Executive Director’s Report

1 August 2020

2019 closed out the second decade of the third millennium with both highs and lows. Our highs included a record Cooperative receipt year. The lows included the closing of one of our churches, and the beginning of the process to close a second church.

In 2019 we began investigating the possibility of purchasing and relocating our state office to new property next to Camp Beaverfork; that was exciting. It was also a year in which Rev. Nelson Henderson served a final term as our state moderator (2005-2019); that gave us mixed emotions. This past year saw a transition in the Executive Office of the NAFWB. Executive Director Keith Burden retired, and Dr. Eddie Moody, Jr. was elected to the position.

Arkansas Free Will Baptists continue to have a strong influence for Jesus Christ in our communities, throughout our state, and within our denomination. Arkansas pastors, laymen, and lay women are playing a significant role in the ministry of our local churches, districts, state, and national departments. Arkansas is a leading state in financial support of denominational endeavors (#6), with gifts to the national last year exceeding $1.1 million. We were third in support of the National Executive Office (coop giving).

Thanks to the faithful giving of our state’s constituents and churches, you will see that we have a good financial position. One area of concern, however, is our ACTS 1:8 funding, and the Mission Board will be sharing how they are addressing that issue. This past year saw our own Keren Delgado became another Arkansan to answer the call to missionary service. She is in the process of raising her support to go to Bulgaria.

In 2019 I was able to attend 14 of our 15 district associations. I deeply appreciate the warm, welcoming recaption at these meetings, and the opportunity to share about the ministry of our state and denomination. Thank you. I represented the ARFWB at the Promotional Director’s Conference, National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, and the NAFWB Leadership Conference. I served on the NAFWB General Board and Executive Committee.

Our state publication, the VISION, continues to go out on a monthly basis—one month it is a hard copy and the state website, the next month it is on the website only ([www.arfwb.org](http://www.arfwb.org)). The priority in publications is local church and district news, followed by state news, as well as denominational happenings.

In closing I wish to express my appreciation to the members of the Executive Board for their prayers, counsel, leadership, and support this past year. I also want to thank my administrative assistant, Diana Caswell, ASM Director Brian Kesterson, and Hispanic Director Rolando Delgado for their diligent work and help. Last, but not least, thank you to each one of you in the state for your words of encouragement, for our support, and for your prayers.

David Taylor

Executive Director