancy Care Center. A list of needed items will be included with the registration materials.

**Please join us as we seek to be YOUUnited in Missions!**



### IT'S ALREADY CHRISTMAS

As a child, I found myself waiting...and waiting...and waiting for Christmas each year. It couldn't get here fast enough.

As an adult, I find myself wondering...and wondering...and wondering how it got here so fast!

To the people who lived before Christ was born, the birth of the Christ-child seemed to be so long in coming, while those of us who have heard the story as retold from generation to

generation for over 2,000 years wonder how they could have survived that wait.

But the coming of the Christ-child was worth the wait. While he didn't bring the political stability and freedom from the oppression of the Romans that the Jews so longed for, He did bring the fulfillment of promises:

- The only One who could crush Satan
- The Wonderful Counselor

- The Prince of Peace
- The Sinless Savior
- The One who could take away our sins

As we gather with friends and family around this most blessed of holidays, we have a mission. That mission is to find out from every person we meet if they are still waiting for Christmas to come to their hearts...or if it's already Christmas!

*May the Glory of the Lord  
Be revealed in your heart,  
in your family,  
and in your church  
this Christmas Season.*

**Merry  
Christmas**



“Then the  
glory of the LORD  
shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together.”

Isaiah 40:5, NRSV

## A REFLECTION ON THE CALIFORNIA FWB PASTOR'S RETREAT

In my experience, pastors generally have enough to do. As a bivocational pastor, my participation in various meetings is limited by my work schedule.

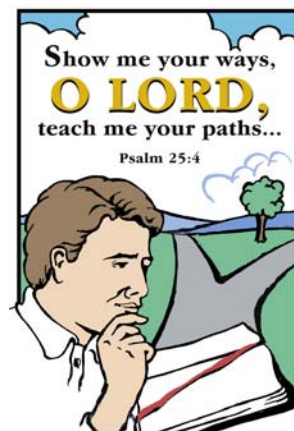
When I received the announcement about the Pastor's Retreat to be held in Arroyo Grande, I thought it sounded like some-

thing worth my time. The book given for background reading, *Pastors at Greater Risk*, offered encouragement and practical suggestions for reducing and dealing with the risks pastors face. The retreat topics covered priorities, busyness, time with family and away from work, building relationships

with each other, and prayer.

The retreat was a time for me to reflect, spend time with people I don't see often, and take a constructive break as well. Retreats should edify, not just pack a schedule; this one edified.

Dan Felts,  
Pastor Clovis FWB Church



## Newsletter News

Beginning in January 2010, The VOICE will be published bi-monthly. The first issue of 2010 will be the January/February issue and should arrive in your e-mail and on our website around January 1st. |

If you would like to place articles or information in The VOICE, please have it to [fwbpator@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fwbpator@sbcglobal.net) by the 25th of the preceding month.



## MICHAEL EGLESTON ORDAINED AS A MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL

On Sunday, November 15, 2009, members of Michael Egleston's family gathered with those who regularly attend the Clovis FWB Church as Michael was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel.

Michael was examined and approved for ordination by the Center District Association at its October meeting. As a resident of the Fresno area during his time at CCC and as Youth Pas-

tor at the Clovis Church, he is well known to the ordaining council of the association.

Pastor Dan Felts charged Michael with the same responsibilities that Paul placed on Timothy's shoulders many years ago. He encouraged Michael to preach with boldness and be mindful of those under his care as his ministry grows.

Rev. Wendell Walley, President of California Christian College, led in the ordination prayer.

Michael is a graduate of CCC and a current student at Talbot School of Theology where he is in his second year of graduate work.

Pray for Michael and his ministry in the Los Angeles area while he is continuing his education.

Congratulations Michael!  
God Bless Your Ministry



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fwbpastor@sbcglobal.net.  
Please send it by the 25th of  
the month before you want  
to see it in print.

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TOGETHER  
WE  
CAN

## MODERATOR'S PEN, "The 'IF' in LIFE" by Millard Sasser

Perhaps you've seen the advertisement by a well known insurance company that portrays Snoopy examining the need to take care of all those "IFs" in life. Have you ever spent time thinking about those "what ifs?" Most of us have at sometime in **LI**Fe. Be careful not to spend too much time in "if city." It is a discouraging place to live. Most "what ifs" never become "Influential Facts" in life?

Recently a discouraged brother preacher said to me, "you should write about trust. We need to trust each other." My brother is right. Of all the things Pastors need to work on in their lives, perhaps trust is at the top of the list. Think about these what ifs:

1. What if we really **trust our Lord**? You see, it is easy to trust our instincts, management skills, programming skills, abilities to "deal" with people, to make church "happen," well you get the picture—

never mind that any of these "abilities" may be wrong or faulty. Here is a truth—our Lord alone can make the Pastor's life and ministry successful.

**What if** we began to really **trust** Him with "our" ministries?

2. What if we start trust-  
ing each other as pas-  
tors? I visualize someone  
saying "Brother Sasser,  
you are really naïve.  
Don't you know that  
"Pastor Eutyclus" does-  
n't preach the same way  
we do, or he does things  
so differently from the  
average pastor, or he has  
stuff in his church that I  
would not even dream of  
having—he must be lib-  
eral, don't you know he  
wants control..., and  
really, he doesn't even  
use the 'right' Bible  
translation." Again you  
get the picture. **What if**  
we accept the fact that  
none of those things is  
the basis for our fellow-  
ship; **What if** we actually  
begin to **trust Jesus** to  
guide "Pastor Eutyclus"  
in his ministry; and **what**  
**if** we actually began to

**trust Pastor Eutyclus** to  
follow his Lord, Jesus? Is  
it possible that our dis-  
trust toward each other  
only reflects our lack of  
trust in our Jesus to  
build His Church—His  
way? Just musing.

3. **What if** we began  
trusting the member-  
ship within our own lo-  
cal churches? And **what**  
**if** the members within  
the local churches actu-  
ally began trusting their  
pastors?

What a novel thought  
that whether we are  
thinking about other  
pastors or other Chris-  
tians in general, that our  
Jesus builds His Body  
with all of us as func-  
tional parts

Just imagine, our Jesus  
could give us revival if  
these "ifs" in **LI**Fe were  
to become **Influential**  
**Factors** in our lives and  
ministries.

Perhaps Pastor  
Eutyclus could give us  
some pointers along the  
way—we'll see.

**The California State Association of Free Will Baptists exists to encourage our member churches and their constituency in the work of ministry given us by our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**The Association exists to unify our efforts in Kingdom building through our local churches,  
California Christian College, State Mission Board,  
State Youth Ministries, and California Women Active for Christ (CWAC).**