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The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2013

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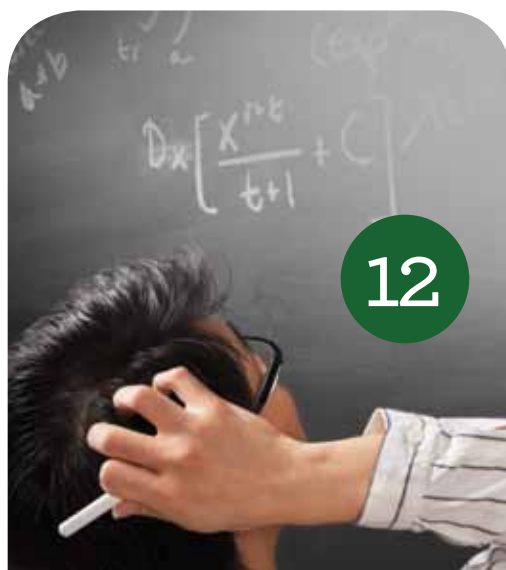
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First Glimpse >>>>

Wii Stewardship

“STUPID GAME!”

I slammed the remote to the sofa in frustration as Luigi™ (a Wii character, for those who might be unfamiliar) spun dizzily across the Mario-Kart™ racetrack, caromed against a wall, and came to rest facing traffic.

“Whoa! Whoa!” Luigi’s high-pitched, electronic voice screamed in fright and alarm as cars, motorcycles, mushrooms, turtle shells, and flying banana peels raced toward his stranded vehicle.

“Stupid game,” I muttered again, bending to retrieve the controller.

From the corner of my eye, I glimpsed my daughter’s horrified face and realized she was no longer playing. I froze. A flush of shame instantly replaced my anger. “I’m sorry, Peanut!” I blurted. “I shouldn’t have lost my temper.”

“It’s okay, Daddy,” she replied, but her face said otherwise.

“Do you want to start the game over?” I asked hopefully, anxious to make amends.

“No, I don’t want to play anymore. I’m going to my room for a while.” She disappeared from the living room without another word.

My heart sank.

“Well, you blew that one.” My wife’s dry tone broke the uneasy silence as she exercised her uncanny knack for pointing out the obvious.

She was right.

In a single moment, I erased a hundred positive examples of patience, grace, and godliness. Stupid game indeed!

Later that week, Paul’s words to Titus seemed to leap from the page. “Since an overseer manages God’s household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered...”

Ouch.

While Paul referred specifically to church leaders in this passage, his words are a solemn reminder for everyone—especially dads like me—that stewardship is far more than dropping a ten in the plate on Sunday, praying over meals,

or volunteering occasionally at the local soup kitchen. No, stewardship is a lifelong process of bringing “every thought captive,” of giving ourselves back to God, of breaking the vise-like grip this world has on our souls...of becoming blameless.

He put it another way in 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20: “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”

Sure, I know my life belongs to God. But living that way every moment? Now that’s a challenge beyond anything Nintendo™ can offer. **ONE**

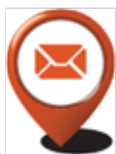
ERIC THOMSEN,
MANAGING EDITOR



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Letters: Have something to say?

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

Great article in December-January issue of *ONE Magazine* (“What Would Dad Think?” by Greg Ketteyman; about his dad’s take on the change from Free Will Baptist Bible College to Welch College). Brought back volumes of memories. Your Dad evoked laughter because of his insatiable humor, was loved because he was real, appreciated because of his faithfulness to the Lord and Free Will Baptists. My wife’s father (M.E. Underwood of Smithfield, North Carolina) was so taken to him that he made multiple gifts, something he was not known to do very often.

We lived in Nashville the first 15 or so years after college. Paul and I used the same barber. This was cause for concern because I feared what our barber might do with his scissors while belly laughing at Paul. *Jerry Ballard, via email*

Recently, I asked about getting a list of *ONE Magazine* subscribers in Connecticut. I look forward to seeing you soon and talking more about the great things God is doing in and through our denomination. *Cliff Arthur, via email*

FROM THE EDITOR: Cliff, while we don’t distribute the *ONE Magazine* mailing list, I am more than happy to share your exciting news:

Clifford and Lynn Arthur live in central Connecticut, and it is their burden to see a Free Will Baptist church started in their area. They have been praying and networking for several years and are determined to get the word out. If you or someone you know is hearing God’s call to Connecticut, contact the Arthurs: cliffordarthur@cox.net or 203-233-5712.

Thank you, Free Will Baptists, for having such a fine publication as *ONE Magazine*. The most untapped resource in our denomination is the laymen, and many fine articles drive home that point. It’s time we laymen take our pastors’ sermons into our everyday lives and apply the truths of the Scriptures to make that needed difference. *Tim Jordan, via email*



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THE WAMBSGANSS LESSON

by Dr. Garnett Reid

Bill Wambsganss snared Clarence Mitchell's line drive. The Cleveland second sacker then toed the bag to retire Pete Kilduff who was off the base, and tagged Otto Miller running from first. There it was—an unassisted triple play!

Too bad no cameras caught it for a Sports Center Play of the Day. Wambsganss pulled off the rare feat, and he did so—of all things—in the 1920 World Series against Brooklyn.

Triple plays are scarce in baseball. When they do happen, rarely does one player pull off such a defensive gem by himself.

All Believers

Yet Wambsganss' historic play raises an important point with regard to the nature and function of God's Church. Recent trends among many who study and write about the life and culture of the Church have stressed—rightly so—its communal nature. The Church is one body, the body of Christ, corporate in character, with members responsible for mutual nurture and fellowship.

Ephesians 4, for example, highlights this corporate identity with phrases such as “the unity of the Spirit” (verse

3), “one body” (verse 4), and other elements of the seven-fold oneness (verses 4-6); “building up the body of Christ” (verse 12); “the fullness of Christ” (verse 13); and “the whole body, joined and held together” (verse 16).

Each Believer

My concern here, however, is that the pendulum not swing too far in the direction of this corporate, communal view of the Church to neglect an equally biblical emphasis on *individual identity within the body*. *The unit thrives and grows only as each person thrives and grows*.

Even in the Ephesians 4 passage noted earlier, Paul emphasizes the significance of particular believers who comprise the Church. He mentions “grace given to each

one of us” (verse 7) and “when each part is working properly” (verse 16). God “arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose,” the Apostle teaches in 1 Corinthians 12:18.

A brief survey of the word *each* used by New Testament writers reveals this concern for individual Christians and their particular roles within the body.

Individual Gifts—The parable of the talents in Matthew 25:15 explains that though the servants have a common task—manage the property—individual amounts are suited to each individual servant. So, too, with spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12: “to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit . . . to one is given . . . to another,” and so on with eight total individual giftings (verses 8-10).



The Spirit “apportions to each one individually as he wills” (verse 11).

Individual Tasks—Each believer has unique work to do within the body. As with the landowner in Mark 13:34, Jesus puts us, His servants, in charge “each with his own work.” Let each one who builds on the Church’s foundation “take care how he builds upon it,” Paul cautions (1 Corinthians 3:10). Each believer must carry his own load (Galatians 6:5), since God will evaluate “each according to his works” (Romans 2:6).

Individual Choices—While the Church is one body in Christ, not everyone will live their lives exactly alike and make the same choices. Plenty of room exists for individual preferences on non-essential matters. “Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind,” counsels Paul

(Romans 14:5).

Individual Witness—According to the Lord, each tree is known by its fruit (Luke 6:44). Our lives give evidence of our hearts, so we try to “be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith” (Romans 1:12).

Individual Needs—The Jerusalem Church sold their property and gave the proceeds to the apostles, who distributed “to each as they had need” (Acts 4:35).

Individual Responsibility—While God calls me to love and strengthen my brothers and sisters, I answer to Him alone for my choices in my relationship to Him (Romans 14:12).

Individual Involvement—Each of us must invest in the work of God by nurturing other Christians (Romans 15:2)

and by giving to meet the needs of other Christians (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Individual Integrity—I am the only one who can live out my life in the Spirit through holiness (1 Thessalonians 4:4) and honesty (Ephesians 4:25).

Individual Faithfulness—The writer of Hebrews longs for “each of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end” (Hebrews 6:11). Like you, I must fan the flame of my commitment and stay faithful to Christ.

If Bill Wambsganss didn’t make the triple play at that place and in that moment, it doesn’t happen. If you don’t teach that lesson, share the gospel, make that visit, or disciple your family right now where you are, it likely won’t happen, either. **ONE**

Intersect: where the Bible meets life is a regular column written by Dr. Garnett Reid, a member of the Bible faculty at Welch College.

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ANNIE'S ANGELS

BY D. RAY LEWIS



Many people live a lifetime without realizing the impact they have on others. Recently, my family and I had the privilege of visiting Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Elm City, North Carolina, when one such individual was honored for a life well spent.

Her name was Annie. She was a 5' 4" stoop-shouldered little lady with nothing about her appearance that made her stand out in a crowd. As a matter of fact, she preferred to stay in the background. She was never comfortable being the center of attention.

Annie did not have an easy life. She was born April 12, 1923. Adopted at birth, she never learned anything about her birth parents or the circumstances that led to her adoption. She never lost the desire to know who her parents had been and why they gave her away.

Annie grew up in a poor, often abusive home. One winter when she was small, she did not have a coat to keep her warm, so her mother pieced a coat together from old scraps of material left from other sewing projects. Annie thought her "coat of many colors" was the prettiest thing she had ever seen. But the next morning when she boarded the school bus, the kids on the bus began laughing and making fun of her coat of many colors. Years later, every time she heard Dolly Parton sing "Coat of Many Colors" the tears would flow because she was reminded of her own painful childhood memories.

When she was 15, she married Edwin. Seven children were born to this union. Life was tough for this sharecropper family. The farms they worked were large when it came to getting the work done, but too small to provide a decent living for a family of nine. Often, there was little food; sometimes, none at all. Many times Annie would come in from the fields after working all day and prepare dinner for the family. She would tell them to go ahead and eat, saying, "I'm not hungry." Her children believed her then, but now know she must have been starving, sacrificing her own needs for those of her family.

Annie's marriage to Edwin ended in 1958. Six of the seven children were still at home and in school. Her only work experience was farm work, cotton mill labor, and caring for the home. She was determined, however, to take care of her children. Someone told her about an interior design shop that needed a seamstress. She applied for the job and after begging the owner to hire her was hired at a salary of \$25 a week.

She could not afford to ride the bus, so she walked two miles to and from work every day, no matter how hot or cold, no matter if the sun was shining, or if it was raining or snowing. But she took care of her family. Though she had to beg for the job, soon people were begging her to do their work because she did such beautiful handwork. Eventually, one of her window treatments ended up on the front cover of a well-known national magazine.

Annie was always a good, moral person, insisting that her children attend Sunday School and church. Since they didn't have a car, they walked to whatever church was nearest their home.

In 1969, after all seven children were married and living away, Annie started attending a small neighbor-

hood church where she committed her life to the Lord. With a fifth grade education and lack of religious training, it would have been easy for Annie just to attend and warm the pews, but even in those early days as a young Christian she assisted in the children's ministry. She called the children, "my little darlings."

In her later years, when she was no longer able to help in children's church and Sunday School classes and could no longer drive to visit the sick and shut-ins, she found another area of service. She became an encourager. Through the years she sent hundreds of cards of encouragement to people in her church and community.

On June 3, 2010, Annie passed away, leaving a gaping hole at the Oak Grove Church. The people she loved so dearly wanted to do something special to honor her. Even the little children that she loved on every Sunday wanted to do something for "Granny Rooks."

Shortly after her death, a dream be-

gan to come together for the good people of Oak Grove. They decided to build a playground for the children of the church and community and name it "Annie's Angels Playground." The children started raising money through a program called "Dollars for Darlings." The women's group also started raising funds. Soon, the entire church was involved in plans to build "Annie's Angels Playground."

On July 22, 2012, the dream became reality as a dedication service was held for the newly completed playground. Annie's great granddaughter and great great grandson were the first two children allowed into the playground to "test drive" all the wonderful equipment. One person after another stood and shared their stories of times in their lives when they needed a word of encouragement, or needed to know that someone was praying for them; they would go to their mailbox and find a card from Annie. A young father recalled moments when, as a young boy

Through the years she sent hundreds of cards of encouragement to people in her church and community.





needing direction in his life, he would go to the mailbox and find a card from “Granny” reminding him that God had great plans for his life, and encouraging him to seek God’s way. A young college student told about when she was a little girl, and her mother gave birth to twins. When she felt left out or neglected, Granny would pull her aside and tell her how special she was, reminding her that God loved her and that she loved her too.

Person after person stood either to read a card they had received from Annie or to share about how this little stoop-shouldered lady influenced their lives for good. It’s amazing that Annie never realized how deeply she impacted the lives of so many. Thank you, Oak Grove, for honoring this precious Christian woman.

Churches are filled with people like Annie. If we aren’t careful, we overlook them even though they have so much to offer. The “Annies” in your church may be your greatest prayer warriors, your greatest encouragers, and your greatest mentors for the younger generation—your greatest allies when troubles come. Be careful not to overlook these valuable servants of God because of their age or what you consider to be their limitations.

Annie was just an ordinary lady who, in her own quiet unassuming way, greatly impacted many lives. Some called her Annie, some called her Granny, some called her Sister Rooks. But to me, she was just Mom. **ONE**

About the Writer: D. Ray Lewis joined the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement in 1983. He became director in 2005 after serving for several years as assistant director.

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EXCEPTIONALLY ORDINARY

BY PAUL V. HARRISON

EXCEPTIONAL

Acts 19:11: “God did extraordinary miracles through Paul.”

On his third missionary journey, the Apostle Paul labored in Ephesus in Asia Minor. Packed with more than a quarter million people, the city reeked of idolatry. The Temple of Diana, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, attracted thousands who gazed at its 127 massive columns and spent great amounts of money on souvenirs and trinkets (see Acts 19), making the temple a great boon to the local economy.

In this setting, God chose to supplement Paul’s preaching with amazing miracles of healing and exorcism. These surely must have been exciting days as God, through Paul, plowed up the soil of unbelief and scattered the seeds of the gospel in this great city.

ORDINARY

We, however, are not the Apostle Paul, and *most of us* aren’t called to work miracles in idolatrous capitals of the world. For most, life does not consist of the exciting and dazzling, much less the miraculous. Ordinary is the rule, extraordinary the exception. The bulk of life is mundane, plain vanilla.

Recognizing this leads to a danger: day-after-day seemingly unimportant tasks often deceive us into labeling them

unimportant. The truth is, everything we do—if it’s done for God—is filled with significance. Heaven hallows the otherwise insignificant. Martin Luther wrote: “If God wants to do something extraordinary through you, he will call you and will point out opportunities. Avail yourself of them. If this does not happen, let everyone nevertheless rejoice that he is in a divine calling when he assumes and performs these ordinary duties of this life.”¹

EXCEPTIONALLY ORDINARY

Scripture repeatedly reveals God employing the ordinary to achieve his ends. Noah cut, sawed, and hammered many a day, and God used his carpentry to save the world. David herded sheep in preparation to write of the Great Shepherd. Even when there’s no apparent greatness in God’s goals for our work, it still sparkles with glory to Him.

Dorcas doesn’t rate on most Christian “who’s who” lists, but God recorded that she was always doing good and helping the poor (Acts 9:36). My guess is that most heavenly rewards will be given for ordinary earthly obedience, the day-to-day stuff we tend to think of little significance.

Therefore, don’t denigrate your routine duties but think of them as *exceptionally* ordinary. Washing dishes, changing diapers, paying bills, going to work, cutting the grass—these plain notes make the music of a life well lived for God. **ONE**

The STEWARDSHIP EQUATION

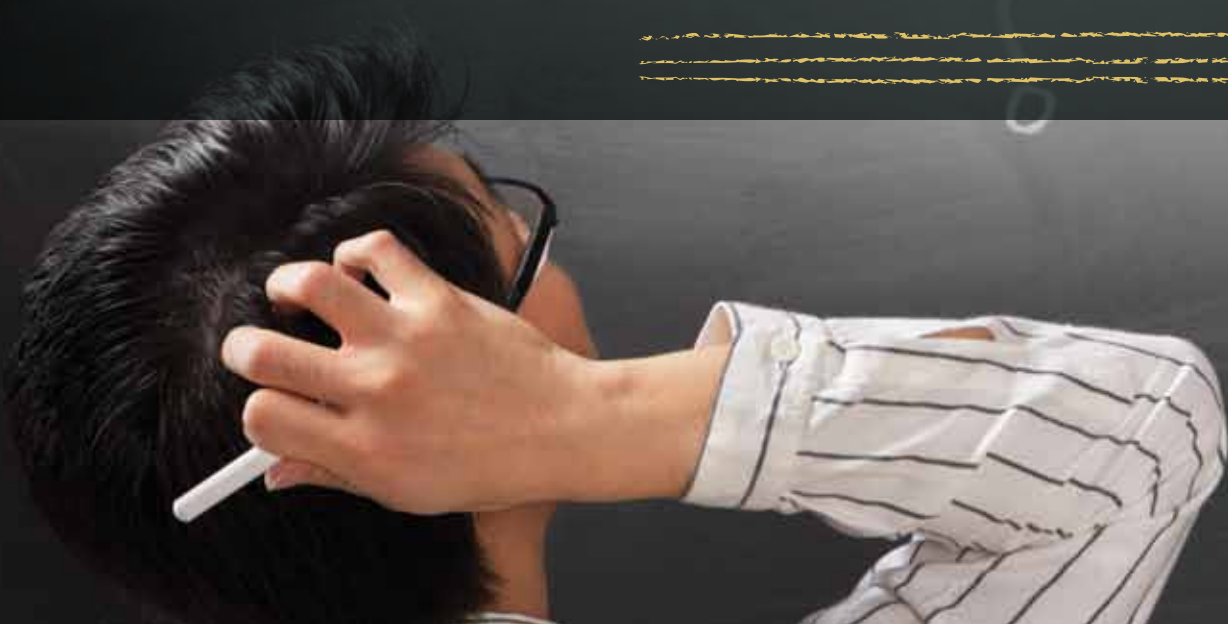
BY
JEFF
CATES

STEWARDSHIP.

The very mention of the term causes our mind to race. Most people assume that when you refer to stewardship, you are about to make a full frontal attack on their personal finances. While it is true that any person or church trying to be good stewards of the resources God has placed in their possession must address money, much more is involved in stewardship. Resources such as time, talent, spiritual gifts, and more must be added to the equation for biblical stewardship to be complete.

In reality, the easiest area of stewardship for most churches to tap is finances. We live in a culture that seems to believe if you throw enough money at something, it will be successful. Even within the church, we find a tendency to “pay someone else to do it.” But that does not get to the heart of true stewardship. God does not need our money to do His will. He does, however, need people willing to give...everything. We must see the big picture and invest all available resources to His work.

ALLOWING PEOPLE TO BE WHO THEY ARE
AND TO USE THEIR GIFTS, NO MATTER
HOW UNDERDEVELOPED, IS OFTEN THE
ONLY WAY YOU MOVE FORWARD.



I must admit that, as a pastor, teaching stewardship is hard work. We often see needs not being met, and our first instinct is to point those needs out to others in hopes of a good offering. But, if we want to teach it, we must practice good stewardship personally. When we give generously ourselves, others will follow our example.


In a mission church, you learn very quickly that *any* resource can be valuable in reaching your goals. Allowing people to be who they are and to use their gifts, no matter how underdeveloped, is often the only way you move forward. You learn to reevaluate what is *really* important in contrast to what we *think* is important. Good stewardship of people, programs, outreach, benevolence, finances, and facilities—total stewardship—is what marks a successful ministry.

For example, when we designed our building, we decided to make it user friendly. That sounds reasonable. We all want to be good stewards of our facilities. But when an early snowstorm moved our anniversary celebration inside, we faced a stewardship question. A new convert had brought a

pony for the kids. He was utilizing the gifts and resources he had. So, we brought the pony ride inside.

Thankfully, concrete floors are easy to clean. We gained a family from that activity because they said, “Kids are more important to your church than the building.” You might not see it, but to me that was good stewardship.

Using *every* gift that people possess, be it cooking, cleaning, building, teaching, music, visiting, mowing, gardening, painting (and the list could go on) is the key to stewardship. When we are taught to give all of ourselves first, our finances will follow. When we offer to the Lord all that we are and all that we possess, it becomes obvious to even the most elementary of believers that God is faithful. He simply asks the same of us.

It is amazing how much the people of God have to offer. It is equally amazing how willing they are to give when they have a solid understanding of the stewardship equation. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Home Missionary Jeff Cates is planting a church in Canyon, Texas. Learn more at www.thecanyonchurch.com.

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SELF-STEWARDSHIP BY TOM JONES

"I WISH I HAD THE FAITH TO GO SOMEPLACE AND START A CHURCH!"

I HAVE HEARD THIS COMMENT SEVERAL TIMES FROM

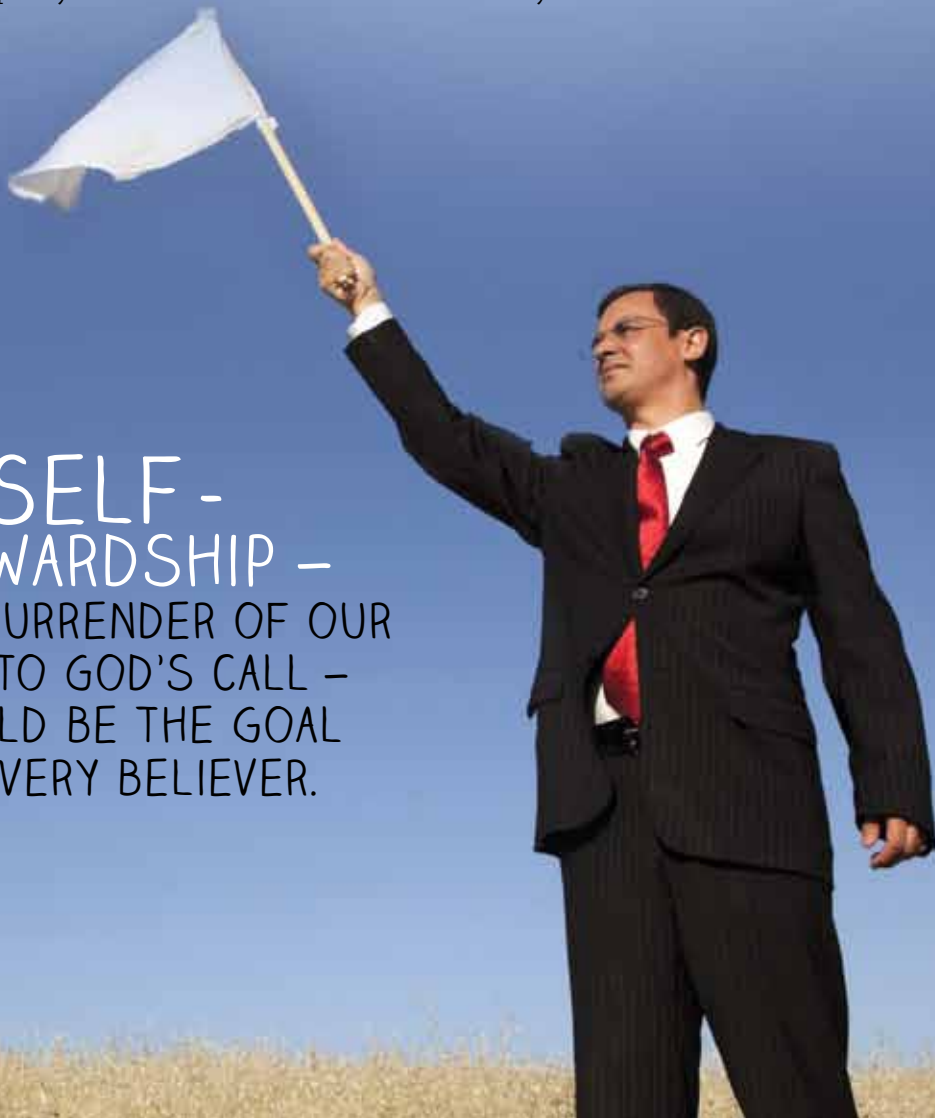
well-meaning people. The same thought goes through my mind each time. They are complimenting our faith, but they do not see the whole picture. The truth is that while faith is certainly involved in planting a church, it is only part of it. The primary issue is obedience.

Pam and I answered the call to be home missionaries many years ago when we were very young. We were introduced to church planting through the work of Roy Thomas, Trymon Messer, and John Gibbs, back when these men traveled for the Home Missions Department. When they held camp meetings, Pam and I would stand and stare at the map they had, appalled at the lack of churches in the mid-Atlantic and New England states. We knew then we were ready to go when the Lord gave us an indication that it was His timing.

My point is this, Pam and I didn't realize we had an option. We believed the Lord spoke, and His people responded. We didn't know Christians could tell God no! Perhaps I'm being a bit facetious, but we all know when God speaks we should be obedient. However, mankind has a long record of saying no to God.

Sometimes, it is easier to write a check or commit to pray for missionaries when we know God is asking more of us. Finances and prayer are a huge part of mission work, and both certainly fall under the heading of stewardship. However, self-stewardship—giving one's self completely to the will of God—is a critical need today. What do we do when God tells us to go?

SELF -
STEWARDSHIP -
TOTAL SURRENDER OF OUR
LIVES TO GOD'S CALL -
SHOULD BE THE GOAL
OF EVERY BELIEVER.



MY POINT IS THIS, PAM AND I DIDN'T REALIZE WE HAD AN OPTION. WE BELIEVED THE LORD SPOKE, AND HIS PEOPLE RESPONDED.

Consider several examples from Scripture of people who were obedient to God's leading. One who comes immediately to mind is Abraham in Genesis 12. God didn't even let Abraham know where he was going, yet obedience prompted him to pack his belongings and start on a journey that would have a profound impact on his life...and history. God had a plan that involved Abraham, and self-stewardship got him moving.

Consider Moses in Exodus 3. Those familiar with his story know he was reluctant to lead God's people out of slavery in Egypt. He tried to get out of it, but he eventually obeyed, fulfilling God's plan and facing down Pharaoh, the most powerful ruler in the world.

Gideon shows what can happen when an ordinary person chooses to be obedient. God wanted to free His people from the Midianites, and He chose Gideon to be the leader of the resistance. After some assurance from God, the reluctant

Gideon allowed God to use him to carry out His plan.

Jonah provides a prime example of how difficult life can get when we choose to tell God no. When we ignore or directly disobey God's will, we will soon find something missing, and sometimes the path will become very difficult. This often leads to disenchantment, delusion, and discouragement.

What do we learn from these biblical examples? What does their obedience teach us? Self-stewardship—total surrender of our lives to God's call—should be the goal of every believer. God's plan must be carried out, and we should be willing to do our part. Sometimes, that involves leaving our comfort zone and putting everything—children, grandchildren, careers—in His hands and leaving it there. As John the Baptist said of Jesus, "He must increase, but I must decrease!"

Will you obey God's call today? ONE

ABOUT THE WRITER: Veteran missionaries Tom Jones and his wife Pamela are planting a church in Greensburg, PA. Learn more at www.keystonefwb.org.

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The Caregiving Conundrum

By Sarah Fletcher

A troubling diagnosis.
Continuing decline.
Mounting family tension.
Lengthy conversations.
Hard decisions.

This progression sounds strikingly familiar to more than 65.7 million Americans currently involved in caregiving. Of this number, 36% provide care for a parent.¹ For believers, parent care seems a given. After all, “Honor thy father and thy mother” is one of the Ten Commandments. Jesus Himself condemned the Pharisees for skirting parental care and set the example by designating John as “son” to His mother Mary prior to His death on the cross. Yet Jesus also calls us all to love Him supremely—even more than family—to deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow Him.

The Distance Dilemma

How do we balance these teachings? Does one command trump the other? And what if the parent lives half a world away? What happens when the potential caregiver is also a career missionary? To remain on the field, obeying Christ’s Commission or return home, obeying God’s Commandment—for centuries, missionaries have grappled with this dilemma.

Debbie Griffin, Free Will Baptist missionary to Japan, faced this quandary in 2011 when her mother, diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease, experienced a series of seizures and could live alone no longer. Subsequent falls, episodes of dementia, hospitalizations, and a steady health decline now require around-the-clock care.

Debbie chose to return home, resigning from Free Will Baptist International Missions (FWBIM) that same year, exchanging her missionary mantel for a caregiver’s cloak. She says, “As an only daughter, I felt I was better qualified than my

brothers to care for Mama. I had promised her from the beginning, that if she ever needed care I would come home.” Debbie believes, “It is as important to obey the command to honor your Father and Mother as it is to obey the command to go into all the world.”

To her family, this choice seemed obvious. Debbie feels they would have been disappointed had she not returned home. Within her larger family of faith, support for her decision has been surprisingly encouraging. She notes, “Several people from the Free Will Baptist family voiced their appreciation for my willingness to care for my mother, and I have been blessed by the outpouring of love and support from our church family.”

After 26 years away, she considers time with her mother a blessing as well. However, no caregiving experience comes without challenges. For Debbie, the loss of freedom has proven hardest. “As a single person, I could go and do as I pleased. Now I can’t leave the house for any reason unless I find someone to care for Mama while I’m gone.”

Choosing to Stay

Another missionary couple’s caregiving experience took them down a different path. “It is a decision you hope you never have to make, but we had to make it, and many others do, as well. You know the call of the Lord on your life; you equally know His call to honor your parents and help care for them as needed. Neither one cancels the other,” writes one Free Will Baptist missionary wife. “In our case, we were able to continue serving the Lord overseas as missionaries, although each time we returned to the USA, we knew my father-in-law might not recognize us because of his worsening dementia.”

“Several truths sustained us. First of all, my husband’s mother, sisters, brother-in-law, and nephews were handling my father-in-law’s care with such dignity and strength. Many people who saw him reg-

ularly did not even know he had dementia until closer to the end of his life. The family supported us wholeheartedly and never even hinted of us resigning to help. Carrying our share of the precious family burden to honor him was part of their sacrifice of worship to the Lord and participation in our ministry. If their need had been different, our decision would probably have changed.”



As with most caregivers, finding time for personal needs—little things like scheduling doctor’s appointments or haircuts—became difficult.

“My husband never forgot that he and his sisters were reared to find their place in the Kingdom work and do it. His dad would have been disturbed, in lucid moments, to think his son had left the mission field to help care for him. His mother fervently held this view, too. His father had lived a full life of service and was ready to meet the Lord.”

“All of these things helped, but nothing softens the blow when you receive the call which says your loved one has passed on to Heaven, and you were not there to help walk him home. Jesus knew how difficult it would be, and so He comforts us with the story of missing the death of His dear friend Lazarus, and admonishes us to keep our hand on the plow and not look back. The Man of Sorrows meets us in our grief and turns our tear-stained faces away from the pain to the certain future of glad reunions in eternity with Him.”

Out of Africa

Alice Smith, longtime missionary to

Côte d’Ivoire, West Africa, also rose to the caregiving challenge when the needs of her mother became more than her sister Gloria could handle. A single missionary approaching retirement, Alice asked permission from FWBIM to return stateside several months early to assist in her mother’s care and visit supporting churches. A caregiver through the week, Alice spent weekends traveling through-

out her native state of West Virginia, expressing her gratitude and encouraging continued support for God’s work around the world. When her retirement became official at the end of July 2011, Alice took on the role of full-time caregiver until her mother’s death in September 2012.

How did she reach this decision? “I was on the field and began praying about what I should do. I certainly didn’t want to leave the field but became convinced that I had to . . . I was at peace that I was doing what the Lord wanted. It more or less fell my lot to become Mom’s primary caregiver. But I don’t think anyone knew or planned on my becoming practically homebound.”

Alice recalls, “On the field, I was pretty much free to come and go as I pleased. I was free to plan and schedule the things I wanted and needed to do. My life now revolved around my mom and her needs.”

As with most caregivers, finding time for personal needs—little things like scheduling doctor’s appointments or

haircuts—became difficult. From a ministry of constant contact with others to a season of isolation, seeing very few people, Alice experienced a major life change. “Caring for Mom was both fulfilling and challenging, but it can’t compare with how fulfilled I felt while ministering in Côte d’Ivoire. On the field, I loved to invite people in for dinner or to watch a DVD. With my caregiving responsibilities, there wasn’t time to do this. I never missed church services on the field. Here, I only got to go once a week or not at all. I hungered for fellowship with other Christians.”

In the midst of these struggles, God still gave Alice opportunities to witness, offer encouragement and give counsel to those He placed in her path, often at the grocery store or pharmacy.

Fellow missionaries Lynette Morgan and Debbie Anderson served as great encouragers for Alice, “probably

because [after 36 years on the field] they know me better than my own family.” Local hospice workers also lent encouragement and prayer support for difficult days.

“The difficulty of the task made me draw closer to the Lord. I couldn’t do this alone and I constantly called on Him to help me.”

Alice offers this advice to other missionaries considering parent care. “If at all possible,” Alice urges, “care for them in their home or your home. Our parents cared for us, now it is our turn to take care of them. This honors them.” She quickly adds, “But be assertive.”

Through experience, she’s learned the necessity and value of enlisting and scheduling others in the caregiving process. Alice also realizes caregiv-

ing looks different for each family. In her case, care facilities were not a viable option. “I feel sure that my mother would not have survived life in a nursing home.” Though circumstances expedited the process, coming home for retirement was already part of her plan.

Alice counts the caregiving season as a time of growth. “The difficulty of the task made me draw closer to the Lord. I couldn’t do this alone and I constantly called on Him to help me.” She also grew closer to her mother, whose keen memories of childhood and young adulthood prompted plenty of storytelling—the first time she’d ever talked about many of these things.

As is often the case with caregivers, Alice has no regrets. “My mother went to be with the Lord on September 14, 2012. Oh, how I miss her. My house is so big, quiet, and empty without her.

impressions

Remember the joys of making snow angels? Bundling up and bracing cold and wet for a momentary expression of creativity and beauty? Like many things in life, these impressions are fleeting, gone with the seasons.

WNAC’s Dr. Mary R. Wishart Scholarship helps young women enrolled in Free Will Baptist colleges make lasting impressions as they engage God-given gifts and creativity in ministry. Through this enduring legacy, together we share in the shaping of lives and witness eternal impressions of beauty—His hand at work in the lives of women.

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Still, I am so glad she has been set free from her suffering. And, though there were some very difficult days during the almost two years I cared for her, I thank the Lord for that privilege. My mother never put her needs before the needs of her children. During the months of caring for Mom, the Lord brought me to the place where I was able to put aside my desires and needs and give myself fully to meeting Mom's needs. I thank Him and praise Him for bringing me to the point of surrender."

A Growing Challenge

Returning home to care for parents is still a missionary road less traveled. According to a recent World Evangelical Fellowship mission study, roughly three percent of returning missionaries listed elderly parents as their reason for leaving the field. TEAM missionary education specialist Karen A. Wrobbel, concludes, "Although the percentage is relatively small, the numbers represent real people who have faced a hard decision."

Extended lifespans and technological advances in communication now place this issue forefront. Caregiving issues will weigh heavier as the denominational mission force continues to age. This is especially true of missionary women, who often carry the burden in caregiving. As missionaries rethink the options, perhaps we should begin asking not only, "How can we help?" but also, "Who will take their place?" **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Sarah Fletcher serves as editor/designer of WNAC's Treasure Study Guide and other WNAC publications. She experienced the challenges of caregiving firsthand while caring for her mother-in-law and father-in-law in her home for several years. For more resources, visit: www.wnac.org

¹ National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP, Caregiving in the U.S., Bethesda, MD; National Alliance for Caregiving, and Washington, DC: AARP, 2009. National Center on Caregiving, Family Caregiver Alliance: www.caregiver.org.

How Can We Help?

For those who return home:

- 1. Visit.** Caregivers often feel forgotten. This is especially true of missionaries—people-oriented in ministry, now isolated by caregiving.
- 2. Provide respite.** Give caregivers a break for a few hours—enough time to schedule those necessities of life like doctor's appointments and car repairs.
- 3. Send care packages.** Fill a basket or container with personal items and little luxuries often foregone or overlooked in the demands of caregiving.
- 4. Look for opportunities to supply needs.**
- 5. Arrange time away.** For many caregivers, it takes at least a couple days away before they begin to feel relieved of the constant burden.
- 6. Pray for strength.** Caregiving takes its toll on the best of individuals. Ask God to give missionary caregivers added strength and good health to shoulder this responsibility.

For those who stay on the field:

- 1. Bring them home.** Supply money and/or arrange a personal trip home solely for attending to needs and visiting family.
- 2. Work through a local church** to ascertain and meet the needs of the missionary's parents.

For all who care:

- 1. Extend grace.** Whatever caregiving route a missionary takes, know these challenges will alter schedules and productivity.
- 2. Provide resources.** Daily devotional books for caregivers or other helpful publications written with caregivers in mind make great gifts.
- 3. Encourage.** Everyone needs words of encouragement. Cards or handwritten notes can change a caregiver's outlook and keep a missionary fresh on the field midst conflict at home.

Who Will Take Their Place?

Missionary: Debbie Griffin

Home: Colquitt, Georgia

Place of Service: Hokkaido, Japan (one term in Tokyo)

Ministry focus: English classes, women's ministry

Years on field: 26

Calling: While a student at FWBBC (Welch College), God gripped my heart with how unfair it is that although I can't remember a time when I didn't know about God's love and sacrifice for me, there are millions of people who have never had an opportunity to hear even once.

Missionary: Alice Smith

Home: Winifrede, West Virginia

Place of Service: Côte d'Ivoire (24 years in Agnibilekrou, also Doropo and Bondoukou)

Ministry focus: nursing, CHE (community health education), women's ministry, children's ministry, Bible clubs in public schools, helped organize the Ivorian Association of FWB Women Active for Christ: Femmes de la Bonne Nouvelle (The Women of the Good News).

Years on field: 34

Calling: Through my consistent reading of God's Word, I became convinced that the Lord wanted me to serve Him in a foreign land. I worked in a Christian physician's office to put myself through college. After graduation, I spent nine weeks in Côte d'Ivoire as a summer missionary, where the Lord confirmed my call to overseas missionary service.

Help for balancing work and ministry...

JUGGLING THE DISHES

By Marcus A. Brewer

Bivocational ministers often find themselves struggling to keep everything moving, much like a circus performer juggling plates, cups, and dishes. It takes everything he has to keep things from crashing down around him.

Usually, when we talk about bivocational ministers, we refer to pastors who also hold a second job outside the church. While that description certainly applies, my perspective is somewhat different. In addition to my full-time secular job and my responsibilities at my local church, I am moderator and state office coordinator for the Texas State Association, a title referred to in many states as “promotional man.”

In addition, I grew up in a household where my dad served (and continues to serve) as clerk for the Kansas State Association in addition to his full-time job and local church duties. As a result, I have been “juggling the dishes” all my life. It’s tough! Bivocational ministry presents unique challenges and opportunities, and requires careful strategies for success.

Organize and Prioritize

People often ask, “How do you get it all done?” Honestly, I don’t know, except that the Lord provides the means and abilities, and I rely on others for help (more on that later). But it also helps to have a clear understanding of what needs to be done and what it will take to do it. Without organization, it will be difficult to complete any of your responsibilities. After all, you can only be in one place at one time.

For example, in the first eight months of 2012, I traveled over 30,000 miles to all four continental time zones, mostly on work trips for my secular job. Yet, I still had to keep up with church and district reports, directory updates, future meeting plans, and weekly local church duties. With

that many things to do, I have learned it is critical to set priorities, to determine what needs to be done first and what can be done later. Otherwise, you will “spin your wheels” trying to do everything at once, or you will find yourself overwhelmed, and nothing will get done. Once you identify deadlines and priorities, you can focus your efforts on doing first what needs to be done first.

Home Cooking

In the hustle and bustle of trying to keep everyone else satisfied, it is easy to forget about responsibilities at home. For those who are married with children, you must make time for their needs. A minister is also a minister to his own home. For a single guy like me, the personal interaction is not as difficult, but I am still required to take care of household tasks and maintenance like mowing the lawn and servicing the car. Daily home responsibilities may not be as “glamorous” as ministry, but are just as necessary.

Recharged Batteries

Take time to enjoy yourself. Whether it’s watching a ballgame, enjoying a good book (and not a study help for a sermon), or spending time on a hobby—taking time out allows you to recharge mentally as well as physically. Recreation needs to be balanced with priorities and deadlines, but you need a break to refocus from time to time.

Use unique opportunities to your advantage. When I travel, I visit other Free Will Baptist churches when the schedule permits. This allows me to visit old friends and make new ones across the country. These relationships are always refreshing.

Recharging your batteries includes attention to your physical health. If you don’t exercise regularly, rest well, and consult a doctor regularly, you won’t be very effective at ministering to others in the long run. Taking time to rest



doesn't always mean your battery level will recharge to 100%, but you won't find yourself operating on empty either.

Get Real

You might as well face it. Some good things—perhaps even important things—won't get done on time. You may come up with great, new ministry ideas, but even good ideas require time. Even small tasks add up in the schedule.

When our church first installed a video projection system in 2005, I began creating PowerPoint slides for every song in the *Rejoice!* hymnal. Seven years later, I am only to the 500s. While completing a set of slides takes only a few minutes, it is time I can spend on other, more pressing tasks.

I am sometimes frustrated that I haven't yet finished this or other goals, but I put less important tasks aside for other

things requiring immediate attention. Ultimately, I will finish, but it often takes much longer than first anticipated.

Delegate, Delegate, Delegate

This is difficult for many people. They feel an obligation to meet responsibilities personally, or they subscribe to the "If you want something done right..." philosophy. While it is true that both reasons sometimes apply, in many cases, we would be far more effective if we train others to help accomplish the work. By doing so, we develop leadership skills in others and help them understand what it takes to operate a church or ministry. During my travels, I rely on a number of great people who fill in for me while I'm out of town.

Learn to identify people willing to teach Sunday School or Wednesday evening classes. Trust church members to care for

the facility. When you give someone a responsibility, don't come behind them and "fix things." It will stunt his or her growth as a leader. Instead, give blossoming leaders room to succeed...and to fail.

Delegating builds a sense of ownership and teamwork among those who help; they are personally invested in your success and vice-versa and will produce an attitude of willing service in the body of Christ.

Oom-pah!

Don't be afraid to break a plate occasionally. Despite our best efforts, things don't always go right, and a "dish" may hit the floor. Not long after accepting my position with the Texas State Association, I was in charge of making arrangements with a hotel to provide lodging for the annual state meeting.

A local pastor and I located a new hotel near the church that offered us a great rate. I considered the matter concluded. The hotel was so new, however, that construction wasn't completed in time for the meeting, and we received little advance notice. We quickly made alternate arrangements, and the rest of the meeting went off as scheduled in spite of those tense moments.

When things go wrong, we shouldn't spend too much time focusing on one "broken plate" and forget to keep the "rest of the dishes" in the air. We may need to enlist help to sweep up the broken pieces while we keep on juggling. We're human, and we can't control everything. When troubles come, keep doing the things we can control, and rest in God's sufficiency for the things we can't.

Ministry takes on numerous forms, but *every* aspect of ministry is important to the Kingdom of God. Whether you are a bivocational pastor, executive secretary of a state association, Sunday School teacher, or occasional volunteer, your ministry is important! I don't always accomplish everything I set out to do, but these principles I have learned along the way help me keep the plates in the air. I hope they will help you as you minister in the role God has given you. ONE

ABOUT THE WRITER: Marcus Brewer is moderator and state office coordinator for the Texas State Association. A member of Fellowship FWB Church in Bryan, Texas, he serves as worship leader, treasurer, Trustee Board chairman, and Sunday School teacher. In addition, he is an associate research engineer for the Texas A&M Transportation Institute. He recharges through photography, Major League Baseball, and cheering for Kansas Jayhawks men's basketball.

HOME MISSIONS WELCOMES NEW MISSIONARIES



Heath and Jamie Ferguson are planting a Free Will Baptist church in North Houston, Texas. Since 2001, the couple has served as Christian school teachers, associate pastor, lead pastor, and promotional director in Alabama, Mississippi, and North Carolina. Heath graduated from Southeastern FWB College with a degree in secondary education. The Fergusons have two children, Katelyn (2006) and Ashlyn (2011).

ANNOUNCING A CHANGE IN AREA OF MINISTRY

Brian and Melissa Lewis are joining Chad and Paula Kivette in Clarksville, Tennessee. Brian graduated from Welch College in 1999 with a degree in Pastoral Ministry and earned an Elementary Teaching Certificate in 2005. Melissa graduated in 1997 with an Associate's Degree in Business Administration. The couple served for ten years at Oaklawn FWB Church in Chapmansboro, Tennessee. They have two children, Camden (2003) and Rory (2006).





MINISTRY IN THE MINEFIELD

BY TERRY AUSTIN

Ministry in the military, like ministry anywhere, involves a complex network of systems and people. In order to be successful in our field of ministry, we must understand the culture around us if we hope to reach and understand its people.

Successful ministry requires more than understanding the culture. We must do our part to make the culture better if we hope to be an effective witness for Christ. This is where individual gifts and talents come into play. God has entrusted each of us with a calling, and with that calling, He has provided the necessary tools and abilities to be successful in the field we serve.

After giving my life to Jesus Christ and answering the call to preach, I began to prepare my heart and mind for the pastorate. During that early part of my life, I only saw limited areas of ministry for a preacher—serving as a pastor of a local church or serving as an evangelist. I did not fully understand how God called “some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teach-


ers” (Ephesians 4:11). I could not see myself fitting any other role in God’s service but pastor or evangelist. So, after fulfilling my initial military service obligation, I made the choice to attend Welch College.

While there, God worked through administrators, faculty, staff members, and Christian Service opportunities to open my eyes to many possible areas of ministry. I saw other committed Christians preparing and pursuing God’s will in various fields of service. They faithfully developed and used the gifts and talents they possessed. Obstacles in their paths turned into opportunities to grow, and academic challenges turned into a quest for knowledge. Those who did not give up became greater stewards of God’s blessings and candidates for even greater opportunities to accomplish God’s will in the field to which He called them.

For the last 22 years, the United States Army has been my field of ministry. It is the place where I believe God has called me, and He prepared and equipped me (and others like me) for the task. The chaplaincy was intimidating at first glance, but like Moses, Elijah, Paul, and John, God pre-

prepares individuals for what He has called them to do. Good stewards use the gifts God has given them to accomplish His will by lifting up Jesus Christ and seeking to be about our Father's business (Luke 2:49).

When we understand our field of ministry, learn the culture to which we are called, and use our gifts to reach that field, we become effective stewards of God's ministry. We can be sure we will make an impact, whether in the military, local church, or the workplace.

The Apostle Paul really understood ministry in difficult situations and learned to minister successfully in the most challenging fields. He once said he "became all things to all men" in order to reach them with the gospel of Christ (1 Corinthians 9:22). While this did not mean Paul compromised who he was or what he believed, it does mean that he understood the challenges he faced in ministry and successfully honored the Lord in each situation. Like the Apostle Paul, we all face challenges in ministry. Embrace the challenges as an opportunity to use the gifts and talents God has given us to serve the field he has given us. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: CH (COL) Terry W. Austin is IMCOM Command Chaplain at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX.



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What Free Will Baptists Can Learn From the Harvard Endowment

Before the latest financial crisis, the Harvard Endowment was worth around \$36 billion and produced a five percent payout to the university totaling around \$1.8 billion annually. This payout supports roughly 30% of the university's budget. The Harvard endowment is so large because they began emphasizing estate and legacy giving over 300 years ago. Free Will Baptists have a lot of catching up to do, but it is not far-fetched to believe that planned giving could have this type of impact on our ministries.

It is estimated there are 60,000 estates among Free Will Baptists. Statistics from the Federal Reserve suggest the average net worth of all Americans is a little over \$200,000. Many estates are depleted as health declines, so I am assuming half of that amount (\$100,000) to be the average final estate for families.

If every Free Will Baptist household tithed on their estate, it would produce \$600 million. All of these funds invested in an endowment would produce \$30 million annually for all of our ministries. Divert \$5 million of that to national and regional ministries and \$25 million to all of our churches. We would produce enough income to fund roughly 30% of every national ministry's gift budgets. The monies distributed to churches would support 10% of the average church budget.

The Foundation recently entered a partnership with Cornerstone Estate Planning to provide estate seminars to our churches. We will work in a limited geographic area initially, but ultimately want to make this service available to every Free Will Baptist church. We believe if Free Will Baptists are challenged to give estate gifts, they will respond and make a huge impact for churches and other ministries.

We may not have \$36 billion like Harvard, but we can have the same impact with fewer dollars. Please consider making an estate gift to Free Will Baptist ministries. Contact our office for more information. 

About the Writer: David Brown, CPA, 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.





THE SONS OF Korah

By David Brown

*“To the choirmaster. A maskil of the Sons of Korah”
(From the heading of Psalm 42).*

In 1999, Stephen Lebert wrote a book called *My Father’s Keeper*. It is a follow-up to his father’s 1959 book *For You Bear My Name*. In the original book, Lebert interviewed children of Nazi leaders to see how they were coping with their fathers’ legacy. The 1999 book updates those interviews after four decades.

The stories vary widely. Karl-Otto Saur, Jr., is the son of Karl-Otto Saur, Sr., deputy in the Armaments Ministry. His father was one of the men responsible for keeping Hitler’s war machine going “by any means necessary,” even forced labor that resulted in death.

Karl-Otto, Jr., eventually became a professor of journalism, and although a cynic, could be counted upon by his colleagues to come down on the side of right and justice. His complete rejection of his father’s philosophy is clear—even in his hairstyle. His father was always clean-shaven with close-cropped hair. In contrast, the son wears a flowing beard and long, unkempt hair.

Gudrun Himmler is the daughter of Heinrich Himmler, head of the SS and responsible for a multitude of reprehensible crimes. Gudrun adopted her father’s beliefs as her own, eventually heading up a social organization to support elderly Nazis.

Martin Bormann, Sr., head of the Nazi party, was one of the most vocal atheists in the movement. Yet, his son became a Roman Catholic missionary who later married and became a professor of theology.

Rudolf Hess was deputy Fuhrer, considered second in the line of Nazi power. His son Wolf-Rudiger Hess refused military service in 1959, saying he would not fight for the country that kept his father locked up. To this day, he is convinced his father was murdered in Spandau Prison.

These are the children of Nazi leaders who led the most terri-

ble assault of modern times during their attempt to overthrow western civilization. Four children. Four choices. Two rejected their fathers’ philosophy; two embraced them.

A Mysterious Rebellion

We find a similar biblical reference in the non-descript heading above Psalm 42. Who are the sons of Korah? And why is it important that we find them in the Book of Psalms?

Numbers 16 paints a vivid picture of a rebellion against Moses by Korah, Dathan, and Abiram not long after God condemned Israel to wander in the wilderness. Moses confronted the rebels, and God’s swift judgment followed. The passage provides the chilling details. “The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, with their households and all the people who belonged to Korah.”

In the middle of this dark story, however, we find a strange omission. Verse 27 recounts, “So they moved away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Dathan and Abiram had come out and were standing with their wives, children and little ones at the entrance to their tents.”

It says nothing, however, about the wife and children of Korah. Numbers 26:11 confirms the omission when it states, “The line of Korah, however, did not die out.” While God judged Korah and his cohorts, Korah’s wife and children evidently were spared. Many Bible scholars believe Psalms 42-49, 84, 85, 87, and 88 were written by descendents of this rebel leader, the “Sons of Korah.” How did they live down the terrible thing their father had done?

While we don’t have a book of interviews or a journalistic account of their lives, we do have their writing. The faith, the

heart of these men is obvious in the psalms they wrote.

Psalm 42:1 - *As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.*

Psalm 43:3 - *Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.*

Psalm 46:1 - *God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.*

Psalm 46:10 - *Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.*

Psalm 47:1 - *Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.*

Psalm 84:10 - *Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.*

Psalm 85:10 - *Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.*

This is just a sample of their “greatest hits”—12 beautiful psalms written under the inspiration of God by the sons, grandsons, and great grandsons of Korah, the man who led a rebellion against God. What lessons do we learn from this remarkable story?

God is glorified by using people we would not choose. We find this time and again in Scripture, from David the shepherd boy to Gideon cowering in the winepress; from small-town preacher Amos to Matthew, the conniving tax collector.

While humans look for folks who seem to have the right résumé, God looks for a willing heart. He doesn't care about backgrounds or qualifications. In 1 Corinthians 1:27, Paul reminded his readers that God chooses the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and the weak things to shame the strong.

Children are not held responsible for the sins of their fathers. Again, we find this throughout the historical accounts of 1 and 2 Samuel, the Kings and Chronicles. God blessed godly children of wicked kings even though their fathers were condemned. Still, it is important to note that children are often affected by the sins of their father, and consequences of sin sometimes linger for generations.

Life is not fair. Get over it. When things happen to us, even things over which we had no control, we can get bitter, or we can get better. We always control our attitudes and responses

to problems. No matter what we encounter in life, we can be confident God is with us, and we can trust Him to see us through the difficulty.

It's time to stop blaming others for things that are messed up in our lives. Through God's grace, we must get over it. Regardless of our parents' choices, we all make our own choice about how we want to live.

A Living Example

Consider the story of Opal's father—James Oscar Townsley. He was a descendent of one of the many Irishmen and women who immigrated to the United States in the years immediately following the Irish Potato Famine of the 1840s. As you might imagine, that many immigrants from one place in a relatively short period of time were not well received. They struggled to find work and faced intense discrimination. They had a reputation as brawlers—you know, “the fighting Irish”—and employers did not want them. Signs in shop windows screamed out, “Irish need not apply!”

Oscar Townsley was born into this hostile atmosphere. His mother died when he was very young. As a young boy, his father was shot in cold blood right in front of him. He never learned why. A peddler who watched the father die in Oscar's arms took the young boy and raised him.

Despite the fact that Oscar was abused for being Irish; despite the fact that he never knew his mother; despite the fact that his father was shot down in front of him; despite the fact that he was raised by a peddler—despite all the traumatic events that could have adversely affected his life, he grew up to become a loving, generous man.

His children took after Oscar. One son named Charles was always smiling and his nickname became “Happy.” Even when recounting a story about something bad that happened to him, he found humor in it and had everyone laughing before he finished.

Happy was that way because Oscar was that way. He also passed that good humor and happiness along to his daughter Opal, who, in turn passed it along to her family, including me. Today, my children Reese and Adra are happy, contented people as well, because they are my children, Opal's grandchildren, and—most important—Oscar's great-great-grandchildren.

My great-grandfather realized that God is glorified by using people we would not choose, that children are not held responsible for the sins of their fathers, and that life is not always fair... and he got over it! **ONE**

How God Will Fund GLOBAL EVANGELISM

BY MARK MCPEAK

When God exceeds your expectations, maybe He is trying to teach you something.

After several years of financial shortfalls and mounting losses, the International Missions family entered 2012 with an almost desperate hope that God would help us, even rescue us. In fall 2011, General Director Clint Morgan called for the denomination to fast and pray for God's intervention. In December, the board made the heart-wrenching decision to hold missionaries stateside until finances improved significantly. With low cash reserves and declining monthly income, it seemed we were facing a make-or-break year.

As we neared the end of 2012, we did so in awe. Most months were strong financially. We received several significant and extremely generous gifts (some from estates). A historic World Missions Offering in excess of \$1 million overwhelmed us. We had hoped to simply survive the year and see a few hopeful signs. Instead, we saw the beginnings of a financial turnaround.

Understanding we are not completely out of the woods financially, we move forward in efforts to fund the work of global evangelism. We do so having learned some important lessons from our time of difficulty—lessons we will apply in our strategies and tactics from this point forward.



Begin with prayer and dependence on the Lord.

Scripture makes it clear, as it relates to the His work, “Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it” (Psalm 127:1). We know God wants us to plan and work diligently, but our clever strategies and strenuous work come to nothing if God is not in the effort. When the International Missions family and our friends in the denomination cried out to God humbly for financial help, He responded. We fully believe God began to work in the hearts of Free Will Baptist people, where we cannot work. We believe the miracles we have seen this year are His response to our prayers for help.

Share the need and challenge people to be obedient.

Since it is His work, we can depend on Him to provide the resources to complete it. So, our plan is to share with God's people the needs for more workers and funds around the world. We will encourage them to pray, asking God what He wants them to do as their part in fulfilling His plan. The final challenge is for them simply to obey.

In 2012, the World Missions Offering taught us this lesson. We asked Free Will Baptist churches to sign up to participate in the offering. We did not set lofty monetary goals or tell churches what they should give. Rather, we

set a goal to sign up 650 churches.

We began to see God work. More and more churches signed up. We surpassed our goal, reaching 731 churches, including 20 from our mission fields. As we began to hear from churches, the stories were remarkably the same. In church after church, pastors and leaders told us they challenged their people—sometimes with a goal—to give as the Lord was leading them. Over and over, we heard stories of God showing up in amazing ways, helping them achieve more than they even hoped. Goals were surpassed. People were inspired. And, as the totals came rolling in, we could not believe what God had done.

Put your faith in God, but tie your camel tight.

If you have heard General Director


Clint Morgan speak, you have probably heard him share at least one African proverb. The one that applies to our funding plan is “Put your faith in God, but tie your camel tight.” As we trust God to do what only He can do, we then work as hard as we possibly can—doing what He has called us to do. We believe this is the strategy to which God has called us.

Regular monthly income is still the lifeblood of the Mission’s funding.

While we are incredibly thankful for the amazing 2012 WMO, and will push for another strong one in 2013, we must have ongoing monthly income. We are asking God to help us as we challenge each individual to make a monthly commitment and every church to add IM to its budget.

In 2012, more than two-thirds (77%) of our income is the result of regular monthly support.

We must work together to do more than ever before to reach the lost.

As the world experienced a global financial crisis, the need for the gospel did not decline. “Lostness” is ongoing. People still need the precious gift of the gospel. And God still calls missionaries to take the message to them. We are excited about the caliber of young people God is calling to go through International Missions, and we trust God to work through His people to support them. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mark McPeak is director of advancement for Free Will Baptist International Missions. Learn more about the World Missions Offering at www.fwbgo.com/wmo.



The World Missions Offering needs your participation.

Don't know where to start? Let us help you!

Visit FWBGO.com/wmo and register your church to participate. Download videos, bulletin inserts, stories, and other items. Order coin banks, offering envelopes, and more to help you lead your church to a record-setting WMO. Additionally,

Give a scriptural context. Some members may have a limited understanding of the need to take the gospel around the world. Recognizing every Christian's responsibility to share the truth of Jesus' grace may lead them to talk to their neighbors as well as send others to tell the nations.

Recruit a team. One person does not need to be responsible for everything. Engage a team to brainstorm ideas to promote the WMO in your church and to implement the best ideas.

Determine the scope. Will we just focus on a World Missions Offering? Will we have a month-long emphasis? Do we want to build up to emphasis month with monthly missions moments? Should we plan a missions banquet? What can we do in children's church? Questions like these will help you focus.

Promote. IM offers assistance in promoting the WMO. Order coin banks, WMO videos, offering envelopes and other supplies from us. Some are free; some have a small cost attached.

Pray. Bathe your World Missions Offering in prayer. God moves in hearts as His people pray. Consider participating in WNAC's PreEaster Week of Prayer for International Missions.

Encourage. Recognize your church's efforts to promote the offering. Praise them for their participation.

Evaluate. What went really well? What would you choose to do differently? How can we improve? Did we start planning early enough? How can we incorporate a missions emphasis throughout the year?

Contact us and let us know how we can help you!
www.fwbgo.com/wmo | 877-767-7736 | wmo@fwbgo.com

WMO STATUS UPDATES

FREE WILL BAPTISTS ARE A DIVERSE GROUP Our congregations are both rural and urban. Musical styles traverse Southern gospel to traditional hymns to contemporary worship. Some congregations struggle to pay a bi-vocational pastor, and others support large full-time staffs. Few churches look exactly the same, yet in 2012, over 700 of these unique, independent churches joined together to raise more than \$1 million for International Missions' World Missions Offering.

What thread unified these distinctive groups? The Great Commission. Christ's command to "take the gospel into all the world" seemed stymied as International Missions kept missionaries stateside due to massive financial concerns. Mission representatives determined to rally 650 churches to participate in the WMO. As the goal was reached and surpassed, expectation for a record-setting offering also rose. When all was said and done, the 2012 World Missions Offering totaled \$1,000,010,935.64.

Each participating church gave as God led. Some gave multiple thousands; others gave less than \$20. Yet, God took the unified effort and made it something much larger than any single church could do.

Forest Valley FWB Church, Springfield, Ohio, Pastor Del Wallace: \$1,909.33

Pastor Del Wallace put his 11-year-old daughter Macy in charge of the World Missions Offering for their congregation. Playing on her church family's competitive spirit, Macy organized a friendly competition with two teams: Team Ohio and Team Kentucky. Each team worked to bring home a win with the highest offering. Macy set a goal of \$1,000.

Macy said, "We saved change, had a movie night, and took up an offering on WMO Sunday." The Ohio team's bucket con-

tained an amazing \$929.38! The Kentucky team's bucket topped it with \$979.95. The teams raised a grand total of \$1,909.33 for the WMO. "My goal was \$1,000 so, as you can imagine," Macy wrote. "I was really, really, *really* happy. We hope many people hear about Jesus!!"

Faith FWB Church, Lubbock, Texas, Pastor Jackie Farmer: \$12,000

Faith FWB Church has always considered it important to support missionaries both prayerfully and financially. "When we

*In the days following the 2012 WMO, news of offerings large and small came to the office via text messages, email, phone calls, and our website. **These are some of the first received:***

TWITTER FEED...

Aaron Baldrige, Calvary, Columbus, GA... our offering for World Missions Offering today was \$1,405. Our goal was \$500 so we are truly rejoicing at the people's response.

John Gilliland... I wanted to report that our offering was \$750.00 and it is on its way to you.

Mark Price... \$4,172.42 was our total!

William Armstrong... The McArthur Free Will Baptist Church has sent \$266.81 to the World International Missions Coin Bank program.

Allen West... We took in \$2,499.56 yesterday for the world missions offering.

Cathy Logan... Our church and children of our church collected \$1,197.00 for WMO. I am so humbled by the chance this has given our children and adults to come together and push for the common cause of others knowing Christ.

Pastor Bill C. Pitts... Cross Pointe Free Will Baptist Church - \$1,000.00

Community Free Will Baptist, West Jefferson, Ohio... Total: \$1,461.00 - we are still counting coins... so total will be more!

heard that our missionaries couldn't return to their fields of service last winter, our hearts were broken," Pastor Jackie said. He began to preach missions messages, months in advance of the WMO. "We were able to come to grips with the fact that it was our ministry to help send missionaries out to preach the gospel and FWBIM was a venue to help us fulfill this goal," stated one church member.

People got on board and began to pray. The church held a "Taste of Missions" night, sampling foods from a variety of countries and watching the video clips from the missions department. The videos showed how lives have been changed throughout the world through the work of FWBIM.

Church members held a hog raffle with the theme "Going 'Whole Hog' for Missions." The children of the church collected money in their "Change the World" coin banks and presented them to the church on WMO day.

Pastor Farmer said, "Our church heard the Macedonian Call for help and responded. We now look at missions as our responsibility and FWBIM as a tool to help us fulfill the Great Commission."

Unity FWB Church, Greenville, North Carolina, Pastor Jeff Manning: \$67,226.47

Pastor Jeff Manning and his leadership team have led Unity in Greenville, North Carolina, to consistent giving to the World Missions Offering. This year, the congregation felt an urgency to help missionaries to return to their countries of service and responded even more readily than before.

Pastor Jeff says three factors motivate Unity's consistent, focused giving. First, everyone spends eternity somewhere. The WMO is about preventing people from spending eternity in Hell. Priorities are the second factor. Just as an individual's checkbook or bank statement reflects his personal priorities, a church's budget is reflective of the congregation's priorities. Unity's leadership feels strongly that their budget should reflect an overwhelming desire to get the gospel out. "It's not about us," Jeff says. "It's about them and Him." The third factor is God's glory. God is glorified when souls are saved.

"We don't do the WMO the same way every year," says Manning. "Some years, every penny of the offering on a designated Sunday goes to the WMO. Some years we set goals. We always have a monthly, budgeted amount in our church budget for International Missions. The WMO is above and beyond that." The urgency of helping missionaries return "home" led Unity to give more than \$65,000 in 2012.

The Japan Free Will Baptist Association of Churches, \$1,000

Each month, the pastors, teachers, and missionaries meet via SKYPE for meetings of the association in Japan. Each meeting includes a segment from the missionaries for any updates or Mission information. For several months, missionaries continued to highlight the Mission's financial needs and the goal of the WMO. The teachers/pastors meetings in March and April voted to give an offering for the WMO.

Pastor John Moran... WMO offerings = \$3,409.00 and counting.

Liberty in Vernon AL... offering was \$200

First FWB, Checotah, OK, **Larry Montgomery...** just wanted to report that our WMO offering was just over \$4,000.00. Our goal was \$2,000 so we actually doubled it. PTL!

Mt. Elon FWB Church, Pamplico, SC, **Pastor Mark Leonard...** WMO total \$1,735.00

Eddie Thomas, First FWB, Dickson, TN: We participated in the WMO, as we always do, with a goal of \$5,000.00. I am praising God that I can report to you that our offering came in at \$7,296.00. That is a record for us, and I thank God for the vision our people have for missions.

Richland FWB Church in Nashville, TN, raised \$943.25 for WMO.

Kenneth Eagleton... Just received word that the Ouro Verde Mission Church in Campinas, Brazil, took up an offering of R \$300.00 (US \$157.89) for WMO.

Pastor Russell Street, Woodstock Free Will Baptist, Woodstock, OH... We received an offering of \$203.00 on Sunday, April 29. We do not have our coin banks totaled yet; we will have that next week.

Eddy Simmons, Faith Fellowship, Matthews, NC... PTL!! We have received nearly \$2,000 for the WMO!! This is the first year that we have participated in quite a while. Our goal was \$1,500.

We at **Beatty FWB** Church took an offering of \$506.92.

Woodlawn FWB in Washington Court House, OH, total WMO was \$97.35.

New Castle, DE called to say they took up \$530 for the WMO.

News Around the World



Eagleton Named Regional Director

ANTIOCH, TN—The Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions voted to appoint Kenneth Eagleton as regional director for Latin America during the December 4-7, 2012, meeting. The position was vacated when Stan Bunch resigned from missionary service in Panama in February of this year to take on the role of executive director of the Missouri State Association.

Director of Field Operations Jeff Turnbough commended Eagleton to the board citing his extensive intercultural service in both Côte d’Ivoire and Brazil, love of preparing others to lead, and vast training in biblical, intercultural, and medical studies.

Initially appointed as associate medical missionaries to Côte d’Ivoire in 1984, the Eagletons evacuated from Côte d’Ivoire with other missionaries in October 2002 as a result of an attempted coup d’état on September 19, 2002, and the resulting civil war.

After 18 years of ministry in Côte d’Ivoire, in April 2003 Kenneth and Rejane received permission to transfer to Brazil. Kenneth is the son of Ken and Marvis Eagleton, pioneer missionaries to Brazil. His wife Rejane is Brazilian and was saved as a result of Free Will Baptist missionary work. She received her American citizenship earlier this year. Married for 37 years, the couple has four sons and four grandchildren.

Full article at fwbgo.com. ■



Panama Poised to Write New Chapter

ANTIOCH, TN—Director of Field Operations Jeff Turnbough enthusiastically endorsed Panamanians’ announcement in early October that they are ready to write the next chapter in the book of Free Will Baptist history in Panama. “We needed to work through a host of details and insure Mission personnel and Panamanian leaders were on the same page,” Jeff said, “but we are setting the stage for a strategic and historic changing of the guard in Panama.”

“Leadership in Panama is mature and capable,” affirmed Steve Lytle, tenured missionary to Panama. “We give thanks to God for his faithfulness and blessing on our united efforts over the past 50-plus years. It is a good time to work in Panama.”

In consultation with missionaries and Panamanian leaders, Mission leadership has agreed to keep missionaries in Panama until January 2015. According to General Director Clint Morgan, “At that time, during the annual national convention, the Mission will officially hand over the work to the national church.”

Turnbough emphasized, “This is a new chapter in our on-going relationship with the Panamanian church, not the end of the book. We will return, at their request, to teach in the seminary and help with specific projects. We look forward to partnering with them to send workers to unreached peoples.”

Full article at fwbgo.com. ■

Encouraging Year-End Board Meeting

Antioch, TN—The Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions met December 4-7, 2012, at the National Office Building in Antioch, Tennessee. Throughout the three-day session the board heard reports from the various departments, acted on proposals, and conducted general business.

According to General Director Clint Morgan, “The board meeting this year was extraordinarily encouraging. We are truly privileged to have board members of this caliber. Each item on the agenda was handled with open hearts and minds, seeking to discern the best course of action. I believe we are unified in spirit and will continue to move forward together to reach the unreached. One thing for sure, I feel a whole lot better today than I did last year after the board meeting. Collectively, we can say praise the Lord and press on in anticipation of what He has in store for us.”

On December 4, the candidate committee interviewed and approved Chris and Tori (Lindsey) Sargent for a two-year term with The Hanna Project (THP) in Southern Spain. The couple will be mentored by Director of Field Operations Jeff Turnbough to smooth their transition to career missions service.

The candidate committee also met via SKYPE with Jacob and Sarah. The couple has been approved to serve as university English teachers in Asia with a partner organization. They requested and received affiliate status from the IM board.

A representative of a partner organization that sends English teachers into Asia made a presentation of the work they are doing. He invited board members to accompany him to Asia in May 2013.

The board approved six THP projects for 2013. Humanitarian and educational needs will be met in Bulgaria, Japan, Tajikistan, Côte d’Ivoire, Mongolia, and Panama.

Director of Advancement Mark McPeak recognized and thanked Heath and Joni (Thomas) Hubbard for their diligence, perseverance, and grace since approval as missionaries. Joni

served with excellence as student services coordinator for six years. Over the last eight months, Heath has filled in as development manager in the office. “The Hubbards’ exemplary service is even more remarkable in light of their story. This time last year Heath and Joni had said their good-byes and packed their bags, ready to leave to begin their missionary careers,” McPeak explained. “At the eleventh hour they were told they could not leave and would need to go back on the road with their young family to continue raising funds. They responded with heavy, yet humble, hearts, doing all they were asked with great attitudes.” Heath and Joni plan to leave for Japan in mid-January 2013.

The board agreed that global fluctuations and Mission-centric adjustments indicate time for a strategic planning session. The board voted to extend the April board meeting by one day to meet with Mission and field leadership.

Rob Conley, director of financial operations, announced Cheri Ham’s promotion from financial operations supervisor to financial operations manager. “Cheri has carried a heavy burden through multiple personnel transitions and is a highly valued team member,” Rob said. “We are thrilled to validate her efforts through this promotion.”

The board voted to approve a \$6.7 million budget for 2013. Although this reflects a half-million dollar increase from 2012, it is less than the initial framework budget adopted in April 2012 and approved by the National Association in July.

“The board’s decisions make it apparent that they are truly concerned about the well being of our IM personnel and the national brothers and sisters where we serve,” Morgan stated. “They see the big picture and are willing to take the bold steps necessary to move our IM ministries to the next phase.”

All board members (Danny Williams, AL; Jeff Manning, NC; Mark Price, OH; Nelson Henderson, AR; Rob Morgan, TN; Greg McAllister, CA; Tom McCullough, MI; Brad Ransom, OK; Janice Banks, OK) were in attendance. ■



Panama Seminary Graduates Two

CHAME, PANAMA—The seminary’s third graduation was held Saturday, December 1, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. with around 80 attending the festivities. Not only did two young ladies graduate from the three-year program, but three people also completed the yearlong Bible program. Another 12 people received certificates for completing the first level of the Saturday extension program.


The speaker was Pastor Rolando Delgado, pastor of First FWB Church in Panama City and a part of the seminary since the first year in 2008. He teaches homiletics, hermeneutics, and apologetics. ■

More news can be found at fwbgo.com/news.

The Welch College Music faculty ministers to the entire Free Will Baptist denomination.

We're Making Music in Nashville

BY DAVID WILLIFORD



Joe Dean, former athletic director at Louisiana State University who also served as an analyst for Southeastern Conference basketball games, was famous for his expression “string music.” That’s what Joe called free throws that fell cleanly through the rim touching nothing but the net—string music. While broadcasting a game in Nashville, he said of a player who was a proficient free throw shooter that he was, “playing a little string music in Nashville, Tennessee!”

Music City, USA, is home to a wide variety of music. Best known for country music, Music Row recording studios champion artists from diverse fields. One Nashville institution that has been creating its own brand of music for more than 70 years is Welch College (formerly Free Will Baptist Bible College). After seven decades, we’re still making melody and playing music on Nashville’s storied West End Avenue.

EARLY YEARS

From the college’s earliest days, music has been a staple of the educational experience for students. Choirs, quartets, trios, vocal ensembles, mixed choruses, instrumental ensembles, and more have been a vital part of the Welch College culture. There is a cherished tradition of our students serving Christ and being a blessing to Free Will Baptist churches.

Old timers remember the close harmony of The Gospelers Quartet featuring Bobby Jackson, Robert Picirilli, Eugene Waddell, and James Earl Raper. They were among the earliest groups that traveled on behalf of the college. That tradition continued through the years with groups like The Gleaners, Rejoice, New Mercy, and Judah.

The Music Department has been led by an array of professional musicians—Don Clark, David Randlett, Abe Berg, Vernon Whaley, and others. Today’s leadership falls into the capable hands of James Stevens and his music faculty.

TODAY’S MUSIC

Dr. James Stevens is highly respected in the field of gospel music and a frequent recipient of the ASCAP Standard Award in Composition. He holds a music degree from Samford University, a Master of Church Music degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Composition from the University of Kentucky.

Well-known as an author and composer, he has published more than 200 original pieces with LifeWay, Shawnee Press, Brentwood-Benson, Hal Leonard, Warner Brothers, and others. Choirs in more than 50 countries around the world have performed his works including China, Japan, Germany, France, and South Korea. His most popular piece, “Without Love...We Have Nothing,” became an international sensation and has been recorded on more than 200 projects.

Highly regarded as a clinician, Dr. Stevens has taught pia-

no/improvisation performance for LifeWay, the Baptist Conventions of Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, South Carolina, and Mississippi; the National Association of Free Will Baptists where he is a member of the Music Commission, and with Sunmin Music in Seoul, Korea. He brings to the campus classrooms more than 20 years of experience as a successful local church music minister in Alabama, Florida, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Dr. Stevens joined the college faculty in 2004, the longest-tenured Music Department chairman in almost 40 years, and he has dramatically impacted the program. Forty-two percent of music ministry majors since 1987 graduated in the years Dr. Stevens has been with the college. Likewise, half of the male music ministry majors in the last 25 years graduated during his tenure. We continue to see a higher rate of young people enter the music program and graduate than at any time in recent history.

Dr. Linda Shipley, accomplished pianist and organist, joined the college faculty in 2001. A former faculty member at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (1979-1994), she is highly regarded as both a music theorist and performer. Faculty and administrators at a number of institutions have commented on Dr. Shipley's widely acclaimed reputation as a church music instrumentalist and theorist.

Her music education background includes a Ph.D. from Florida State University, a master's degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a bachelor's degree from Carson-Newman College. She has directed the Allegro School of Music since 1996 and has served as church musician at Inglewood Baptist Church (Nashville) since 1995.



PROGRAM IMPACT

But as impressive as these credentials are, the key element remains the impact of the faculty on the lives of students. Welch College exists to provide well-trained and equipped workers for Free Will Baptist churches, including musicians. So the question is: Does our Music Department meet the needs of students and the churches where they minister?

The answer is a resounding, Yes! Josh Owens, 2008 graduate said: "The Music Department at Welch College helped me develop a strong foundation for biblical church music ministry. The professors expanded my knowledge of musicology while deepening my love for rich theology and excellence in local church worship."

Josh serves as assistant pastor and music minister at Sylvan Park Free Will Baptist Church (Nashville) where every Sunday he uses the principles learned at Welch College.

December 2012 graduate, Rebekah Ayers, said: "The Music faculty at Welch College is staffed by intelligent and gifted musicians. They are role models as well as friends, and they exhibit remarkable Christian character. Whether it's extra tutoring, a kind call, or a gracious smile, I'm thankful for the opportunity to learn from them, both musically and spiritually."

*"The Music faculty exhibits remarkable Christian character. They are role models as well as friends. I'm thankful for the opportunity to learn from them, both musically and spiritually."
Rebekah Ayers*

And our students are well received in local churches. As choirs and singing groups travel throughout the denomination, their reception is overwhelmingly positive. For example, Pastor Steve Trail from Dothan, Alabama, recently wrote:

"I wanted to let you know how much we appreciate our friends at Welch College and particularly the musical groups we have had with us over the years. I can say without reservation that they have been a blessing in every way possible. The young people and their adult sponsors maintain the highest standards in everything they do. Their department and devotion to excellence in ministry have been an inspiration. Our people embraced them with open

*"Dr. James Stevens helped me develop a strong foundation for biblical church music ministry. The Music faculty professors deepened my love for theology and excellence in local church worship."
Josh Owens*

arms and look forward to having them in their homes and in their hearts. These young people are a credit to Welch College. They serve as examples to the young people of our local church, and I recommend them to any church or pastor.”

It is encouraging to hear reports like this and know that our students are impacting lives as they sing and minister.

One unique feature of the college’s music program is the excellent faculty-to-student ratio, giving students the opportunity to know their professors and interact on a personal as well as professional basis.

Rebekah Ayers said about this dimension of the Music Department: “Welch College’s Music Department uniquely offers intimate classroom environments. With low teacher-to-student ratios, students learn and converse with gifted professors. In classes such as Music Theory, the close classroom setting provides instruction directed to particular student needs. This environment is a wonderful way to learn

about music and get the unique instruction one needs.”

THE FUTURE

As churches reach out for trained, qualified, and spiritually discerning musicians, we are convinced that they will find those qualities in graduates of the Welch College music program. The college offers a refreshing blend of biblically rich music, both traditional and modern.

If you want to study music in a gospel-saturated environment, taught by eminently qualified professors, Welch College is the place for you. Become part of our college family and make music in Music City!

For more information about studying music at Welch College, contact Debbie Mouser in enrollment management at debbie@fwbbc.edu or Dr. James Stevens at jstevens@fwbbc.edu. ONE

ABOUT THE WRITER: David Williford is vice president for institutional advancement at Welch College.

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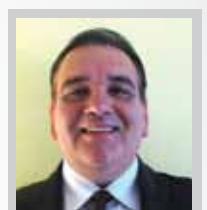
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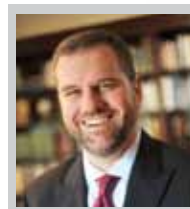
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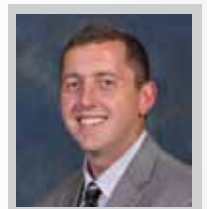
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Ebenezer Free Will Baptist Church
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News at WELCH COLLEGE

Nineteen High School Seniors Visit Welch College

Nineteen high school seniors from ten states attended the fall 2012 Senior Days on October 4-5 at Welch College. The students hailed from Tennessee (8), North Carolina (2), Ohio (2), Alabama (1), Arkansas (1), Indiana (1), Kentucky (1), Missouri (1), South Carolina (1), and Virginia (1).

The seniors participated in a number of activities representing different aspects of campus life—they attended classes, experienced dorm life, and worshipped with Welch College students in chapel. Their two-day schedule included a campus tour and “Glow-in-the-Dark Soccer” Thursday evening.

Friday morning, the visiting seniors had breakfast with President Matt Pinson and later heard about college life from Welch College students during a Q&A-style panel discussion. During the concluding Faculty Reception, seniors met with professors from their particular fields of interest.

Debbie Mouser, director of enrollment services, said, “This event gave our prospective students the opportunity to be a col-

lege student for a day. They met with an advisor, stayed with a personal host, attended classes, and learned how the enrollment process works at Welch College. Our goal is to help students to know if Welch College is a good fit for them.”

The seniors were asked to complete a survey rating their Senior Days experience. They gave high marks to faculty, staff, and students for their knowledge and helpfulness. On a scale of one to five (1 = poor; 5 = excellent), the visitors rated student and faculty hospitality 4.79 and 4.89 respectively. Regarding academics, the seniors gave a 4.68 satisfaction rating to the classes they attended. All 19 students agreed that their visit increased their interest in attending Welch College.

One student said, “Senior Days helped a lot with my decision-making. I felt like I was a Welch College student while I was there and loved it.”

For more information, contact the Enrollment Management Office at recruit@Welch.edu. ■

Ken Riggs Writes Book for Teachers

Dr. Ken Riggs, interim Psychology program coordinator at Welch College (formerly Free Will Baptist Bible College), has written a 104-page, 12-chapter book for the Evangelical Training Association titled *Teaching Techniques: Becoming an Effective Teacher*. The soft-cover book came off the press in August 2012.

Dr. Riggs said, “This book is an attempt to define effective teaching by looking at three aspects: the teaching methods of Jesus, examining one of the most influential books for Christian teachers (*The Seven Laws of Teaching* by John Milton Gregory), and the two key ingredients of teaching—preparation and presentation.”

The book concludes with an eight-page section titled “Three That Mattered,” focusing on the impact of three influential teachers on society—John Amos Comenius (1592-1670), Robert Raikes (1736-1811), and Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi (1746-1827).

The first four chapters in the book study Jesus’ example as a teacher. The next three chapters address what it takes to be an effective teacher. The last five chapters deal with understanding the psychology of learning.

Dr. Riggs has written two other books. *They Call Me Doc* (2011) follows his own journey from new convert to professional educator. *By the Way* (2012) chronicles his father’s ministry as a Free Will Baptist visionary, pastor, and international missions leader. Riggs also wrote three booklets—“The Runaway,” “How to Live Right,” and “You Can Know”—as well as several gospel tracts.

A long-tenured educator, Dr. Riggs taught 23 years (1971-1993) on the Welch College Teacher Education faculty. He has been an adjunct professor at Nashville State Community College since 1992 and served as administrator at Pleasant View Christian School (2004-2010).

“I may do more writing for the Evangelical Training Association,” Riggs said. “I believe in ETA’s biblical philosophy of education and support their commitment to publish materials that help good teachers to become great teachers.”

Ken and Carolyn Riggs have been married 50 years. They have three sons. ■

Seven Welch College Students Preach in Georgia

Seven Welch College ministerial students travelled six hours to Columbus, Georgia, to preach in local churches belonging to Georgia/Alabama's Chattahoochee and Twin Cities Associations.

The group left campus at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 29. John Murray, Welch College's Christian service director, said, "There was excitement in the air as we left Saturday. The men kept the van buzzing about preaching, the Bible, theology, and of course, plenty of good-natured humor. They have been asking me for weeks about going on this trip."

The Preaching Team arrived in Columbus at 2:30 p.m. and then gathered for a 6:00 p.m. rally at Calvary Free Will Baptist Church. Sophomore ministerial student Stephen Bozeman led the singing, and freshman preacher Mike Hollis preached.

Sunday morning, the team split up to preach at their respective churches, ministering to more than 350 people and receiving over \$1,800 for the college. The group reported one rededication as a result of their labors.

Several students commented on their experience preaching in Georgia.

Aaron Pierce (Senior): "White Rock Free Will Baptist Church (Phenix City, AL) was a very friendly congregation and receptive to the Word. It was one of my favorite preaching trips so far."

Derreck Lute (Sophomore): "I loved preaching at Turner's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church (Butler, GA). The people were willing to grow together through the preaching of the Word. Pastor Phil Bozeman was a great host. Not many things can beat good southern cooking!" ■

Jonathan Rogers Writes Literary Biography

Dr. Jonathan Rogers, interim English professor at Welch College, had his fifth book published in 2012. The 13-chapter, 189-page book titled *The Terrible Speed of Mercy: A Spiritual Biography of Flannery O'Connor*, was published by Thomas Nelson. Dr. Rogers joined the Welch College faculty in 2011.

Reader-friendly and written with a sensitive overview of both theology and Southern culture, *The Terrible Speed of Mercy* is a thoughtful and carefully-documented biography of Milledgeville, Georgia, journalist-novelist Flannery O'Connor who died in 1964 at age 39 after a 14-year battle with lupus, the same disease that took her father's life.

Dr. Rogers unfolds the Flannery O'Connor mystique with the understanding of a Middle Georgia native who grew up not

far from the O'Conner farm where Flannery lived most of her life with her mother. He carefully tracks the development of O'Connor's two major volumes, *Wise Blood* and *The Violent Bear It Away*, as well as numerous articles published in literary journals.

Dr. Rogers received an undergraduate degree from Furman University and holds a Ph.D. in 17th Century literature from Vanderbilt University. He was a Teaching Fellow at Vanderbilt (1992-1996) and writer and project manager at Healthstream (1996-2002). His previous books include the *Wilderking Trilogy*—*The Bark of the Bog Owl*, *The Secret of the Swamp King*, and *The Way of the Wilderking*—as well as *The Charlatan's Boy*. He lives in Nashville with his wife Lou Alice and their six children. ■

Arkansas Alumni Donate Maintenance Vehicle to Welch College

Two Welch College alumni from Arkansas, Mr. Cameron Lane and his wife Krista, donated a 2007 Chevrolet Suburban to the college in September 2012 to be used as a maintenance vehicle, according to Craig Mahler, vice president for financial affairs. The Lanes reside in Russellville, Arkansas.

The five-door, V-8, four-wheel drive Suburban is valued at \$17,000-\$20,000. The bronze-colored Chevy stands high off the ground with 17-inch tires and will be especially appreciated by the college's maintenance staff during severe weather conditions. The vehicle has been professionally serviced and maintained.

Mr. Mahler said, "We are thankful for the generosity demonstrated by Cameron and Krista Lane. We hope their example encourages other alumni and friends to donate useful in-kind gifts. This is another way that supporters of the college can make a dif-

ference in a time of economic difficulty."

The Lanes attended Welch College in the 1980s. They are members of First Free Will Baptist Church (Russellville). Mr. Lane, owner of Lane Physical Therapy Center, is a licensed physical therapist specializing in sports medicine and McKenzie Diagnosis Therapy. He also serves on the board of the 1040i mission group. Collin Lane, son of Cameron and Krista, is a sophomore at Welch College.

David Williford, vice president for institutional advancement, said, "In addition to this recent timely gift by Cameron and Krista Lane, they are also faithful supporters of Welch College's annual fund, as well as active supporters of the college's ongoing relocation efforts. We thank God for them and their commitment to the college." ■

LeaderProfile >>>>

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. by Ron Hunter Jr.

Seasons of life describe how God prepared Janice for each stage of life. Janice calls it, "God's design in His timing." Born in Norfolk, Virginia, Janice's grandparents provided her spiritual formation by bringing her to church. While at Welch College, Janice felt called to missions as the result of the profound influence of Ms. Laura Belle Barnard. Feeling what felt like two contrary callings, Janice married a pastoral (not missions) student named Jerry. They pastored in Georgia for two years until Jerry felt the call during a missions service at the National. Janice calls this time *preparation*—from her college experience to their time in local church ministry, each event led toward their ministry in Japan from 1974 until 1991.

Janice notes how vital the role education plays in her life. With both formal education and life experiences, God placed Janice where she needed to be prior to the next season of life. Janice's ability to teach while in Japan helped develop the lives of other new believers. She and Jerry helped plant a solid church now pastored by Keiichi Kimura who also now serves as the vice president of the International Association of Free Will Baptists. In 2012, Janice was elected to the Free Will Baptist International Missions Board. Since 1991 Janice has taught missions at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. In 2013, she transitioned to teaching Christian education and spiritual formation classes. Passing the torch is all part of the "design" and needed to be done in a timely and strategic manner.

When asked about her quiet time, the conversation grew more reflective. Janice described how Jerry's unexpected death in January of 2005 left her own identity in question. She had always been a minister's wife, and her life intertwined with her husband's. Janice drew closer to God during these very difficult times as she sat quietly and allowed the Holy Spirit to speak peace into her shattered life. During those times she learned the value of solitude and reflection on the Word as her identity took shape in this new season of life. She enjoys sharing what she has been learning in all this change and recommends that everyone invest in purposeful quiet time. **Janice, you are a great leader!** ONE



Janice Banks

What do you desire from this season of life?

I desire God's continued transformation of my life so I can know Him more intimately and please Him in ongoing service wherever that might be

What are your top books you have ever read (other than the Bible)?

Three Steps Forward Two Steps Backward by Charles Swindoll
Hinds Feet on High Places by Hannah Hurnard
Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth by Richard Foster
The Sister Chick series by Robin Jones (Janice threw this one in for light reading)

What are you reading right now?

The Good and Beautiful Community: Following the Spirit, Extending Grace, Demonstrating Love by James Bryan Smith
One Thousand Gifts: Dare to Live Life Fully Right Where You Are by Ann Voskamp
Free to Be Bound: Church beyond the Color Line by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove

What is your biggest shortcoming in your leadership style? Coming on too strong! When my passion governs my words and the volume rises, I can appear pushy.

What do people misunderstand about you? People might think I am extremely "extroverted," but actually I am on the borderline. I require solitude to feel replenished after social connections.

Tell me your kids' names and a one-word descriptor for each.

Joy (40) - supportive Justin (38) - caring
 Both kids are actively serving God. Justin and his wife Leslie have four children.

What is your one indulgence? Dark chocolate

Paper or Plastic Questions

>> *Mountains or Ocean?* Ocean
 >> *Music or Talk Radio?* Music
 >> *Coke or Pepsi?* Diet Coke
 >> *Email or Texting?* Prefers email but texts as well
 >> *Mac or PC?* PC
 >> *Socks or house shoes?* House shoes

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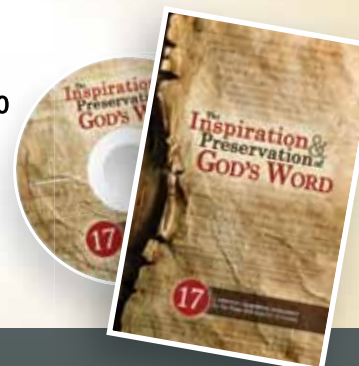
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Part one in a three-part series

AMERICAN IDOL?

The Christian and Sports

BY GREG KETTEMAN

Virgil's *Aeneid* famously chronicles a scene from the Trojan War, in which the Greeks were unable to defeat the Trojans through usual battle tactics. So, they built a huge wooden horse, left it outside the gates of the city of Troy, and boarded their ships to sail away in apparent defeat. The Trojans brought the horse into their city as a symbol of victory, unaware that a band of Greek warriors were hidden inside. Later, the warriors crept out of the horse and opened the gates of the city. The Greek army rushed in, defeated the Trojans, and captured Troy.

This ancient story led to the common expression Trojan Horse, which is used to describe any crafty strategy used to slip something past defenses. For example, the computer virus that slipped in programming to disable or reconfigure another user's computer became known as the Trojan Horse virus. The medical community refers to certain pathogens as Trojan Horses because they hide inside other organisms in the body, emerging later to cause disease or even death.

Satan skillfully implements this ancient strategy in his attempts to destroy people. He hides the seeds of death and destruction in things that appear harmless then surreptitiously releases his wiles to destroy the host. He hides addiction, poverty, misery, and even death inside a bottle of vodka or an oxycodone tablet. He disguises deadly greed and covetousness inside legitimate business ventures. He camouflages pride and selfishness in natural talents. He conceals deceit, jealousy, even lust within normal relationships. He hides excess, indulgence, and debauchery inside prosperity and leisure.

Could it be that Satan has another, seemingly harmless Trojan Horse at work in the lives of Christians today? Have sports become a hidden agent of destruction for many believers?

Confessions of a Sports Fan

I've been concerned about this subject for some time, although admittedly not while I mindlessly overdosed on sports as a young adult. My concern grew when my son Jack was involved in sports in high school and college. Somehow, watching him—seeing how my example affected him—prompted me to think more seriously about this subject. Thankfully, Jack found more balance than I ever did.

Let me illustrate where I'm coming from through some obvious analogies—a glutton writing about the sin of gluttony, an alcoholic writing about the sin of drunkenness. In my case, the reality is I'm somewhat of a sports addict writing about addiction to sports.

Frankly, I don't remember hearing this conversation as a young man, or while my son was growing up. Perhaps the debate has been raging for years, and I missed it. After all,



I'm not on the speed dials of most theologians, and I don't monitor Facebook posts or keep up with the latest trends on Twitter.

Still, with the apparent lack of conversation regarding this important topic, I can't help but wonder how much today's Christians have worked to apply the principles of Scripture to involvement in sports. With this series of articles, my goal is simply to increase awareness of the imminent place sports now occupies in our culture (and the church), to highlight the inherent dangers of preoccupation with sport, and to heighten our resolve to apply principles of Scripture to our relationship with sport.

Are Sports Evil?

Sport dominates modern culture and threatens to supplant the evangelical church with its powerful appeal to meet the deepest needs of people. No area of American culture has a more powerful influence on the everyday lives of Americans. Perhaps most significantly, sport actually delivers on its potent but sadly temporal promise to fulfill age-old human needs for meaning, acceptance, belonging, and community.

Don't get me wrong, we find many positive virtues in the world of sports such as real-life, concrete illustrations of the rewards of diligence, hard work, perseverance, and the pursuit of excellence. Sport also provides healthy physical activity and opportunity for human interaction. Sadly, many of these obvious virtues of sports are often neglected among evangelical Christians. Still, I do not suggest that sport should be eliminated completely from the lives of Christians or from cultural life in general. Sport does carry some redeeming value.

However, the fact that today's American culture has become obsessed with sports cannot be denied. And this is not a new problem. President Herbert Hoover is purported to have said, "Next to religion, baseball has furnished a greater impact on American life than any other institution." Sociologist Harry Edwards stated, "If there is a universal popular religion in America, it is to be found within the institution of sport."¹

ABC Sports Announcer Keith Jackson commented about the Auburn-Alabama football game by quoting famous 1950s British soccer coach Bill Shankley who said, "It's not

about life and death. It's more important than that." And sainted Green Bay Packer's Coach Vince Lombardi famously said, "Winning isn't everything; it's the only thing." James Michner quoted Paul "Bear" Bryant, legendary football coach of the University of Alabama as saying, "Football is not a religion. It's more important than that."²

In "Finding Religion in Sport," Catholic Priest Frank Berna defines sports as religion because they, "offer a communal world view, they tell great stories, athletic contests engage the ritual imagination, and a fair contest relies on a moral code. Sports replace religion because, for the most part, they engage both athlete and spectator more effectively than organized religion." Berna goes on to say, "My church is Fenway Park!"³

The Challenge for Christians

However, the lofty place sport holds among Christian people and the Christian church is sapping resources and vitality from us, and even threatens the commitment of many to Christ. The Christian's attitude toward and participation in sport must be constantly monitored and evaluated, and the Christian must be prepared to fight for a balance that truly honors God in his life.

Salvaging the positive values of sport from the powerful current of today's popular culture is no small feat. Much like trying to rescue a small child from a raging, flooded river, rescuing what is good about sport carries significant dangers for those who attempt to pull these values from the popular current.

It is hoped that rather than mindlessly promoting blanket approval of any and all involvement in sport, Christians will take up the cause of balance, beginning with a thoughtful consideration of their own involvement in sport as well as the involvement of others for whom they are responsible. While "bodily exercise profiteth little," "Godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come" (1 Timothy 4:8).

I realize I have raised more questions than provided answers. But in the next issue, we will turn our attention to the uneasy relationship between church and sports that has existed throughout history and take a close and sobering look at the consequences when the Church is distracted or preoccupied by sports. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Greg Kettelman is provost of Welch College. Learn more about the college: www.welch.edu.

1 (Edwards, *Sociology of Sport*, 1973; Homewood, IL Dorsey; page 90).

2 Michener, James A., 1976. *Sports in America*. Fawcett Publishers, Greenwood, CT

3 Finding Religion in Sport: What Can Sports Teach Us About Worship? <http://www.patheos.com/Resources/Additional-Resources/Finding-Religion-in-Sports.html>

CONFRONTING THE CHALLENGES OF ANOTHER MARRIAGE...



Saying "I DO" Again

BY BILL AND BRENDA EVANS

Bill Bentley came home from work, avoided neighbors, closed shades, found the darkest room, and picked at saltines and a can of soup. He turned on the television or radio to hear a voice, but kept away from “real” people. And he did not sleep. At last, he called it what it was: loneliness. “This is not good,” he said. “I need another lady in my life.”

THE JOURNEY BEGINS...AGAIN

So Bill began to think about women he knew. “Those without baggage and without a living husband. Not many like that,” he said. But he remembered Amelia, a woman he and his wife had known and liked, and went to church with at one time. Like Bill, she was single now. So he asked a friend for her phone number.

“Will you go to breakfast with me?” he asked. “Yes,” she said. Bill had

decided ahead of time that if she said no, it would be like Gideon’s fleece, because he had prayed that way. A no would be a no from the Lord, but it was not a no and he was glad.

But he got anxious and called back. “How about we not wait for that breakfast thing? How about we go out for dinner tonight?”

“Sure, why not?” she said, and they did.

Both Bill and Amelia Bentley have experienced the pain of losing a spouse. They know its loneliness, its solitary confinement. They know what existence without attachment is. They remember loss, amputation, finality. Being thrown to the wind like so much flotsam. Chaos, anger, anxiety, fear.

The Bentleys also know the pleasure of saying “I Do” again. After widowhood, remarriage is good because

they have avoided the potholes. Some couples rush full speed ahead and fall in all the way to China. Most experts on remarriage say Christians better pay attention before they hurry to the altar for the second time. The Bentleys agree. The thing that should be a pleasure might not be.

AVOIDING THE POTHOLES

Bill and Amelia know there can be trouble spots. They recommend that before remarriage couples resolve tensions or disagreements in at least three main areas: values, children, money.

Divided minds fracture; united minds fuse. And so substantial differences or disputes about beliefs or values raise strong pothole warnings. William and Amelia started with God, with William’s yes-no fleece and Amelia’s assurance, as she says, “that the

Lord was dealing with us both about marrying. Even my son-in-law saw it.”

Attitudes about God, for example, may differ. “Some people want a God who stays in their wall locker,” Bill says. “But we let Him out. We count on Him showing up in our lives on a regular basis. He did before we were married. He still does.”

What about other differences? One of Bill’s core values is taking care of Amelia. Before their marriage, he made a promise: “My first wife Willa taught me how a lady should be treated. And now God has brought the two of us together, and you are the love of my life. I promise that I will never put you down. If I can’t build you up, I will keep my mouth shut.”

He also prepared meals for the first several weeks of their marriage. “It was like he was on duty, determined to take care of me,” she says. Bill and Amelia had agreed to settle in his home, and so she was on duty, too, in a different way. “I waited and walked softly,” Amelia says, especially about making changes in the house, even those changes they had already talked about and agreed upon. During those first months, they found their way by practicing deference and respect for each other, and it worked. In the kitchen they now putter and prepare meals together.

Children are a second crucial issue to consider in remarriage. Young couples who plan to blend “my child, your child, and eventually our child” must share core faith values, communication skills, and discipline strategies to avoid deep potholes. For older couples like Bill and Amelia who are in their early 70s, strained relationships with adult children are a potential pothole.

Children of older couples may hold anger or dislike, even try to interfere with the marriage. A son may think his widowed father is being disloyal to

him or to the memory of his deceased mother. Some may feel abandoned or jealous, or dislike the personality, habits, or religion of the new spouse. Others acquiesce but simmer. Many continually mistrust motives or fear losing an inheritance.

Merging families can be difficult. Before remarriage, couples should begin to build relationships between children and the soon-to-be new mate. Bill was up-front. “I told Amelia’s daughters that I wanted to be a friend to them, but not their daddy. I said, ‘You already have a daddy.’ They wait on me and hug me, but they know I’m not trying to replace the daddy they lost.”

Kindness and acceptance are the best goals. Bill and Amelia feel blessed that their 22 family members seem to agree. “They talk and are friendly and there is no animosity, but their lives don’t mingle, and that’s okay,” Amelia says. Bill and Amelia hold family birthday parties, and early on the children joined forces to roast their parents at East Harbor on Lake Erie with the daughters supplying the jokes and pokes. But Bill and Amelia don’t push their children to become best friends.

Money trouble is a third pothole to avoid in remarriage. For young couples, the dialogue usually focuses on budgets, credit cards, childcare, vacations, jobs, and getting by. For older couples who marry for the second time, money issues may be more complex: which monies to mingle or not, how to handle inheritances, when to pass along items to the children. Mistrust of the new spouse and even of the child’s own parent is often high.

Bill and Amelia took several steps to avoid problems. “The first principle is that God owns it all, and He expects us to plan with that in mind. But, you know, horns grow on heads real

quick when it comes to two sides and money. So we sat down and settled things,” Bill says. After his first wife’s death, he gave their children her personal items, re-did his will, and made his children beneficiaries of her IRA annuity after his own death.

When he and Amelia married, they merged some assets, kept others separate, and named beneficiaries on all accounts. They also made a Life Estate Agreement that gives Amelia the right to stay in the house as long as she lives. Each has personal savings with named beneficiaries as well. In addition, Bill has a Charitable Gift Annuity with the Free Will Baptist Foundation to benefit Free Will Baptist ministries and give him income now. Amelia also has a Revocable Trust there. “The Foundation is the best there is for this sort of thing,” Bill says.

How much do adult children need to know about their parents’ money? Enough...whatever that is; but not too much...whatever that is. That’s the best advice the experts offer. You and your mate must decide, but don’t act like it isn’t a problem, because it is. One caution: big surprises, especially negative ones, often stir up big problems, especially in remarriages.

Bill and Amelia don’t plan on big surprises because they have figured out how to make remarriage a really good time. “As Christians, you eventually reach a point where you know how to live sensibly,” Bill says. And from what we see in their marriage and in their families, they’ve also learned how to love sensibly the second time around. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITERS: Bill Evans, former director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, lives in Catlettsburg, Kentucky, with his wife Brenda, a retired English teacher. Visit www.fwbgifts.org for more information on planned giving that benefits your favorite ministry.

WHO ADVOCATE FOR YOU

BY NORMA



To *advocate* for another (verb) or to be an *advocate* (noun) for another are profound concepts found in Scripture. Christ became our Advocate—our supporter and defender when others come against us—through His work on the cross, paying our sin debt. When believers appear before God, they are clothed in the righteousness of Christ, covered by His blood, and thus acquitted of any charges brought against them.

The Holy Spirit is also our Advocate when He gives evidence in our spirits that we are the children of God. He is our lawyer in the sense that He provides testimony or evidence of our faith in Christ. These are powerful truths, the very bedrock of our hope and confidence in Him.

We are blessed to have other advocates—husbands, wives, friends, pastors and teachers who fill important roles as we live out our faith. In retirement years, many advocates truly “blossom” as they have more time and resources to speak in our favor and to support us.

A TRUE ADVOCATE RECOGNIZES YOUR WORTH AND VALUE.

We live in such a supercritical world that it is easy to wonder, “Am I really making a difference? Does my life have meaning and value to others?” We can become so buried in tasks that our world becomes a blur of “to-do’s” and deadlines. A spouse can gently remind us of how specific individuals have been blessed through some ministry or service we’ve quite forgotten about. A good friend can slow us down long enough to help us recognize how our faithful witness has effected positive change in the life another. A pastor can make us aware of how Christ is honored and the Kingdom advanced through our ministry.

A TRUE ADVOCATE RECOGNIZES THE CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES YOU FACE.

Sometimes, just the acknowledgment of a challenge can be a powerful force to help us stay on task. To realize that a faithful advocate sees and knows what we are

going through gives us the energy and courage to press on. I often quote the words of an old hymn to friends struggling in ministry. “Must I be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease, while others fought to win the prize, and sailed through bloody seas? Sure, I must fight if I would reign. Increase my courage, Lord; I’ll bear the toil, endure the pain, supported by thy Word.”¹

Raising a family is not easy. Navigating financial waters is hard. Relationships challenge us. Ministry can be painfully slow and tedious. Advocate for those who are in the trenches! Lift up their spirits by acknowledging their difficulties while reminding them of the blessing of faithfulness.

A TRUE ADVOCATE KNOWS YOUR POTENTIAL. If false humility or personal weariness has caused you to say, “I’m not up to this,” an advocate will remind you of God’s gifting, of the calling on your life. Strength is found in remembering past instances when you were surprised to accomplish some-

thing that seemed quite impossible. Our advocates, earthly and heavenly, know us better than we know ourselves and see potential that is not readily apparent at first glance.

If you are a pastor or denominational worker, your Board of Retirement is your advocate. Their staff is ready and well-qualified to help you plan for the future and deal with financial concerns.

Whatever your life-stage, pause and reflect on those who have advocated for you. Thank God for all who have spoken in your favor. Thank God for your heavenly Advocates—Christ Jesus and His Holy Spirit. Resolve to come alongside others, regularly speaking in their favor, encouraging and strengthening them. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman is a regular contributor to ONE Magazine. The award-winning columnist lives near Nashville, TN. Learn more about thriving in retirement at www.boardofretirement.com.

¹The Baptist Hymnal, Convention Press, Nashville, 1991, Am I a Soldier of the Cross (481), Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

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A GRACE BASED PARTNERSHIP

BY DR. TIM KIMMEL

**STRONG CHURCHES DON'T MAKE STRONG FAMILIES...
STRONG FAMILIES MAKE STRONG CHURCHES.**

Defensive pastors will probably want to argue this point, but why? Because it's not true? Or because if it is true, does it stand as an indictment on our churches? Well, it is true, but it's not an indictment. Not even close. It's simply an observation of the obvious. Churches have, at best, a drive-by exposure to a child's ongoing spiritual development. It's a well thought-through exposure offered by some of the most gracious and loving people you'd want to find. But a child's parents represent the main spiritual influence on their lives—24/7/365.

But we need strong churches, and we need strong families regardless of who "rubs the other's back" the most. We need them because the big story isn't about churches, families, pastors, or parents.

It's about God.

It's about the God who climbed on a cross at the confluence of history to redeem individuals who would ultimately

make up our family portraits and congregate our churches. The family and the church are the only cradle-to-the-grave entities that God created to carry out his primary Kingdom agenda. He meant for them to dance with each other to the rhythms of redemption. But busy churches and hurried families are operating more like break dancers than dance partners.

Let's add in a sexualized culture as the backdrop to this picture, and things get even murkier. Throw in the specialization mindset that slipped out the back door of the 20th century to take center-stage in the 21st century, and parents naturally assume spiritual heavy-lifting for their kids can only be done by church professionals who went to seminary and know how to parse Greek verbs.

No problem. Churches are ready to step up with their state-of-the-art facilities and second-to-none programs to meet this challenge. But where does this mindset end up? It ends with par-

ents abdicating spiritual gate-keeping responsibilities and outsourcing them to over-extended and under-appreciated professionals at church.

After a while, the professionals realize all this "sub-contracting" of the parent's responsibilities has left them feeling like they're little more than program directors on evangelical cruise ships. The problem is that none of this really works.

There's a better way to deal with these challenges, and the book *Connecting Church and Home* will show you how. It demonstrates how churches and parents can work in concert to make the other's efforts have far more impact. It not only builds the case but lays out a plan that can be tailored to any church or family to bring out the spiritual best in their kids. It moves from abstract to concrete, from general to specific, and from possibility to a plan—all under the umbrella of God's amazing grace.

Connecting Church and Home is

about a grace-based partnership that raises the spiritual “stock value” of both entities for the benefit of the next generation and God’s glory. Church professionals, executives, and lay-lead-

ers who read it in concert will gain a clearer big picture, a common language for what they’re trying to do to equip families. And moms and dads will gain practical (brand new to some) guides

to use as they exercise their spiritual influence to send truly great Jesus-followers from their back rooms and bedrooms into a future in desperate need of hope. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Tim Kimmel is the Executive Director of Family Matters (FamilyMatters.net), a non-profit ministry that equips families to appropriate God’s grace in every age and stage of life.



“Connecting Church & Home is filled with resources for churches and parents to help them develop a grace for all seasons.”

ABOUT THE REVIEWER:

Edward E. Moody, Jr. is a professor, pastor and writer. He has been a counselor educator at North Carolina Central University since 1995, and served as a pastor at Tippett’s Chapel since 2000. He has written the book *First Aid for Emotional Hurts*, and a series of booklets entitled *First Aid for Your Emotional Hurts*.

CONNECTING church&home

A GRACE BASED PARTNERSHIP

BY DR. TIM KIMMEL

Reviewed by Edward E. Moody, Jr.

Parents and pastors alike should read Dr. Kimmel’s latest book, *Connecting Church & Home*.

In the opening chapters, Dr. Kimmel challenges the reader to think of the family unit as a “domestic church” and the church as a “gathering of domestic churches.” This emphasizes the critical role and responsibility of parents as ministers to their children. He warns parents about the danger of subcontracting this ministry to church or schools, stressing the need for a homegrown faith.

In a chapter on homegrown faith, Kimmel provides the reader with the examples of two parents who attended the same church (same nursery, classes, heard the same sermons) and possessed many similarities yet had different outcomes for their children. The difference, Kimmel noted, was that one couple took the responsibility of spiritual maturity very seriously. Using the Marine Corp as an example for an organization that is driven by philosophy, Kimmel stresses the need for parents and churches to focus upon a correct (grace based) philosophy and that our strategy and tactics should flow from that philosophy.

He presents a plan that can work with families and churches of all sizes, stressing the importance of parents dialing into their child’s heart and churches allowing kids to be themselves (as long as they do not violate biblical or moral standards). He ably discusses some of the common concerns parents and church leaders often have when people discuss grace by addressing those fears.

Kimmel breaks down four dimensions of grace-based parenting (ministry): greatness, character, freedoms, and inner needs and provides a detailed explanation about how this works.

His chapter on “The Happiest Most Gracious Place on Earth” is especially valuable. It is filled with resources for churches and parents to help them develop a grace for all seasons. **ONE**

NYC 2012 News



Daniel 3 records the account of three young men who faced a trial of their faith. They had been removed from their homes and the influence of their family. Yet in the face of a life or death decision, they affirmed their commitment to stand firm in their faith. They would not bow to the pressure to conform or compromise. They would not follow the crowd in worshipping a false god.

Faithfulness to God was worth their very lives. They trusted that the Creator of the universe was more powerful than a man-made god of gold. And so, they stood firm in the face of death. They literally walked through fire.

We are calling and equipping young people to take this same stand. The National Youth Conference will challenge our youth to follow this example. Join us in Tampa, July 21-24, 2013, as we declare to the world, “We will not serve your gods.”

NYC TEEN WORSHIP SERVICE SPEAKERS:

Sunday AM: **DANNY CONN**

Sunday PM: **GENE WOOTON**

Monday PM: **TIM KIMMEL**

Tuesday PM: **CHRIS SARGENT**

SPECIAL REMINDER:

ALL COMPETITION EVENT ENTRIES DEADLINE – JUNE 1.

Individual entries and state competition results must be sent to Randall House by June 1.

The competition event schedule will be posted online at

www.fwbny.com

by June 1, and a complete competition directory will be online by the first week of July.

**FWB YOUTH WORKER
GATHERING
APRIL 15-17**
www.studentleadership.net/youth-pastors

This unique event includes two days of exciting programming with the Youth Pastor Summit at **Universal Studios in Orlando, FL**, plus an additional day of fellowship with FWB youth workers. **Registration is FREE. There will also be a lot of FREE resources.** Your only expense is your hotel, meals, and travel.

All youth workers are invited: full-time, part-time, volunteer, teen and children workers. The YPS Gathering is a great time to network with other FWB youth workers, share special needs, glean valuable insights, and gain much needed encouragement and refreshing.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE GATHERING!

∴ Randall House News

Randall House Publications, Inc. King James Version Statement From the Randall House Board of Directors:

Several years ago Randall House added translation options for Sunday School curriculum to include King James Version (KJV), plus two reputable recent translations: New King James Version (NKJV) and English Standard Version (ESV). The English Standard Version was added to the Bible memory options for the 2013 National Association Youth Competitive Activities. Some have incorrectly concluded that Randall House will cease to publish King James curriculum and materials. Randall House, the publishing arm of the National Association of Free Will Baptists—the only publisher who teaches Free Will Baptist doctrine—will continue using the King James translation, as well as the NKJV and ESV. The Board of Directors (December 2012) has approved the following statement to guide Randall House Publications and employees:

In keeping with our long held tradition as Free Will Baptists, Randall House Publications continues to hold the widely used

King James Version in high regard as a translation of the original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek languages that comprise the Old and New Testaments. We believe God has supernaturally preserved Scripture to enable humanity to find redemption in Jesus Christ. The Bible provides Christians with all that is needed for their faith and practice. For Randall House Publications to take a position that there is only one good English language translation would put Randall House outside of the doctrinal parameters of the Treatise of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. To make an exclusive claim for the King James Version might call into question the Christian experience of the many believers who lived prior to the 17th century when the King James Version first became available, that of believers who do not speak English, or English-speaking believers who may not use the King James Version. ■



Roysden Named to Vertical 3 and Events Director Post

Nashville, TN—Brandon Roysden, assistant principal/dean of students at Pleasant View Christian School (PVCS) in Pleasant View, Tennessee, has been named Vertical 3 and events director at Randall House, according to CEO Ron Hunter. The 29-year-old Tennessee native joined the PVCS family in 2007, serving as high school English teacher and coaching baseball and basketball before adding administration to his role.

Roysden guided the school through accreditation requirements as chairman of the SIP (School Improvement Plan) Committee, spearheaded efforts to update the school's public image, and implemented the Engrade on-line grading system to provide a digital link between parents and classroom.

"Brandon brings a broad range of experience to the position," Hunter said. "His ability to creatively handle many activities at once while building confidence in those around him makes him an ideal leader for this role. Most important, he has a heart for students and youth workers that gives him an eternal perspective on everything he does as Vertical 3 and events director."

Brandon graduated from Welch College in 2006 with a B.S. in English Education. He received an M.A. in Educational Leadership in May 2012 from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee. He and his wife Beth (a 2005 Welch College graduate), have been married seven years and have two children, Ethan and Kate.

They attend Bethlehem FWB Church in Ashland City, Tennessee, where Beth works with children and Brandon directs Phileo (community outreach program), teaches Sunday School, is assistant music director, and serves on the Christian Education Committee. Brandon is also a regular contributor to *The Brink* student devotional guide published by Randall House.

"I am grateful for this opportunity," said Brandon. "It expands the scope of my ministry to a wide range of people across the denomination and beyond."

Roysden will oversee planning of the D6 Conference, NYC, and other Vertical 3 events. For the past several years, these responsibilities were split between Marketing Director Matt Markins and Editorial director Danny Conn.

Markins, who helped grow the D6 Conference significantly since its inception in 2009, left Randall House in December to serve in a vice president capacity at AWANA. In the future, marketing will remain separate from meeting planning.

Conn, Vertical 3 director since 2006, will shift his entire focus to product development and his growing role as editorial director. Under his leadership, NYC grew numerically, added new events, returned the Youth Evangelistic Team (YET) to its original evangelistic purpose. He also established YET as worship leaders for NYC. He redefined the competition program as a ministry development program to prepare young people for service in the local church. ■



How to Survive Convention Housing

(and still get a room)

By Ryan Lewis,
Convention Manager

What day of the year do you dread most?

Spring cleaning? The first day of school? Your birthday? Tax day? For some Free Will Baptists, it may be the opening of convention housing. From computer crashes to mix-ups in reservations to the headquarters hotel selling out in minutes, the housing process has its challenges. Many attendees have endured these frustrations at one time or another. For that reason, planners are continually trying to improve the process. This year is no exception.

One frequent challenge is that the room block sells out in minutes. This is due in large part to overbooking rooms. Because of the chaos that ensues when housing opens, many attendees reserve more rooms than actually needed to ensure their reservations. Unfortunately, they often hold these rooms too long and cancel the reservations after the cut-off date. This means other attendees do not have an opportunity to book rooms at the convention rate.

This leaves many attendees without a room in the block. They are forced to look elsewhere in the city. This also puts the National Association of Free Will Baptists in danger of not meeting the contracted room block and, as a result, paying steep attrition fees. In an effort to reduce (or eliminate) overbooking, the convention has initiated a new housing policy.

Beginning in 2013, anyone reserving convention hotel rooms will be charged a non-refundable deposit of the first night's room and tax for each room at time of booking.

While the deposit is non-refundable, it is transferable between individuals. Attendees transferring reservations must call the hotel to switch the name on the reservation then work out payment between the two of them. The convention website will provide a method for individuals to post available rooms so attendees can find rooms and make rooms available to others.

Convention housing will open Monday, May 6 at 9:00 a.m. CST, 10:00 a.m. EST. Hotels will accept reservations by phone or online. Phone numbers will be listed on the housing form, and links to the hotels will be available at www.nafwb.org. Because so many reservations are made online, the Executive Office has upgraded Internet capabilities so the site can handle all reservations without delays or crashes. (A must after we received more than 30,000 visitors on the day housing opened in 2012.)

Four hotels will be available for convention attendees. The Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel is the convention headquarters adjacent to Tampa Convention Center. The Embassy Suites is connected by sky-bridge to the convention center and includes free cooked-to-order breakfasts for guests. The Westin Tampa Harbour Island is located one block from the convention center, right on Tampa Bay. The Hilton Tampa Downtown (formerly Hyatt Regency) is located six blocks from the convention center and boasts an affordable rate for families and groups.

Pre-Registration

National Association of Free Will Baptists

WNAC | NYC | Tampa, Florida | July 21-24, 2013

One Form Per Person | Register Online: www.nafwb.org | Name Badges Required for All Convention Events

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Missionary Country (if outside USA) _____ Phone (preferably cell) _____ - _____ - _____

Email Address _____

Church You Attend _____ Church City _____ State _____

National Association

(All voting delegates must be members in good standing of a FWB church.)

Voting Delegates:

- National Board/Commission Member
- Ordained Minister
- Ordained Deacon
- State Delegate (Authorization Required)
- Local Church Delegate (Delegate Card Required) **\$150**

Non-Voting:

- Licensed Minister
- Attendee (includes infants and toddlers)

Tickets:

Welch College Alumni and
Friends Luncheon.....Qty _____ x \$30 = _____
Wednesday, July 24, 12:00 noon

National Association Information: www.nafwb.org

National Youth Conference

Preschool:

- Ages 3-5, Attending Preschool Worship - **\$25** (\$35 on-site)
- Ages 0-5, Not Attending Preschool Worship - NO FEE

Students: \$25

Any student or competitor* attending any NYC competition or event MUST pay \$25 (\$35 on-site).

- Grades 1-3
- Grades 4-6
- Grades 7-12

*Competitors must pay \$25 registration fee in addition to competition fees already paid.

College Age / Adults: \$15

Adults attending any NYC competition or event MUST pay \$15.

- Adult Attendee (No students or children)

Tickets:

The Skit GuysQty _____ x \$10 = _____
Tuesday, July 23, 9:00 pm

NYC Information: 800-877-7030 | www.fwbny.com

Women Nationally Active for Christ

Voting Delegates:

- National Executive Committee
- State President
- State Field Worker
- State Delegate (Authorization Required)
- Local WNAC Delegate **\$10**

Non-Voting:

- Missionary
- Attendee

Tickets:

WNAC Laughter and LattéQty _____ x \$15 = _____
Monday, July 22, 8:30 p.m.
WNAC Luncheon.....Qty _____ x \$30 = _____
Tuesday, July 23, 12:00 noon

WNAC Information: 877-767-7662 | www.wnac.org

Register April 1–June 21, 2013 (postmarked) No Refunds After June 21

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- + Check (Payable to FWB Convention)
- + Visa or MasterCard only (both debit and credit cards accepted)

Card # _____

Card Holder _____ Exp ____/____

RETURN TO:

Convention Registration

PO Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011 / FAX: 615-731-0771

Questions: 877-767-7659 / convention@nafwb.org

Office Use Only: Date _____ CK# _____ Amt \$ _____ From _____

News About the Denomination

Theological Symposium Meets at Welch College

NASHVILLE, TN—The 2012 Theological Symposium met at Welch College October 22-23 for the two-day, annual event. Sponsored by the Commission for Theological Integrity, the symposium featured nine papers from pastors, teachers, professionals, and students.

Presenters expressed enthusiasm and conviction as they covered a wide range of topics:

Aaron Baldrige - "Reclaiming the Church's Mission by Recovering Our Understanding in the Old Testament"

Keith Kenemer - "The Call to Christian Education"

Greg Kettelman - "Toward a Christian View of Sport"

Denny Kuhn - "Calvinism, Compatibilism, and Evil: An Insurmountable Problem"

Thomas Marberry - "The Lucan Travel Narrative: A Journey into Discipleship."

Matthew McAfee - "The Good Word: Its Non-Covenant and Covenant Significance in the Old Testament"

Matthew Pinson - "Ineffectual Grace in the Theology of Jonathan Edwards"

Barry Raper - "Saints in the Hands of an Authentic Guide: Learning Piety from Jonathan Edwards"

Jackson Watts - "'In One Accord': Bridging the Divide Between Doctrine and Practice"

Following each presentation, attendees were allowed to comment and ask questions. This led to healthy, relevant discussion concerning real issues that touch the church today. Everyone from laymen to pastors to veteran theologians joined the discussion.

You can purchase the 243-page, spiral-bound collection of papers for only \$20. Make checks payable to the Commission for Theological Integrity. Send orders to: Commission for Theological Integrity, Attention: Matt Pinson, 3606 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205

The 2013 Theological Symposium will meet October 21-22, on the campus of Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Oklahoma. To learn more, contact Matthew Pinson: president@welch.edu. ■

Search for Home Missions Director Underway

Antioch, TN—Present director of Home Missions, Larry A. Powell, will retire from the position of General Director on December 31, 2013, after 12 years of service. Home Mission Board Chairman, Reverend Randy Wright, will receive resumés for the position from January through March 2013. The cutoff date is March 31. Please send resumés to: Rev. Randy Wright, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002 ■

Foundation Announces Expansion of Ministry

Antioch, TN—Free Will Baptist Foundation will begin a partnership with Cornerstone Estate Services of Woodstock, GA, beginning January 2013. The organization will sponsor estate-planning seminars presented by Cornerstone personnel. More than informational, the seminars will offer individuals a customized estate plan for a price of \$1,995.

The Foundation will subsidize the cost for Free Will Baptists and offer payment plans to make it affordable for anyone. Doug Little will serve as the Foundation's part-time field representative, coordinating efforts between the two agencies. Initially, seminars will be held in Tennessee and Alabama before expanding to other states.

For more information, visit www.fwbgifts.org or contact 877-336-7575. ■

Leadership Conference Reaffirms the Inspiration, Inerrancy, and Preservation of Scripture

Nashville, TN—Free Will Baptist leaders from 18 states and Canada gathered at Nashville Airport Marriott Hotel December 3-4, for the 2012 Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference. The annual event, which provides a meeting venue for denominational boards and agencies, is open to every Free Will Baptist minister and leader. The meeting features nightly worship services, practical instruction, and plenty of time for conversation and networking.

The 2012 conference addressed the theme, “How Firm a Foundation.” From the opening hymn (of the same name) to closing statements, every moment explored and reaffirmed the Free Will Baptist doctrines of the inspiration, authority, and preservation of the Scriptures. North Carolina pastor Dr. Danny Dwyer and Dr. Robert E. Picirilli, longtime professor at Welch College, delivered powerful messages each evening as they defined and defended the importance of these vital doctrines. “To use a football analogy,” Dwyer said during his Monday evening sermon, “there are some ‘Red Zone’ issues worth defending at all costs, and inspiration, authority, and the sufficiency of the Scriptures are certainly included.”

On Tuesday morning, a six-member panel of Free Will Baptist Bible scholars continued the discussion, answering 17 common questions about the Word of God such as: “How did we get the Bible?” “How has God preserved His Word throughout Scripture?” and “How do we respond to the existence of so many different English versions? Does it make any difference which one we use?”

The panel included Danny Dwyer, Leroy Forlines, Paul Harrison, Thomas Marberry, Stanley Outlaw, and Robert E. Picirilli. Their answers are available in both DVD and booklet format. One copy will be provided to every church in the denomination at no cost by contacting state promotional offices. Additional copies are available for a nominal cost at RandallHouse.com or by calling 800-877-7030. Following their discussion, the panel

answered questions from the audience during an hour-long dialogue.

Denominational Moderator Tim York reflected on the importance of the conference topic: “These two days have reminded all of us that the Bible is the foundation of Free Will Baptist doctrine, no matter what translation one uses. We walk away knowing that Free Will Baptists—both today and throughout history—believe the Bible to be the Word of God.”

The Monday night service featured music provided by Rejoice! Ministry Team of Welch College, under the direction of Susan Forlines. The Tuesday evening service featured the Cofer’s Quartet from Cofer’s Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville. The group



met in conjunction with the conference, including the Executive Committee, Board of Retirement, Home Missions Board, International Missions Board, Welch College Board



includes Executive Secretary Keith Burden, Russell Cooper, Dan Erickson, and Jerrod Pilgrim.

In addition to plenary sessions and worship services, 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 2013 convention in Tampa, Florida. Mike Wade (OK) chairs the seven-person committee.

Other national boards and committees

of Trustees, Board of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, Randall House Publications Board, and the Master’s Men Board.

“What a great conference!” said Ryan Lewis, conference coordinator. “In a day and age when truth is under constant attack, Free Will Baptists stand together on the Bible as the authoritative, inerrant, inspired Word of God. We leave this conference united by that all-important fact.”

The 2013 Leadership Conference will meet December 9-10, at Nashville Marriott Airport Hotel. ■

Photo: Mark Cowart



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

One to ONE >>>>

Give It All

There is a somewhat obscure but significant story tucked away in 1 Chronicles 21. King David took a census of Israel, and God was not pleased. The prophet Gad was sent to the king and David was told that judgment was coming. Interestingly, Gad told the king he could choose one of three forms of punishment.

Attempting to choose the least severe punishment, David chose three days of a plague in the land. The judgment was apparently worse than David anticipated. Initially, 70,000 in Israel died, and it appeared the entire city of Jerusalem would be destroyed.

The king repented of his sin and begged the Lord to stay His hand. A destroying angel stood by the threshing place of Ornan. David was told to build an altar and to sacrifice right there on the spot. When the king responded by offering to buy the threshing place, Ornan generously offered to give him not only the property but everything needed to make the sacrifice including the oxen, wood, and wheat. His response is classic: “I give it all.”

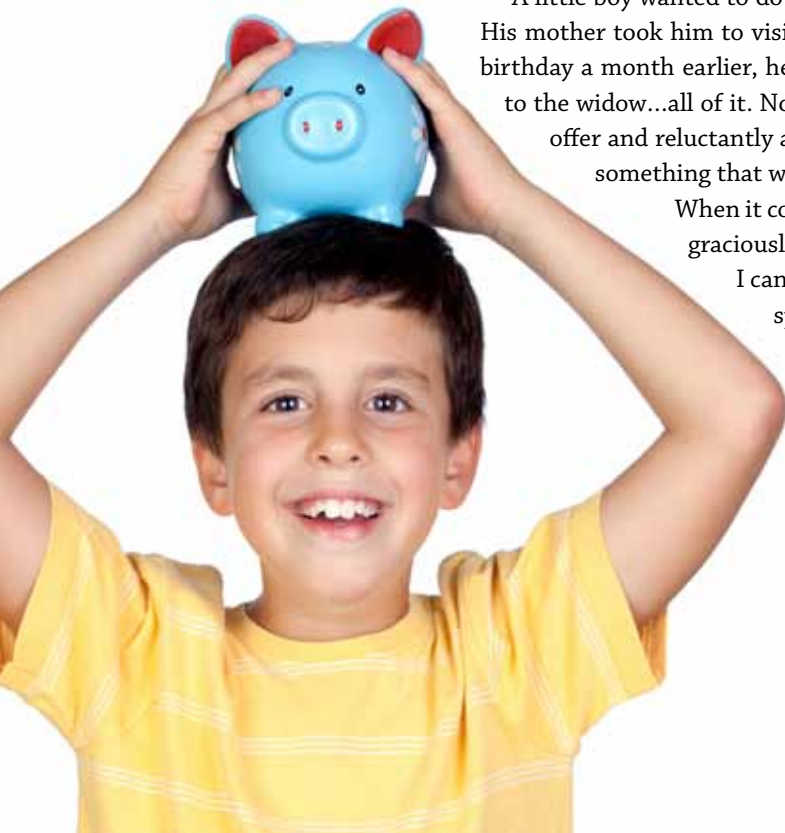
David refused to accept the generous offer, insisting he wanted to pay the full price. Nevertheless, you can’t help but be impressed by Ornan’s generous spirit. He was willing to give it all.

Fast forward to July 4, 2010. That Sunday afternoon, a young Free Will Baptist layman was tragically killed in a four-wheeler accident. Understandably, his family, church, and community were shocked and grief-stricken.

A little boy wanted to do something to demonstrate his sympathy and concern for the family. His mother took him to visit the wife of the man who lost his life. Having celebrated his eighth birthday a month earlier, he received several gifts of money. He gathered it up and presented it to the widow...all of it. Not wanting to hurt his feelings, she resisted the impulse to refuse the offer and reluctantly accepted the sincere gift. She promised to use the money to purchase something that would honor her husband’s memory.

When it comes to stewardship, God obviously doesn’t require us to give it all. He graciously allows us to maintain possession and control of up to 90%. And yet, I can’t help but feel God is pleased when He sees us demonstrate the same spirit of generosity that characterized Ornan and that little boy. After all, everything belongs to Him anyhow.

So the next time you have an opportunity to give something away, even if you can’t give it all, at least consider going the extra mile. You may just honor the Lord, be a blessing to others, and make someone proud...like me. I was that little boy’s Papa. **ONE**



“SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE OTHERS”

FOR OVER 40 YEARS THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT HAS BEEN HELPING FWB CHURCHES AND DENOMINATIONAL AGENCIES PROVIDE RETIREMENT INCOME FOR THEIR EMPLOYEES.

SERVICES:

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- ADMINISTERING RETIREMENT ANNUITY FUNDS AND OTHER RETIREMENT PAY-OUTS
- PROVIDING LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE (WHOLE-LIFE AND TERM)
- PRE-RETIREMENT PLANNING
- WRITING AND PUBLISHING PROMOTIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL FOR RETIREMENT PLANNING

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- FWB SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
FACULTY AND STAFF
- DENOMINATIONAL STATE AND
NATIONAL MINISTRY EMPLOYEES

BR BOARD of
RETIREMENT

FIND OUT MORE AT:

WWW.BOARDOFRETIREMENT.COM OR CALL 1-877-767-7738

Moving Forward...

Free Will Baptist Foundation is moving forward, with over \$48 million in assets. The agency continues to serve Free Will Baptists through endowments, planned giving, and money management.

Starting in 2013, the Foundation will offer estate planning in Tennessee, Alabama, and other states soon to follow. Find out more today!

***...with plenty of
room for you!***



www.FWBgifts.org | 877-336-7575

foundation@nafwb.org (now on Facebook)