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Office of University Communications

September 5, 2012

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – The Dimensions program at Gardner-Webb University welcomes Tom Bowen, a 9/11 responder who served as a volunteer under FEMA and the USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) at the World Trade Center following the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. The program will take place Tuesday, Sept. 11, in Paul Porter Arena at 9:25 a.m.

Tracy Jessup, vice-president for Christian Life and Service and senior minister at GWU, said it is an extreme honor for the University to host such a speaker, especially given the day of the program. “This will be the first time that Bowen has actually agreed to speak publicly on the anniversary of 9/11. He felt compelled by the opportunity to share his story on the campus of a Christian university like Gardner-Webb.”

Bowen’s positive message extends beyond the World Trade Center attacks. On Feb. 25, 2005, Bowen’s two-year-old son, Ben, died shortly after being diagnosed with a rare brain tumor. By having immense faith and drive, the Bowen family has been able to use Ben’s story for good. He and his wife, Jennifer, have raised millions of dollars to thank those who helped their son, including St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital. According to Jessup, Bowen’s story is one of “finding hope and purpose in the midst of crisis.”

Gardner-Webb University’s Dimensions programs are free and open to the public. The goal of Dimensions is to enhance the spiritual, intellectual, and cultural life at the University and also to promote a sense of community. Dimensions programs are held on Tuesday’s at 9:25 a.m. in the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center (LYCC). More information is available at 704-406-4277.