



# MENORAH

Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptist Publication

May 2016

## Former Michigan Pastor, Rev. Charles Clifford Cooper, Goes Home



Funeral Services for Rev. Charles Clifford Cooper, age 85, of Rickman, were Saturday, April 9, 2016, 1:00 p.m. at the One-Eleven Fellowship, 6200 Hwy. 111 North Cookeville.

Mr. Cooper passed away Wednesday morning, April 6, 2016 at his home. He was born June 8, 1930 in Overton County TN to the late George Cullum Cooper and Sarah Cooper Cooper. Charles raised his family in Michigan and spent his adult life in the Ministry as a Free Will Baptist pastor. He was co-founder of three churches in

Michigan; the East Side Free Will Baptist Church in Detroit, Faith Free Will Baptist in Romeo and the Free Will Baptist Mission in Lewiston, as well as helping his son establish the One-Eleven Fellowship in Cookeville TN.

During his time as pastor Bro. Cooper served two churches; the West Side Free Will Baptist Church of Detroit for 10 years and the Troy Free Will Baptist Church for 35. Charles also served on the Executive Committee of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, was the promotional director for the Michigan Association of Free Will Baptists, moderator of the Liberty Association of Free Will Baptists, and founder and editor of the Free Will Baptist monthly newspaper called the Menorah. He enjoyed music and sang with the Tennessee Harmony Boys Trio for 10 years and the Straitway Trio for 14 years. Bro. Cooper also had a radio ministry in Royal Oak, Michigan for 10 years. He enjoyed playing golf, and spending time with his grandchildren.

Bro. Cooper is survived by 4 children; Roger (Inis) Cooper of Cookeville, Joan (Steve) Brown of Rickman, Gregory (Susan) Cooper of Madison Heights, Michigan, and Curtis (Kimberly) Cooper of Algood. In addition, Charles is survived by one brother, George Cooper (Vonda) of Glasgow, KY, 13 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren, as well as a host of nieces, nephews, extended family, and church family.

## Memorial Service For Rev. Charles C. Cooper

Please join us on Saturday, June 11, 2016 as we celebrate the life and ministry of Rev. Charles C. Cooper. Service will be held at Faith Free Will Baptist Church 64395 Romeo Plank Road Ray, MI 48096. Service will begin at 2 PM with luncheon immediately following. Please contact Pastor Ron Meadows (586) 291-3261, Brother Randy Lilly (810) 845-6817, or Brother Gordie Rohroff (810) 937-9048 if you plan to attend. RSVP is appreciated, but not required.



## Mark Your Calendar!

### • April 21st

**Rev. and Mrs. Loyd Locklear**  
will celebrate 50 years of pastoral service at the Woodhaven Free Will Baptist Church!

### • April 30th - 9:30 a.m.

**Liberty District Meeting:**  
**North Warren FWB Church** (3003 Chicago Rd., Warren)  
Rev. Danny Slater, Moderator  
Rev. George Johnson, Pastor

### • May 7th - 9:30 a.m.

**Fellowship District Meeting :**  
**Fellowship FWB Church** (23300 Kensington, Taylor)  
Rev. Calvin Brown, Moderator  
Rev. Bobby Blevins, Pastor  
Rev. Tom McCullough, Guest Speaker

**West Michigan District Meeting :**  
**Benton Harbor FWB Church**  
Rev. Bill Hughes, Moderator & Pastor

### • May 19th - 21st

**2016 Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists**  
**Zehnder's of Frankenmuth**  
(see pg. 4)

### • June 27th - July 1st

**2016 Michigan FWB Youth Camp**  
(see pg. 3)

### • Jun 25th - 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Master's Men 3rd Annual Family Fishing Outing**  
**Sellers Landing, Waterford, MI**  
Visit our state website for more information and entry forms, or you may contact the Master's Men Board Chairman, Rudy Taylor, at rudytaylor1@comcast.net.

• **July 17th - 20th - Kansas City, Missouri**  
**National Association of Free Will Baptists**  
**National Youth Conference**  
**Kansas City Convention Center**  
(see pgs. 3 & 4)

## Good News from Spain

Dear Michigan friends,

We are gearing up for a couple of our busiest months here in the ministry in Spain. We look forward to the opportunities that will come our way for strengthening the friendships we've made with contacts as well as helping the Alpedrete Church grow. Here's a quick glance at some of the things on our calendar:

- **May 6-8—Apologetics Forum for pastors** (Tim and Anthony Edgmon will be going with two of our lay preachers to this event near Barcelona, Spain.)
- **May 7—Evangelical Olympics in Madrid**
- **May 29—Baptisms** (We have three candidates this year. One of them is our daughter, Ana.)
- **June 17—ETEAM Spain arrives**
- **June 19—Youth Sunday in Alpedrete Church**
- **June 25—End-of-the-year party for kids in Alpedrete in a local park**
- **June 29—ETEAM Spain leaves** (and also Alejandro will fly with them to the States for "Truth and Peace")



Scattered among this will be several guest speakers at the Alpedrete Church, finishing up our ladies' Bible study on Esther, completing discipleship studies with baptism candidates, and lots of other activities related to the end of the school year. We are also involved in activities in a new town where we are considering a future church plant. Though the days are sometimes long, the years are short as we try to reach as many for Christ as possible. Thank you for your prayers and support!

*Tim, Kristi, Alejandro, and Ana*



## The Anderson Update

Debbie arrived safely in Cote d'Ivoire on Sunday night with no problems. From that time on, though, this week was filled with many unexpected detours and delays, but all to God's glory and for our good.

The wire transfer for our vehicle came on Monday, so Verlin arranged to buy the truck we chose the day after. When he arrived Tuesday to close, the seller had sold the truck to another person because the boss thought we were misleading him about the money delay. Verlin met with the boss, and in the midst of negotiating for another truck of the same model, he began to have severe pain in his right side. Missionary friends took us to a hospital ER in Abidjan that evening where Verlin was admitted and passed a kidney stone Wednesday morning. He stayed in the hospital until Thursday, at the doctor's request, to flush the kidneys with fluids and antibiotics. He tried to finalize the truck sale while in the hospital, but the meeting turned into a heated debate between our Christian

legal counsel and the seller over a missing legal document. That night we thought the deal had fallen through. Instead, by Thursday noon, the parties had worked things out, and the seller threw in some bonuses for our trouble. Praise the Lord for His many blessings at the end of convoluted detours!

### Prayer Points:

- We rejoice that Verlin's kidney stone did not happen in Bondoukou, seven hours north!
- Our Toyota Hilux truck is truly an "ooh and aah" blessing at 2/3 to 1/2 the cost at the dealer new, yet with fewer than 3,000 miles on it. It is the same model used by police, utility companies, government agencies, etc., and so parts should be readily available for years. The Lord showed us favor. It is that simple.
- The national CHE Association meets today at Abengourou. We are missing it because of truck paperwork to finish on Monday and a doctor's follow-up visit for Verlin.

The last week of April, Verlin is scheduled to provide TOT1 CHE training to a group of leaders from three denominational churches, an interdenominational NGO, and other non-affiliated Christians in the Abidjan area.

Your Partners in the gospel,  
*Verlin and Debbie Anderson*



## 2016 Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists

May 19-21, 2016

*Zehnder's of Frankenmuth*

(Michigan's "Little Bavaria")

**May 19, 9:00 a.m.: Annual Golf Tournament at The Fortress in Frankenmuth**

*~Please enter by contacting the Tournament Coordinator, Pastor Jimmy Lawson, at [pastor\\_jimmy@ameritech.net](mailto:pastor_jimmy@ameritech.net).*

**May 19, 5:30 p.m.: Michigan General Board Meeting and Dinner on The Terrace at Zehnder's Restaurant in Frankenmuth**

*~This Board consists of the moderator, assistant moderator, clerk, assistant clerk, treasurer, assistant treasurer, legal counsel, chairmen of the standing boards (Youth Board, Christian Education Board, Mission Board, Master's Men Board), and the moderator of each district association.*

**May 20, 9:00 a.m. : The Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists convenes at Zehnder's of Frankenmuth**

*~Friday afternoon is free to explore Frankenmuth or the nearby outlet mall at Birch Run.*

**May 20, 7:00 p.m. : Michigan Youth Service**

**May 20, 7:00 p.m. : The Michigan State Association resumes.**

**May 21, 9:00 a.m. : The Michigan State Association resumes.**



*The best remedy for a sick church is to put it on a missionary diet.*

*The church that is not a missionary church soon will be a missing church.*

*The early church was a believing church, an obedient church, a steadfast church, a praying church, a worshiping church, a joyful church, a praising church, an effective church, a growing church.*

## The National Association of Free Will Baptists

*Kansas City Convention Center*

**July 17-20**

**Pre-Registration:** Pre-registration for the 2016 Free Will Baptist National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, officially opened April 1<sup>st</sup>. You may pre-register online at [www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org), by mail (PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN, 37011) or FAX (615.731.0771). A pre-registration form for mail-in/fax is attached. Forms are also available in the current *ONE Magazine* and on the NAFWB website

**Transportation:** Attendees flying into Kansas City International Airport (MCI) can arrange for discounted shuttle transportation through SuperShuttle\*. [SuperShuttle Reservations](#) (Group Discount Code: H2KFR)

Reservations can also be made by calling 1.800.BLUEVAN (258.3826) and referring to the discount code.



# What's In Your Garden?



**\*\*Design the Theme Winner: SAVANNA CALLAHAN\*\***  
Woodhaven FWB Church

## Michigan FWB Youth Camp

Simpson Park Campground

June 27-July 1, 2016

Ages 7 - 13 years

Visit our state website, [mifwb.com](http://mifwb.com), for more information as well as the necessary forms, or you may contact the camp director, Gordie Rohroff at (810)937-9048.

### **\*New for 2016: Family Plan Pricing!**

**First Child - \$135**

**Second Child - \$100**

**Additional Children - \$85 each**

**Bro. Gordie Rohroff**  
Camp Director

*\*Editor's Note: Youth Camp was always a highlight of my year.*

## National Youth Conference

**July 17th - 21st**

What is the National Youth Conference? NYC is the abbreviation for the Free Will Baptist National Youth Conference that occurs each July as a part of the Free Will Baptist denomination's national convention. It is a conference dedicated to worship, discipleship, education, and service.

Visit [verticalthree.com](http://verticalthree.com) for more information.



**YouthinMinistry**

### **E-Team:**

- **Kylie Johnson** - Crossroads FWB Church, White Lake
- **Caleb Griffey** - Faith FWB, Ray Twp.
- **Grace Rohroff** - Faith FWB, Ray Twp.
- **RuthAnne Hutchinson** - Kirby FWB, Flat Rock

### **Truth & Peace:**

- **Kassidy Wilson** - Kirby FWB, Flat Rock
- **Collin Finch** - Kirby FWB, Flat Rock
- **Abby Myers** - Kirby FWB, Flat Rock
- **Grace Rohroff** - Faith, Ray Twp.
- **Alejandro Johnson** - Spain, North Warren
- **Isaiah Grimes** - Flagship (formerly from Michigan now Erie, PA )

Christians, like  
pianos, need  
frequent tuning.



## Dr. Grady McMurtry to Speak at Heritage FWB Church

Originally focusing on environmental studies, Grady McMurtry attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and graduated first in his class with a B.S. in Forest Management and General Sciences. Immediately

moving on to postgraduate work, Grady McMurtry attended the Syracuse campus of the State University of New York and earned a Master's in Environmental Sciences, General Sciences and Forestry. In 1994, he founded Creation Worldview Ministries, Inc. However, Grady McMurtry's interests brought him back to school several years later in pursuit of more expertise in Christian Apologetics and Creation Science. In 1996, Grady McMurtry received a Doctor of Divinity from the School of Theology in Columbus, Georgia.

- Sunday 10:00 am** Noah's Ark to the Cross
- Sunday 11:00 am** The Creationist View of Marriage
- Sunday 6:00 pm** The Waters Cleaved
- Monday 7:00 pm** Why I Believe In A Young Creation
- Tuesday 7:00 pm** The Road To Man ???
- Wednesday 7:00 pm** Dino-Mania: Dinosaurs and the fossil record

**Heritage Free Will Baptist**  
12670 Pardee, Taylor, MI 48180  
[\(734\) 287-8214](tel:7342878214)  
Rev. Mark Tackett, Pastor

## The Shiloh Free Will Baptist Church Closes

After struggling for the last several years the Shiloh Church has voted to close, As of May the First Latin Baptist Church will be using this facility.

The first Teen Scene we attended after moving to Michigan (1983) was at the Shiloh Church. This is a beautiful facility but decreasing attendance and lack of funds and manpower to maintain the building led to the decision to close. And for the last several years this has become a Latin American community. Please pray for the members of the Shiloh Church as they relocate to other churches and continue serving the Lord. Also pray for the church that will be using the building that they will be effective in reaching that community for our Lord.

There are several Michigan Free Will Baptist churches that are struggling numerically, financially, and spiritually. Please pray for revival in our personal lives and in our churches.

## Helping Flint's Water Crisis



The Fellowship District donates 3 1/2 pallets of water and delivered it to the Anchor Community Church in Burton.



## Board of Retirement has a New Website

During the first quarter of 2016 we started the process of updating our website. The overhaul of the site is intended to make it easier for our participants to retrieve and receive information on our site. The New site went live today. The new site includes a members' section, where members of the Board of Retirement can login and view account balances, transactions, personal information, and download statements. The new site is also mobile friendly, so you will be able to view the site from your smartphone or other mobile device. We believe this will be a welcome improvement over the previous site's capabilities.

Check out the new site here: [www.boardofretirement.com](http://www.boardofretirement.com)

## 2015 Giving to the National Association of Free Will Baptists

- Executive Office - \$ 4, 632.64
- FWB Foundation – 234.31
- North American Ministries – 42,730.96
- International Missions – 253,732.28
- Retirement & Insurance – 633.36
- Welch College – 9,549.84
- WNAC – 5,925.94
- Commission for Theol. Integrity – 49.42
- Historical Commission – 49.09
- Music Commission – 49.02
- Media Commission – 49.04
- Totals - \$ 317,655.93**



## **The Michigan Free Will Baptist MENORAH**

4166 Maplewood Meadows Avenue  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439-3500

## **Michigan Women Active for Christ**



### ***A Letter to Women from the President*** **LADIES OF MICHIGAN!**

A great event has been planned by the Michigan WAC board for you to attend this fall! It takes place in September in Sandusky, Ohio. The dates are the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> to gather together at the Conference Center at Kalahari. This place offers many of the requests from your surveys. The theme is "On the Dot" and Mona Duke is our speaker. We are excited about all that is planned. We are praying for 100 plus ladies to attend this year. Beside our planned events, there is much to do at Kalahari and in the area nearby during free time. The retreat is open to all ladies! You need not have a WAC group to attend. At this facility, there are rooms to hold up to ten people. Forms are available now and deposits are due by August 5<sup>th</sup> to Susan Newton of the Pontiac church. If you have questions, contact me or Susan. It is going to be great! Don't miss it!

***Katy Taylor***

*The purpose of our group is to bring the women of Michigan together for fellowship, the sharing of information and encouragement in the work of the Lord. We also provide opportunities for women to understand and fulfill the Great Commission through responsibilities in the family, church, community and around the world. Check out our Newsletters to see what we are up to! You can also visit our Facebook page for upcoming events!*

*We are affiliated with the National Association of Free Will Baptist WNAC (Women Nationally Active for Christ).*

*For information see calendar or contact State President Katy Taylor at [ktpoet@comcast.net](mailto:ktpoet@comcast.net)*

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### **Preachers Available for Pulpit Supply:**

**Rev. Don Viers** – 734 476 3357 [donviers@gmail.com](mailto:donviers@gmail.com)

**Rev. Mike Bader** - 734-934 3597 [mbader79@yahoo.com](mailto:mbader79@yahoo.com) and

**Rev. Louis Tolbert** - 734-461-6435 or 734-845-7843

**Rev. Gary Ward** - 734-217-6030 or 734-331-2491

**Rev. Gene Norris** – 586-994-8442 [gnorris4166@gmail.com](mailto:gnorris4166@gmail.com)

**Rev. Eric Cowart** – Eric is a senior at Welch College and will be available for pulpit ministry this summer. He may be contacted by calling his grandmother, Fran Iddins @ (586)294-5178.

~To be added to this list, please send your name and contact information to [gnorris4166@gmail.com](mailto:gnorris4166@gmail.com) ~

*\*The Michigan Free Will Baptist MENORAH is the monthly publication of the Michigan State Association of Free Will Baptists.*

*Rev. Gene Norris, editor; Mrs. Sarah Lawson, assistant editor.\**