

# OFWB COMMUNITY

March 2026

www.OFWBCommunity.com

Free Will Baptist Press

## The Gospel Is Worth the Cost - FM Month *Sacrificial Generosity*

*Dr. John Hill, Executive Director of OFWBI*

Jesus never minimized the cost of following Him. In Luke 14:27-28, He speaks plainly: discipleship requires sacrifice, and wisdom demands that we count the cost before we commit. The Christian life is not built on convenience, comfort, or excess—it is built on surrender. Nowhere is that more evident than in the work of missions.

As we enter March, our Foreign Missions Month, we are reminded that the Gospel we cherish did not reach us without cost. Faithful men and women left familiar places, endured hardship, and gave sacrificially so that Christ might be proclaimed where He was not known. Their obedience mirrors the words of our Lord: following Him requires carrying the cross, not merely admiring it.

Sacrificial generosity is not about what is easy to give, but what is costly to withhold. Scripture teaches that we are stewards, not owners. Every resource entrusted to us—time, finances, influence—is given for God's purposes. When we give toward missions, we are not losing something; we are investing in eternal work that outlasts this life.

Foreign missions remind us that the Gospel is not bound by borders. Souls across the world still wait to hear the saving message of Jesus Christ. Churches are being planted, pastors trained, and lives transformed because faithful believers choose to give beyond themselves. That work continues only as God's people remain obedient and generous.

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Ayden, NC 28513

Jesus' words challenge us to pause and evaluate. Are we willing to follow Him at full cost? Are we willing to give in a way that reflects our gratitude for the Gospel we have received? Counting the cost does not discourage commitment—it clarifies it. And when we see the value of the Gospel, the sacrifice becomes an act of worship.

**Sunday, March 22, is Foreign Missions Giving Day.** We invite you to prayerfully participate by supporting the work of foreign missions through OFWBI. Your gift helps carry the Gospel to places we may never go, but where Christ is faithfully proclaimed.

You may send your gift to:  
**OFWBI, PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513**

**Or give online at:**

[www.OFWBI.org](http://www.OFWBI.org)

The Gospel is worth the cost. May we give as those who truly believe it.

**OBEEDIENCE**  
is the highest form  
of worship.



## Calendar of Events

**March 1: Albemarle Conference**  
Revival Service, 6pm Free Union Church, Plymouth

**March 9: Pitt Co Area Ministers**  
Breakfast, Bum's, Ayden, 8:30am

**March 9: Central Conference Laymen's League Fellowship,**  
Ormondsville, 6pm Meal, 7pm Service

**March 12: Eastern Conference @**  
Croatan Church

**March 14: Four In Christ & Second Edition,** Pleasant Hill, Calico, 6pm

**March 14: Pancakes, Pajamas, & Prayers,** May's Chapel Church, Dudley, 9:30-Noon (RSVP by Feb 21)

**March 15: Hodnett Family,** at Friendship Church, Farmville, 6pm

**March 21: The Chuck Wagon Gang,** Beaverdam Church, Chadbourn, 6pm

**March 28: Central District WA**  
Spring Retreat. Grimsley FWBC. Breakfast, 8:30am. Begins, 9:30am.

**March 29: Four in Christ Quartet**  
at Juniper Chapel Church, 6pm

# MARCH FOREIGN MISSIONS OFFERING

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

PRAY. GIVE. GO.

India  
Haiti

Bulgaria  
Philippines

Liberia  
Angola

Mexico  
Guinea

Scan to Give  
Securely  
Online



**OFWB**  
INTERNATIONAL

OFWB International, Inc  
PO Box 39, Ayden NC 28513

# “The Free Will Baptists: A New History” by Dr. Matthew Pinson

*Dr. John Hill, Editor & CEO*

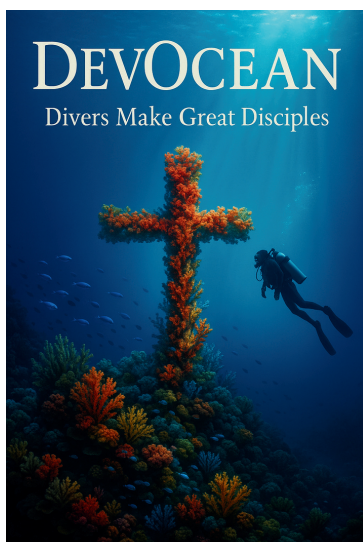
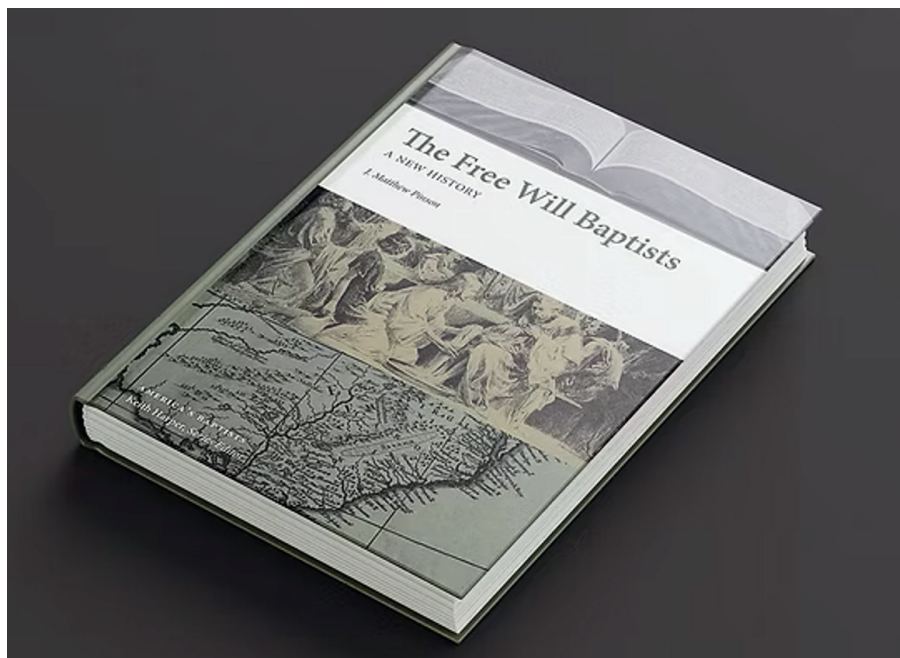
Dr. Matthew Pinson is President of Welch Bible College and friend to many OFWBs. He has written a stellar work advancing the historical work of great Free Will Baptists like Dr. Michael Pelt and Dr. Robert Picirilli. Pinson, a historian and theologian, weaves together not just the Free Will Baptist story, but explores the development of our theology as well.

Pinson is quite friendly to Original Free Will Baptist in North Carolina, and tips his hat to the pioneering work of Dr. Raper, Dr. Pelt, and many others. He speaks fondly of the work of the FWB Press and other ministry initiatives by our movement. It is a refreshing look at our heritage and the Godly men and women who made it possible.

Pinson’s approach is academic, but presents a welcomed humanized version of the historical greats. With great questions, Pinson colors in the outlines left by other scholars—can you imagine

what books Paul Palmer had in his library (as one of very, very few to own books)? Can you feel the excitement among members to establish educational institutions, retreat centers, and new missions? If only we could recapture the entrepreneurial, adventurous spirit that we once possessed?

Gary Barefoot, curator of the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection says, the work is “a well-written and very readable book for twenty-first century students and interested readers and researchers of denominational history.” I agree with Mr. Barefoot, the Friday my copy arrived, I spent the evening reading a few chapters, and finished it Saturday midday. The work is thorough, but not overwhelming; scholarly, but not unattainable. I am personally honored to have it on my shelf.



Available Now  
Cross & Crown

**DevOcean: Divers Make Great Disciples** invites scuba divers and ocean lovers to discover deep spiritual truths beneath the waves. Through vivid diving imagery and heartfelt biblical reflections, this devotional helps readers grow in faith, courage, and gratitude as they explore the depths of God’s presence.

Written by Dr. John Hill,  
NAUI SCUBA Dive  
Instructor

## Psalms For The Soul

*Ms Linda Herring*

The Bible speaks to us, but the Psalms often speak for us, giving voice to the devotion God desires in every believer’s life. The Lord calls us to make Him our greatest passion, placing our relationship with Him above possessions, careers, and even other relationships. Psalm 37:4 is often misunderstood as a promise to grant whatever we want, but it actually reveals how God purifies our desires as we delight in Him. As our joy is rooted in the Lord, our thoughts, goals, and lifestyle are shaped by His will. In His perfect timing, God fulfills desires that have been refined by devotion. Do not allow the pressures of daily life to steal your Psalm.

# Walking Faithfully in a Culture That Celebrates Self

*Dr. John Hill, Editor & CEO*

We live in a culture that consistently celebrates the self. Self-expression, self-fulfillment, self-definition, and personal autonomy are often presented as the highest goals of life. Yet the call of Christ moves in the opposite direction. Scripture does not invite us to exalt ourselves but to surrender ourselves. Following Christ has never been about self at the center; it has always been about Christ as Lord.

The pressure to conform to a self-centered culture is rarely aggressive. More often, it is subtle and constant. Believers are encouraged to soften convictions, reinterpret obedience, and redefine truth so that faith fits comfortably within cultural expectations. What once demanded resistance now simply requires silence. Scripture warns that friendship with the world places the believer in spiritual danger (James 4:4). Faithfulness requires choosing allegiance to Christ over approval from others (Galatians 1:10).

Jesus made it unmistakably clear that discipleship begins with self-denial (Luke 9:23). This command stands in direct contrast to a culture built on self-assertion. Denying self does not mean denying value or identity; it means refusing to place personal desires above God's authority. Believers no longer belong to themselves, having been bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). Walking faithfully begins with recognizing Christ's rightful lordship over every area of life.

Because culture shapes thinking before it shapes behavior, Scripture emphasizes the renewal of the mind (Romans 12:2). Without intentional grounding in God's Word, believers gradually absorb values that contradict biblical truth—often without realizing it. Faithfulness requires discernment. Not everything culture celebrates is sinful, but not everything it celebrates is spiritually healthy. Walking faithfully means measuring priorities, habits, and ambitions by Scripture rather than popularity (Colossians 2:8).

A self-focused culture often defines love as affirmation without boundaries. Scripture presents a different standard. Biblical love rejoices in truth and seeks the genuine good of others (1 Corinthians 13:6). Jesus demonstrated compassion without compromise—calling sinners to repentance while offering grace (John 8:11).

Faithfulness today requires resisting the false choice between love and truth. Both are essential.

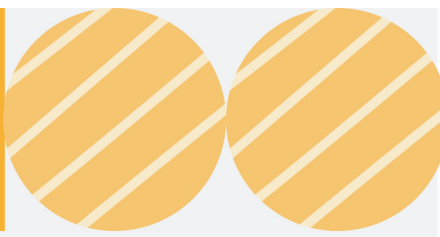
Walking faithfully is usually proven in ordinary choices rather than dramatic moments. It is seen in integrity, restraint, humility, and obedience when no recognition follows (Luke 16:10). In a culture that celebrates self-promotion, faithfulness may appear unimpressive. Yet Scripture assures us that God sees and remembers faithful obedience (Hebrews 6:10).

Walking faithfully in such a culture is not easy. There will be moments of tension, misunderstanding, and loneliness. Yet believers do not walk alone. God's Word remains a light for the path (Psalm 119:105), and faithfulness—not popularity—is what God requires (1 Corinthians 4:2).

The call remains clear. Walking faithfully means choosing surrender over self, obedience over applause, and eternal truth over temporary approval. Though the path is narrow, it leads to life (Matthew 7:13–14).

Albemarle District  
**WOMAN'S AUXILIARY**  
*Spring Convention*  
at Trinity OFWB Church  
Pantego, NC  
8775 NC Highway 99 North, Pantego, NC 27860  
**Saturday, April 11, 2026**  
Registration and Refreshments begin at 9:30am

The Eastern Conference of  
**OFWB**  
will meet at  
**Croatan OFWB Church**  
7028 Highway 70 East, New Bern, NC 28560  
**Thursday, March 12**  
Registration begins at 8:00am  
Conference begins at 9:00am



# Supply Drive **Pop-Up Event**

## **Event Details:**

- When: Wednesday, May 20, 2026
- Where: OFWB Convention at UMO
- Bring your paper products, cleaning supplies, and hygiene items
- Donation trailer will be located in the Kornegay Arena parking lot
- Help us pack the trailer to help our children
- Volunteers will be on hand to load your items



**This will take the place of our  
previous Supply Drive Ball  
Game**

***Let's make a  
difference  
together!***

Contact us:  
[cbrown@fwbch.org](mailto:cbrown@fwbch.org)  
252-235-2161  
[fwbchildrenshome.org/needs](http://fwbchildrenshome.org/needs)

# L.I.F.E. CONFERENCE 2026



Join us at  
**STONEY CREEK  
OFWB CHURCH**  
752 Stoney Creek  
Church Road,  
Goldsboro NC

VARIOUS WORKSHOPS  
INCLUDING SESSIONS FOR  
YOUTH WORKERS LED BY  
STUDENT MINISTRY  
CONNECTIONS

## **ROOTED...** BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION IN *Discipleship*

**MARCH 7, 2026**

**REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:15 A.M. WITH  
OPENING SESSION BEGINNING AT 9:00 AM  
ENDING APX. 2:00 PM**

Registration is \$25 per person or \$125 per church.  
Please register by Feb. 20 online @  
[ofwbchristianeducation.org](http://ofwbchristianeducation.org) or by calling 919-299-4553  
or 919-631-9407. Juice, Coffee and Muffins during  
registration. **LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED**  
Childcare for ages 4-11 will be provided



Keynote Speaker  
**DUSTIN RIVENBARK**

**NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED  
AND AWARD WINNING  
SPEAKER, DUSTIN, HAS A  
POWERFUL STORY OF  
OVERCOMING FEAR,  
ADVERSITY, AND TRAGEDY AND  
DELIVERS THAT MESSAGE WITH  
LIFE CHANGING IMPACT.  
THROUGH HIS STORY YOU  
WILL LEARN WHAT  
DISCIPLESHIP LOOKS LIKE**



# Sunday School Overview: Winter Quarter

*Rev. Adrian Grubbs*

## March: Fulfilling Our Obligations to Neighbors

From the beginning, social concern has stood at the heart of biblical faith. Israel's covenant life required hospitality to strangers, and Jesus placed love for neighbor beside wholehearted love for God. In Mark 12, when asked about the greatest commandment, Jesus answered: love God fully and love your neighbor as yourself. The scribe who agreed was told he was "not far from the kingdom of God." What was missing? Likely the confirming action that proves belief. James 2 echoes this truth: faith without works is empty. Genuine faith expresses itself in practical compassion, especially toward the poor.

The book of Daniel reinforces this theme through apocalyptic symbolism. Though Daniel mentions events "in year three," the numbers function symbolically rather than chronologically. In apocalyptic literature, "three" signifies sufficiency and fulfillment. Daniel and his companions—Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah—were exiled to Babylon and selected for royal training. They refused the king's food, choosing faithfulness over assimilation. After a symbolic ten-day test, they were allowed to maintain their diet throughout three years of preparation. At the end, they were found "ten times" better than others. In such literature, "ten" often represents completeness regarding God's people. The message is clear: even in exile, God's people must remain spiritually and physically disciplined. As Paul later wrote to Timothy, physical training has value, but spiritual training is of eternal worth (1 Timothy 4:7–8).

Deuteronomy 15 further grounds this ethic of compassion. The law commanded debt remission in the seventh year and warned against withholding generosity as that year approached. "Open your hand to the poor and needy." Jesus reaffirmed this high calling in Matthew 25, teaching that service to the needy is service rendered to Him.

Acts 10 expands the vision. Peter's thrice-repeated vision of clean and unclean animals prepared him to receive Gentiles into fellowship. When the Holy Spirit fell upon Cornelius's household, Peter understood: God shows no partiality. Paul later affirmed that in Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or free; all are one.

Isaiah envisioned nations beating swords into plowshares, and Martin Luther King Jr. echoed that prophetic dream of justice and equality. Such visions are not naïve idealism but divine intention. Acts 17 reminds us that all humanity comes from God and lives in Him. Through faithful love, disciplined obedience, and generous compassion, God advances His redemptive purposes in the world.

Read the full article at [www.OFWBCommunity.com](http://www.OFWBCommunity.com)

**CROSSWISE**  
NAVIGATION THROUGH FAITH & LIFE

## Tozer on Revival

Tozer did not treat revival as a program, a conference, or a season of emotional intensity. He spoke of it as a visitation of God that exposes the church and restores the fear of the Lord.

Here is the heart of his thought:

1. Revival begins with repentance in the church. He believed judgment begins at the house of God. The problem was not the culture first, but a compromised church. Cold prayer meetings, shallow preaching, and worldly ambition were signs that the glory had departed.
2. Revival is not manufactured. He rejected manipulation. Music, atmosphere, and persuasion could produce excitement, but not revival. Only the Holy Spirit brings awakening.
3. Prayer precedes power. Tozer insisted that sustained, humble prayer is the soil of revival. Not public spectacle, but hidden intercession.
4. Holiness is central. He tied revival to moral transformation. If people claim revival but remain unchanged in conduct, he would call it false fire.
5. Revival restores the majesty of God. For Tozer, the root issue was a diminished view of God. Revival restores awe. When God is seen as He is, sin becomes unbearable and obedience becomes joyful.

He once wrote:

"The church that cannot worship must be entertained. And men who cannot lead a church to worship must provide entertainment."

And from Why Revival Tarries's close friend Leonard Ravenhill, whom Tozer deeply respected, the same theme runs: revival tarries because the church is content without it.

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# SPRING FORWARD:

*Planting Seeds of Purpose*

Sponsored by the  
**Central District Woman's Auxiliary**

**MARCH 28 | 9:00 AM**

**Grimsley**

**Free Will Baptist Church**

493 Hwy 903 North, Snow Hill, NC 28580

Join us for a light breakfast at **8:30 AM**,  
with registration beginning at **9:00 AM**.

Program begins at **9:30 AM** and will  
end with **lunch**.

*\*All meals provided compliments of  
Grimsley FWB Church. \**

For more information,  
contact Donna Morgan (252) 531-3243



Featuring  
**SUE LYNN  
WHITEHURST**

"Living Out Your Purpose  
Under God's Provision"



CENTRAL DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

# STUDY COURSE

**SPEAKER: ANN  
COPELAND**

Study Course: "Fruits of the Spirit"

**7:00 PM**

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026



ROSE HILL CHURCH  
6236 COUNTY HOME ROAD,  
WINTERVILLE

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# Morning Star

## WOMAN'S AUXILIARY RETREAT

April 10–12, 2026 • CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY

### REGISTRATION FORM

To RESERVE A ROOM, you must send this form and your nonrefundable registration fee of \$30 payable to **Cragmont Woman's Retreat** by April 1, 2026 to:

Sande Brown  
11642 Camp Charles Road  
Bailey, NC 27807

#### REGISTRAR USE ONLY

Date Postmarked: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Included: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Roomate(s) Desired \_\_\_\_\_

I need a downstairs room for **MEDICAL** reasons \_\_\_\_\_ (Very limited availability, 2–4 persons)

Main Building: \_\_\_\_\_ (2–3 per room)

Hollifield House: \_\_\_\_\_ (6–8)

Lodge: \_\_\_\_\_ (3–4 per room)

Motel: \_\_\_\_\_ (2–3 per room)

Girl's Dorm: \_\_\_\_\_ (Large Group)

**\*\*SINGLE OCCUPANCY ROOMS ARE NOT AVAILABLE\*\***

**PLEASE NOTE:** The \$100 balance will be due at check-in, payable to **Cragmont**. This includes lodging for Friday and Saturday nights, plus four meals—three on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday morning.

**Check-in:** Friday afternoon, Main Building Lobby | **Program Begins:** Friday, 7:30 pm, Chapel