

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

# ONE

MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2011

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## LIVES on LOAN

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STEWARDSHIP**

**Lessons from a  
CAREGIVER**

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TO COMMUNICATE TO  
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UNIFYING VISION OF OUR  
ROLE IN THE EXTENSION  
OF GOD'S KINGDOM.



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# FIRST GLIMPSE

## Twins



Photo: Mark Cowart

ERIC THOMSEN  
MANAGING EDITOR

*“Are you identical twins?”*

The attractive, gray-haired lady had to repeat her question before I realized she was talking to me.

Puzzled, I raised a questioning eyebrow. She smiled and pointed.

I glanced across the aisle to catch a startled look from a face remarkably like my own—blue eyes, crooked nose, unruly blond hair, and graying goatee. It was like looking into a mirror.

*Poor guy.*

The similarities continued past the first startled glance, from the 10 (okay, maybe 15) extra pounds to the way we were dressed—blue dress shirts, bright striped ties, dark suits and dress shoes. We carried Apple computers, similar overnight bags, and were drinking Diet Cokes.

As we stood to board the flight, we found ourselves eye-to-eye at the same height. I couldn't help but smile, and then we both laughed. With the ice broken, he quipped, “Well, they say everybody's got a twin.”

He even sounded like me.

We sat together on the plane. It just seemed natural. Curiosity steered our conversation, and we soon began to compare notes about our lives. That's when the similarities came to an abrupt end.

After graduating with a specialized degree in international business and an MBA, he had worked his way up through the ranks into executive management for a Wall Street firm. While he never said he was wealthy, he made it easy to read between the lines (not to mention the high-dollar Italian suit and Cartier watch).

He sipped on Scotch while he told me that the high-pressure

job and constant travel had been hard on his family. At age 43, he had just finalized his third divorce, with three children on two coasts and a fourth on the way. I cut him off halfway through his second drink when he began to brag about women and recent one-night stands.

Instead, I told him about my wife and daughter, life in Nashville, our house in the country, Ginger the basset hound, and my job as editor of *ONE Magazine*. I described our small country church, the mischievous children with whom we volunteer, and my excitement about an upcoming match with the church volleyball team.

He stopped drinking while I told him quietly about Jesus and what a difference He had made in my life. He didn't ask any questions, and I didn't push him. He simply leaned back in his chair and closed his eyes. He didn't say another word the rest of the trip.

As we walked side by side up the breezeway toward the terminal, he glanced over at me with a strange expression. He started to speak, hesitated, then blurted out: “Take care, Twin. I wish I had your life.”

With that, he picked up his pace and soon disappeared in the throng of busy travelers. As I watched him go, I whispered to myself, “I hope you find what you are looking for, my friend.” **ONE**

**TO OUR READERS:** Perhaps you know someone who would like to be added to the *ONE Magazine* mailing list. Call 877-767-7659 or visit [www.onemag.org](http://www.onemag.org) for a subscription. The subscription is free, although donations are always accepted and appreciated.

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## LETTERS

### Have something to say?

Say it! The editors of *ONE Magazine* look forward to hearing from our readers. Your feedback, comments, and suggestions are necessary and appreciated. Email [editor@nafwb.org](mailto:editor@nafwb.org) or send correspondence to:

*ONE Magazine*, Letters to the Editor, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002

*ONE Magazine* reserves the right to edit published letters for length and content.

### IN YOUR ARTICLE "CHARLOTTE: CITY FIT FOR A QUEEN"

(December/January), the writer stated that Charlotte is home to professional basketball (Charlotte Hornets). The Charlotte Hornets left North Carolina and have been playing in New Orleans since 2002 (except for two seasons in Oklahoma City during Hurricane Katrina recovery). The Charlotte Bobcats have been the professional basketball team since 2004.

**Kevin Wright, Snow Hill, NC**

**FROM THE EDITORS:** It looks like we are going to have to brush up on our knowledge of the National Basketball Association. We offer our apologies to the Charlotte Bobcats. Thanks to Kevin and many other readers who pointed out this misprint.

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### THANKS FOR THE QUALITY OF THE MAGAZINE. WE

always appreciate the quality of the articles as well as the artistic layout. This month Ben Crabtree's non-sermon sermon article [Let It Rain, December-January 2011] needs to be read—and even screamed—from housetops to us as believers. "Live it! Live it! Live It!"

**Cornelia Coker Williams, Louisville, Kentucky**

## AN IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING THE 2011 CONVENTION

The readers of *ONE Magazine* usually find the Pre-registration Form and Housing information for the annual convention in the February-March issue of the magazine. This year, however, there has been a change in the process.

Housing and pre-registration for the 2011 convention will open Monday, May 9, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. CST (10:00 a.m. EST). Forms will be available in the April-May issue of *ONE Magazine* and online at [www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org). Hotel reservations and pre-registration will close June 17, 2011.

# It's been a long road back.

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# RED ZONE

BY  
BRENDA  
EVANS



## JUDGEMENT COMES

At 7:15 AM, February 21, 1916, in northeastern France, judgment began. The German Fifth Army launched a 10-hour barrage of artillery fire along a 25-mile semi-circular front. The Battle of Verdun would not end until December 18. It was a 10-month ravage of human beings, forts, and forests—the longest battle of World War I. The German offensive was code-named *Judgement*.

Verdun's history is ancient and glorious. In the Fifth Century, Attila the Hun attempted to overrun the city but failed. Four centuries later Charlemagne made it part of the Holy Roman Empire. By the 1880s, following the Franco-Prussian War, Verdun was considered impregnable. Situated safely within a wide ring of 18 large, underground forts and 12 smaller redoubts, Verdun's formidable barrier was armed to the teeth with 75-mm and 155-mm fortress cannons.

But six months before the Battle of Verdun, French military leaders assessed the forts as antiquated and useless as a defensive system, so they began a stripping process. Half the artillery and ammunitions were removed; manpower was reduced to a maintenance force; even machine guns were boxed and stashed away in underground storage.

Then in February of 1916, intelligence sources sounded the alarm that Germany had its eye on Verdun. French

High Command knew the sector was unprepared, so they rushed in two divisions. But Judgment was already upon them. The infantry count was 34 French battalions against 72 German battalions. French artillery was even more paltry: 300 75-mm field guns compared to 1,400 heavy and super-heavy German artillery and mortars.

By battle's end, France had won. Certainly, they had bled Germany, but they had been wounded as well. Verdun was left a 465-square-mile tract of rubble containing corpses, both human and animal, white bones, empty eye sockets in desiccated skulls, undetonated ordnances, and deep craters. Pulverized buildings mounded like fresh graves over their occupants, entombing them. Verdun was blood-soaked, desecrated ground. Zone Rouge—Red Zone, the French called it.

To say the French were unprepared for the attack is blunt but accurate. Estimated casualties in the battle edge near the million mark, including 200,000 deaths. Scholars of the battle believe as many as 100,000 people still lie buried where they fell, undiscovered, unidentified, and unnamed.

War is hateful. Red Zones are inevitable. Verdun is a spiritual and social commentary on what human beings are capable of in our thirst for blood, power, and dominance. But on another level, Verdun is a parable on the theme of unpreparedness.



## AN UNEASY COMPARISON

I see a parallel in my own life. Preparation is an issue for me—a spiritual issue. I am in my Red Zone. If I’m blessed with long life (as my mother was), I have 20 more years. If I’m taken to Heaven as early as my father was, my death is near, very near—imminent, in fact. What I would do, I must do quickly.

I must avoid indifference. Some of our friends understand the urgency of preparedness. Helen and Ernest Joyce, or Ernie as we call him, have also sounded the alarm and laid out an intelligence report: “We’re not going to live forever on this planet, so here is a way to get prepared.”

Ernie is more keenly aware of the Red Zone than most Christians I have met, not just for himself or for Helen, but for all of us. He is a retired accountant who spent most of his career working on budgets for the Atomic Energy Commission at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

He is passionate about getting things right, about decisions and preparedness, and has laid out a spreadsheet showing his plan. Survival of our work, our Christian labors and

ministries, depends on what we do in our Red Zones. Ernie’s plan has little to do with great leaders like Crown Prince Wilhelm who led the German offense at Verdun. He is more concerned about ordinary troops like us who stand in the trenches, man the weapons, and make the advances—those who bleed, so to speak, for the cause of Christ. What will happen at our Verdun, he asks, when we’ve fallen in the field? Ernie sees beyond this life to what we leave behind when we’ve perished in the Red Zone.

Ernie has placed his “map” on the table. It is a spreadsheet, laying out what a soldier of the cross who is committed to generosity can do for the besieged body of Christ. It calls for soldiers to leave behind a portion of assets to endow the ministries we love. The numbers are startling—assets compounded over an extended period will fund the work of Christ long after we have fallen in the field. Ernie and Helen have a plan; they are prepared.

Robert Perry of Man, West Virginia, is another of our friends who understands the Christian implication of Red Zones. Robert has a plan. Generosity is its impetus—lump sum gifts to several ministries. The plan is written and ready. He is prepared.

But Robert is worried about his friend. Though a Christian, the man is unprepared, Robert says. “He has property but doesn’t have a will and doesn’t want one.” Robert sees this unpreparedness as foolishness, an unwise failure of a soldier of the cross. What God has put in our hands, we are responsible for—even through the Red Zone.

## PREPARING FOR THE RED ZONE

Preparing for our own Red Zone is about allegiance, assessment, and planning. Consider allegiance. It is about fidelity or faithfulness, devotion, and obligation. To whom or to what am I devoted? What is my obligation to the Lord of my salvation? Am I possessed by Him or by possessions? The men who won the Battle of Verdun had no question as to their allegiance or their responsibility.

And what about assessment? One week after the battle began, the French reassessed the gravity of their unpreparedness and committed themselves to a night-and-day replenishing of troops and ammunition. Along a narrow back road called the *Voie Sacree*, the Sacred Way, they brought up a continual stream of men and munitions. At all costs, they

# DON'T LEAVE BEHIND A FIELD STREWN WITH THE RUBBLE OF WHAT YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN, OR WHAT YOU MIGHT HAVE DONE.

kept the men and supplies moving toward Verdun along that narrow road.

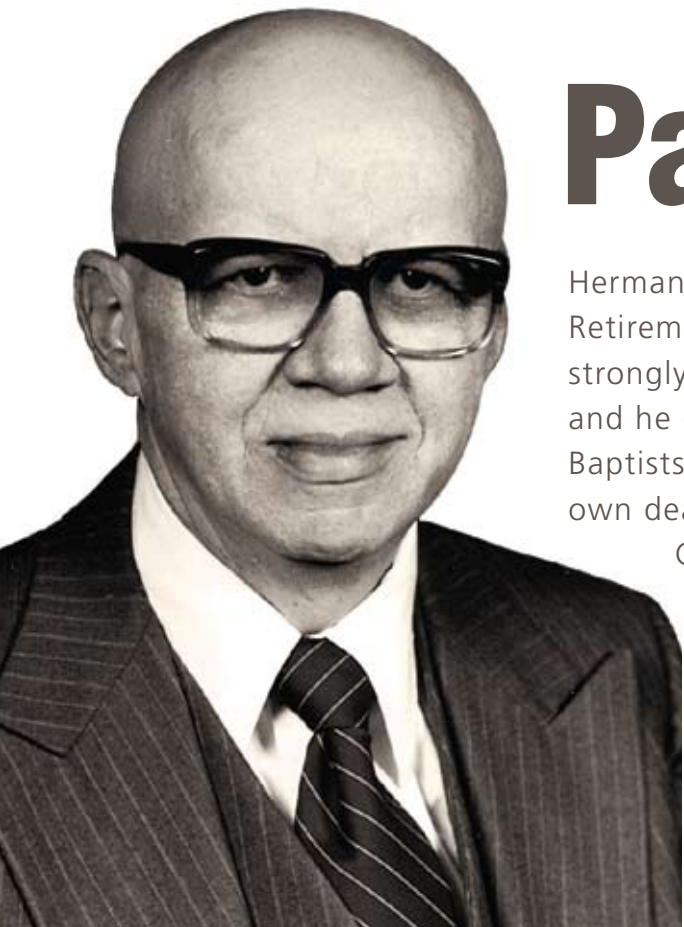
Indifference is the fierce enemy of spiritual assessment. Hard decisions are battles, and one of the biggest and most difficult is how to deal with end-of-life issues. Along the way, just like the French military, I must wisely assess and review the need and my obligation to plan for that need. Piddling or dawdling indifference is inexcusable.

Planning is crucial. Ernie and Helen have chosen endowments. Robert elects to give lump sum gifts. Bill and I have a charitable remainder trust. But other plans are available:

gift annuities, revocable trusts, bequests in wills, or living trusts. Consider the Ten Percent Solution, that is, giving at least a tithe to the Lord's work after your death. My husband Bill likes to talk—rather spookily—about “gifts from the grave.”

But I know what he means. Go into the Red Zone prepared. Don't leave behind a field strewn with the rubble of what you might have been or what you might have done. Be prepared and pave the way for those who come behind you in The Sacred Way. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Brenda Evans is a retired English teacher. She and her husband Bill (former director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation) live in Cattlettsburg, KY. They are proud grandparents of seven.



## Pay it forward.

Herman Hersey was founder of the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement and the Free Will Baptist Foundation. He believed strongly that each generation has a responsibility to the next, and he dedicated his life to making it possible for Free Will Baptists to support their favorite ministries long after their own deaths.

Consider making an endowment gift to honor Herman Hersey and to help provide lasting support for the ministries of the denomination he loved.

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# STEWARDS

## of the Gospel

BY NORMA JACKSON  
GOLDMAN



**JESUS' COMMAND TO GO INTO** the world and make disciples of every nation provides the central point of focus for the ministries of the Church. His words give clarity and purpose to God's earlier instructions about obedience in bringing our tithes, offerings, time and personal giftedness to Him so others might share in His kingdom.

Yet the role of the steward is not limited to 10% (a tithe) but extends to encompass all our resources. We, His stewards, are accountable to use all our resources to the glory and honor of God. As lofty as it sounds, stewardship is expressed in simple and concrete ways, but the impact of our obedience is profound.

## FAITHFUL

As stewards of the Gospel, sharing our testimony is a powerful tool to bring others to a saving knowledge of Christ. By far, most people come to faith through the witness of another Christian. Whether that person invites his friend to join him in Bible study or worship, ministers to some need, or simply prays with him, the results are the same. The individual is confronted personally with who Jesus is and what He has done for him. Without this personal intervention, the unbeliever may never stop to consider who and

what is guiding his life, or where he is going spiritually.

When we give our time that others might learn about God and His plans for mankind, we make spiritual investments, depending on God to provide an abundant increase. In God's wonderful economy, those investments can be made at any point. From infancy to the late stages of a terminal illness, it is never too soon nor too late to share the Gospel.

## Faithful in GIVING

In the book of Malachi, God said that tithes and offerings would provide 'food in my house' or provisions to meet needs. And so it is in our churches today. Financial gifts provide incomes for pastors and teachers; they provide food, clothing, and shelter for the disadvantaged, and printed materials to teach and instruct. Tithes and offerings provide the means to send the Good News to people groups around the world, supporting those who give their lives to reach a lost world.

**THE GREAT COMMISSION INCLUDES EVERYONE. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IN OUR CALLING IS LOCATION.**

## Faithful in GOING

It might be tempting to think only a few are called to go, but the Great Commission includes everyone. The only difference in our calling is location. While it is true some are called to an international location, most are simply called to go next door or across the street. Is God sending you to a hospital, rescue mission, prison, or children's home?

Sometimes we are called to go to other lands for a brief season, a short mission trip or a one-year assignment. Whatever the time frame, all are called to share the Good News wherever God places them.

## Faithful in PRAYING

Prayer is the most basic, essential, and powerful tool that undergirds everything we do in sharing the Gospel.

We pray for direction about how and when to share; we pray for the Holy Spirit to go before us, preparing the soil of hearts for the seeds of truth so our testimonies would bear much fruit. We continually pray for the Lord of the Harvest to send out new workers to ensure an abundant harvest. In prayer, we ask that the plans of the evil one and his demons would be thwarted so God's kingdom would greatly increase. And as you give, pray, and go, He promised to be with you always, even to the end of the age **ONE**.

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman enjoys a successful freelance career in her retirement. The award-winning writer lives near Nashville, TN. Learn more about retirement options at [www.boardofretirement.com](http://www.boardofretirement.com).

# EVERY AGE ON THE SAME PAGE

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D6 Curriculum is based on an ancient and proven strategy found in Scripture. We created a fresh way to implement family-focused spiritual formation, integrating all generations or silos as described in Deuteronomy 6:5-7. D6 teaching resources for the church and corresponding devotionals for home keep each age group studying the same topic at any given time. The relevance and ease of D6 goes beyond anything you have ever used as each generation receives the appropriate Bible-based perspective and teacher-created tools that lead to transformation. D6 Curriculum makes learning a shared experience by helping parents be proactive in driving discipleship within the home. Connecting families continues with online *Splink* and *Elements* resources extending those same themes and lessons. D6 Curriculum is the smart choice and proven strategy, both at church and at home.



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# BIB or Apron

BY JOHN GIBBS

*Stewardship is one of the most used and least understood subjects we discuss in and around church.*

Before we examine practical applications regarding stewardship, let me explain its meaning. The word *stewardship* is most commonly used to describe something. We have *stewardship* banquets, *stewardship* revivals, *stewardship* emphasis, *stewardship* seminars, and more. In most cases, the word is used to indicate that finances, money, and offerings will be involved.

At its best, however, stewardship is used as a verb because action is always involved in stewardship. Stewardship is properly managing what God has entrusted to us, whether time, talents, or treasure. The Greek word for *steward* is *oikonomos*, literally manager, overseer, or governor. In light of the above explanation, the word *stewardship* should be applied to serving.

Recently, the following statement from a popular Christian author impressed me: “The mark of spiritual maturity shows through when a believer takes off his bib and puts on his apron. Immature children wear bibs and expect others to serve them. Those who wear aprons have learned the joy of serving others.” The Bible says it this way, “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2).

The Bible gives us several examples of faithful servants. For example,

Epaphroditus was a great servant of the Lord. In the account of his service in Philippians 2:25-30, Paul said that Epaphroditus served “not regarding his life.” In other words, he served recklessly, exposing his life to danger. He was a faithful servant.

In John 13, Jesus set the standard for serving when He washed the disciples’ feet. In those days it was the job of the servant, a slave, to wash the feet of a guest. These servants became known as “people of the towel,” because they wrapped a towel around their waist and washed the feet of houseguests who had walked the dusty roads and pathways. What an example of serving, when the Lord of Glory stooped to the role of a slave and washed the dirty feet of His disciples. It is evident that Jesus did not come to wear a bib but an apron. He did not come to be served but to serve. What an example He set for us!

At the church where I serve as associate pastor, we adopted a vision statement based on the familiar acronym—GPS. Officially, these letters stand for Global Positioning System. We revised them to stand for *Love God, Love People, and Serve the world*. This new directive has provided us with a new incentive for not only serving God but people around us and around the world. It has been refreshing to see God’s people ready to serve instead of being served, ready to take off their bibs and put on their aprons. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** John Gibbs is associate pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church in Gastonia, North Carolina. Read more at [www.firstchurchgastonia.com](http://www.firstchurchgastonia.com).

# Practical Stewardship

## in Home Missions North America

BY LARRY POWELL

### WE HEAR ABOUT A NEW CRISIS DURING

every news broadcast these days: Drug wars killing thousands on the southern border, oil spewing into gulf waters, and violent storms wrecking thousands of homes. Headlines feature two major wars, government corruption, and immigration issues that simply will not go away. We are experiencing the pain caused by the Great Recession. Foreclosures on home mortgages have reached an all-time high. Banks are closing, and the government is drowning in debt.

Yet, in the midst of this chaos, Home Missions is using your funds wisely to support the work of missionary church planters who are reaching families and building churches across America.

Young mission churches often struggle to secure a loan from a lending institution. Sometimes, it is difficult even for established churches to secure funds for building or expansion. It is safe to say that banks have become more careful about their lending. Thankfully, the Church Extension Loan Fund (CELf) has been blessed by God to help meet this tremendous need.

Many Free Will Baptists have invested hard-earned funds in CELf. In turn, we carefully extend loans to missionaries and churches across the United States seeking to expand their facilities for outreach. Our loans are secured by first mortgage on every piece of property. This is Free Will Baptist money building Free Will Baptist churches. Now *that* is good stewardship!

**Young mission churches often struggle to secure a loan from a lending institution.**

The Home Missions North America team is doing all it can to honor the Great Commission left to us by the Lord Jesus. Our focus is on preaching, soul winning, and discipleship.

If CELf can help you fulfill your outreach vision, please contact us right away. Our focus in Home Missions North America is practical stewardship. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Larry A. Powell is director of Free Will Baptist Home Missions.





# IN PURSUIT OF . . .

BY CHAPLAIN (LTC) TERRY AUSTIN

## HAVE YOU EVER WANTED

something so badly that it consumed your thoughts, your time, and your energy? One particular instance comes to mind immediately. When I entered Free Will Baptist Bible College in the fall of 1979, I determined that I did not have time for dating. I went to Bible college to learn God's Word. Dating was a nonproductive activity, and I had no time for it.

But then I met Mona Jean, my wife of more than 30 years. After I met her, my days became longer, my workload became lighter, and my mind became sharper because I discovered that I had time for her! Consequently, I began to pursue her. (And I had to do a lot of

convincing to get her to pay attention to me.)

In Psalm 42:1, we find a picture of a deer panting for water. The picture is not just a thirsty animal; it is the picture of a *really* thirsty animal searching for water to survive. Without water, the very life of the animal would be gone, and it would perish. Like the deer, there are things in our lives we must pursue. We have needs like food and water, a place to live, a reliable vehicle to drive, and other tangible and necessary things for us to survive.

In the next verse, Psalm 42:2, the writer cries out from deep within himself for God. He proclaimed that, like the thirsty deer looking for water to survive, his soul thirsts for God, and

he longs to appear before Him. He is anxious and set on seeing God. I believe the writer is pursuing the most important thing in life. It is to know God and not fear appearing before Him, because He has done what God asked him to do. The writer has sought and found the will of God for himself.

Doing God's will is not always popular. Consider Daniel. He chose to do God's will instead of the earthly king and was thrown into the lion's den (Daniel 6:16). Jesus confronted His parents (Luke 2:49) about the importance of doing His Father's business, and the apostle Paul confronted his friends who did not understand that he had to do God's will, regardless of the outcome (Acts 21:13-14). The words of Psalm 42:3 assure us that doing God's will may cause pain or persecution.

As I think about stewardship, I cannot help but think about my greatest treasure—my life. It begins there and permeates to everything I have. Like Job, my family is God's; my possessions are God's, and my life is God's to use. I desire to do God's will and be a good and faithful steward of the things with which He has entrusted me.

Have you ever pursued the will of God, and people thought you had lost your mind or turned your back on God? Maybe you gave something away because someone else needed it more, or you tithed when finances were tight. Perhaps you pursued the will of God without the support of your local church or pastor. Regardless of whether people understand you or not, allow me to encourage you to pursue and do the will of God for your life. His approval is the only one that matters. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** LT COL Terry Austin is a Free Will Baptist Chaplain currently assigned to North Carolina. He has represented Free Will Baptists through Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. To learn more about Free Will Baptist chaplains, visit [www.homemissions.net](http://www.homemissions.net).

**+ INTERSECT**  
where the BIBLE meets life

*When People Ask,*  
**“WHY BE A  
CHRISTIAN?”**

**So this guy says to me, "What's the big deal about being a Christian? What's in it for me?"**

The best answer I know is found in the eighth chapter of Romans. If you can, open your Bible as you read the following.

If you want to know about me before I was a Christian, let's just say that sin mangled me in its grip of guilt, bound me, and packaged me for death. But with Christ, the Spirit acquits me, frees me, and bathes me in life. We are free in Jesus (Romans 8:1-3).

Those selfish passions of mine once fueled my war with God. But now His Spirit is refitting my way of thinking to His. I can't please God if my old self controls how I think. When my mind gives way to Christ's mind, all the hostility between me and God stops. We have peace through Jesus (Romans 8:4-8).

Now a whole new life has found a home in me. God's Spirit lives inside, and with His presence comes the sense that I really belong to Christ. What I share with my Lord is resurrection—just as surely as He came back from the dead, I have, too, and will again. We are alive because of Jesus (Romans 8:9-11).

In a way, though, I am still head over heels in debt. I owe God a life that says "yes" to Him all the time. What's so amazing is that He has given me the very means to pay the debt: an inheritance with Christ! He adopted me into His family, and as God's child I inherit with His Son Jesus. And that inheritance more than covers what I owe. Grace balances the account. We have family when we have Jesus (Romans 8:12-17).

Think about this, too. Creation itself can't wait to see what we'll look like dressed in redemption's complete outfit. We sometimes forget that God's

plan includes matter as well as spirit, and that the nasty decay of this choked world will turn into an extravaganza of the Spirit's work in us put on display for the universe to see. We have hope in Jesus (Romans 8:18-25).

God also gives us an open door into His heart. John Bunyan said that the best prayers have more groans than words. That may be because words, by their very nature, limit what we can express to God. Sometimes, though, when we don't know what words to use, the Spirit picks up on the other end for us and translates what we're

**IN A WAY, THOUGH,  
I AM STILL HEAD  
OVER HEELS IN  
DEBT. I OWE GOD  
A LIFE THAT SAYS  
"YES" TO HIM ALL  
THE TIME.**

trying to say so it lines up with what God wants for us. We have help in Jesus (Romans 8:26-27).

Please don't misunderstand what I'm about to say. When I read Romans 8:28-30, I do get excited about all things working for our good. I believe His promise that we'll be like Jesus one day, and that God knew ahead of time that He would call, justify, and glorify us. But the key here is God Himself. Just read these verses and put the stress on "his," "he," and "him" the 12 times Paul mentions the Lord with these pronouns. Then you'll see what I mean. It's all about Him! We have purpose because of Jesus (Romans 8:28-30).

H. P. Spafford said it this way in his great hymn, "It Is Well with My Soul." *Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control—that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed His own blood for my soul.*

And if God has given us His best gift, His own Son, without a doubt He'll give us everything we need. The enemy can accuse us all he wants, but through Christ, our verdict is always, "not guilty." We have everything through Jesus (Romans 8:31-34).

Can any paragraph anywhere in the Bible match these final words in Romans 8 that have braced missionaries, mourners, and martyrs through the ages? Bishop Handley Moule stood with friends in the Coliseum in Rome on a moonlit winter night years ago. They thought of the multitudes who had given their lives for the gospel on that very spot. Then from a small Testament, they read these very words, written by a man who fell to the executioner's sword near that same place, and likely written to many of those same martyrs.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" (Romans 8:35, 37).

Bishop Moule then gave thanks to "Him who loved us." For those in Christ, the day will never dawn in this world or the next when He stops loving us. We are loved by Jesus (Romans 8:35-39).

"That's what's in it for you...if you want it," I said to him. **ONE**

**INTERSECT: Where the BIBLE Meets Life** is a regular column written by Dr. Garnett Reid who chairs the Bible Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

# EXPANDING OUR FOCUS

By Ken Akers

**MASTER'S MEN HAS FIVE STATED MINISTRY PURPOSES: SOUL WINNING, FELLOWSHIP, EDIFICATION, DISCIPLESHIP, AND STEWARDSHIP.** While we believe all five are important, let's focus for a moment on stewardship. Webster defines stewardship as: the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

## Financial Aspect

When you mention stewardship, most people immediately think of money and how it is handled. It's true that finances are a very important part of ministry. Financial support is necessary to operate any ministry. And ministries must be very careful about how they handle what God and their supporters have given them.

Money (or the lack of money) has been a major challenge for Master's Men from the beginning. While God has always provided, the department has experienced some struggles. We look constantly for ways to save money and ease our financial situation.

Recently, Master's Men moved from our office suite in the National Office Building to share office space with Women Nationally Active for Christ. Not only do we share space, we also share an employee. This move has proven to be a great financial help to both departments, enabling us to spend more on ministry needs and less on administration.

## Beyond Bucks

But stewardship goes far beyond money. In addition to being good stewards of our *treasure*, we need to be good stewards of our *time*. We all have 168 hours in a week. Most people think that by giving God an hour or two a week, they fulfill their obligation to Him. But the Christian life should encompass all 168 hours of the week. Every waking moment belongs to God, and we must live it to the best of our abilities.

Sometimes, working for God requires us to go above and beyond. It takes time to run an effective ministry. I can tell you from firsthand knowledge that working 9-to-5 simply does not cut it. If you drop by the National Office Building,

you will find cars in the parking lot from very early in the morning to very late at night. Most pastors work far more a 40-hour week. Yet God wants more than quantity time. I think God expects us to use our time wisely and productively.

We should also be good stewards of our *talents*. I have worked with young people most of my life. Few things are more frustrating than a young person who wastes the talent God has given him. Even more disheartening is an older adult who never used his or her talent for God and looks back over a life wasted with deep regret.

Many people think they do not have a talent because they can't sing or preach, or do any of the things that receive major attention. But I constantly remind people that their talent is doing what God has gifted them to do. Use your skills as a carpenter for God. Use your talent as a truck driver for God. We all can do something! Whatever it is, use it for God.

Finally, we all have a *testimony*. Sure, the testimonies we hear and remember most are the exciting ones when a person was saved out of a great sin—the town drunk, a drug addict, or a hardened criminal. But the testimonies I like to hear most are those people who say, "I was raised in a Christian home by Christian parents. I never tasted alcohol. I never did drugs. And to God's glory, I never had sex before marriage." What a great testimony! What a great example to those that may be struggling.

So the next time you hear someone talk about stewardship, expand your focus, and remember that it includes everything. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Ken Akers is director of Master's Men. Learn more about his ministry at [www.fwbmastersmen.org](http://www.fwbmastersmen.org).



*Is Evolution a Scriptural Alternative for Fiat Creation?*

# Gaps in Theistic Evolution

BY JEFF CRABTREE

**GENESIS ONE AND TWO SEEM STRAIGHTFORWARD ENOUGH.** God instantaneously created matter from nothing but His own will power (fiat creation). He also created everything in the universe in six literal 24-hour days. The evening and morning descriptions in Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23, 31 are simply Genesis “defining what a day is.”<sup>1</sup>

Of special interest is the account of the creation of mankind. According to Genesis, God created Adam and Eve—both body and soul—on the sixth day. He created Adam before Eve, perhaps by only a few hours, long enough for Adam to realize he was a unique part of creation. God created Eve using one of Adam’s ribs. This guaranteed the shared heritage of the human race.

The creation account seems simple enough. However, naturalism (the belief that natural law can account for all phenomena) denies God’s involvement, insisting that matter is eternal, that all matter, including mankind, is the result of time and chance. Rather than God creating from nothing, natu-

ralism believes matter has evolved to its present state.

## **FACED WITH A CHOICE... OR NOT?**

The two positions are opposites. Neither admits the validity of the other. It would seem a simple either/or choice, but this is wishful thinking. Many professing Christians believe evolution was God’s means of creation.

William Lane Craig, well-known Christian philosopher, recently stated his hesitancy to embrace a literal understanding of the first two chapters of Genesis. In June 2010, CNN interviewed Dr. Francis Collins, director of

the Human Genome Project. Dr. Collins stated, “I am a scientist and a believer, and I find no conflict between those worldviews.”

He further testified that he converted from atheism to faith in Jesus. He now believes in the miracle of Jesus’ resurrection and in God as creator. However, he also believes in “evolution by descent from a common ancestor.” He admits this is “incompatible with an ultra-literal interpretation of Genesis,” and he places himself on a long list of “many thoughtful interpreters like St. Augustine, who found it impossible to be exactly sure what the meaning of that amazing creation story was supposed to be.” He concluded, “Attaching

1 Andrew E. Steinmann, “An Ordinal Number and the Meaning of Genesis 1:5” JETS 45/4 (December 2002) 577-584.

oneself to such literal interpretations in the face of compelling scientific evidence pointing to the ancient age of Earth and the relatedness of living things by evolution seems neither wise nor necessary for the believer.”

As Dr. Collins noted, the apparent age of the earth as determined by geologists is a major point of contention between science and the Bible. He and Craig are not alone. The *Scofield Reference Bible* in its footnotes on Genesis 1:1, 2, speaks of God’s creation of the universe in the dateless past. According to Scofield, Genesis 1:3 is not a record of an “original creative act.” Scofield held to the Gap Theory, an unspecified amount of time—perhaps millions of years—between verses two and three of Genesis one.

Other believers hold to the Day-Age Theory. They point out that the word *day* has different meanings in Scripture, one of which is *age*. For example, in Genesis 1:5, the first occurrence of *day* describes daylight as opposed to nighttime darkness. The second occurrence in this same verse is the 24-hour period. A third use is found in Genesis 2:4 where the word *day* includes the entire period of creation in Genesis 1:1-31. A fourth use is found in 2 Peter 3:8, 10, where *day* describes an extended period of time (*one day is as a thousand years and the day of the Lord*). Understanding *day* as an extended period of time allows for the possibility of millions of years to pass in Genesis one, answering the supposed conflict between science and the Bible on the age of the earth.

Millions of years in Genesis 1 would also allow time for evolution. Some people believe scientific evidence is strong for evolution, and they think “theistic evolution” is the best explanation for Genesis one and science. Theistic evolution is the belief that God used natural evolutionary processes to cre-

ate the present world. Some adherents describe themselves as “progressive creationists.”

## SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATIONS

I am not qualified to debate with scientists or philosophers in their respective areas of expertise. However, as a Bible-believer, I am troubled because Genesis one and two do not record an encapsulated narrative that has no connection to the rest of Scripture. In fact, all later Scriptural comments assume and build upon the literal creation that took place during literal, 24-hour days by a Creator God.

For example, in Genesis 5:1, 2, Moses again referred to the *day* God created man in the likeness of God and male and female. In Exodus 20:8-11 and Exodus 31:15-17 God equated the days of creation with man’s week, two of the strongest passages supporting a literal 24-hour day in Scripture.<sup>1</sup> The 24-hour days in the first part of Exodus 20:11 and 31:17 are presented as meaning the same as the 24-hour day at the end of both verses. It is worth noting that God was speaking (Exodus 20:1).

In Deuteronomy 4:32, Moses spoke of *days* (plural) preceding that day in the wilderness (all of history since creation) and the *day* (singular) God created man. Both uses of “day” in this verse suggest literal, 24-hour periods.

The psalmist said God “commanded,” and the sun, moon, stars, and angels were created (148:2-5). Isaiah referred to God as creator several times (Isaiah 41:26, 28; 42:5; 45:12, “I have made the earth and created man upon it”). Man did not happen upon the earth by chance according to Isaiah 45:18. Instead, God formed the earth to be inhabited.

New Testament writers assumed the accuracy and literalness of Genesis one and two as well. The Apostles John and Paul taught that Jesus was Creator of

everything (John 1:1-3; Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16, 17). More specifically, Jesus referred to “the creation which God created” as a real, historical event (Mark 13:19). He said God made male and female at the beginning (Matthew 19:4). Compare this with Genesis 1:27. In Luke 11:40, Jesus spoke of God’s creation of both the material and immaterial parts of man. He said, “Did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also?” See Genesis 2:7.

Luke did not believe that Adam had earthly ancestors (a pre-Adamic race). He called Adam “[son] of God” (Luke 3:38).

The Apostle Paul accepted Genesis one and two as literal and accurate. In fact, it seems the doctrine of God as Creator was the starting point for his messages to non-Jews. He taught that God created everything (Acts 17:24), and that everyone came from a common ancestor (Acts 17:26). He taught that Adam was a real, historical person, not a mythological representative of a progressive race (Romans 5:14), that he was the first man, and that he came from dust (not soup; 1 Corinthians 15:45, 47), that he was created first (1 Timothy 2:13; Genesis 2:18) and that Eve was created as his helper (1 Corinthians 11:9; Genesis 2:18).

Paul believed that God created Adam with intelligence (Colossians 3:10; Genesis 1:27) and that man has been responsible to recognize certain attributes of God since creation (Romans 1:20). Paul also taught that death entered the world because of an event—the sin of one man (Romans 5:12, 14; Genesis 2:17; 3:22), a position in conflict with a proposed fossil history that pre-dates man.

Paul taught that Eve was a historical person as well. She was created from Adam (1 Corinthians 11:8; Genesis 2:21-23) and deceived by the serpent (2 Corinthians 11:3; 2 Timothy 2:14;

<sup>1</sup> Henry Morris, *Science and the Bible* (Chicago: Moody, 1986) 38.

Genesis 3:1-6).

He also taught that God created man's food (1 Timothy 4:3). Would this not include plants (Genesis 1:29) and animals (Genesis 9:3)?

Quoting Psalms 102:5, the writer of Hebrews (1:10) credited Jesus with creating the heavens and the earth. The Apostle John heard praises in Heaven to the One who created all things (Revelation 4:11) and witnessed an angel swear by the One who created Heaven, earth, the sea, and everything in all three (Revelation 10:6). If Genesis one and two are myth, then the myth is being perpetuated in Heaven, according to John's record.

## FORCING THE ISSUE

All of this will not convince those

who choose to believe in evolution that they are wrong, but that is not my intent. My purpose is simply to show those who want to follow Jesus that a literal understanding of the creation account is embedded throughout Scripture. When that literal understanding is set aside, much more than Moses' ignorance is at stake!

One simply cannot adopt extensive times in the creation account without doing great harm to the rest of the Bible. Statements made by God, Moses, Psalmists, Isaiah, Jesus, Paul, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, the 24 elders in Heaven, and an angel all depend on the literal nature of the creation account in the first two chapters of Genesis. In short, the doctrine of the inspiration of Scripture, as well as the integrity of Jesus, His apostles, and the other

Scripture writers are at stake. Would Jesus spread a myth as truth?

The writer of Hebrews stated his position and mine (11:3): It is *by faith* that we understand that God created everything from nothing in a literal 144-hour period. Yes, acceptance of a literal creation account in Genesis is a faith statement, but so is acceptance of evolution.

Those who follow Jesus follow His teaching about the origin of humanity with confidence. Why? First, He was there (John 1:1; Hebrews 1:10). Second, He created mankind (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16). Finally, Jesus never misrepresented truth (Hebrews 6:18; 1 Peter 2:22). **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Jeff Crabtree is a home missionary to New Brunswick, Canada.

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*Living faithfully in an age of efficiency...*

# GOING GREEN:



## The Christian and the Environment

BY MATTHEW STEVEN BRACEY

### THE 21ST CENTURY: CULTURE OF EFFICIENCY

Many describe the 21<sup>st</sup> century as “busy.” There are emails to check, bills to pay, kids to feed, grass to cut, work to finish, and the list goes on. As a result, most view efficiency as a good thing. And indeed it is! We appreciate people who arrive at meetings on time and avoid unnecessary waste.

Yet the term *efficiency* has been defined in numerous ways. Some define it as an effort to achieve the greatest degree of productivity with the least expense—economic efficiency. Others describe it as an effort to be punctual, time conscious, and organized—time efficiency. Still others describe efficiency as an effort to conserve natural resources—environmental efficiency.

At its most basic, however, efficiency is a subjective value judgment. For example, Steve may believe it to be more economically efficient to rent a movie for his kids from a kiosk because it is cheaper. On the other hand, Tom may believe it more efficient to rent the same movie from a storefront location near his home. He reasons that the higher price is worth the value of human interaction and convenience.

As this illustration demonstrates, efficiency is not an absolute but a subjective measure of the effectiveness of a decision or lifestyle.

### Environmentalism and the Christian Worldview: Can the Two Co-exist?

The measure of efficiency is often applied to the environment. Constant media exhortations to recycle or to “Go Green” illustrate a growing concern about environmental efficiency. However, because modern environmental movements are often politically motivated, many Christians dismiss these exhortations or view them with grave suspicion.

Yet it is logical fallacy to attack environmental exhortations just because someone with differing moral or political ideology promotes it. After all, Genesis 1:26-28 makes it clear that God requires good stewardship of the

environment.

Couched within this passage is a command for mankind to exercise good stewardship over the created order. With this in mind, it is crucial for Christians to develop a healthy environmentalism consistent with a Christian worldview. In his 1970 book, *Pollution and the Death of Man*, Francis Schaeffer writes that “nature is not our own. It belongs to God, and we are to exercise our dominion over these things, not as though entitled to exploit them, but as things borrowed or held in trust. We are to use them realizing they are not ours intrinsically. Man’s dominion is under God’s dominion.”

Pastor, professor, and theologian Russell D. Moore recently stated it this way when commenting on the Deep Horizon Gulf oil spill:<sup>1</sup>

“God cares about the Creation . . . He displays himself in nature, and so the more that people are distanced from the Creation itself and the more people become accustomed to treating the

purely political point of view.”

Advocates of ardent environmentalism are reminded that love of the created order does not equate with worship of the created order. They are not the same and should not be confused. Christians can (and should) be involved in environmental efficiency without compromising their faith. And environmental awareness is on the rise within the Christian community.

A recent Southern Baptist statement provides evidence of this growing awareness. The *Declaration on the Environment and Climate Change* includes four assertions: 1) Humans must care for creation and take responsibility for our contributions to environmental degradation; 2) It is prudent to address global climate change; 3) Christian moral convictions and Southern Baptist doctrines demand environmental stewardship; and 4) It is time for individuals, churches, communities and governments to act.

In light of God’s mandate to care for creation, shouldn’t the Christian com-

and use less hot water. Remember your grandmother’s advice and turn off lights when you leave the room. Unplug small appliances when not in use. Turn your thermostat up in the summer and down in the winter. Most important, teach your children to respect the planet—the home—that God placed in our care.

Christians should care for the environment, first and foremost, because God made us stewards over it. Beyond that, Christians should conserve it for the sake of their witness to a fallen world and for future generations. True, environmental efficiency is desirable only as long as it does not conflict with the Christian worldview. At the same time, it is consistent with Scripture and the biblical call to stewardship. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Matthew S. Bracey graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 2008. He will graduate from the Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, AL, in 2011, and complete the M.Div. in Theology at Beeson School of Divinity in 2012. This article was adapted from an essay by the same title published on [www.helwysocietyforum.com](http://www.helwysocietyforum.com).

[1] Russell D. Moore, Seminary Professor says Gulf Oil Spill Could Be Wakeup Call for Evangelicals, available at <http://www.abpnews.com/content/view/5287/53/>, accessed on August 3, 2010.

#### Additional Reading on Christian Ecology and Environmentalism:

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*Christian Attitudes Toward the Environment*. New York, New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.

## Christians can (and should) be involved in environmental efficiency without compromising their faith.

Creation as something that is disposable, the more distanced they are from understanding who God is . . . People are designed to be dependent on Creation and upon the natural resources around us . . . In order to love future generations, in order to love cultures, we have to love the ecosystems that support those things . . . I think it’s good for evangelical Christians to be pulled in multiple directions, if being pulled in directions means that we’re thinking through issues from a biblical point of view, rather than from a

community be the model of environmental stewardship? Shouldn’t we embrace a lifestyle of environmental efficiency through the multitude of “green” options?

Consider the following lifestyle changes that can have a dramatic impact on the environment. Request electronic publications (such as online journals, magazines, and newspapers) rather than allowing stacks of paper to grow on your shelves. Consider recycling, carpooling, and using energy saving devices. Drive smaller vehicles



# Global Warming

BY APRIL TUMMINS



**HAVE YOU EVER  
WATCHED AND  
WAITED FOR  
WATER TO BOIL?**

IT SEEMS IT WILL NEVER REACH THE BOILING POINT. FINALLY, YOU SEE A RIPPLE, AND THEN BUBBLES BEGIN TO FORM. SOON, YOU HAVE A LIVELY, ROLLING BOIL. (IF YOU LEAVE IT ON THE STOVE TOO LONG, IT WILL BOIL OVER.)

## Turning up the Heat

The World Missions Offering (WMO) is like boiling water. For many years, its temperature held steady. It was warm, waiting to reach the boiling point. In 2006, the introduction of the *Change the World* coin banks turned up the heat under this proverbial WMO pot. For the first time, the WMO began underwriting Bible institutes around the world, in addition to

supporting general operating needs. The WMO grew an unprecedented 80% over the previous year.

## Boiling Point

With the promotional help of a newly formed Ambassador team and generous giving, the offering rose another 61% in 2007. This was the first year the WMO raised more than a half-million dollars. The offering be-

gan depositing funds into missionary accounts. By 2008, the offering exceeded \$582,000 for missions.

## Simmering

The world economy took a nosedive in September 2008. Unemployment rates rose and donations declined at a precipitous rate. With these ingredients added to the pot, the waters that once boiled with fervor returned

to a simmer. Decreased income and lack of financial security resulted in an 11% decrease in WMO giving. Drastic measures were taken to keep missionaries on the field, and on the field they stayed—pressing on to tell others about the saving power of Christ. Despite the economic hardship, 2,400 people were saved overseas, and many others were baptized and discipled in 2009.

When the WMO boils over, missionaries stay on the field, new missionaries are sent, souls are saved, and churches are planted.

### Turning Up the Heat

When water boils and then returns to a simmering state, it doesn't take much increase in the heat for the water to boil again.

In 2010, FWB International Missions celebrated its 75th anniversary of send-

ing missionaries around the world. This gave birth to the *Go10: Walk for the World* project. Young and old alike pledged to walk 10 miles or more to raise funds for world evangelism. With the combination of the WMO and Go10 Walk, Free Will Baptists across the country and around the world contributed nearly *one million dollars for missions*.

As a denomination passionate about reaching the world for Christ, we must continue to give generously to the cause of sharing Christ with the unreached. We must believe we can turn up the heat once again. We must keep the temperature rising on global evangelism and church planting.

When the WMO boils over, missionaries stay on the field, new missionaries are sent, souls are saved, and churches are planted. Your generos-

ity gives others a chance to hear the gospel. Perhaps, when we all get to Heaven and sing around the Father's throne, converts like Jean Carlo from Brazil and Mika from Japan will have the opportunity to say thank you personally for sending missionaries like Bobby and Geneva Poole and Nathan and Linda Snow—people who shared the Good News with them.

Jesus came to earth to save the lost. This year, World Missions Offering Sunday also happens to be Easter Sunday. Can you think of a better day to stand together and support the Great Commission so that the name of Jesus is declared among all nations? Let's turn up the heat and warm the globe with the love of Christ. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** April Tummins has been a member of the International Missions development team since 2003.

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## nobody told me they have onions

BY JUDY LYTLE

**Many years ago, a friend took his family to a drive-in hamburger restaurant.** The middle daughter, probably about six or seven at the time, insisted on ordering onion rings. Her mom and dad warned her she might not like them, reminding her she didn't really like onions and had never tried onion rings. Nothing convinced her to change her mind, however, so they ordered the onion rings for her. When the food arrived, her parents noticed she was quiet, and her food sat before her uneaten. "Donna, what's wrong?" they asked. With tears in her eyes, Donna replied, "Nobody told me they had onions in them."

### Shock to the System

New missionaries often say something similar about cross-cultural adaptation. We all study about culture

and adapting to a new, radically different culture. It is firmly implanted in our heads. Anyone who asks about our new place of ministry receives an

enthusiastic litany of details. We memorize facts about population, climate, language, and religion. We know all the data and statistics, and can't wait to jump into our new ministry. But, when we get there, we find onions in everything! Even though we, like Donna, were warned, we really were not expecting it. What's more, we genuinely don't *like* onions.

Onions pop up in unexpected places and incredible ways. The language is difficult; we don't understand *why* they have to use so many different verb tenses. The people we were prepared to embrace begin to irritate us. Why do they have to play music so loudly *and at 1:00 a.m.*? Even the Christians want to



know all our business and have peculiar ways of doing things.

The weather is never good. It's either too cold or too hot. It rains too much or not at all. The food is not to our liking, offensive to our palate, and we can't understand what everyone else thinks is so great about it. Our missionary coworkers get on our nerves. We miss family and friends. Onions, onions, onions! Sure, we knew all this before we left the good old U.S.A. Somehow, though, it is different when we live it day in, day out. Suddenly, cultural adaptation is not just words on a page in a mission textbook. It's real life.

### The Best Advice

What can we do? The answer is simple: *learn to like onions*. It may take some time, but little by little our likes can change if we let them. We never will learn to like onions if we never try to eat them. The same goes with cultural adaptation. Until we get in there and make ourselves learn the language, enjoy the food, and appreciate the people, we won't adapt. We will just continue to complain about the onions. To be an effective missionary, we must adapt. Until we do, we cannot be of full service to God and to the ministry to which He has called us.

I could write a book about cultural adaptation. However, when a plate of onion rings is set down in front of a new missionary, would he remember what he read? I doubt it. Sure, training and preparation are vital; but when it comes right down to it, my best advice is learn to like onions! **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Judy Lytle and her husband Steve currently serve at the Bible institute in Chame, Panama. For more information about the Lytles visit [www.fwbgo.com/lytle](http://www.fwbgo.com/lytle).

## NEWS around the world



### Melo, Uruguay—

More than 160 people gathered to celebrate the inauguration of Melo's new Free Will Baptist church building. Guests from the States and Brazil joined the festivities. The new building has drawn the attention of several people who have never attended church.



**Châteaubriant, France**—Steve and Becky Riggs rejoiced over God's provision in December as the building they desired to rent for a mission church effort became available. The French association committed to subsidize the rental fees. The high visibility should give more credence to their efforts to begin a church in this town with no gospel witness.



**Ribeirão Preto, Brazil**—The Christmas program at First FWB in Ribeirão Preto featured 60 church members and garnered an attendance of 450. The Marincek congregation's smaller church had over 60 present. Several unsaved people attended the Marincek program.



**Montevideo, Uruguay**—About 65 people attended the Christmas program by the Emanuel FWB Church in Malvin. Four people made a profession of faith. Several others were first-time visitors.

## IM Board Introduces All-Out Effort to Keep Missionaries on Field

**Antioch, TN**—The Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions met December 8-9, 2010, in the Antioch, Tennessee, offices. The intensive, two-day session yielded continued confidence in leadership, new missionary appointees, and drastic budgetary measures to keep missionaries at their posts.

### Significant Budget Cuts

The board wrestled with the Mission's continued economic challenges. Like many other non-profits, especially mission agencies, IM continues to struggle in the current economic climate. The nine-member team approved a reduced budget of \$6.5 million. "We believe in the funding system revisions and know, that given the opportunity, many within our denomination will respond," stated Danny Williams, board chairman. "The board desires to create an environment, in an extremely difficult economy, that will give the funding system a chance to work."

In accordance with the board and leadership team's commitment to the overseas missionary team, the budget reductions will be made without bringing missionary personnel home.

The board approved radical steps toward extreme austerity. "We will have minimal representation at the National Association, reduce our presence in *ONE Magazine*, and drastically cut international travel. As incredible as it seems," Forlines stated, "additional stateside personnel cuts are required. It is impossible to go from the 2010 budget of \$6.9 million to a 2011 budget of \$6.5 million without

including personnel in those numbers."

As a result, Lori McCraney (accounts payable) and Charolette Tallent (field operations stateside manager) will continue on staff only until January 31, 2011. Forlines indicated, "We hope the denomination will respond to these dire circumstances and help us keep missionaries at their posts."

### Simpson Resignation

Director of Development Barry Simpson presented his resignation to the administrative staff and the board on Thursday, December 9. Simpson stated, "The last four years have been quite an adventure. I have had the privilege of working arm-in-arm with a delightful and hard working home staff."

Simpson declared, "I came to the Mission to help institute the new funding system. I still believe it is the best way for our missionaries to receive support. However, the current economic climate dovetailing with lukewarm denominational participation took their toll on me personally. I do not believe I am the man to bring about the unity necessary to make the funding system work."



## Flooding in Panama

**Cañita, PN**—Sunday, December 5, through Wednesday, December 8, 2010, an unprecedented amount of rain deluged Panama. According to Judy Lytle, "One news report said normal rainfall for the first 12 days of December is usually around 2.4 inches. This year almost 9.5 inches fell. The president of the country, Ricardo Martinelli, said it was the most rainfall ever recorded in Panama."

For the next week and a half, the only relief available to the people of Cañita was delivered via helicopter or boat. Local Free Will Baptists were able to send some aid.

Pastor Nicolás Valdés indicated three FWB families in Cañita lost their homes and everything they had in the flooding, and others were affected as well. Supplies sent include food, water, clothing, mattresses, and medicines.

People stateside who wish to aid in disaster relief can send funds to FWBIM and have 100% of the funds sent on to Panama. ■

“Barry brought passion, zeal, and energy to his role with the Mission. His commitment to developing the long-term funding needs of this Mission will be sorely missed. It is very disappointing for all on our team to see him leave,” Forlines affirmed. “We wish Barry and Jena Godspeed as they follow God’s adventuresome path.” Simpson’s resignation is effective immediately. Financial constraints prohibit replacing Simpson at this time. Deputy Director of State-side Operations Mark McPeak will shoulder his responsibilities temporarily.

## Overseas Staff

The board interviewed two couples for career overseas service. Jonathan (SC) and Amy (TN) Postlewaite were appointed and expect to join Tim and Lydia Awtrey in Bulgaria and focus on university student outreach. The couple currently pastor in South Carolina.

Patrick (AL) and Jill (MA) [names withheld for security reasons] plan to join creative access workers as discipleship coordinators. They live in Massachusetts and previously served under Tom McCullough in Royal Oak, Michigan. Although approved and appointed, neither couple is expected to join the Mission staff immediately because of current financial constraints.

“The Lord continues to send us impressive, prepared young missionaries like these two couples. The places they will serve desperately need them,” stressed Board Chairman Danny Williams. “For that reason, the board acted on their appointments. As the economy strengthens and the

Mission’s financial position stabilizes, they will be ready to join the team. I urge our people to respond and help us send these called, young families as soon as possible.”

Additionally, Shannon Little was reappointed to Japan. Steve and Judy Lytle’s status was changed from special assignment to career missionaries, and Alice Smith’s request for a final six-month stateside assignment prior to her anticipated July 2011 retirement was granted.

## Properties Transferred

The board also agreed to transfer two homes to the care of national works. Stan and Brenda Bunch purchased a home in Chitré, Panama, where they have since planted a church. The board voted to transfer the deed to the Chitré congregation for use as a parsonage. Upon retirement, Jerry and Carol Pinkerton left a Mission-owned home in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. The board voted to turn the property over to the Ivorian FWB Association.

All board members were present: Danny Williams, Randy Wilson, Tom McCullough, Paul Creech, Nelson Henderson, Jeff Manning, Rob Morgan, Jerry Norris, and Greg McAllister. “Prayer is greatly needed as we work under increased budgetary restrictions. Personnel will have to be even more flexible as they assume additional responsibilities and say goodbye to dear friends,” Forlines declared. “Difficult, painful decisions have been made. Yet, we know God has a plan in all this. Pray for us as we seek to do His will and accomplish His purpose.” ■



**Alpedrete, Spain**—The Alpedrete Outreach Center hosted an open house on January 2, 2011, to celebrate five years of ministry in the pueblo. The Alpedrete congregation held their Christmas program in the Villalba congregation’s new building and welcomed more than 100 people who heard the gospel presented in message, play, and song.

## Turmoil in Côte d’Ivoire

**Abidjan, CI**—Over a month of political maneuvering and posturing followed the announcement of Alassane Ouattara as the new president of Côte d’Ivoire and the refusal of deposed President Laurent Gbagbo to step down. Those ardently devoted to these leaders have strongly confirmed their allegiance and support through demonstrations, rioting, and illegal searches of private property. Various efforts of both parties resulted in several hundred deaths. More than 30,000 Ivoirians have evacuated across the border into Liberia. The Liberian government anticipates 100,000 refugees before the standoff is resolved.

After five years of promises and six postponed elections, Ivorian presidential elections occurred October 31, 2010. A runoff election for the top two contenders occurred the following month on November 28. ■

# LET'S FILL THE BARREL

BY HENRY J. VANKLUYVE

**THE WORLD MISSION OFFERING** (WMO) originated with the powers of Heaven. Remember the Great Commission from the lips of Jesus? An eternal flame was lit on that Judean hillside when He commanded His disciples, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with

you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matt. 28: 19-20).

His words have become a clarion call for the annual WMO—an offering of self and finances for the sake of God's Great Commission. This year, Sunday, April 24, has been set aside for each Free Will Baptist church to celebrate World Missions Sunday. You may notice the date falls on Easter, giving us two special reasons to plan for a record offering.

The WMO is related to all aspects of Free Will Baptist global ministry. Giving to the WMO results in people hearing and believing the gospel. Nearly 2,500 men, women, and children were saved in 2009. God has blessed us with more than 1,000 churches and mission works overseas. Nearly half of these have been started during the past 10 years. Church attendance has soared to nearly 40,000 each week.



## The WMO Goal

In the five years I've spent meeting with pastors and churches, I have likened the WMO to a barrel. Each year, we strive to fill the barrel to be poured out in support of all missionary endeavors. They are all worthy of our support.

Last September, International Missions ambassadors met to plan for the task of promoting the WMO among pastors and churches. After prayerful consideration, we voted to challenge the denomination to raise \$650,000 for the 2011 WMO. This money underwrites the ministries of every missionary overseas. As the offering grows, opportunities for global evangelistic efforts increase as well.

Having served as director of deputation 14 years (1967-1981), I am fully aware of the enormous expense involved in worldwide outreach. As one of 13 ambassadors who promote the WMO across the denomination, I am

thrilled to tell others about the offering that has become such a vital part of missionary funding.

## Reaching Farther Together

Free Will Baptists raised more than \$600,000 for global evangelism through the Go10 Walk for the World project last year. This special event produced a great deal of enthusiasm. So much enthusiasm, in fact, that many churches designated their WMO money to Go10 in an all-out effort to reach the \$500,000 matched, *planned* gift. We celebrated together when we reached the goal, and we are happy to tell you that the matched gift has reached \$750,000 in value. Praise the Lord! When we stand *together*, we can reach and *surpass* goals!

Slogans abound everywhere, especially in the political arena. One of them is "Yes, we can!" Let this become our rallying cry, as we trust God to go

before us, stirring us for world outreach through the World Mission Offering.

Pray earnestly that, with God's help, we *will* reach our goal. Order your coin banks and other materials from [www.fwbgo.com](http://www.fwbgo.com). Involve your children and young people in this worthwhile project.

I appeal to both pastors and lay people. Fill the barrel on April 24. *Respond* to the challenge before us! If Free Will Baptists could raise one million dollars for the 2010 WMO and the Go10 projects, we can certainly raise \$650,000 for WMO 2011! Can we fill the barrel? *Yes, we can!* **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Rev. VanKluyve is serving his fifth year as ambassador for International Missions (2006-2011). He retired from pastoring after 58 years in the ministry. He also served on the FWB Foreign Missions staff as director of deputation for 14 years (1967-1981). Henry and his wife Virginia live in Hermitage, Tennessee.

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## A COLLEGE BY ANY OTHER NAME...

*Matt Pinson, president of Free Will Baptist Bible College, responds to questions about the institution's possible name change to Welch College and the effect it may have on students, the denomination, alumni, and the future.*

### Does a name change indicate a change in mission, philosophy, or purpose?

Absolutely not! The college will continue its conservative, Bible college philosophy of education, with a major in Bible (at least 30 hours of Bible for every student); required participation in daily chapel, dorm small group devotions, and Christian service and church attendance; and an emphasis on the student's role in local church ministry/leadership and missions. We want to *carefully safeguard* our Bible college philosophy of education and our conservative Free Will Baptist heritage and theology. We simply want to *expand the reach* of that mission to more Free Will Baptist students.

### Why change the name after almost 70 years?

We want to help stop the drain of Free Will Baptist leadership out of the denomination and out of Christianity. Things are different than they were even a few decades ago. Secular colleges and universities are increasingly hostile to Christian faith and morality. Most Free Will Baptist college-age students attend secular schools; a few attend non-Free Will Baptist Christian colleges; most of them leave our denomination during or after college.

The college has always embraced an “umbrella” approach to Bible college education—seeing non-ministry majors and careers as noble endeavors for Christian students. The past four decades have witnessed FWBCC moving to a more comprehensive Christian college offering 40 programs of study. Yet, most Free Will Baptists see FWBCC as a “ministry-only” college. Despite our accreditation and rankings, we cannot shake that perception, no matter how hard we try. And we're told again and again by our own people, it's because of our name.

#### *Consider these statistics:*

- About 52 percent of Bible-believing Christians who enter a secular college or university list “no church attendance” after graduation.
- About 80 percent of Free Will Baptist college-age students attend secular colleges.
- About 10 percent of Free Will Baptist college-age students attend non-Free Will Baptist Christian colleges.

These are startling statistics. A few decades ago, fewer Free Will Baptists attended college, and secular institutions were not as hostile to the Christian faith. But if the stats are correct, 40 percent of Free Will Baptist college-age students will list “no church attendance” after graduation—not simply leaving the Free Will Baptist denomination, but dropping out of church altogether. In contrast, statistics show that more than 95% of students who attend evangelical Christian colleges still attend church and adhere to Christian faith and morals after graduation. Of the 10 percent of Free Will Baptist college-age students who do attend non-FWB Christian colleges, most leave the denomination.

Young people aren't answering the call to ministry in their teens like they used to. Many of our brightest, spiritually minded students feel called to highly competitive professional fields and choose non-FWB colleges. Then they are lost to the denomination.

With the rising cost of college education, FWB students (and parents) want a degree that will help them succeed in their chosen profession. But historically, 50 percent of college students change majors after starting college. Many students who attend Christian colleges answer God's call and change their major to ministry. This happens because they are in an environment in which they are daily confronted with the call of God on their lives—something that simply doesn't happen at a secular college or university.

The problem is getting students into this Christian environment in the first place.

So when bright, godly, Free Will Baptist students go to non-FWB colleges to pursue highly competitive professional careers, three things happen:

- We lose top lay leaders out of our churches, young people in whom our churches have invested their lives and prayers.
- We deprive young people of the opportunity to be in an environment where they would daily be challenged to answer God's call, and be more likely to answer the call to full-time Christian vocations.
- We lose young people to the cause of Christ.

Another important reason to consider a name change is that, in a post-9/11 world, it's increasingly difficult for graduates from a college with a religious name to enter a closed or restricted access country to do evangelistic work.

Also, plans call for FWBBC to expand beyond an undergraduate education. We plan to start a theological seminary and a graduate college of education, and other graduate colleges as well. So, regardless of what our undergraduate program is like, we will not be simply "Free Will Baptist Bible College."

The time is ripe for the National Association of Free Will Baptists to have its own comprehensive college or university. A college similar in structure to Bob Jones University or Liberty University would allow Free Will Baptist students to attend and not be concerned about getting into a competitive business school, medical school, law school, or other graduate or professional school.

#### *Given the above facts:*

- We are cutting off access to a conservative, Christian, Free Will Baptist education to thousands of FWB young people.
- We are losing thousands of young people from the denomination.
- We are finding that most of those who attend other Christian colleges join other denominations.
- We are losing half the Free Will Baptists who attend secular colleges from the church and the Christian faith.

#### *A name change will accomplish the following:*

- Help stop the loss of solid Christian lay leaders from our denomination.
- Put more spiritually serious FWB young people into an environment where they can be exposed to the call of God on their lives.
- Keep more FWB young people out of secular universities where the enemy is stealing their souls.
- Provide our students entrance into competitive professional/graduate programs and careers.
- Put more lay leaders into local FWB churches who can also serve as salt-and-light witnesses in professional career fields.

- Give young people more opportunities to go into closed and restricted access countries to evangelize the lost.

### **What is wrong with the name we have?**

Nothing is *wrong* with the name we have. It has served us well, and we are proud of it. There is also nothing wrong with a college whose sole mission is ministry training. But we sense that most Free Will Baptists believe that, in an increasingly secularized and fast-changing educational environment, the National Association of Free Will Baptists should not be the only mid-size denomination that does not have comprehensive education for its laity.

Our desire is to stop the perception that Free Will Baptist students called to secular professions should go elsewhere for undergraduate education. Thus, we feel the need to consider this change seriously.

I recently spoke with a family whose son had applied to FWBBC and was considering enrolling. But he felt God leading him to medical school, and he chose another Christian institution for his pre-med training. I nearly wept as he and his father told me, "Brother Pinson, we love FWBBC. We love our denomination. But medical schools are so competitive that we just don't think an FWBBC degree would give Billy (not his real name) the chance he needs at getting into med school. It seems like poor stewardship to spend \$80,000 on an FWBBC degree when God has called Billy to be a godly Christian doctor and, because of the name, going to FWBBC will make it harder to get into medical school."

My staff and I hear stories like this constantly—not just regarding medical school, but other graduate and professional programs that are gateways to the professions. And it saddens us, because these students are our best and brightest, godly laypeople that our Free Will Baptist churches have poured their lives into training for Christian service and lay leadership. But they almost always leave the denomination when they attend a college of another denomination or a public university.

### **Why not name the school after Dr. L. C. Johnson, the founding president?**

"Johnson," the name of our founding president, Dr. L. C. Johnson, was of course the first name we considered. Yet that was, sadly, unworkable. We consulted with two attorneys who have broad experience in trademark law. The attorneys researched using Johnson in our college name. They said it was highly unlikely it would hold up in court, because for the past 100 years, Johnson Bible College has been just three hours down the road, in our same state, athletic association, and accrediting organizations. We would almost certainly be sued and almost certainly lose that lawsuit. Further, it would be uncharitable on our part to do this to a fellow Bible college, and it would be confusing and difficult to market.

“Johnson and Welch” would be equally problematic, because of another school named “Johnson and Wales.” One of the attorneys said no judge would uphold our use of these names when these other colleges are so close to us in mission and purpose as undergraduate colleges.

### Who is John Welch, and why use his name?

If we cannot name the college after its founding president, it would not make sense to name it after a subsequent president or faculty member. Then someone suggested Welch College after John L Welch and his wife Mary. Both cast long shadows over Free Will Baptist Bible College. John Welch was one of the chief proponents of a centrally located college in Nashville, a 12-year member of the Board of Trustees, and pastor of the most active church in town in support of the college. Mary Welch was an influential administrative staff member who shaped the culture of the college for decades.

John L Welch was the most influential figure in the union of the East and West in founding the National Association of Free Will Baptists (organized at Cofer’s Chapel, the church he pastored, in 1935). He served as the association’s first moderator. The National Association would not have been founded at that time and place in history had it not been for John L Welch. Mary Welch was one of the most influential women in the history of the National Association, being intimately involved in those crucial early years of Women Nationally Active for Christ.

Welch Library was named after this godly couple and has been one of the main FWBBC landmarks for 45 years. The

Welch name is thoroughly Free Will Baptist and reminds us of our rich heritage. John and Mary Welch serve as examples to young men and young women being educated for service at this college, whether for ministry or another vocation. The name *Welch* ties together and solidifies the relationship of the college and the denomination.

### Are there any other issues regarding trademark or names that we will have to consider in a name change?

We don’t anticipate any issues with the name “Welch College.”

Trademark law keeps corporations from using names that other corporations with a similar corporate purpose and market are already using. This wasn’t always a problem. (Witness the numerous Trinity Colleges and Bethel Colleges, for example.) But now, in our increasingly competitive and litigious environment, it is an issue.

### What are the steps that have to be taken for the name to change?

The first step is to conduct the feasibility study authorized by the Board of Trustees.

Since a name change will involve a change in our charter, the National Association of Free Will Baptists must approve the motion to change the name. This motion must be introduced for discussion one year before the vote is taken. So if the board deems the change feasible, the motion would be introduced in Charlotte at the 2011 national convention. Then it would be voted on in Memphis at the 2012 convention.

## NEWS at FWBBC

### Garnett Reid Writes Parenting Book



**Dr. Garnett Reid**, chair of the Biblical and Ministry Studies Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College, wrote a just-published 42-page trade book titled *Deuteronomy 6 in 3D: What Matters Most*. The booklet relates principles from Deuteronomy 6 to practical parenting amid the complexities faced by 21<sup>st</sup> century families.

Dr. Reid said, “This book explains Deuteronomy 6, the grounding text; then surveys the chapter’s core message as it weaves throughout Scripture; and finally describes what this truth looks like in real life for real families. My whole purpose was to portray God’s glory displayed in the most precious relationship on earth.”

*Deuteronomy 6 in 3D* targets parents and those in family ministry. The quick read published by Randall House and priced at \$4.99 helps parents better grasp God’s parenting plan, provides practical parenting advice, and reminds parents that a tested, workable source with reliable answers can be found in the Bible. The booklet includes personal anecdotes, solid biblical exposition, and focuses on having a relationship with God and how to share that relationship with children.

Dr. Reid, a member of the FWBBC faculty since 1982 and writer for *ONE Magazine*’s “Intersect” column, publishes regularly in professional theological journals. The 54-year-old minister is a frequent speaker at academic and preaching conferences. ■



## How do we know the college will not lose its affiliation with the National Association of Free Will Baptists if you change the name?

The college is *owned and operated* by the National Association of Free Will Baptists. All FWBBC board members are elected on the floor of the national convention and must be members in good standing of a local NAFWB church. We believe this is a healthy arrangement and are enthusiastic about our accountability relationship with the NAFWB.

The reason many denominational institutions have moved away from their mission is because they were *not* legally owned, operated, and controlled by their denomination.

The bottom line is that we are governed, controlled, owned, and operated by the NAFWB who elects our board members. Those board members elect the president, who sets the vision and philosophy for the college. Thus, denominational affiliation and theological position have nothing to do with our name, and everything to do with who owns, operates, and controls the college, and their choice to hold us accountable.

## So you're saying that a denominational or religious name is not what keeps colleges conservative or denominationally loyal?

That's right. There are just too many schools that have non-religious names but are very conservative. Think Bob Jones University, Hyles-Anderson College, or Crown College. Their names are not the reason for their theological vision. It is who owns, operates, and controls them.

Likewise, many schools with "Bible College," "Theological College," "Theological Seminary," "Divinity School," and denominational titles in their names have drifted far to the left theologically and in terms of campus guidelines. These schools are not legally controlled by their denomination to the extent that we are.

## Is this just a way for the college to de-emphasize its Free Will Baptist heritage and beliefs?

No! FWBBC is the go-to place for Free Will Baptist history, heritage, doctrine, and theology. If you pick up a book or pamphlet or journal, or listen to a recording on Free Will Baptist history or theology, it will be written by a teacher or administrator at FWBBC, nine times out of 10. The college, its leadership, and its faculty are leading the way in loyalty to our denomination, its traditions, its theology, and its practices.

The college would not wish to exist, and its employees would not wish to be employed here, were it not for its strong Free Will Baptist distinctiveness.

We are here, I am here, our Trustees are here, because this is a Free Will Baptist school, and we want it to be a stronger Free

Will Baptist school, educating a larger group of FWB-trained leaders, both ordained and laity, for local churches.

I don't want to be part of this college if it's anything else. If people want me to be president of a generic Christian liberal arts college, then I'll go back into the pastorate, because that's not what I want. That's not what any of us want.

## Are you doing this to attract more non-FWB students?

No. The catalog statement on entrance requirements, formulated by the college leadership with input from faculty, and unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees, reads: "Free Will Baptist Bible College is owned and operated by the National Association of Free Will Baptists. As such, it exists primarily to meet the educational needs of Free Will Baptist churches. The college's primary mission is to educate leaders for those churches. . . ."

This will continue to be our primary purpose—preparing leaders for Free Will Baptist churches. We are simply concerned about the number of potential leaders who attend other colleges and subsequently leave the denomination.

## Is there any practical way that a name change will benefit our students?

Yes! A change to Welch College would open up a world of opportunities to our graduates that are currently closed to them.

This includes opening doors to professional and graduate programs in law and healthcare, which are increasingly ultra-competitive. Since most accredited professional schools accept a small percentage of applicants, admissions committees don't need an excuse to remove an application from the huge stack on the table. Attending an undergraduate school with "Bible" in the name unfortunately sends a signal to some that the quality of education is not good.

Again, those students trying to get into closed and restricted access countries for evangelistic purposes have fewer opportunities for ministry because of the increased scrutiny, especially in a post-9-11 environment, of religious workers and the skepticism of overtly religious credentials, diplomas, transcripts, etc.

## Why not use a biblical or theological name like Grace or Trinity?

We discussed biblical and theological names. The most obvious problem with this is that the best names are already taken: names like Bethel, Bethany, Emmanuel, Crown, Trinity, Cornerstone, Covenant, Zion, Tabor, Goshen, *et cetera*.

## What about the names of earlier Free Will Baptist historical figures?

We concluded that the only option is a Free Will Baptist historical name. But earlier names seemed unworkable. The only

two earlier historical names that are reasonably well known are Palmer and Randall. Palmer has been voted down already, making it unwise to go back to the denomination with that name. Randall is already taken by our denominational publishing house. And we want the college to have its own name, unique to it, not the name of another national agency.

“Palmer-Randall” or “Randall-Palmer” was not considered for long because of its length. A maxim of marketing is that shorter names work better. A one-word name puts a college or universi-

ty in a better position to market itself to prospective students.

We sensed that we needed a 20<sup>th</sup>-century name that ties us to our Free Will Baptist heritage, a name that roots us and gives us a sense and symbol of our identity. We needed the name of a 20<sup>th</sup>-century figure who was instrumental in the founding or early history of the National Association and who inspired students and staff at Free Will Baptist Bible College with a passionate vision for the work of God. With Dr. L. C. Johnson not being a possibility, John and Mary Welch fit the bill perfectly. **ONE**

## NEWS at FWBBC

### Bert Tippet, FWBBC Leader, Dies at age 70



**NASHVILLE, TN**—Reverend Bert Tippet, long-time publications editor and director of church relations at Free Will Baptist Bible College, died Wednesday, January 5, after a nearly three-year struggle with prostate cancer. He was 70. He and his wife Dianne joined the FWB-BC staff in 1965 and served in numerous roles until his retirement in August 2009.

Best known for his skills as a journalist, editor, and photographer, Reverend Tippet enjoyed an extraordinary pulpit ministry, first as a pastor in New Hampshire (1963-1965) and then as an interim pastor in Middle Tennessee, and 10 years as campus pastor at FWBBC. He delivered the opening address at the 2010 Free Will Baptist national convention in Oklahoma City.

Former FWBBC president Dr. Charles Thigpen said, “When Bert was campus pastor, I don’t know how many times I heard students say, ‘I just can’t wait until Wednesday night to hear Mr. Tippet.’ One thing stands out to me, when students had hospital stays and doctors were reluctant for them to return to dormitories, the Tippetts opened their home to them. I know of no other family who performed such a ministry.”

Tippet answered the call to preach in 1961 as a 20-year-old English major at FWBBC. He was ordained to the ministry in 1964. Following a brief New England pastorate, he returned to his alma mater where he invested almost five decades in the students and educational mission of the college.

Between 1965 and 2005, he published 230 issues of *Free Will*

*Baptist Bible College Bulletin*, the college’s official publication. He served 15 years (1970-1985) as advisor of the college yearbook, the *Lumen*, and launched *Alumni News* in 1975. He was one of the architects of *ONE Magazine*, official publication of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

“Bert was an All-Pro news hound,” said Jack Williams, FWB-BC’s director of communications. “He got the facts straight and squeezed them into a bang-bang format. He became the voice of reason that FWBBC students heard every Wednesday night, the eye behind the camera that captured history, and the face of journalism that was trusted by editors across the denomination.”

Mr. Tippet’s expertise as a photographer eventually resulted in Secret Service clearance to “shoot” the President of the United States. He had a stage pass to photograph performers at the Grand Ole Opry. He served 20 years as official photographer for the Free Will Baptist national convention.

President Matt Pinson said, “We thank God for Brother Tippet and his faithful ministry at FWBBC. He was a true friend, an example of Christian maturity, and a trusted colleague in the Lord’s work. I know of no person more loved and respected than Bert Tippet. He demanded the best from himself and encouraged the best from others.”

During his senior year at FWBBC, Bert served as Student Body president, sang bass in the college quartet, performed with the College Choir, and was named Most Outstanding Student. He graduated in 1962 with a B.A. degree.

The college honored Bert and Dianne Tippet on June 4, 2009, when more than 250 people gathered on campus for an event called *The Celebration!*

At that time, Dr. Robert Picirilli, retired academic dean, said: “Bert and Dianne began to rise above the crowd even when they were students. Both of them offered up, on the altar of this ministry we call Free Will Baptist Bible College, the sweet-savor sacrifice of excellence. They exemplified how to love God and submit to His bidding.” ■

## College Implements Proactive Economic Measures

Free Will Baptist Bible College has implemented several proactive economic measures to ensure that the ministry of the college remains strong during the current economic recession, according to President Matt Pinson. While freshman and ministry enrollment are up slightly, the total fall 2010 enrollment (approximately 283 students) was somewhat less than hoped, and prompted action to avoid operational deficits.

Dr. Pinson said, “While the college is in good financial shape for the long-term, in order to avoid operational deficits, we restructured in several areas which has resulted in some cutbacks and layoffs. Some faculty and staff have been reduced to three-quarter time, and some vacant positions will remain unfilled for the moment.

“Two full-time members of the FWBBC family, Mr. Michael Walker in the Business Department and Mrs. Robin Smith in the Business Office, have been laid off. These are painful decisions for all of us, and I assure you that the college is working with those affected as they transition through this difficult time.”

While the measures taken are serious, the college remains financially strong, and has taken these and other actions in order to streamline operations, reduce operating budgets, and carry out its mission with excellence during the current economic crunch.

In addition to balancing this year’s budget, FWBBC plans to aggressively pursue student recruitment for the 2011 enrollment window. Led by energetic new enrollment director, Rusty Campbell, the FWBBC Enrollment Team is bringing a fresh excitement to the table as they set in place a face-to-face, one-on-one recruit visit system along with additional highly motivated recruiters. The college has also added four very-low-cost intercollegiate sports (men’s and women’s golf and men’s and women’s cross country) to attract more student athletes.

David Williford, vice president for advancement, said, “I never cease to be amazed at the Free Will Baptist people. They respond to economic challenges with their financial resources and their prayers. They continue to step forward in growing numbers to help the college with general fund gifts and with gifts to pay off the Gallatin property, so that we can move forward with relocation to a new, energy efficient and space-efficient campus.”

President Pinson sent an email to FWBBC students encouraging them “to do what God sent you to Free Will Baptist Bible College to do—study, grow emotionally and intellectually and socially, develop your spiritual gifts, and find and follow God’s will for your life. That’s your part. Our job as faculty and staff is to provide a warm and welcoming place for you to prepare for a lifetime of leadership and service to Christ. Together, we can move past this difficult economic moment as we watch the hand of God provide answers and resources.” ■

## Trustees Propose ‘Welch College’ as Contingent Name for FWBBC

During a called session September 23-24, 2010, the Board of Trustees at Free Will Baptist Bible College voted unanimously to broaden its earlier directive for a name-change feasibility study by selecting “Welch College” as the contingent new name for the college, according to President Matt Pinson. The proposal came as the 68-year-old flagship denominational institution prepares to launch a study to determine if it is feasible to change the college’s name. The study could result in a formal name-change recommendation to the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

Dr. Pinson said, “The college will be conducting a careful study over the next several months to determine the feasibility of changing its name to Welch College. If the study indicates a climate conducive for a name change, results will be presented to delegates at the 2011 national convention, along with the recommended name change and a motion to lay the proposal on the table for one year.”

A legal issue prompting the Board of Trustees to identify a specific name is the matter of trademark law, which keeps corporations from using names that other corporations with a similar corporate purpose or market are already using. The application process with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to register Welch College as a trademark is a procedure that could take several months, and Trustees felt that it was best to initiate the search process now.

The name “Welch College” arises from the life and ministry of Reverend John L Welch and his wife Mary. Welch was the first moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists and a 12-year-member of the Board of Trustees. He pastored 53 years at Cofer’s Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville. John Welch championed education among Free Will Baptists and embodied the ideals of Christian ministry, combining serious biblical preaching and a concern for doctrine with vibrant spirituality, an evangelistic heart, and a practical approach to ministry and the Christian life.

Mrs. Mary Welch served faithfully as a secretary at the college, spent nearly 60 years as a pastor’s wife, and was a leader in the denomination’s women’s movement. For almost five decades, there has been a building on campus named in honor of John and Mary Welch, the historic Welch Library. ■



# Can the church help today's families?

Many Christian leaders throw up their hands in despair over the state of today's family. They paint a bleak picture, with words such as dysfunctional, beyond hope, under attack, struggling, and failing. It seems the church has little influence on its members as the number of broken families varies little between the secular and the sanctuary. **Yet all is not lost.**

**Forum11** is a conference designed to help students, youth workers, pastors, and other church leaders become more effective in family ministry and intergenerational discipleship by presenting a broad spectrum of speakers with a wide array of perspectives and experiences.

Keynote speakers include Voddie Baucham, pastor of Grace Family Baptist Church; Curt Gwartney, youth pastor at Locust Grove FWB Church; Garnett Reid, professor at FWBBC; Haddon Robinson, professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Charles Thigpen, former president of FWBBC; and others.

According to FWBBC President Matt Pinson, "**Forum11** will stretch ministry boundaries by pushing, challenging, even provoking listeners to take the next step in renewing the family with the Word. I don't think anyone will walk away unchanged."

Sponsored and hosted by Free Will Baptist Bible College, the two-day event will take place **March 7-8, 2011**, in conjunction with the annual Bible Conference, March 6-9, 2011.

## The answer may surprise you.

# FORUM 11

Free Will Baptist  
Bible College  
March 7-8, 2011

## Preaching the Word, **Renewing the Family.**

### Keynote Speakers



**Dr. Voddie Baucham** pastors Grace Family Baptist Church in Spring, Texas. He has authored *Family Driven Faith* and *What He Must Be If He Wants to Marry My Daughter*.



**Dr. Haddon Robinson** is Professor of Preaching at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. A prolific author, Robinson's book *Biblical Preaching* is the best-selling textbook on preaching.



**Dr. Garnett Reid** is chairman of the Department of Biblical and Ministry Studies at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He recently published *D6 in 3D*, a parenting book based on Deuteronomy 6.



**Curt Gwartney** is a 30-year veteran of youth ministry. He is youth pastor at Locust Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Oklahoma.



**Dr. Charles A. Thigpen** is the former president of Free Will Baptist Bible College and past promotional director for Tennessee Free Will Baptists.

**Register today: [www.fwbbc.edu/forum11](http://www.fwbbc.edu/forum11)**



Free Will Baptist Bible College 3606 West End Avenue | Nashville, TN 37205 | [www.fwbbc.edu](http://www.fwbbc.edu)

(FORUM11 is free. Register early and receive a free gift upon arrival.)

# LESSONS

## *from a Caregiver* BY D. RAY LEWIS

**In the mid 1980s, my wife and I had the privilege of becoming caregivers** for an elderly aunt. In 1994, near the end of that experience, I wrote an article called “Lessons I’ve Learned as a Caregiver.” Six years ago we had the unique privilege of becoming caregivers again. This time, the recipient was my mother-in-law. Recently, as I thought back over these experiences, I remembered the article. I pulled it out, dusted it off, updated it, and want to share with you what I have learned.

.....



### The Aging Dilemma

Our aging society calls on more of us to take care of an older adult. Often, home care is the only option because outside care, when available, is too expensive. Roughly eight percent of those aged 65-69 and 30% of those aged 80 and above need assistance with at least one ADL (ac-

tivity of daily living).

Providing care is a voyage over largely uncharted waters. It is a job often done with little guidance, recognition, or support. Caregivers need assistance from family, friends, professional, and community resources. They need to know they are not alone.

Most caregivers admit their role is

rewarding but not easy. Time spent giving care may vary. Recipients may need help with bathing and dressing, cooking, cleaning and laundry, handling finances, dispensing medications, changing dressings and intravenous tubes, running errands, and the list goes on. Such tasks can be physically and emotionally exhausting.

### Boundaries

The most frequent reason for becoming a caregiver is love for the recipient and a desire to provide personal care in familiar surroundings. Still, potential caregivers should:

**Have an honest, no-holds-barred conversation with the recipient and anyone else who will be a part of the process.** One family member should not be expected to assume all care and expense.

**Examine the past and present relationship of the caregiver and recipient.** Both can be expected to react to stress and crises in the same ways they always have.

**Consider any situation that affects the caregiver or recipient.** Does the caregiver have family, work or retirement plans that will be limited by becoming a caregiver? What roles will those who are unable or unwilling to be the primary caregiver play?

**Establish ground rules before the move.** Decide how much, if any, the recipient will contribute toward household expenses and chores.

**Protect the caregiver’s right to a life of his or her own.** Giving up every enjoyable activity is giving up too much. The caregiver will be of little use to himself (or the recipient of care) if his entire life is sacrificed for that person.

**Take breaks from caregiving.** This is often the last thing caregivers allow themselves. That is a mistake. A daily routine of relief should be as much a part of the schedule as dispensing medication. It may be 10 minutes or two hours, but caregivers need to set aside time for time alone without the relative. Both will benefit from this.

**Take care of self.** Sacrificing physical or mental health will hasten the day when the caregiver can provide no care at all.

These considerations are very important as the decision to become a caregiver may affect many lives. Chances are good that the decisions made today will still be in effect months or even years from now.

## Conquering Conflict

Caregiving responsibilities often create conflicts with obligations to work or family. In addition, family members, friends, and neighbors may criticize the way the job is done. It is normal for the caregiver to experience the whole range of human emotions: guilt, anger, frustration, exhaustion, anxiety, fear, sadness, love, joy, and satisfaction from doing a good job.

On the other hand, the recipient must

give up things that have been part of a lifetime of experiences—home, furniture, mementos. He or she is asked to accept, all at once, a new setting with different meals, shopping, transportation, and social contacts. The new routine may include adjusting to one or more other people after years of living alone. The once proud, independent person may feel helpless, angry, confused and afraid.

As you prepare for these and other potential areas of personal conflict, ask the following questions:

What changes have occurred or will occur in the recipient's and my lifestyle? Will they mesh?

Will we have personality conflicts?

Will we be able to talk to one another, understand our differences, and be tolerant?

What if their way means only one dim light in the evening or the temperature

always set on 80 degrees?

Exactly what is important?

How will my spouse react to criticism?

How will I feel when I can no longer care for my loved one's needs?

Easy, absolute solutions are rarely found, especially when it comes to relationships. "Life is hard by the yard," the poet suggests. "But by the inch, it's a cinch."

Perhaps it's not a cinch. But as we work at the tangled knots day-by-day, our responsibility to loved ones becomes a little easier and clearer. In the emotion-packed situation of one generation caring for another, love and laughter play important roles. When there is room in the heart for an aged loved one, things have a way of working out. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** D. Ray Lewis joined the Board of Retirement in 1982. He became President/CEO in 2005 after serving for several years as assistant director.

# Be a kid again.

2011 Deep South Tournament  
Dothan National Golf Course

**March 23-25**



The Deep South Golf Tournament is a 54-hole, three-day, two-man scramble sponsored by Master's Men. A bargain at \$325 (\$300 for Master's Men members), the fee includes green and cart fees, three breakfasts, two dinners, and three nights of lodging. Don't miss this chance to enjoy three unforgettable days of fun, fellowship, and fast greens!

Reserve your spot today: (877) 767-8039 | [www.fwbmastersmen.org](http://www.fwbmastersmen.org)

Course information: [www.dothannational.com/golf.html](http://www.dothannational.com/golf.html)





**IF YOU COME  
FACE-TO-FACE  
WITH A GRIZZLY,  
HOW MUCH PROTECTION  
DO YOU WANT?**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** A 2004 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, John Brummitt is Chief Financial Officer for the FWB Board of Retirement.

*Are you really prepared for retirement?*

# Facing the GRIZZLY

BY JOHN BRUMMITT

## While it is not the same as facing down a grizzly bear

with a pocket knife, retirement is an animal that can do a great deal of damage to you and your family if you are not prepared. You wouldn't begin a major project at work or church without doing the necessary preparation work beforehand. Why then do we think retirement will just fall into place?

If you are not prepared, standing face-to-face with retirement is more like facing a giant grizzly than the endless vacation dream of our youth. If you don't prepare, you may never fully enjoy your retirement.

### PREPARED FOR THE INEVITABLE

You know retirement is coming. It usually doesn't sneak up on you. It may come more quickly than we expect, but we know it is on the way. Yet the majority of the "baby boomer" generation has not prepared financially to make that next step. The average retirement account for a boomer has a balance of less than \$60,000. While you may be beating the average, look at it this way: If you come face-to-face with a grizzly, how much protection do you want? A pocketknife? Or a suit of armor and a S.W.A.T. team?

While all of us don't have the means to build up vast amounts of retirement funds, we all have one very important tool—our brain. Sit down with your family and using the suggestions below, work out goals and plans for retirement. This should be done years in advance.

### PLAN OF ATTACK

*Create a budget.* As your retirement draws near, determine a budget that can be managed on your retirement income. Begin thinking about a retirement budget five years before you retire. Strive to pay down debts that

could drain your retirement income and limit the carefree days you wish to enjoy. The longer you wait to begin this process, the harder it will be to reach the retirement dream.

*Adjust Your Routine.* Routines are helpful. They regulate our activities and create order in our lives. In retirement, however, our established routines are no longer useful. Spouses who do not leave for work every morning must adjust to staying home. More than eight million American retirees list this process of adjustment as the number one difficulty in retirement once the thrill of retirement wears off.

*Find a hobby or activity* on which to focus your energy. This will help you avoid feelings of uselessness that can cause depression and strain family relationships.

### ARMED AND READY

While this article is not rocket science, it is important that preparation for retirement not be treated lightly. Retirement is not the end but the beginning of the rest of your life. Don't limp through your retirement years. Have the suit of armor and the S.W.A.T. team ready to back you up when you face the grizzly. **ONE**



## How Home Missionaries Meet New People



**THE TEE SHIRT READS, “CASUALLY SERIOUS.” SO, PEOPLE STOP AND ASK, “WHAT DOES ‘CASUALLY Serious’ mean?”** The church planter replies, “It means we have a church with a casual atmosphere, but we are *serious* about our faith.” What a creative way to introduce people to your church!

This summer and fall, several Free Will Baptist church planters moved to new cities to start new churches. One of their biggest challenges is meeting new people so they can impact their lives for Christ. How do you lead people to Christ or even get them to come to church if you don’t know anyone? If you face this same challenge, perhaps you can use some of the following ideas:

### A God Moment

The tee shirt described above is from Josh Bennett in Marana, Arizona. Here are three other ideas from Josh:

**Pray for opportunities.** Sometimes, I ask God to create a “God moment.” The very first day I prayed this, the cashier at Costco asked me—right out of the blue—if Jesus was God. We had a 10-minute conversation about it, and now I stop by Costco regularly to talk with him. I believe he will come to a point of salvation.

**Have a hobby** (golf, going to the park, fishing, etc). How can you get to know someone better than spending four hours on a golf course or the lake? I recently met a new friend on the golf course, and now we get together once or twice a week. We eat together, golf together, and cheer on each other’s sports teams.

**Develop a regular place to eat or get coffee.** We eat breakfast frequently at the same restaurant and have built good relationships through that. (If you do not tip well, skip this one.)

### The Number One Rule

Jeff Goodman is another member of the Marana, Arizona, team. I love his Number One Rule:

**Be around people is my Number One Rule.** I go to Starbucks, Wal-Mart, the library, and the park (with my daughter). She enjoys playing, and I always meet people. I joined a recreation league softball team, and my wife joined a mom’s group. If you need to meet people, you can’t just sit at home. I often do church work at Starbucks, and I am always ready to meet people, even if it interrupts what I am doing.

**Be a servant.** Perform random acts of kindness. (I sometimes buy gift cards for people, pay for their meal, or buy their child a small toy.) If somebody is moving in or out of our apartment complex, we offer to help them.

**Meet your neighbors and get to know them.** Take time to listen. People can tell if you really care, or if you are just trying to get them to visit your church. Invite people to a meal and games at your house.

### As You Are Going

Donnie Burke in Castle Rock, Colorado, tells about meeting new people:

Our family meets people with the “as you are going” technique. People often open their front door with their guard up, but when you meet them at your kids’ school or

in a sporting goods store, they are more receptive. We make it a point to talk to people wherever we go and let them see that we are normal people with normal needs, with a love for God and for others.

Here's how we met our contacts:

- Three families at yard sales
- One family at a hot dog kiosk (He is the owner.)
- Took brownies to a new neighbor
- Befriended two neighboring families
- Met a family on a motorcycle ride
- Met a family at a car show

## Movie Night

Barry Long, home missionary to Denver, Colorado, mentioned a few different ideas:

- Get involved with the kids' sporting activities.
- Invite friends and neighbors to a movie night at your house.

- Bake and give out cookies with invitations to an upcoming Bible study or special event. We went door-to-door and introduced ourselves as new to the neighborhood. After handing them the cookies, we invited them to a Bible study.

## Knock Doors

Jim Kilgore in Greenfield, California, suggests:

On July Fourth, we gave away bottles of water. We also distributed the Book of John and an invitation to our church. A family of five began attending our church from that first contact.

We hold Wednesday meetings in our home, beginning with a dinner. Some folks who wouldn't come to our church initially felt comfortable (and hungry) enough to come to our home.

We go door-to-door, meeting people and leaving information about the church. In my opinion, this is still the best way to meet folks.

These examples will help you understand how home missionaries are being creative in meeting people. Why is it so important to make these special efforts? As I write this, the new church in Marana just had seven people saved at their Bible study! **ONE**



**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Richard Atwood is director of missionary assistance for Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Learn more at [www.homemissions.net](http://www.homemissions.net).

# Honor your older elder.

Pastors spend a lifetime serving their congregations through good times and bad. Now, you have an opportunity to honor his selfless ministry.

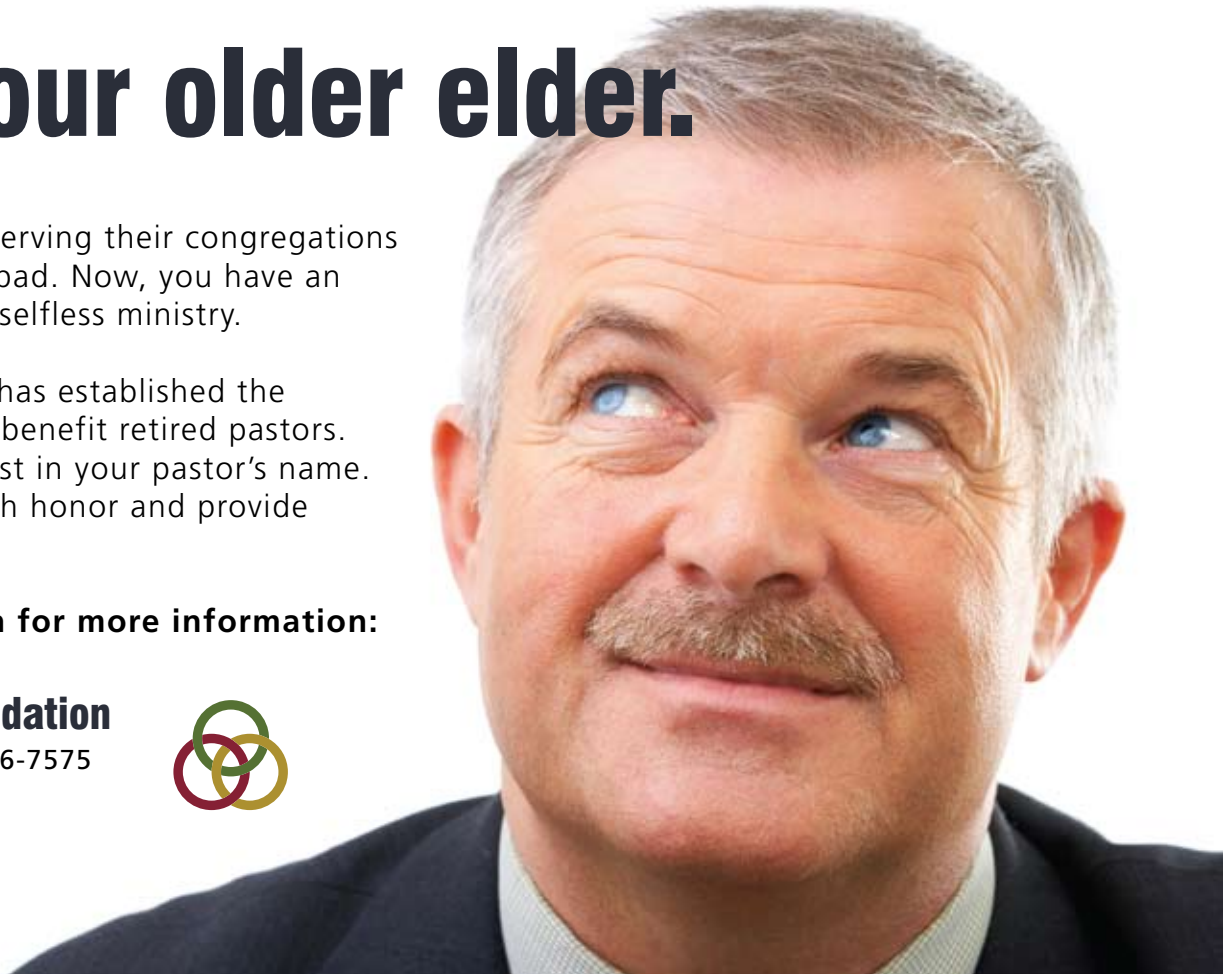
The Board of Retirement has established the Memorial Endowment to benefit retired pastors. Consider leaving a bequest in your pastor's name. This is a great way to both honor and provide for your older elder.

**Contact the Foundation for more information:**

**Free Will Baptist Foundation**

[www.FWBGifts.org](http://www.FWBGifts.org) | 877-336-7575

[foundation@nafwb.org](mailto:foundation@nafwb.org)



CHRIST IS MOVING AT CROSSPOINTE  
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH!

# Celebration at CrossPointe

BY DAVID SEXTON

## Moving Through Volunteers

It has been amazing to see the Lord open doors at CrossPointe. After looking at many buildings, God opened the doors for us to purchase a former funeral home with almost 9,000 square feet of space. The large building, however, required many renovations. New and old converts alike sacrificed their days and evenings to change this building into a place where we can reach “dead” souls by sharing eternal life through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We have seen many precious families come through the doors of CrossPointe, and they now call it their church home.

After a community day, free cookouts, and mailing 10,000 postcards, we celebrated our grand opening service on September 28, 2010.

## Moving Through First-Time Visitors

In Psalm 34:8, the Psalmist wrote, “O taste and see that the Lord is good.” God brought 202 souls through the doors of CrossPointe for our grand opening service. After much work and prayer, the Lord blessed us with 65 first-time guests and, most important, two salvation decisions.

Many of those guests have continued to return since that day. During the two years since its inception, CrossPointe has welcomed 587 first-

time visitors, not including out-of-town guests. During that same time, we have seen 42 souls come to know the Lord! The Lord has truly blessed.

## Moving Through the Hearts of Individuals

Someone recently asked, “What has been the greatest blessing since starting CrossPointe?” As I recalled the last two years, it did not take long to reply. It has been a tremendous blessing to see God move in the heart of an atheist who accepted Christ and now believes in the one true God. This man is faithful to serve wherever needed.

Another blessing was seeing God move in the hearts of a young family, a couple with three children, who gave their hearts to Christ. Now, the entire family is faithful and living for God. Yes, my reply was easy.

**The greatest blessing is seeing God move through the hearts and souls of people here at CrossPointe.** Please ask God to continue to bless the work in Suffolk, Virginia, that CrossPointe will be a place where God continues to move. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** David Sexton is a home missionary to Suffolk, Virginia. He and his wife Charity have four children: Austen, Devan, Chassity and Cailey. Learn more about CrossPointe at [www.crosspointesuf-folk.com](http://www.crosspointesuf-folk.com).



# LEADERPROFILE

by Ron Hunter Jr.

Leadership comes in all forms and sizes, but the results are the same. Leaders influence behavior and make a difference in people's lives.

Profiling leaders shows a diverse combination of traits, but impacting lives is always a common theme.



## TODD SMITH – SOUTH CAROLINA

Very few businesses today model solid Christian values like Chick-fil-A.® The people who own a Chick-fil-A® franchise are called operators. Todd Smith, an accounting major at Bob Jones University, was being mentored to become an operator and was well on his way. This mentoring was preparing him for customer service, leading people, and a business mindset—not for Chick-fil-A® but for full-time ministry. Todd felt God calling him to help people on a deeper spiritual level to impact eternity. In preparation for ministry he earned a B.A. in Bible and an M.A. in Pastoral Theology.

We often use hindsight to see God's intended purposes for our experiences. Todd Smith's entire life has been leading up to him being the executive secretary of South Carolina Free Will Baptists. Growing up in North Carolina, his godly parents were very involved in his life. His mom worked at the Christian school he attended, and his dad, who is a deacon, taught him to be a student of the Word and how to win people to Christ.

Today, family continues to be Todd's priority. His wife Teresa works part time in the South Carolina Free Will Baptist State Office and homeschools their children. Their family enjoys visiting historic places together. Todd and Teresa have always made a yearly vacation with their children a priority.

**Todd Smith you are a great leader!** ONE

### Who were your early influencers?

Phillip Smith, dad.  
Sigbee Dilda, former pastor who is now with the Lord.  
Donnie Gates, teen class teacher.  
Donnie Miles, youth camp director.

### Who is your favorite author?

Kent Hughes

### One-word descriptors for his kids:

Victoria (17) Tenderhearted  
Cameron (15) Humorous  
Hunter (13) Inventive

### Quiet Time Habits:

Reads leadership books and does character studies from the Bible.

### What are your top three books of all time?

21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership  
by John Maxwell  
Solomon Secrets by Robert Jeffress  
Scars and Stripes by Eugene McDaniel

## Impress Faith on Your Kids

by Mark Holmen

Are you looking for a solid resource to equip parents to disciple their kids at home?

Mark Holmen's book, *Impress Faith on Your Kids* (releases April 2011) will motivate parents to become active in the spiritual development of their kids as well as teach them "how" to engage with their children and teens at home.

Parents will love this book because they will see their families grow in their faith in Christ, and pastors will rejoice as they watch their families thrive both inside and outside of the church experience.

How can churches best use this groundbreaking book?

*Impress Faith on Your Kids* is designed for a *faith at home* campaign launch, a discipleship initiative, or even a parenting class. In this book, Mark helps parents and grandparents understand the important and critical nature of transferring faith from generation to generation, but he doesn't stop with vision. This brief read will mobilize dads and moms into action based on the practical, biblical insight of Deuteronomy 6:7.

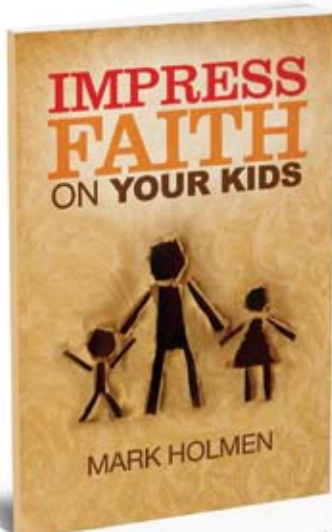
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# Why Authors Hear “NO” From Publishers

BY RON HUNTER JR.



Probably the only thing more difficult than writing a rejection letter is receiving a rejection letter. When rejection occurs, it does not automatically mean an author's material is bad. In publishing, a no is far more likely than a yes. Randall House receives around 300 submissions a year and publishes 16 titles. That's a five percent yes ratio. "No" is never personal. Here are some reasons why publishers say no to 95% of the submissions they receive.

**NO—the genre is over-saturated.** Television networks often produce an over-saturation of reality shows or courtroom dramas when everyone tries to copy a successful show. In publishing, over-saturation occurs in similar cycles with too many devotionals or leadership titles. A recent example is the 20 books published as a rebuttal to the *DaVinci Code*. One or two would have been sufficient, but 20 was an over-saturation.

**NO—the timing is wrong.** Look for windows of opportunity. For example, I have been looking for a work on the history of the English Bible because of the 2011 window. I want it released this year; not two years ago or next year. Why 2011? It is the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the King James Bible. The timing provides a window of opportunity to promote all things "Bible" and books explaining how translations developed through history. A good concept becomes great when the timing is right.

**NO—try another publisher.** Simon and Schuster's ratio of saying "no" is much greater than ours. Works rejected by one publisher may fit another. Most books received numerous rejections before being published. With traditional publishers producing fewer titles, reducing the odds further, an author may opt to self-publish. If publishers tell you "no" and you believe in your message, you may need to invest in your own book.

**NO—this is not our genre.** Not every publisher releases books in all genres. Publishers have their niche. For example, Randall House no longer publishes fiction. We don't do poetry. The genre is too subjective. Purchase an annual writer's guide to select a publisher. You may want to pick several.

**NO—you are not an experienced author.** Some publishers only accept proposals from proven authors. This reduces their risk. Max Lucado is an easy "yes" because he has loyal customers. Publishers always examine author credibility. We do not need a marriage book written by someone

divorced four times or a leadership book from someone who has never led. While Randall House does publish new authors, we look closely at the credibility factor.

**NO—you do not have a significant venue to promote the book.** Publishers look closely at author's venues for self-promotion such as a large church, speaking circuit, or influence. In recent years, there has been a trend to publish books written by radio and TV personalities. Their influence builds higher potential for sales. The three legs of the publishing tripod are the author, the venue, and the intellectual property or idea. Unlike other publishers, Randall House takes risks on unpublished authors, but careful consideration is given in all other areas before saying yes.

**NO—your writing is not adequate.** Though closely related, writing is much harder than public speaking. Writing must communicate without gestures, facial expression, or audible inflections. Active verbs create more compelling stories than passive verbs. Authors often overcompensate by using too many adjectives or adverbs. Sadly, to protect feelings, friends have not been completely objective when evaluating the potential of ambitious authors.

**NO—the cost is greater than the return.** We have rejected great books with excellent content because the cost to bring them to market would be greater than potential sales. At the end of the day, it is about stewardship. We cannot ignore books sold versus the cost to publish them. People think of printing costs but rarely consider editorial, ghostwriting, design, printing, sales, and marketing costs.

**NO—you did not submit the work in proposal form.** Every publisher provides a guide for how they want material submitted. If you want them to pay attention, use their format. Proposals require you to do competitive research with an honest evaluation of the market and your book. Publishers do not have the time or personnel to read every manuscript word for word. To strengthen your submission, use the book proposal guide found on our website and put in the hard work to honestly answer the questions.

**Avoid publishers' pet peeves.** Understand original thought. Quoting large block text is neither original nor acceptable unless compiling other works. Only thesis works quote large amounts of material. Publishers allow short quotes duly noted to compliment your writing but plagiarism is never acceptable and is considered thievery.

Your master's level or doctoral thesis is your baby birthed

after long, arduous labor pains. The odds of publishing your thesis are exponentially harder than a normal manuscript. A thesis generally takes an existing premise and works off other bodies of material requiring larger amounts of quoted text but contains very little original thought. A thesis typically reads at a level above the broad market consumer.

What I find most disheartening is when a potential author says, "There is nothing else in the market like this." I often name four or five bestselling books in that genre and ask if he or she has read any of them. If you do not read, you should not publish. If you have not read most of what is in your genre or topic of choice, how can you consider yourself an expert to author anything for others?

Do your research. Work up a great proposal. Publishers get hundreds of submissions, and it is not our job to triage the manuscripts—that is what proposals do. A thorough proposal represents your submission and determines if your sample chapters will be read.

## **"No" is never personal.**

### **Understanding Our Process**

Like all publishers, Randall House looks at similar issues. Our primary role preserves Free Will Baptist theology. Our frequent releases in the theological genre prove the cost of publishing against potential sales is not the deciding factor.

What is the process of submissions to Randall House? Download our book proposal guide at [www.randallhouse.com](http://www.randallhouse.com). Prepare a well-researched book proposal and submit it to our acquisitions editor. The editor reviews all proposals and at times pays review groups within our customer base to evaluate submitted works. Our internal publishing board made up of editors, sales, marketing, operations, and the publisher considers all the information before deciding what will or will not be published. The author and concept is presented to the Randall House Board of Directors for approval. At no time can one person reject a Free Will Baptist author.

We look at theology first, concept second, and then author and cost factors followed by timing. Randall House is a recognized, award-winning imprint with talented authors and growing sales. With that notoriety comes more submissions, and more submissions means more rejections. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Ron Hunter is director of Randall House Publications. He is co-author of *Toy Box Leadership*, a book about leadership lessons learned in childhood.

# BROWN

on green BY DAVID BROWN

## ESTATE TITHING

Tithing on your estate is the practice of giving a tithe on the estimated value of your estate. Two different methods could be used to do this. The most frequent is to make a bequest in your will. Your executor could choose to liquidate your estate and give 10% to the Lord's work, or he or she could choose a particular asset that is equal to 10% of the estate and transfer that asset to the chosen ministry. Some assets have higher tax consequences for heirs, making them strategic bequests.

Another way to tithe on your estate is to transfer cash or specific assets to fund a planned gift while you are still living. Making a gift this way carries many benefits for the donor such as a partial tax deduction or a lifetime income. Upon your death, the tithe principle will go to the Lord's work.

In either case, choose the gift that is most tax advantageous. Assets such as retirement accounts and IRA accounts have the highest tax liability to an heir, and therefore are the best assets to use for a bequest.

Highly appreciated assets are best to use for planned giving.

Your estate gift can be distributed in one of two ways. You can choose for the tithe of the estate to be a lump sum immediately available to the ministry. Perhaps a better choice is to direct the tithe into an endowment, which will make your gift perpetual until Jesus returns.

Endowments have their roots in the Old Testament. It is God's intention that His people become managers of the property He gives them. His law is, "live off the land, but do not consume it." Like the land of ancient Israel, endowment gifts are preserved so the principal is never consumed. While earnings are harvested to support the Lord's work, the original gift remains in place perpetually to earn income.

An endowment for your estate tithe gift enables you to continue giving to the Lord even after death. Remember, in addition to tithing on your income, you should give a tithe of your accumulated assets to the Lord's work. The Foundation can help with a free Wills Guide. You can contact us for information about endowments or a planned gift that can benefit you during your lifetime and Free Will Baptist ministries after you have gone to your reward. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** David Brown became director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation in 2007. Send your questions to David at david@nafwb.org. To learn how the Foundation can help you become a more effective giver, call 877-336-7575.



# NYC NEWS



## FWB National Youth Conference

July 17-20, 2011 – Charlotte, NC

[WWW.FWBNYC.COM](http://WWW.FWBNYC.COM)

### Speakers:

Sunday AM – **Charles Cook**, *Pastor, Cookeville FWB Church, Cookeville, TN*

Sunday PM – **David Mizelle**, *Pastor, First FWB Church, Bristol, VA*

Monday PM – **Sean Warren**, *Director of International Missions for General Baptists, MO*

Tuesday PM – **John Weaver**, *Missionary to Afghanistan*

## FWB Youth Worker Gathering to Meet at Youth Pastor Summit in Orlando and Forum11 at FWBBC.

The Youth Pastor Summit in Orlando is scheduled for February 28–March 1. The Free Will Baptist Youth Worker Gathering meets in conjunction with the YPS March 1-2. All youth workers are invited to join with us.

There will also be a FWB youth worker Gathering in conjunction with FORUM 11 at FWBBC, March 7-8. All youth pastors are invited to a Gathering dinner Tuesday evening at 5:00. Informal Gathering sessions will be planned for Wednesday, March 9.

**For more information on either event, contact Danny Conn at 800-877-7030 or email [danny.conn@randallhouse.com](mailto:danny.conn@randallhouse.com).**



randall house

### TO HELP CHURCHES MINISTER

to their pastors, Randall House will make a one percent donation to the pastor's Board of Retirement and Insurance retirement account on all D6 Curriculum purchased by the church each quarter.

*For more information, contact your Randall House Customer Service Representative: 800-877-7030.*

## NYC Buck-a-Week

What are you doing to change your world?

With a buck-a-week, you can help share the gospel around the world. Set aside one dollar each week for missions and bring it or send it to the National Youth Conference.

***Just \$1 a week can make a world of difference.***

*Home Missions project: Hispanic Seminary Scholarships  
International Missions project: Bible Study resources for Bulgaria*





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# Yes, Virginia, there IS an **ATTRITION CLAUSE.**

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The duties of the executive secretary are outlined in the Free Will Baptist *Treatise*. The following appears under the heading *Arranging Annual Convention*: “He shall expedite the planning of the national convention program, enroll all ministers and delegates, print and distribute minutes, and investigate future sites for the annual sessions.”

The responsibility for arranging the annual convention has evolved into a formidable task. The Executive Office handles a mountain of details during the year leading up to this annual event. One major component of planning is arranging hotel accommodations for attendees. Over the years, the number of rooms we reserve has increased significantly.

In advance of the convention, we negotiate “blocks” of hotel rooms. The number is based on previous years, and for a number of years we have been able to project housing needs with a relatively high degree of accuracy.

In order for hotels to hold rooms for us, we are required to sign a legally binding contract that contains specific language detailing responsibilities and duties of both the hotel and the convention. One section of the contract is called the *attrition clause* and contains “wording that outlines potential damages or fees a party may be required to pay if it does not fulfill minimum commitments in the contract.”

## How Does an Attrition Clause Work?

Let’s say the convention reserves 100 rooms in a hotel. In order to protect itself from financial loss, that hotel’s attrition clause requires the convention to fill 80 of the 100 rooms blocked. If we fail to meet the contractual requirement, the hotel reserves the right to bill us for any unoccupied room under 80%.

Historically, the convention has met this requirement, at least until recently. Over the last two years we have paid attrition fees of more than \$36,000. Why? While a number of factors may contribute to the problem, the main reasons appear to be:

- **A bad economy.** Many convention attendees opt for more affordable hotels outside the room block. Room rates at downtown hotels, although not exorbitant, have resulted in sluggish sales.
- **Frustration over the reservation process.** On the day housing opens, hotels are slammed, and some people have a difficult time securing a room. Consequently, conventioners resort to overbooking rooms initially and later cancel the ones they do not need. Those cancelled rooms usually remain unsold. Other attendees

decide to avoid the hassle altogether and book rooms outside the block. Either way, at the end of the day we end up paying for empty rooms. While this may sound like an oversimplification, this is the challenge we face.

## What Is the Remedy?

Obviously, no solution is guaranteed; however, we are taking strategic steps to address these challenges. These steps include:

- **Negotiating lower attrition clauses.** Although it is difficult to convince a hotel where we already have a contract to lower the attrition penalty, we have had some success negotiating lower percentages in future sites.
- **Downsizing room blocks.** Under normal circumstances, liability is reduced when we have a smaller room block. If attendees continue to book rooms in outlying, limited-service properties, we will be forced to reserve fewer full-service hotel rooms in the downtown area. This will make it more challenging to find a hotel room near the convention center.
- **Changing the opening date for housing.** A significant number of states hold their Bible and Music and Arts competition after the first Monday of April. Therefore, this year housing will not open until **Monday, May 9, at 9:00 a.m. (CST)**. This should allow those attending the convention to know exactly how many rooms they need before they make reservations. Hopefully, this will reduce the number of cancellations.

## Why Is the Housing Block So Important?

While we understand the reasons for staying in less expensive, outlying hotels, let me explain why using rooms in the hotel block is important to the convention:

- **Convention center costs.** Revenue generated by convention hotels (usually located in close proximity to the convention center) helps drive the city's local economy. Consequently, some cities discount the rental cost of their convention facilities IF a significant number of downtown hotel rooms are occupied. This ultimately saves the convention money.
- **Meeting space.** Often, hotels provide complimentary meeting space (i.e. ballrooms) when we meet attrition requirements. As a result, rented meeting space in the convention center can be reduced. This saves the convention money.
- **Stewardship.** We are committed to planning a cost-effective meeting while creating a high quality convention experience for Free Will Baptists. Steps are being taken to cut costs and streamline the program for maximum results at minimal expense. Paying thousands of dollars for empty hotel rooms is not good stewardship.

Thank you for reading this article, considering the issues addressed, and doing your part to help. Join me in praying for a great convention in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**About the Writer:** Keith Burden is executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. To learn more about the convention, visit [www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org).

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# Important Convention News

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The readers of **ONE Magazine** usually find the convention Pre-registration Form and the Housing Information Form in the February-March issue of the magazine. This year, however, **there has been a change in the process.**

**Housing and pre-registration for the 2011 convention will open Monday, May 9, 2011, 9:00 a.m. CST (10:00 a.m. EST).** Forms will be available in the April-May issue of **ONE Magazine** and online at [www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org). Hotel reservations and pre-registration will close June 17, 2011.

**Read more about the changes at [www.onemag.org](http://www.onemag.org).**

# NEWS

## about the denomination

### 2010 Leadership Conference Meets in Nashville

**NASHVILLE, TN**—Free Will Baptist leaders from 21 states and two Canadian provinces gathered at Nashville Airport Marriott Hotel December 6-7 for the 2010 Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference. The annual event, which provides a meeting venue for denominational boards and agencies, is open to any Free Will Baptist minister or leader. The two-day meeting featured nightly worship services, a full slate of workshops, and free time for fellowship and networking. “I always look forward to this,” said one attendee. “I am challenged during the services and workshops and encouraged by the time I spend with friends and colleagues.”

The 2010 conference addressed the theme, “Helping the Hurting,” and featured North Carolina pastors Dr. Edward J. Moody, Jr. and Dr. Danny Dwyer. Moody pastors Tippet’s Chapel FWB Church and is a state and nationally certified counselor. Dwyer has pastored churches in five states

and currently serves at Cramerton FWB Church. He is a member of the Randall House Board.

On both Monday and Tuesday, Moody provided practical suggestions for caregivers and church leaders, drawing from the experiences of Elijah in 1 Kings 17-22. Dwyer took an in-depth look at the tragedy experienced by Job and what his life teaches about self, God, and others.

Other conference speakers included Tim Campbell (AR), Neil Gilliland (TN), William Smith (GA), and Wendell Walley (CA). These men led workshops addressing a variety of related topics from “Helping Hurting Pastors” to “Helping Those Hurting From Loss.” The workshops were well received, according to Conference Director Ryan Lewis. “In today’s society,” Lewis said, “people are desperate, with nowhere to turn. One of the best ways today’s church can minister to our culture is to meet people at the point of their need. This year’s conference prepared us to do this more effectively.” Nightly services featured music provided by Free Will Baptist Bible College, including performances by the College Choir and Rejoice, under the direction of Dr. James Stevens. Jan Clay of Indianapolis (IN) led congregational singing.

In addition to worship services and seminars, denominational officers and board members handled a lengthy slate of business. The Nominating Committee of the National Association of Free Will Baptists met to make recommendations for board and commission vacancies to be filled at the 2011 convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. Todd Smith (SC) chairs the seven-person committee.

Other national boards and committees met in conjunction with the conference, including the Executive Committee, Board of Retirement, Home Missions Board, International Missions Board, Free Will Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees, Board of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, Randall House Publications Board, and the Executive Committee of Women Nationally Active for Christ.

The 2011 Leadership Conference will meet December 5-6, at the Nashville Marriott Airport Hotel. The forum-styled conference will address the findings of a committee recently appointed to the task of promoting unity and cooperation across the denomination by helping churches respond to the cultural shifts that affect their congregations. ■



## Introducing Nominees for the Standing Boards and Commissions

**Antioch, TN**—The following are being nominated for board and commission positions to be filled in 2011 at the National Association of Free Will Baptists in Charlotte, North Carolina, according to Todd Smith, Nominating Committee chairman:

### 2011 Convention Election Schedule\*

#### Home Missions - 2017

**Bob Lewis** (TN) - (eligible for re-election)  
**Robert Thebeau** (MO) - (eligible for re-election)  
**Randy Wright** (AL) - (eligible for re-election)

#### Board of Retirement - 2017

**James Beasley** (SC) to replace Ron Barber  
 (ineligible for re-election)

*James W. Beasley is owner and president of St. James Properties, president of BHG Development, Sunbelt Investments, and Prime Properties, Inc. He and his wife Mary own two travel centers in Memphis, Tennessee, and previously owned four skilled-care nursing homes that they later sold to Clarendon Memorial Hospital in Manning, South Carolina. The 60-year-old South Carolina native serves on the National Headache Foundation Board and the Financial and Investment Committee of the Dr. Seymour Diamond Foundation. He is chairman of the Trustee Board of Horse Branch FWB Church in Turbeville, South Carolina.*

**Tim Hall** (KY) - (eligible for re-election)

**Danny Baer** (NC) to replace Milburn Wilson  
 (ineligible for re-election)

*Danny Baer has been a member of the staff and faculty at Southeastern FWB College since 1989. During his 21-year tenure, he has served as business manager, Bible and education professor, registrar, and most recently, academic dean. The Ohio native received a B.S. in Math Education from Ohio State University in 1975, a degree in Bible and Pastoral Training from Free Will Baptist College in 1977, an M.S. in Education Administration from Pensacola Christian College in 1994, and post-graduate degrees in Computer Technology in Education from Nova Southeastern University, culminating in a Ph.D. in 2004. Baer has pastored seven churches in Ohio, North Carolina, and Virginia, and served three years as principal and teacher at Gateway Christian School in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He and his wife Debra are members of White Oak FWB Church in Bailey, North Carolina*

#### Free Will Baptist Foundation - 2017

**Waymon Fields** (AL) - (eligible for re-election)  
**Mark Price** (OH) - (eligible for re-election)  
**Melvin Worthington** (NC) - (eligible for re-election)

#### Commission for Theological Integrity - 2016

**Paul Harrison** (TN) - (eligible for re-election)

#### Historical Commission - 2016

**Jeff Cockrell** (SC) - (eligible for re-election)

#### Media Commission - 2016

**Monte McKenzie** (GA) - (eligible for re-election)

#### Music Commission - 2016

**Donnie Burke** (CO) - (eligible for re-election).

#### Master's Men - 2017

**B.J. Morgan** (MO) - (eligible for re-election)

**Tom Harmon** (IL) to replace Mike Mounts  
 (ineligible for re-election)

*Tommy G. Harmon has been a member of the Rescue FWB Church for 50 years, and has served as a deacon at the church for more than 40 years. The Illinois native and veteran of the Vietnam War retired from the Illinois Department of Transportation. In addition to serving 16 years on the board of his local grade school, Harmon has served 15 years as a member of the Illinois Camp Board, five as its chairman. He is the chairman of the Illinois Master's Men Board and a member of the Illinois Executive Board. He has participated in various national Master's Men projects including four years on the Ridge Church project, two Build-a-House projects, and mission trips to Alaska, Hawaii, and Russia. Harmon was named Layman of the Year in 2009. He and his wife Jane live in Ewing, Illinois.*

**Cliff Donoho** (TN) to replace Ernie Taylor  
 (ineligible for re-election)

*Clifford D. Donoho pastors Rejoice FWB Church in Nashville, Tennessee, one of three home missions churches (Illinois, Iowa, and Tennessee) he has planted during more than 30 years in pastoral ministry. The Illinois native received a B.A. degree in Pre-Law from Western Illinois University in 1975, a B.A. degree in Pastoral Studies from Patriot University in 2000, and a M.A. in Evangelism and Missions from Patriot University in 2002. He served six years on the Illinois Home Missions Board, seven years on the Illinois Executive Board and was elected to the Tennessee State Mission Board in 2008. Donoho has been a member of the Master's Men Board since 2000 and was elected chairman in 2002. He currently serves as moderator of the Southern Cumberland District of the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists. He and his wife Kathy live in Antioch, Tennessee.*

#### General Officers

Moderator - **Tim York** (TN)  
 Assistant Moderator - **William Smith** (GA)  
 Clerk - **Randy Bryant** (AL)  
 Assistant Clerk - **Ernie Lewis** (IL)

\*Not electing: Free Will Baptist Bible College, International Missions, and Randall House Publications

# ONETOONE

## Praying for Your Pastor

KEITH BURDEN, CMP  
Executive Secretary  
National Association  
of Free Will Baptists



Photo: Mark Cowart



### THE PARSONAGE WAS ADJACENT TO THE CHURCH

property at my first pastorate. My commute to work was very convenient. As I recall, 48 attended my first Sunday service. I couldn't have been more proud if 480 had been present. Those folks still hold a very special place in my heart.

Most mornings as I walked to the church office, I was greeted by an elderly neighbor lady who lived across the street. Myrtle Shirley was a retired schoolteacher and a member of our church. Frequently, she reminded me that, like Daniel, she prayed three times each day. My name was on the list of those for whom she prayed.

During my brief tenure at the church, it experienced

remarkable growth. Even though I was young and inexperienced, I had enough sense to recognize it wasn't because of me! Success came because God blessed and because folks like Sister Myrtle prayed...a lot.

During this same period, I faced some extraordinary challenges as a "rookie" pastor that could (and probably should) have been my undoing. Only God knows how close I came to failing. Fortunately, like Peter, my church prayed. "But prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him" (Acts 12:5b).

More than 30 years have passed, and much has changed. Miss Shirley has long since gone to be with the Lord. My ministry has transitioned from the pastorate to denominational leadership. One thing, however, hasn't changed—my need for prayer.

Thankfully, faithful prayer warriors still intercede on my behalf. Regularly I receive cards, e-mails, and texts from friends assuring me of their prayers. These always seem to come at the most strategically helpful times. Frankly, I couldn't do what I do without them.

Jesus understood the importance of prayer. According to Luke 18:1, He once told a parable "to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." Paul echoed this sentiment in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 when he wrote, "Pray without ceasing."

Of all the activities in the church, none is more important or significant than prayer. I am convinced our denomination has an army of prayer warriors. They often mean the difference between victory and defeat in the local church.

Are you a prayer warrior? It doesn't require special training or equipment. All it takes is commitment and a willingness to get on your knees. For your pastor it could mean the difference between success and failure. Pray for your pastor! **ONE**



# World Missions Sunday is April 24, 2011

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