

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

ONE

MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

APRIL/MAY 2007

The Power of Forgiveness
Honeymoon in Havana
He Loves Lucy

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ONE MAGAZINE

**TO COMMUNICATE TO FREE WILL BAPTISTS
A UNIFYING VISION OF OUR ROLE IN THE EXTENSION OF GOD'S KINGDOM.**

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COVER PHOTO: Photographer Sean Warren met the brothers on the cover during a medical missions trip to Côte d'Ivoire.

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ERIC THOMSEN
MANAGING EDITOR

FIRST GLIMPSE

“MEET EMANUEL”

TEN-YEAR-OLD EMANUEL MOSES Matemba has an infectious smile, stretching wide to reveal even, white teeth. His sparkling brown eyes and ebony skin gleaming in the bright sunshine provide a sharp contrast to his drab surroundings.

He likes school; his favorite subject is math. According to his teachers, Emanuel is an excellent student, second in his class of 128. He loves to play soccer and marbles when he is not busy with his chores—carrying water, gathering firewood, and caring for the animals.

I'm proud of Emanuel. You see, he's my child—has been since he was five years old. Each month, my wife and I, along with others from our church, send a few dollars to provide him (and his seven brothers and sisters) food, clothing, hygiene products, and—most important—a Christian education. In a recent letter, with excitement bubbling in every word, Emanuel said, “You will be happy to know that I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.” He was right. I cried as I read the letter.

Life in the AIDS-saturated country of Tanzania is not always easy for Emanuel. His letter turns somber. “For my mother and father, please keep praying to accept Jesus and stop drinking at all.” My heart breaks as I read between the lines of Emanuel's life. I pray that the love of Christ will break the cycle of hopeless desperation for his family.



You may ask, “Why give money to a child a world away, a child you probably will never meet?” The answer has much to do with Emanuel's sister (my daughter, that is). When she was only an infant, my wife and I decided to do everything in our power to expose her to God's work around the world. Whether she becomes a career missionary or not, we want Victoria to understand the importance of missions in the life of every believer. She can relate to Emanuel!

Here are six ideas we have used as we strive to fulfill our goal. Many are suggestions from the parents of active missionaries—responses to our questions about how they produced missions-minded children.

- **Missions prayer board.** A large bulletin board hangs beside our refrigerator. We pray for specific missionaries and their requests.
- **Focused giving.** Recently, Victoria chose to give two dollars a month to help build the church in Villalba, Spain.
- **Firsthand experience.** At age 7, Victoria has visited 34 states, 26 on church-related missions trips. Next year, we plan to visit Spain. In the meantime, we are praying and preparing as we learn Spanish together.
- **Missionary prayer cards.** We gave our daughter her first set of prayer cards before she could read...but she loved the pictures! It is not unusual to find Victoria in her room with cards spread out in front of her, reading about missionaries and their fields.
- **Take a missionary to lunch.** We deliberately interact with missionaries whenever the opportunity presents itself.
- **Give to the World Missions Offering.** Few things are more exciting to a parent than watching a child drop carefully hoarded coins into a “Change the World” bank with a huge smile on her face. □

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

BY CLINT MORGAN

CÔTE D'IVOIRE WAS TORN IN TWO BY AN ATTEMPTED military coup in September 2002. Our missionaries were evacuated for a short time, but have returned and are at the task with renewed vigor. I have made several extended stays to teach in the Bible institute located in rebel-held territory.

During one of these trips, Mike Cousineau and I visited Marc Nounfé, a pastor friend led to the Lord by Dr. Laverne Miley. Marc lives in Bouaké, a city of about 500,000 and the central headquarters for the rebel forces.

Marc was the only Protestant pastor who did not leave Bouaké when the war broke out. At one point, more than 40 rebel soldiers took over the church and parsonage property and freely took of the meager supplies of Marc's family. This did not deter Marc from witnessing to the rebels and ministering to the people of his church and community.

Mike and I were moved as Pastor Marc recounted story after story about life with the rebels. In spite of the struggles and horror of war, God provided encouraging

victories. The following account is a clear demonstration of God's power, presence, and protection.

STOPPED BY REBELS

One afternoon, Marc received news of a sick believer in a town 15 miles away. He knew rebel and government forces were fighting all along the main road. Nevertheless, he felt compelled to go encourage his suffering friend. Hoping to avoid the cross-fire, he followed the narrow walking trails winding through the bush.

Only a few miles from home, however, he was stopped by three rebel soldiers. The trio believed their AK-47s gave them complete authority to stop anyone they chose, and the power to take whatever they desired. They yelled at Marc, ordering him to get off the motorcycle. He knew he had no choice but to submit to their commands. Recognizing the control they had, they mocked Marc, slapped him around, and accused him of being a spy for the government forces. He repeatedly asserted that he



Top: Bullet holes mark the wall used for executions by the rebel's firing squad. Right: A machine gun looms ominously from a check point along the Ivorian border. Above: Pastor Nounfé (left) poses with his family.





was a pastor and had nothing to do with the war.

They became inflamed when he spoke of God, demanding that he remove all his clothes. When the gun-toting soldiers told him to strip, Marc knew they intended to rob him of his motorcycle and take his life.*

As he stripped, he expected the rebels to kill him at any moment. Although he couldn't explain why later, Marc indicated that, as he removed his clothes, he folded them and placed them carefully on the ground.

Marc pled for his life, but these men had no respect for the life of another human—especially for a possible government informant and pastor.

They ordered him to walk away, declaring their intention to “rain bullets on him.” Marc believed death was imminent whether he walked or not.

In frightened obedience he leaned over, retrieved his neatly folded clothing, cradled the bundle in his arms, and slowly walked away. Shots rang out behind him. Marc tensed, waiting for the burning sting of bullets to enter his body.

VOICE OF GOD

Pastor Marc recalls that he heard a voice saying, “Remember my servant Job. He lost all his possessions, but he did not lose his life.” Marc knew God was telling him he would not die. Bullets were flying, yet he found songs of praise flowing from his soul and began singing out loud.

Suddenly, the machine guns became silent. The thieves called out to him, ordering him to come back. He obeyed again, this time full of the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. The rebels said, “Because of your God, we are not going to kill you.”

I prefer to say, “Because of Marc's God, they *could not* kill him.”

The bandits commandeered the motorcycle and rode away, leaving a naked man singing praises to the true and living God.

FALSE ACCUSATION

When Marc returned to Bouaké on foot and fully clothed, he recounted his story. Some of the church people accused him of selling the motor-

cycle, which belonged to the church, and keeping the money to buy food for his family. While his family certainly could have used the money, Marc assured them that had not happened. In spite of his discouragement, he declared with great confidence that God would clear his name.

Two weeks later rebel troops patrolling a town 50 miles distant spotted Marc's motorcycle. One of the soldiers, a mechanic from Bouaké who had worked on the motorcycle, stopped the rider and asked where he got it. The rider said he bought it, and the rebel took his word for it. However, after returning to Bouaké, the mechanic/soldier went to Marc's house and checked out the man's story.

Marc recounted how he was stopped, beaten, fired at, and robbed by three rebel bandits. The rebel soldier promised Marc the motorcycle would be returned. Shortly thereafter, the motorcycle was found and brought to Marc. God worked in a miraculous way to clear the name of His servant.

THE JESUS MOMENT

Several days later, Marc received word the commander of the rebel forces wanted to see him. He went immediately to rebel headquarters and entered the courtyard. There in the middle of the compound stood three naked men. The three thieves! God had brought them to justice.

When the rebel commander heard that his men had robbed a pastor, he told the soldiers to find the thieves. The investigation was successful, and all three men were apprehended. Now they stood before their commanding officer, their judge, and executor of justice.

The commander turned to Pastor Marc and said, “There is just one thing standing between these men and death, and that is you. If you forgive them, I will not have them killed. However, if you do not forgive them, they will be killed today.”

Pastor Marc walked before the men who had ambushed, mocked, beaten, robbed, and shot at him. He looked them in the eyes and with great assurance and peace said, “In the name of the living God who spared my life, I now spare yours. I forgive you.”

We left Marc's family that day truly rejoicing in the Lord. In spite of the evil intentions of wicked men, God intervened, sparing the life of His servant. And in turn, His servant Marc Nounfé clearly demonstrated the power of forgiveness. □

** In Côte d'Ivoire, if people plan to just beat a person, they generally make him undress to his underwear. If they plan to kill him, they make him remove all clothing.*

Clint Morgan serves as regional director for Africa and Creative Access Countries for FWBIM. He is currently in Côte d'Ivoire teaching at the Bouaké Bible Institute.



MIKA'S STORY

BY JONI THOMAS

“I HAVE A EXCITING NEWS! GOD ANSWERED THE PRAYER!”

Tears filled my eyes as I stared at my computer screen. It had been over a year since I left Japan, but God was allowing me to see His mighty hand still at work in the life of someone who had grown very dear to my heart.

Mika lives in the Miharashidai neighborhood just a few streets over from the church I attended—Miharashidai FWB Chapel. Several years before I arrived in Ebetsu-shi on the island of Hokkaido, Mika studied English at the church with some missionaries. Then she moved to New Zealand to study for a couple of years.

Upon returning to Japan, she renewed her relationships with the missionaries and began developing a friendship with Alicia Hart and me. This friendship soon opened the door for us to invite Mika to various young adult activities, church activities, and sometimes even church services. It was so exciting to see Mika develop a curiosity for the things we studied. Eventually, she became interested in studying the Bible. Alicia and I invited her to our home for a one-on-one, weekly Bible study.

While Bible study can be challenging for any non-believer, it proves especially difficult for a nation of people whose language doesn't even include a word for sin, and whose closest equivalent means something similar to crime. Most people do not react well to being told they are criminals when they have stayed within the parameters of the law and haven't committed a “crime.” It proves even more difficult when the person studying is endeavoring to understand difficult words and concepts in their second language. However, God showed He can work despite the most unlikely circumstances, and the truth of His Word began to penetrate her Buddhist upbringing.

We had been studying the Bible together for over a year, when God laid it on our hearts to begin the *Purpose Driven Life* study with Mika. One night Mika was confronted with the question of whether or not she was ready to follow Christ. Although she wanted to take that step, these truths still did not “click” in her mind. After returning home



Several missionaries played a significant role in Mika's salvation and discipleship, including (left to right) Bethany Crowson, Alicia Hart, Joni Thomas, and (not pictured) Hollie Hubbard.

SHORT-TERM CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH TEACHERS NEEDED

Mika came to faith through the witness of several young women who dedicated two years of their lives to working with missionaries in Japan. You, too, can make a difference in the lives of young men and women. If you are interested in spending two years in Japan, please email International Missions (go@fwbgo.com).

Japan is home to 126 million people. Less than 1/2 of 1% know Christ.

that evening, she read through the study again. Later, she said it was like a light came on. Suddenly, everything she had been learning up to that point made sense, and she knew what she needed to do. She immediately surrendered her life to Christ. Mika felt like a weight had been lifted, and was very happy.

Mika wanted to be baptized. She knew baptism would show those around her she truly had taken the step to become a follower of Christ. Her family and close friends were not supportive.

Mika's culture demands conformity to the group. Baptism would set her apart, identify her as an outsider, and erect social boundaries. It would mean no longer worshiping at the little family shrine. Mika's participation in weddings, funerals, the annual visitation to the ancestral graves, and many lifelong traditions would all be challenged.

For more than a year, she wrestled with the bold step of identifying with Christ. She struggled with honoring her parents versus obeying Christ. Mika repeatedly asked us and other Christians to pray for her family and boyfriend to agree to her baptism.

After a year of grappling with the problem, she nervously determined to confront both her family and boyfriend again. By God's grace, she found the strength to talk with her parents. I was overjoyed when I opened an email one day and read, "I have an exciting news! God answered the prayer! My parents said okay easily when I told them about my baptism. Thank you for your prayer."

Her next challenge was asking her boyfriend for permission. This was very important to her, but once again God showed His strength to Mika. She wrote, "Thank you for praying. God answered prayer again. Hallelujah!! I told Kentaro about my baptism and he said okay. There was no reason to say no if my parents said okay. He asked me if I forced him to believe God. I told him I wouldn't, but believed God would. He said he would believe Him someday and wanted (to) see how I would be changed. So I should be going to testify for Him. I'll keep trying." Not only did God give her strength to confront her boyfriend and family with this matter, He also began to work in her boyfriend's heart.

Mika was baptized in July 2006. She wrote, "My baptism went great, too. We worried about weather but God blessed us. It was sunny day. Water was little cold." Mika went on to say, "I didn't feel anything when I got baptized. After while I couldn't stop crying. I was so happy."

With the support of her brothers and sisters at the church, Mika is growing in Christ. The girl who once studied the Bible with me and other missionaries, now leads her own Bible study with a girl much like she once was. Sometimes she can be found leading the singing during worship, working with the children, or filling in wherever needed. She is living her life, trusting God to use her to help her parents and boyfriend understand He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. □

Former short-term missionary to Hokkaido, Japan, Joni Thomas is mobilization assistant for FWB International Missions. She works closely with the E-TEAM and College Missions Program. To find out more about short-term mission opportunities visit www.fwbgo.com.

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HONEYMOON IN HAVANA

BY SUSAN HENDERSON

April 4, 1944—Aurora, Missouri

The wedding of Rev. Winford Davis and Miss Burnice Bradley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bradley took place at 9 o'clock last night in the home of Rev. and Mrs. John B. Rollins.

At midnight the bride and groom departed by train for Nashville, Tennessee. They will leave Nashville by plane to Havana, Cuba. (excerpts from Aurora Advertiser, 1944).

As a 13-year-old mush-machine, my heart raced as I slowly thumbed through a timeworn scrapbook in my grandma's living room. A honeymoon in Havana—how romantic! I imagined my grandparents strolling hand-in-hand along the moonlit beach, relishing the balmy Cuban evening. I could see them examining native crafts and selecting souvenirs from a quaint open-air market. I gazed into my grandpa's adoring eyes as a Cuban guitarist strummed love songs softly into the subtropical breeze. A month in paradise—what a way to start a relationship!

As I continued to turn the yellowed, brittle pages, an entirely different scene unfolded. Black-and-white photos painted a full-color picture of poverty. Dirt roads, straw-roofed huts, and shabbily dressed, barefoot children brought my romantic vision to a halt. I began to question my grandma, and the stories soon rolled with the wooden wheels on the mule-drawn wagons in the photos. Yes, my grandparents enjoyed a brief stay in beautiful Havana, but they quickly moved on to the newly established Free Will Baptist mission work in Pinar del Rio, welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. (Mom and Pop) Willey, two of the small handful of people in the area who spoke English.

On the morning after their arrival, a native "beautician" showed up at their honeymoon hut to work her

magic on Grandma's beautiful, flowing auburn locks. As the rudimentary stylist tightly pinned up her long strands, Mrs. Willey explained to grandma that if she walked down the street with her hair on her shoulders, she would be solicited for prostitution!

My grandparents did take a walk together on their honeymoon, but their steps did not fall upon golden sand. Instead, they walked over a steep hill into a shadowy valley to say goodbye. The following morning my grandpa planned to leave for a mule-back trip into the jungle with Pop Willey. They would be gone for a week. The dark solitude of the valley matched Grandma's spirit. "I've never felt so alone and so scared," she recalled.

As she waved goodbye to the love of her life, my brave grandma readied herself for the week-long adventure of a lifetime. She was one of only three English speakers in the village. Thankfully, language barriers never stand in the way of getting to know children, and Grandma soon found herself falling in love with scores of round-faced Cuban children.

The language difference did pose a problem, however, when a local egg salesman approached my grandma, as she cooled herself in the breeze on Mrs. Willey's porch. He spoke in rapid-fire Spanish; she understood nothing. He gestured wildly toward his product. She shrugged helplessly. In the background the good folks at the mission enjoyed a hearty laugh at her expense. She wouldn't tell me how many dozen eggs she ended up with!

As promised, seven days later Grandpa's faithful mule carried him back to the arms of the woman he loved. As they boarded the plane that would carry them home, Grandpa caught her hand, as well as her gaze, and whis-

pered, “Burnice, let your hair down.” Be still, my heart!

The week in Pinar del Rio signified only the beginning of sad goodbyes and lonely times for Grandma. As secretary/treasurer of the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Board, as well as a local pastor and evangelist, Grandpa traveled frequently. He leaned on my grandma’s strength, faith, resolve and creativity. She multitasked long before Oprah made the term popular. Grandma was a wife, receptionist, public relations specialist, travel agent, bookkeeper, and accountant of her home. She was mother and father to her three children in Grandpa’s absence. I’d like to paint a “suffering saint” picture and tell you she did it all without complaining, but she didn’t. The truth is, she suffered bouts of depression, discouragement, even resentment. And like most women (at least in my family), she vocalized them. However, through all the dark and lonely valleys she never quit. She stood by her man, her God, and her family—even when she stood alone.

As I listened to her reminisce, my heart swelled with pride. I admired her strength, her devotion, her independent spirit; and I hoped those same traits would work themselves into my own heart and soul. Romance is wonderful, but if faced with the choice, I’d gladly take Grandma’s integrity and fortitude.

Looking back on that day in Grandma’s living room, I remember her gazing fondly—not at the photos of Havana, but at the adults and children of Pinar del Rio. Without needing to ask, I know she would live it all over again. Why the deep connection? At age 13, I could not understand it, but now I realize that among the Cubans, she found common ground, a common spirit.

In 1944, the people of Cuba found themselves strangled by the grip of a corrupt leader, Fulgencio Batista. Because he had close ties to organized crime and a reputation for violence, the people feared their leader. Opposing politician Fidel Castro waited in the wings. With sadness in her voice, Grandma explained that many of the sweet people in her pictures died during the clashes between the two.

In 1959, Castro became Cuba’s communist dictator clamping down on personal freedom, including religion. Her people still cry for freedom. Grandma understands their cries. She, too, was a freedom fighter.

At age 16, sitting in the floor of a different room, thumbing through a different scrapbook I began to understand my grandma’s fighting spirit. As I held my mother’s baby book in my hands, I read a puzzling entry. Freda Sue Gold, born on February 11, 1937. Freda Sue Gold? How odd. Mom’s maiden name was Davis. When I questioned mom about what I thought was a misprint, she explained that Rev. Winford Davis was not her biological father; Grandma had been married before. Her first husband, my natural grandfather, was a violent, abusive alcoholic. As I sat in stunned silence, mom called grandma, then handed the phone to me. “I never told you because I was afraid you’d be disappointed. Are you?”



Photo: Mrs. Burnice Davis pauses in downtown Havana in the 1940s.

Many emotions swirled through my heart at that moment, but none could be called disappointment. Pride? Yes. Awe? Yes. Admiration? Definitely. At a time when society—especially the church—turned up its nose at divorced women, Grandma found the courage to fight for herself and her small daughter. Several years later, she led her fractured family into better, safer days with a man who loved and cared for her and her child, the only father my mother ever knew.

As I revisit the photos in Grandma’s weathered scrapbook, I understand that, in spite of the language barrier and difficult circumstances, perhaps Grandma understood the Cuban people better than Grandpa, better than the Willeys—maybe better than anyone. She knew fear and oppression, and she knew the courage it takes to stand and fight for something better. She carried that knowledge back to the United States and used it in her own life and ministry.

Most romantic tales end with the famous phrase, “and they lived happily ever after.” This love story has a different conclusion. My grandparents did not always live happily, and in May 1997, she said a final, earthly goodbye to the man she loved. No, my grandparents didn’t live happily ever after, but I proudly proclaim that they lived. They loved, they laughed, they fought, they failed—they lived. I only hope I can live up to their example. □

*Susan Henderson is the secretary of Purdy Elementary School in Purdy, MO. She has written several books, including *And a Little Child Shall Lead Them*, a devotional book about children.*

Missions 101



by Larry Hampton

Carol Gritton wrote of her somewhat confusing introduction to missions.

“Mission-Harry?”



“At least that’s what I thought the preacher was saying! I couldn’t help wondering why everyone was so concerned about ‘Harry’ and his mission!” And just what was his mission anyway? She added, “Although my word-interpretation as a child kept me from understanding the full meaning of the word missionary—I wonder if we wouldn’t be a little closer to the true meaning of missionary if we replaced Mission-‘Harry’s’ name with our own—Mission-Jason, Mission-Sarah, Mission-me!”



Perhaps no organization has contributed more to changing the emphasis from “Mission-Harry” to “Mission-me” than Sunday School. For generations, Sunday School has taught students the biblical basis of missions. Countless boys and girls have memorized the Great Commission in Sunday School. Men and women have been challenged by faithful teachers to take the gospel to those who have never heard it. CLEAR curriculum regularly includes mission lessons, stressing the missionary character of the entire Bible.

GO

Sunday School not only develops the case for missions but also gives students an opportunity to be involved in missions. Inviting the unchurched to attend your Sunday School is missions. Holding a service at a homeless shelter is missions. A teen from your Sunday School seeking to Reach that Guy during the National Youth Conference is missions. A junior high student joining in the GPS-Xperience is missions. A high school student spending two weeks on a North American or international field is missions. A college student serving as an E-TEAM Intern or an Overseas Apprentice is missions. An adult engaging in a short-term assignment abroad is missions.



The presence of millions of people from other lands in our country makes it possible for you to be involved in international missions without leaving your hometown. Now’s the time for your Sunday School class to identify those of other ethnic groups in your community. Pray and plan to reach them with the gospel.



GIVE

Sunday School is also a source of support for missions. For example, the Women's Class at Woodbine FWB Church in Nashville, Tennessee, supports the David Outlaw family, recent appointees to a creative-access country. Individually, members of the class also give regularly to other home and international missionaries.

Every Sunday School class in every church can take part in the World Missions Offering by filling "Change the World" banks. Members of the teen classes can take part in the Buck-a-Week program sponsored by the Student and Children's Ministries of Randall House Publications.

PRAY

Prayer is vital to the missionary task. Sunday School is positioned to increase prayer for our missionaries. The entire class can intercede for specific missionaries and requests each Sunday when they meet. Between Sundays, members can pray for existing missionaries, while asking God to call out new missionaries from their church.

Are you a missions-hearted Christian? If so, you probably attend Sunday School regularly. That's where you learned the church has been commissioned to win the lost. Are you involved in missions? Thank your Sunday School teacher. Sunday-by-Sunday, he or she has challenged you to pray for missionaries, to support missionaries, and to become a missionary. Do you share your faith consistently? Thank God for your Sunday School teacher. Week in and week out, he or she has strived to equip you to share the gospel with your friends and relatives.

ABOUT THE WRITER: *Larry Hampton is the editor of CLEAR curriculum for adults at Randall House Publications.*

GO

To schedule a short-term mission trip to a mission field in our country or on the other side of the world for you and your entire Sunday School class, contact Home Missions at (877) 767-7674 or International Missions (877) 767-7736.

For information about the GPS-Xperience, E-TEAM, or College Missions Programs, visit www.fwbgo.com or call (877) 767-7736.

For information about Reach That Guy, contact Danny Conn, director of Student and Children's Ministries, at danny.conn@randallhouse.com.

GIVE

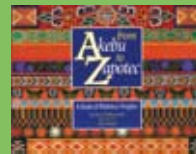
For information about the Buck-a-Week campaign, visit www.NYCbuckAweek.com or call (800) 877-7030.

For information about Change the World banks, visit www.fwbgo.com or call (877) 767-7736.

PRAY

Up-to-date prayer requests are available from International Missions on the Hotline. To receive Hotline requests each week email cheri@fwbgo.com. Individual missionaries (home and international) also send out newsletters. Prayer cards for home and international missionaries are free upon request. To request prayer cards or newsletters contact Home Missions (877) 767-7674 or International Missions (877) 767-7736.

A HELPFUL RESOURCE



From Akebu to Zapotec, A Book of Bibleless Peoples (paperback, \$8.99) by June Hathersmith; illustrated by Alice Roder

This book encourages a heart for missions by introducing children one letter of the alphabet at a time, to a people group that does not have the Bible in its own language.

The unique stories and illustrations in this book give children a desire to know more about other cultures and lands. It will inspire them to pray for the people they meet in the book and will illustrate how God can even use children to spread His Word. Even before they learn to read, children can learn the value and power of God's Word.

This book can be purchased from Randall House. Call (800) 877-7030 or visit www.randallhouse.com.





A FORK IN THE ROAD

BY BARRY SIMPSON

WHILE ATTENDING A DISTRICT ASSOCIATION MEETING in October 2006, James Forlines, general director of the International Missions Department, approached me and invited me to have lunch with him the following week. At the time, it was just another lunch engagement.

I thought it might have something to do with Shannon Little, a missionary appointee to Japan who is a member of our church. As a single woman, she was experiencing difficulty raising financial support. We set a date, but with the demands of pastoral ministry I didn't give much thought to the appointment. On the day of the scheduled meal, my full attention was consumed with helping a dear Christian brother dying with cancer. As a result, I arrived late to the appointment.

As the conversation unfolded, I began to realize that James was going to ask me to work for International Missions. I'm sure I had a deadpan look on my face. The idea of working for the department had

never entered my mind, nor was I overly interested in a change of employment. When we left the restaurant, James headed for a two-week trip to Spain, and I embarked on a 24-day odyssey of prayer, consultation with confidants, and deep soul-searching for my wife Jena and me.

Jena and I had been serving New Hope FWB Church in Joelton, Tennessee, for almost a quarter of a century. I was 23 and Jena 19 when we began attending the church as young Bible college students, and we spent our entire married life and ministry at New Hope. We began by serving in children's church and bus ministry, and later transitioned to full-time youth and associate pastor. For the past 16 years I served as senior pastor.

We love the people of New Hope. They helped us raise two sons; they shaped and honed our ministry skills. In many ways, New Hope has been our life. The church has a bright future with committed staff and great lay leadership. We truly had no reason to leave.

Out of the clear blue, we found ourselves considering leaving the pastorate at New Hope for another facet of ministry. What began as just another lunch had the potential to change our lives and our future.

I'm not much of a mystic when it comes to the will of God. I'm not one to put out a fleece, or to make major life decisions based on a whim or feelings. My mind, as well as my heart, would have to be satisfied it was God's will before I would consider such a move.

THE CRISIS PRESENTED

James returned from his trip in time to attend the Tennessee state meeting. During the meeting, Jena and I talked with him for a total of four hours. He clarified the challenges facing each missionary and the department as a whole as it relates to funding. I couldn't help but agree as he shared his concerns about the challenges of the current funding system to meet future needs.

I knew from personal experience, as Shannon's pastor, the current system wasn't working. Shannon, who grew up at New Hope, spent two and half years on the road, working hard to raise her support. I knew how discouraged and frustrated she'd been at times.

The inefficiency of the current funding system is hampering our ability to share the gospel with the unreached multitudes. A pipeline full of young couples and individuals—ready or preparing to go

to the field—will be delayed or turned away entirely if something isn't done. The gospel will not reach men, women, and children who desperately need to hear it unless new solutions are found.

As never before, I recognized how the complicated funding landscape will fail to meet our future needs. I became convinced I needed to help find a solution.

THE MISSIONARIES' DILEMMA

A troublesome aspect of the current funding system is the deputational burden with which we saddle our missionaries. For years, I have thought it a shame that missionaries come home on stateside assignment and immediately hit the road to raise money. This difficult task involves not only travel, but hours on the phone making contacts and scheduling services. Stateside time no longer serves as an opportunity for restoration and an occasion to share their ministry; it often becomes a time of great stress, a strain on missionary families and their marriages.

Like Shannon, other well qualified young missionary candidates who are unknown beyond their local churches, often find fundraising to be a challenge of monumental proportions. After spending many years and thousands of dollars on education and preparation, fundraising becomes another hurdle to overseas service.

The Lord began to use these troubling realities to refocus both my mind and my heart.



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INTERNATIONAL
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Life is short, but the Great Commission is until Jesus returns. By the simple act of contributing to an endowment, you can support the work of International Missions until He does.

The daughters of a faithful missions-supporting couple wanting to do something in memory of their parents took some of their small inheritance and created an endowment. Another individual, who gave generous monthly support wanting that support to continue after his death, created another endowment. Many folks who feel they cannot do much but want to do something perpetual simply make a gift during life or through their estate plan to a general endowment fund. These gifts are recognized when received but their ongoing support is simply general support.

Endowment gifts are never intended to replace the immediate gifts that sustain International Missions. They can add significant amounts to future efforts. If you would like to consider the possibilities of endowment support, call or write our office. No gift is too small and our help is offered without cost or obligation.

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or email to: foundation@nafwb.org, or fax: **(615) 737-1160** • www.fwbgifts.org.

WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING

APRIL 2006

IN 2006

- ✦ 324 churches participated in the World Missions Offering.
- ✦ \$347,359 was received.
- ✦ Bible institutes in Russia, Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire, and India were fully underwritten.
- ✦ Unaudited numbers indicate the Mission finished the year in the black.

WHAT IF ALL OUR CHURCHES HAD PARTICIPATED!

IN 2007

- ✦ Our goal is to raise at least \$500,000 through this year's WMO.
- ✦ The funds will again underwrite the four Bible institutes, and relieve some of the burden from missionaries by partially funding their accounts.

JENA'S PREDICAMENT

The decision was very difficult for Jena. If I worked for International Missions, her life would be dramatically different. She voiced the turmoil clearly as we sat across from James at a fast-food restaurant during the Tennessee state meeting. Jena looked James in the eye and challenged, "Why did you choose to turn our world upside-down?"

Eventually, Jena summarized her fears with two questions. First, where would we attend church? Since we live just 25 miles from Nashville, there was no need to relocate. Our church family at New Hope assured us they want us to continue to worship with them.

Second, she wanted to know about travel. We learned that I would be on the road as many as 100 nights a year. What a huge change! I had not traveled much during my tenure at New Hope. Being apart almost one-third of the year would be a real sacrifice for us. Then we thought about the sacrifice of our missionaries who leave family, home, and country; ours would be a small sacrifice in comparison.

We had been blessed with more than two decades at New Hope. We'd had a pretty good run without much sacrifice. Perhaps, it was our time to sacrifice for what we both considered to be a profoundly important cause.

After coming to terms with Jena's two important questions, we still faced the most important decision of our married life. Would we stay at New Hope, and continue a long and enjoyable ministry among some of the finest people in the world? Or, would we embark on a journey promising many challenging changes and even more unknowns?

THE CALL ACCEPTED

I simply could not escape the reality of the wave of young people flooding the already stressed system. Nor could I avoid the challenge to our future ability to get the gospel to the unreached. I was being called upon to help find a solution—a solution to make it possible for

missionaries (both married and single) to exercise their calling and utilize their gifts to reach people for Jesus Christ without the fear and stress of seeking major financial support.

Jena and I determined—if I could be an instrumental part of bringing about this change, lifting the burden from our missionaries—it would be a worthwhile way to spend my life. I wouldn't leave New Hope for another church, but I felt the call of duty and the call of God to give myself to this effort. I called James and told him I would join the International Missions team.

MY MISSION

While the position of director of development certainly involves raising money, I would not have taken the position to merely serve as a fundraiser. A large part of my ministry, and the burden of my heart, is to educate, inform, and challenge Free Will Baptists to develop a better funding system.

I want people to understand and genuinely embrace the truth that giving to the World Missions Offering each April is not just a good thing to do. It is, in fact, a vital first step toward bringing about an essential change at this critical time in the history of the Mission and the Free Will Baptist missionary effort.

I want to shout from the housetops, "The wave is coming, and we must be ready for it! We must change the way we give to missions. And we must not fail!"

As I stood before my congregation to offer my resignation, I looked out on the faces of my dear friends and asserted, "I can, and have, thought of a 100 reasons to stay, but I must go." □

Veteran pastor Barry Simpson was recently named director of development for the International Missions Department. He and his wife Jena live in Joelton, TN.

Ambassadors are available to help promote the World Missions Offering in your church. Call (877) 767-7736 to schedule a service at your church. World Missions Sunday is April 29.



INTERSECT

WHERE THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

IN THE ZONE

I HAVE A CONFESSION TO MAKE.

I'm not sharing the gospel enough.

Chances are you're not either. The truth

is that my neglect is sin; I grieve and repent over it, but I still need to get busy doing what Jesus commanded me to do.

Find the Zone

The early church had no such reluctance, however. They had a simple two-step strategy we would do well to adopt. Read Acts and you can't miss it. First, they found their zone. That is, the church zeroed in on their message and audience.

"God promised that Christ must suffer, be killed, and rise on the third day. Jesus is the Christ, and now He commands you to repent," they declared, first in Jerusalem, next in Judea and Samaria, then as far as they could go to tell it.

Flood the Zone

Once they distilled the gospel to its essence, they told it as many ways and in as many places as they could. To borrow an old football tactic where an offense sends out more receivers than the defense can cover, they "flooded the zone" with the good news of salvation. Christians told it in synagogues, prisons, courts, and marketplaces. Even the Jewish leaders conceded that Jesus' followers saturated Jerusalem with their message.

Witnesses of the Way shared Christ's love on the streets and in houses, in cities and deserts, along coastal towns and the inland road to Damascus. Like the surging surf, their witness swept

farther and farther across borders to Antioch, Cyrene, Ephesus, Philippi, Athens, Corinth, and Rome.

Zoning In

On a recent visit to Park Street Church in Boston, I saw firsthand how this strategy helped a congregation become intentional in their outreach. First, they had honed their message to a fine point: "We uphold the centrality and exclusivity of the gospel," they affirmed, and "that Jesus Christ, who is God incarnate, is the only way of salvation."

Then they built a program to get this news to people, using whatever proper means they could. Here are some of the ideas that are working for them. They offer gospel "talking points" to interested "questioners," internationals, 20- and 30-somethings, and university students. They sponsor outreaches for sharing Christ on the job, through the arts, in urban settings, through adult education; to teens, couples, grandparents, single parents, and families with children.

They use testimonies, canvassing, small-group Bible studies, hikes, retreats, service projects, mission trips, drama, music, media, crafts, hospital and prison care, tutoring, crisis intervention, and counseling, just to name a few strategies.

My church or yours may not be able to do all these things, but some of them will work. The real issue in reaching people, though, is with me: what am I doing now, where I am, with what God has given me in my zone? ■

Dr. Garnett Reid is a member of the Bible faculty at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

CLEAR[®] TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2007



- Does your teacher capture the attention of students and relate to them on their level?
- Is your teacher confident in his or her knowledge of God's Word?
- Does your teacher inspire students to study the Bible and apply its truths to their lives?
- Does your teacher seek to grow spiritually and desire for his or her students to grow as well?

If so, urge your Pastor, Minister, or Sunday School Superintendent to nominate your teacher for the CLEAR Teacher of the Year Award. Nominees for CLEAR Teacher of the Year must currently be teaching from the CLEAR Sunday School Curriculum. All age groups are eligible, but only one winner will be chosen.

The CLEAR Teacher of the Year will receive 3 days, 2 nights stay at the National Convention in Little Rock, AR. The prize includes transportation (\$.125 per mile), food (\$120 for three days), and lodging.

Additional prizes include:

- \$200 decorating allowance for the winner's classroom
- \$100 gift card to Randal Bookstore for books and supplies.
- A press release to the winner's hometown newspaper and state FWB newsletter, with a picture and write-up in ONE magazine as the award winner.

To place a nomination for CLEAR Teacher of the Year, visit us on line at www.CLEARcurriculum.com/teacher <http://www.CLEARcurriculum.com/teacher>.

If you prefer, you may write or call Randal House Publications: 114 Bush Road, Nashville, TN 37217, (800) 877-7030.

The deadline for CLEAR Teacher of the Year nominations is April 30, 2007.



Travels of the Director of Missionary Assistance
Home Missions Department
BY RICHARD ATWOOD

WHY ARE THERE NO FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES IN NEW YORK?

Free Will Baptists are back in New York! Upstate New York was once home to more than 100 Free Will Baptist churches (according to the *Free Baptist Cyclopedia*), but there haven't been any Free Will Baptist churches in New York for almost 100 years...until 2006. Last year, a new FWB church began holding services in a Holiday Inn south of Rochester.

David Marks, one of the great FWB evangelists, was born in upstate New York in the early 1800s. Marks made a great impact on the northern movement of Free Will Baptists. He left home at age 15 with almost no money and walked from town to town to preach. He rode one horse over 19,000 miles as an itinerant preacher. He was a pioneer; he helped form the denomination's first home and foreign mission boards; he published the first *Treatise* and the first denominational hymnbook; he organized and taught in several schools and seminaries; he was a home missionary to Rochester, and organized FWB churches in other towns.

Another pioneer has arrived in New York. Dana Booth and his wife Betty left family and friends and moved to Rochester to start a church. They are veteran church planters with three successful FWB churches to their credit. While traveling to raise money, Dana met Jim and Sylvia Martin in Alabama. The couple caught the vision and moved to Rochester to help Dana and Betty. The church now meets in a rented building located along



Top left: Dana Booth and Jim Martin.



Top center: Opening service.

Bottom: Dana Booth visits with Sandy Atwood and a member of the congregation.



a growth corridor. Over 1.3 million people live in the Rochester metropolitan area.

As we drove around the area with the Booths, we noticed something—or rather a lack of something—evangelical churches. Dana said, “The people around here are nice folks, but most of them just don’t go to church at all.” Many churches don’t claim to believe the Bible. One of the Booths’ church-going neighbors told them, “The difference between our church and yours is that we don’t believe the Bible is inspired by God.”

The door is open wide for Free Will Baptists to enter this large mission field. David and Marilla Marks, Dana and Betty Booth, Jim and Sylvia Martin are all pioneers who took up the challenge. □

Richard Atwood is director of missionary assistance for the National Home Missions Department.

- New York is the third most populous state in the U.S. with 19,255,000 people (2005 U.S. Census estimate).
- New York City is the largest city in the U.S. with a population of 8,143,000. This is larger than the population of 39 states.
- The population of the metro area of New York which includes portions of New Jersey and Connecticut is over 19 million.
- Other cities in the state of New York with a population of more than 50,000 people include: Buffalo, Rochester, Yonkers, Syracuse, Albany, New Rochelle, Mt. Vernon, Schenectady, and Utica. Every one of these cities need a Free Will Baptist church.
- Free Will Baptist Home Missions has designated the state of New York as a target area for new church planters.

The Home Missions Department welcomes and introduces the following recently approved missionaries:



Michael Hutton, wife Holly, and children Grant and Emma, are headed for Spring Hill, TN, one of the fastest growing areas in the country. The area grew from 1,500 people in 1990 to more than 21,000 in 2005. However, no Free Will Baptist churches exist in this area. The primary age group in Spring Hill is 20 to 49, and many families have young children. The city holds tremendous potential for a thriving church. Michael is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College with a bachelor’s degree in Christian Education.



Tim and Robyn Osborn are planting a church in Oakland, TN, a fast-growing suburb of Memphis. Tim pastored Grace FWB Church—originally a home missions project—also located in the Memphis area. He graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College with a Bachelor of Arts degree. The Osborns have four sons and two daughters: Jordan, Zacharia, Seth, Gabriel, Elizabeth, and Emma.



Anderson baptizing Lt. Col Derek Grimes in the Atlantic Ocean.

MILITARY CHAPLAINS:

SERVING AMERICA'S FIGHTING CONGREGATION

BY CH (CPT) RICHARD G. ANDERSON

THE FIRST AMENDMENT OF THE United States Constitution declares, "Congress shall make no law neither respecting an establishment of religion nor prohibiting the free exercise thereof." While the establishment clause forbids the institution of one religious faith over another, the free

exercise clause allows for the practice of all religious faiths. These two clauses—the establishment clause and the free exercise clause—serve as the foundation for the Chaplain Corps. The mission of the Chaplain Corps is to provide members of the military and their families opportunity to exercise

their constitutional right to freedom of religion.

Many regulations have been designed to accommodate the various practices of all religious faiths, as long as such practices do not have an adverse impact on military readiness, individual or unit readiness, unit cohesion,

health, safety standards, or discipline. For instance, Air Force Policy Directive 52-1, para 1.7.3 states, "Commanders through the chaplain service accommodate the religious practices of assigned personnel and family members by providing resources for a comprehensive religious program."

Religious accommodation includes but is not limited to the following areas: worship opportunities, dietary practices, medical practices, Sabbath observances, and wear of religious apparel (cf. AFI 36-2706; DoD Directive 1300.17).

Military chaplains serve in a pluralistic setting where all religious faiths are recognized and accommodated. Yet civilian pastors also serve in a pluralistic culture, surrounded by community members who embrace a multiplicity of religions and worldviews.

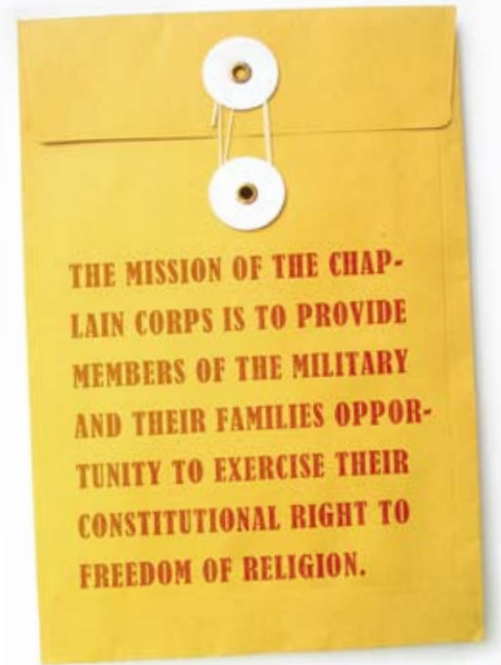
Neither military chaplains nor civilian pastors are expected to serve the people within their sphere of influence in a generic manner. Both are expected to be people of integrity, faithful to their calling, and loyal to their denominational teachings and practices. At the same time, however, both must be respectful toward those with whom they disagree. Unfortunately, many military chaplains, like many civilian clergy, have compromised their deeply held theological beliefs in an attempt to become all things to all

people. How tragic!

Because military chaplains have been endorsed by a particular denomination, they adhere to the faith and practice of their respective denomination. In other words, chaplains provide pastoral acts and care consistent with their denominational tenets. For example, as a Free Will Baptist chaplain, I serve the Protestant community of faith within our nation's military as a faithful Free Will Baptist minister. I preach, teach, baptize, etc., in the exact same manner as I would in any local Free Will Baptist church.

On the other hand, military chaplains also respect the free exercise rights of those from different religious faiths and provide for their individual needs. In other words, if a military member requested a place to practice his faith, I could accommodate his appeal by providing for him a specific location. The nuance is clear. Military chaplains provide pastoral ministry to those of like faith and indirectly provide for the needs of those from differing religious traditions.

Although military chaplains support the free exercise rights of all members of the United States military, the chaplain's support must never be misconstrued as agreement with those from different religious traditions. As a Christian, it is my deep conviction that not all religious faiths are equal.



Indeed, I recognize only "one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 2:5; cf. John 14:6; Acts 4:12). I preach the message that reconciliation with God results from a personal relationship with the crucified and risen Jesus—not from some world religion! □

Richard Anderson serves in the United States Air Force as a Free Will Baptist Chaplain and is currently serving as the Senior Protestant Chaplain at Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal. He is married to Faith (VanWinkle) Anderson, and they have two sons, Jack and Jonathan Wesley. Chaplain Anderson can be contacted at Richard.Anderson@lajes.af.mil.



BONNIE DOGGETT WITH THE LORD

The Home Missions Department extends sympathy to the family of Bonnie Doggett, who went to be with the Lord on December 21, 2006. Bonnie, daughter of well-known Free Will Baptist pastor William Mishler, was a dedicated pastor's wife for 46 years. At the time of her death, she served with husband Kenneth W. Doggett at the Woodlawn FWB Church in Russellville, Arkansas. Ken and Bonnie served faithfully as home missionaries at the Heritage FWB Church in Springfield, Illinois for many years. The Home Missions Department is grateful for their faithful service to the Lord. Bonnie is survived by one daughter, Renee Appleget, and sons Mark and Gary and their families.

The Many Faces of

By Steve Lytle



I've been blessed to see the Church of Jesus Christ in many distinct forms throughout the years. Growing up in and among the mountain churches of Western North Carolina, experiencing Nashville-style churches during my studies at Free Will Baptist Bible College, and encountering the Latin American church in Costa Rica during language school (and in Panama and Cuba as a missionary), provided a rich and varied experience in worship and ministry with the family of God. Since accepting the responsibility of Director of Field Operations for International Missions in 2000, those experiences have grown exponentially. I have worshipped with my brothers and sisters in Christ in 15 countries across five continents. What a joy!

I've attended services in a tiny bamboo hut on a small island off the coast of Panama; in a fifth-floor apartment in Cuba; in mega-cities like Seoul and Tokyo; and in many places in between. Some churches have been traditional, solemn, and, even, liturgical. Others have been spontaneous, emotional, and demanding participation. I've sat with 3,000 worshippers under an enormous white tent on the mission compound in Sonapurhat, India. I've met in a humble house church in rural Cuba with pigs rooting and chickens scratching nearby.

These varied experiences have led me to several conclusions.

The Church is different in the way it manifests itself because, to a degree, it is culturally conditioned. The Church takes on the personality of the people who compose it. Their ethnicity, language, customs, and music are expressed as they worship the Creator. Worshipping in the Miharashidai Chapel in Ebetsu, Japan, is tremendously different than praising God in the Templo Manantial de Vida de San Miguelito, Panama. Yet, both prove extremely satisfying as God meets with His people.

Wherever Free Will Baptists are working, God is building His Church. We can rejoice over explosive growth in India, Cuba, and Côte d'Ivoire. We can also celebrate as resistant fields like Spain and Japan demonstrate signs a harvest is coming, a spiritual breakthrough is about to occur. Likewise, Free Will Baptists confidently move forward to minister in Jesus' name among restricted access peoples—where millions have never heard the Name that alone brings salvation.

Worldwide, Free Will Baptists have a commitment to reaching the unsaved. Believers in Japan have sent offerings for the work in India for many years. Cuban pastors have expressed interest in missionary work in Russia, Panama, and Uruguay. A Cuban pastor is planting a church in Madrid, Spain, and another pastors a growing church in Panama City, Panama. Brazilian Free Will Baptists have sent missionaries to China, Ireland, and Africa without any assistance from their brothers in North America.

An economically deprived church does not necessarily mean a spiritually destitute church. Extreme poverty abounds in India, Côte d'Ivoire, and Cuba. Yet the gospel strides through those lands like an unbound giant and churches are multiplying. Each Sunday more than 30,000 Free Will Baptist believers gather in these countries.

I have found some of the strongest, most spiritual churches are outside the United States. A number of

*t*he Church



AWTREYS COMMISSIONED, DEPART

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA—The Discovery FWB Church in Stockton, CA, hosted the commissioning service for Tim and Lydia Awtrey, Saturday, February 3. The 6:00 p.m. service attracted almost 250 people.

Dean Long, chairman of the State Missions Board; CA State Director of Ministries Randy Williams; and Charles Harris, pastor of Turlock FWB Church, gave greetings. Numerous musical selections by the church choir highlighted the evening's events.

Pastor Matt Upton preached a challenging message. Utilizing the story of Zacchaeus, he told the missionary couple he wanted to hear "rumors like those spread about Jesus. I want to hear you are in the houses of sinners, not sitting comfortably with a handful of Christians."

Kevin Kellum, Discovery's missions pastor, delivered the charge to the church. Tim's grandfather, Floyd Moss, prayed for the family and their ministry in Bulgaria. IM General Director James Forlines followed with the charge to Tim and Lydia and commissioned the couple for ministry in Bulgaria. The church family gathered around to lay hands on the couple as Wendell Walley (President of California Christian College) led the commissioning prayer.

Tim, Lydia, Yanna, and Alex departed for Bulgaria on March 3.

VILLAGE OUTREACH



CHITRÉ, PANAMA—The Good News FWB Church in Chitré, Panama, sponsored an evangelistic campaign in the small, mountain village of El Capurí on February 2–4. The team showed two evangelistic films, presented several personal testimonies, and preached a gospel sermon.

Located two hours from Chitré, the town is accessed by a steep, rugged road. An elderly member of the community

indicated this was the first evangelistic outreach the town has received.

The members of the Good News Church began praying for the village over a year ago, following the conversion of a young man from the village.

The church team hopes to return on a monthly basis, with a long-term goal of planting a church in the village.

CELEBRATE WITH US

ANTIOCH, TENNESSEE—According to Communications Director Mark McPeak, IM will host a celebratory banquet during the National Association of FWB in Little Rock, AR. Stateside missionaries and multimedia presentations will highlight what God is doing around the world at the banquet slated for 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday, July 17. Guests will hear current stories from our fields while sharing dinner with members of the Mission family.

"We could not do what we do without the support of so many people," says General Director James Forlines. "This celebration is an opportunity for us to enjoy a delicious banquet meal, and then hear and see what God is doing through Free Will Baptists. I wish everyone could be there."

A limited number of seats are available. Tickets may be purchased (\$30 each) during pre-registration for the National Association, or by contacting Kiley Hawkins (kiley@fwbgo.com; 615-760-6120).



SECRETS OF TRUE LOVE SHARED

ALPEDRETE, SPAIN—The fledgling church in Alpedrete, Spain, sponsored a Café y Algo Más (Coffee and Something More) at the Hotel Sierra Real on Saturday, February 10. Drawing on Valentine's Day, the theme was "Secrets of True Love."

"Almost every seat was filled," wrote Kristi Johnson. According to Anthony and Lea Edgmon, of the 36 attendees at least 13 were unbelievers. Two Christian couples, interviewed about their marriages, shared biblical insights into overcoming difficult times and how God has blessed their marriages.



WOMEN DISTRIBUTE CHRISTMAS JOY

ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN—The Joy of Christmas Team, comprised of nine members of Women Active for Christ (local chapters of FWB national WNAC organization) and two missionaries, were privileged to literally place hundreds of Bibles in the hands of Central Asia's children. The children—mostly poor, diseased or handicapped, and/or orphaned—were wide-eyed, expectant, and dressed in their best. Ear-to-ear smiles spread across their faces as they eagerly but patiently waited to receive their gifts—gifts provided through Women Active for Christ groups across America.

Through drama, song, storytelling, crafts, and visual aids, the story of Christmas was shared again and again—in a TB hospital, an AIDS hospital, boarding schools, orphanages, a blind association, individual homes of the severely handicapped, and even in churches where the poor were invited to come.

The women logged 16,000 air miles, battled sleep deprivation, trekked dozens of miles in the snow, packaged over 900 gift bags, and broke into teams to distribute them across the city. Bags contained a Bible and other Christian literature, a toy, some candy, and needed toiletry items.

More than \$41,000 was funneled through the Christmas Joy Project and sent to Kazakhstan ahead of the team to purchase gift



items. Thousands more bags were assembled by Bible Mission workers and distributed in other, less accessible Central Asian countries.

A STRATEGIC RETREAT

HOKKAIDO, JAPAN—Nine Japan missionary families gathered for five days of spiritual and physical refreshing January 25–29.

Field chairman Nathan Snow commented, “In our effort to win the war (against spiritual forces), retreating should not only remain an option, but should probably be a consistent part of our battle plan.”

Missionaries assembled at a youth hostel well known for tasty meals and comfortable accommodations. Skiing, snowboarding, and playing board games provided physical exercise and fellowship. A six-part video Bible study entitled “God Is Closer Than You Think” offered spiritual invigoration.

“Pray for us as we return to our battle stations,” says Nathan.



SAVE-A-LIFE II

CÔTE D'IVOIRE—A 40-member team led by The Hanna Project Executive Director Mike Cousineau ministered in the northern portion of Côte d'Ivoire February 13–21. The group divided into teams performing surgeries, examining eyes and dispensing glasses, operating health clinics, and sponsoring soccer camps. The various health services were advertised in advance of the team's arrival and many people pre-registered for them, some traveling many hours to receive help.

Ivorian pastors accompanied health workers and coaches for evangelistic outreach of the groups gathered for the clinics. Missionaries Jerry and Carol Pinkerton, Verlin and Debbie Anderson, Alice Smith, and Clint and Lynette Morgan provided logistical aid and participated to varying degrees. Teams performed over 50 surgeries, dispensed more than 900 pairs of glasses, and distributed 15,000 hygiene and 6,000 first aid kits during the seven days. Approximately 20,000 people heard the truth of salvation through Jesus Christ. According to Clint Morgan, “Literally hundreds responded to the call to follow Christ. In one case the chief of the village stood and stated his whole village would become Christian.” Ivorian pastors and lay people will follow-up on each decision and provide discipleship for converts.

The Hanna Project's Save-a-Life 2 stated objective was to provide help through first aid kits, instill hope through proper training and understanding of first aid and simple hygiene, and bring healing through proper medications and surgeries.

On the road with Larry Powell



Each year, Larry Powell, director of the Home Missions Department, travels thousands of miles, visiting new churches, encouraging missionaries, and examining potential sites for church planting. Take an exciting trip with Larry for a first-hand look at what God is doing across the country and around the world.

Villalba, Spain

Larry and his wife Wanda recently traveled with James Forlines, director of International Missions, and his wife Anita to visit church planters in the country of Spain. Larry recorded the following thoughts about the trip:

The FWB mission in the city of Villalba had a large crowd for worship on Sunday morning. Pastor Jhon Fredy Agreda is doing a tremendous job growing a solid church. I enjoyed speaking to the congregation and was warmly received.

Pastor José Manuel Parron has a growing congregation and new facilities in the city of Alcala. I was impressed with his humility and the compassion he demonstrated for those who don't know Christ in his city. God has blessed him with great leadership abilities.

Pastor Juan Carlos Cabrerias and his congregation are reaching Spaniards, but also a large number of people from Cuba, Brazil, and other South American countries with the gospel. James spoke to a full house on Sunday evening.

I must express profound gratitude for what God is doing through our missionaries in Spain. I am grateful for the outreach of the Edgmons and Johnsons in the city of Alpedrete. The Turnboughs (both couples) and McVays are all hard working missionaries. I was impressed with the development of pastors through the national leadership training program.

What an exciting experience to visit our missionaries in the area where God has called them to His service! Free Will Baptists need to know that our church planters in Spain are doing an outstanding work in this country with a population of more than 40 million.

Waipahu, Hawaii

Ken and Melinda Reiter pastor the Waipahu Free Will Baptist Church in Hawaii, started by home missionary Luther Sanders some years ago. The church family loves and appreciates them, and they are doing an exceptional job leading the church to reach out to the surrounding community.

Any pastor whose church gave \$12,000 to the 2005 Benjamin Randall Offering was invited to a cruise in the Hawaiian Islands. One of the most exciting events during the trip was a visit to the church in Waipahu. Ken introduced our group to the crowd that gathered to worship on Sunday morning. It was a blessing to see many older church members who have remained faithful since the early days of the church.



During the service, a large group of teens thrilled our hearts when they sang great hymns of the faith. The church family received us warmly, giving us gifts and providing a great fellowship meal. We are grateful for the continued faithfulness of our Free Will Baptist family in Hawaii. If you tour the islands, take time to visit the Waipahu church. The members will treat you like royalty!

The **HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT** welcomes and introduces the following recently approved missionaries:



Jeremy and Jill Lightsey are home missionaries to San Antonio, TX. Jeremy graduated from Hillsdale FWB College with a bachelor's degree in Theology and Pastoral Training. San Antonio is the seventh largest city in the country, the second fastest growing city among the nation's top ten, and has shown the third largest population increase since 2000. Jeremy and Jill have two daughters, Adria and Hope.

Mark and Donna Thomas will be planting a Free Will Baptist church in Pueblo, CO. They successfully planted a church in Greeley, CO, remaining in that pastorate since 1989. They have a burden to see FWB churches planted across the state and feel the Lord leading to this particular area. The city of Pueblo (and Pueblo West) has more than 100,000 people and is located 40 miles south of Colorado Springs. The area has no FWB churches and few fundamental churches. Mark and Donna have two sons, Jonathan and Matthew, who is a student at Gateway FWB College in VA.



Dale and Julie McCoy are from the Goodwater FWB Church in Alabama. The couple will lead the mission church in Prattville, AL—a fast-growing suburb of Montgomery, the capitol of Alabama. The current population is 30,000 people. Dale attended FWB Bible College in Nashville, TN, and Tabor College in KS. He has pastored churches in North Carolina, South Carolina, Kansas, and Alabama.

Tim and Angie Riggs come to Home Missions from the White Oak FWB Church in Bailey, NC. The family will be planting a FWB church in Mobile, AL. Tim graduated from Southeastern FWB College with a bachelor's degree in Bible and Pastoral Training. Planting a church in Mobile has been on Tim's heart for some time. It is the third largest city in Alabama. Please pray for the Riggs family as they move to Mobile and plant a church. Tim and Angie have three sons: Stephen, Andrew, and Caleb.



New Durham, New Hampshire

The Free Will Baptist Heritage Tour stepped back in history during a Sunday stop in New Durham, New Hampshire. Hosted by Pastor Jim Nason and his church family, 11 pastors enjoyed a visit to the first Free Will Baptist church (Church on the Ridge) and the Benjamin Randall monument.

Pastors Mickey Crane, New Oak Grove FWB Church, Nauvoo, Alabama, and J.D. Norris, Virginia Beach FWB Church, shared inspiring and challenging messages. Rev. Tom Scott, long-time pastor at Red Bay, AL (now pastor of the Union Ridge FWB Church, Sulligent, AL) delivered an excellent message at the historical "Ridge Church" on Sunday afternoon.

Rev. Jason Myers, pastor of Victory FWB Church, Hanover, PA, spoke at the gravesite of Benjamin Randall. For several years, the Victory Church has been number one in giving to the Benjamin Randall Offering. Jason's devotion was a challenge to all Free Will Baptists. He listed several things from the past that believers still need in the present—repentance and holy living as noted by John the Baptist, and to win as many souls as possible with the message of salvation. Like the early church, we have God's promises and the power of His presence to enable our mission.



Free Will Baptist pastors who would like to visit Benjamin Randall country are encouraged to call Richard Adams in the Home Missions Department at (877) 767-7674 to learn how you may qualify for the trip.

Home Missions gets

By David Crowe



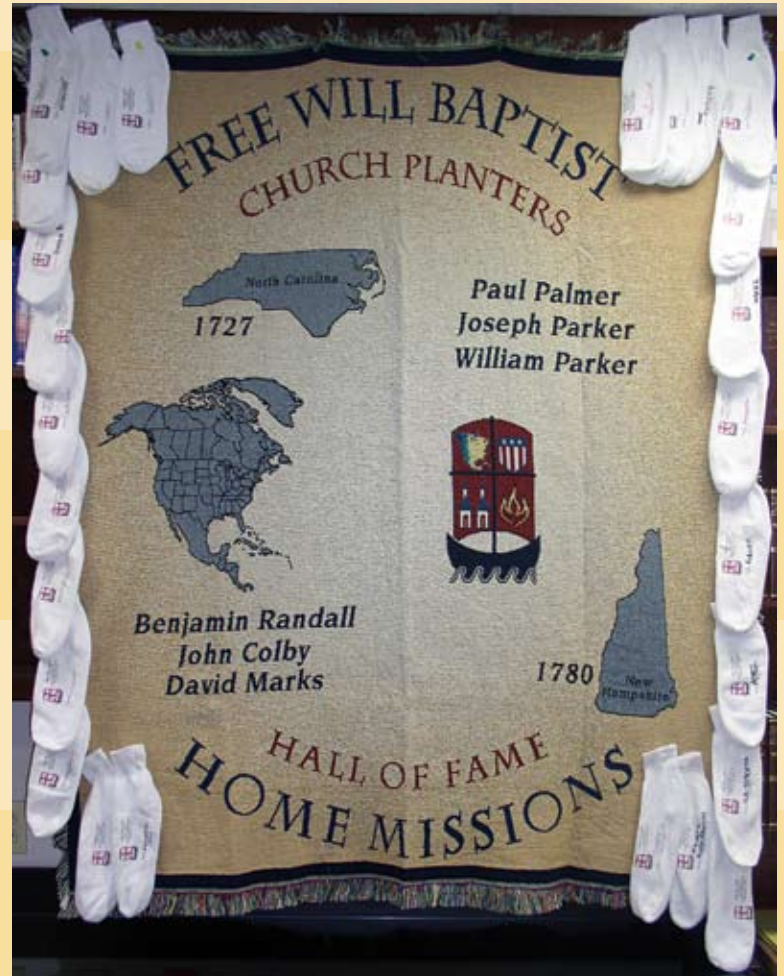
The two smallest socks

The National Home Missions Department really got “socked” on Benjamin Randall Sunday in November 2006. Many pastors, churches, and individuals participated in a “Sock Offering” that raised thousands of dollars for Home Missions’ annual offering. It was such a thrill to see boxes filled with socks of all shapes, sizes, and colors begin arriving at our office. Some were mailed. Others brought their offering by the office in person. I wish I could take credit for the idea, but the promotion was the brainstorm of staffers Kathy Brown and Ida Lewis. It’s so exciting to see what Free Will Baptists can do with a simple idea like a sock offering. I can hardly wait to see how the denomination responds to this offering next November!

For now, let me share some tremendous stories and ideas from the churches that participated this year.

Madison Free Will Baptist Church, Madison, TN

I hung two of the smallest socks received on our Historical display in the Home Missions office. The sock on the left belonged to Tony, a young man from Discovery FWB Church (the congregation that started the idea of a sock offering). I still carry his sock in my briefcase when I travel. The sock on the right belonged to 2-year-old Mia Bur-



ton. She emptied her piggy bank into her sock for the offering at Madison FWB Church, pastored by Paul Hopson. Mia’s little sock held \$10 in change. I hope we have many more children like Mia.

Rejoice Free Will Baptist Church, Antioch, TN

My wife Kathey and I are members of Rejoice FWB Church. Veteran missionary Cliff Donoho is our pastor. Our church (self-supporting for only two years) raised over \$1,400 for the sock offering. Brother Cliff placed a pair of my ostrich-skin cowboy boots on the communion table in our church (his idea, not mine). The congregation filled their socks and my boots to overflowing. It’s great to see former mission churches supporting the whole program of our denomination.

SOCKED!



My boots for "Sock Offering" at Rejoice.



Sarah Vaughn, Debbie Hamill, Wanda Gage, Lindell Hall, Wendell Jennings.

Discovery Free Will Baptist Church, Stockton, CA

Pastor Matt Upton and his congregation built upon the idea that started with Tony's sock several years ago. They printed iron-on decals with their church name and a place where each person could personalize their sock for their offering. They "socked" \$772.56 for Benjamin Randall Sunday. Home Missions provides a sample sock for each church, and next year we will have printed socks that you can order or iron-on decals to put on the socks of individual church members.

Thanks, Tony, for the "sock offering" that started it all!

Greenbrier Free Will Baptist Church, WAC, Adair, OK

(excerpts from a letter from Debbie Hamill, Missions Chairperson)

The congregation of Greenbrier FWB Church in Adair, OK, took the story of the little boy's sock offering seriously on November 19. We hung socks from the stage after reading his story four weeks earlier. The congregation brought all kinds, shapes, and sizes of socks filled with money—even a pair of newborn baby socks and some very large socks. I was truly blessed at how well they responded to the offering. We had a lot of fun doing it. We collected: 559 quarters; 1,245 dimes; 635 nickels; 4,793 pennies; 3 personal checks; 1 Canadian penny; 1 metal washer; and 1 rubber washer for a total offering of \$434.91.

Emmanuel Free Will Baptist Church, WAC, Washington, NC

Mission Prayer Chairperson, Dorothy Atkins sent this picture from their offering. They called it, "Stuff Socks for Souls in America." The WAC adopted this special project, and the ladies went all out with several bulletin boards to promote the offering. They provided buckets with home missionary prayer cards on them to collect the sock offering.



Many other "sock offerings" arrived at the Home Missions Department, and I want to thank each pastor, church, and individual that participated in the offering for 2006. Start filling your socks now—big socks, little socks, men's socks, women's socks, athletic socks, dress socks, old socks, new socks, black socks, blue socks, white socks, all colors of socks, long socks, short socks—even baby socks. Let's see that Home Missions gets "Socked" again this November on Benjamin Randall Sunday!



SET SAIL

ON THE FREE WILL BAPTIST HOME MISSIONS FELLOWSHIP CRUISE OCTOBER 17-24, 2007

Dr. Richard Adams and Reverend Larry Powell invite you to discover the crystal waters of the Carribean. The cruise, a gift for the top contributors to the 2006 Benjamin Randall Offering, is open to everyone. Enjoy the natural beauty of the Eastern Carribean on the **Holland America's MS Volendam**. Explore the beauty of a private tropical island, haggle with vendors in the bustling straw market in Nassau, stroll the palm-lined crescent of Half-Moon Bay, and more.

Don't delay! Book your trip for memories that will last a lifetime!

FOR A TRIP ITINERARY and complete details, call **(877) 767-7674**.



God has blessed the Church Extension Loan Fund (CELF) with \$25 million in total assets. Our investments are always higher in interest than the bank offers. If you invest in a local bank CD, you face a penalty if you withdraw your funds early. This is not the case with a CELF investment. You are charged no penalty fees for early withdrawals.

Money invested in CELF is loaned only to Free Will Baptist churches. You get the better of two worlds. You receive a higher interest rate on your investment, while at the same time you help build Bible-believing, Bible-teaching, and Bible-preaching churches.

High Interest

Investments and Church Loans
By: Dr. Richard Adams

The goal of CELF is not only to help build churches, but the right kind of churches—churches that teach Free Will Baptist doctrine, with pastors true to the Word in their teaching and preaching.

When God calls missionaries to plant a church in a new location, and the time comes to purchase property or build, CELF provides funds for them. Loans are made to churches as first mortgages against their property, after it is determined that the congregation is financially prepared to make each monthly payment.

Several missionaries will need loans soon, and CELF is anxious to help them. Partner with the Home Missions Department and home missionaries to build new churches. We need your investments! □



By John Arlon Hawke

The “H” Team hit the road 21 years ago after boarding a plane in McAllen, Texas, for their Hawaiian honeymoon. He preaches; she sings. He writes booklets and pamphlets; she translates sermons and devotionals into Spanish. He’s a high-mileage evangelist; she’s the organist at First FWB Church in Albany, Georgia.

They sometimes dress in matching red or white outfits. If you ask him to name his all-time favorite TV program, he’d better say *I Love Lucy*. Before they formed the “H” Team, Irvin and Lucy Hyman started out half a continent apart as a boy from Hyman, South Carolina, and a girl from Myrtle, Missouri.

Dr. W. Irvin Hyman married the prettiest girl to come out of Missouri since...well, since quite some time ago. Lucy grew up in a family of six can-do Wisheart sisters, became a missionary in Cuba, and taught school in Texas before she and Irvin reconnected.

Yes, that’s *reconnected*. They were students at Free Will Baptist Bible College in the late 1940s. He was dating someone else, and her mind was

on Cuba. They would not see each other again for 34 years, until she was a widow and he a widower.

The Seventh Child

Irvin’s life is difficult to capture in print. Born seventh in a farming family of eight children, he wasn’t supposed to live past 15 because of an unhealthy heart. But his praying parents took him and his bad heart to God and kept them there. At age 14, doctors announced that his heart problem had disappeared.

Saved at 18 and ordained at 21, he preached his first sermon in 1948 at a nursing home in Nashville as an FWBBC freshman. The sermon was supposed to last seven minutes, but Irvin says, “I gave them all I could think of in three minutes!”

He pastored seven churches in four states (South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina) in a ministry that spans 56 years, including 15 years in full-time evangelism. Irvin has logged more than 2.2 million miles in the Lord’s

Irvin Hyman Awards/Recognitions

Who's Who in Religion

Community Leaders and Noteworthy Americans

Men of Achievement

Dictionary of International Biography

Personalities of the South

International Who's Who of Intellectuals

Personalities of America

Publications

(too numerous to list, other than a few favorites)

What to Do When You Don't Know What to Do

What to Do When the 'Thorn in the Flesh' Remains

Can a Christian Believer Ever Be Lost?

Wholesome Humor for Folks Who Enjoy a Good Laugh

The End of the World

25 Things We Can't Do

How to 'Chill Out' and Get a Handle on Worry

Depression: How to Cope With It

How to Make Your 'Ups and Downs' Shorter Trips

When Handicaps become Stepping Stones

The World's Biggest Problem



service (only one speeding ticket), preached 8,000 sermons, and conducted 400 revivals. He never set a price tag on his revivals, even after a church paid him \$17.87 for a five-day meeting.

Calling Dr. Hyman

They call Lucy and Irvin "Dr. Hyman" these days. Both graduated from FWBBC, then earned five graduate degrees between them.

He completed the Doctor of Ministries degree at Luther Rice University, she a Doctor of Religious Education degree at Andersonville Theological Seminary.

Irvin was dean at Georgia Bible Institute by 1979, president by 1981. He served 12 years (1986-1998) as curriculum editor at Randall House Publications. With his flair for words, he has written more than 85 booklets of 50 pages or less.

That FWBBC Connection

Irvin and his first wife Jean had 35 years together before she died. Then he rediscovered Lucy, the lady who put sparkle back in his life. By then, she was a widow.

After graduating from FWBBC, Lucy went to Cuba where she married Felix Lima, a rising young Cuban preacher, and had two children. She was multi-talented and as comfortable singing at national conventions as she was teaching in a local church. But like Irvin, she was lonely.

They both laughingly blame Dr. Roger Reeds (former director at Randall House) and Pastor Billy Hanna (First FWB Church in Albany) for getting them together. Dr. Reeds urged Irvin to contact the attractive widow who taught school in McAllen. Pastor Hanna located Lucy's ad-

dress and told Irvin to write her. They caught up with one another at FWBBC's Alumni Banquet during the 1985 national convention in Nashville. And the page turned for both of them.

The common thread for Irvin and Lucy is their commitment to Christ. He was moderator of the Florida State Association, moderator of the South Carolina Conference, member of the national Sunday School and Church Training Board, and more. When a denominational need arose, he said yes. So did Lucy. For more than 18 years, she was managing editor for Spanish curriculum at Randall House.

Now it no longer seems unusual that a South Carolina boy and a Missouri girl should come together by way of a college in Tennessee, a mission field in Cuba, and make their home in Georgia.

Retirement Decisions

And then came retirement—a surprising moment that required more decisions, adjustments, and changes. Naturally, the couple approached retirement from opposite directions.

Irvin joined the Free Will Baptist retirement program in 1968 while pastoring in North Carolina. Lucy, on the other hand, began a retirement plan in 1986. Both took settlements for a specified number of months.

Irvin advises young ministers: "One of my most important decisions was joining the Free Will Baptist retirement program. Frankly, if it were not for that monthly Board of Retirement check, I wouldn't have much coming in financially. Get in the plan early. I did, and I wholeheartedly support the program."



Lucy counsels: "When I worked with Randall House, they matched whatever was held out of my check. Then I began contributing \$25 a week extra. I advise young workers to give up something in order to contribute more to retirement. You can't live on Social Security."

Look Back / Look Ahead

When asked who influenced their lives, Lucy cites Mrs. Eunice Edwards, former executive secretary of Women Nationally Active for Christ (WNAC), who encouraged her to consider foreign missions work.

Irvin names former FWBBC registrar and academic dean, Dr. Robert Picirilli, as the person who most influenced his life. "We were from the same area of South Carolina and rode a Trailways bus to Bible College. He's a great man."

Both agreed that if they could, they would change one thing about their lives. Lucy: "I'd be more laid back and not so detail driven." Irvin:

"I'd concentrate on more one-on-one personal work outside the pulpit."

They're busy in retirement with side-by-side home offices. Irvin spends 25 hours writing each week, and publishes a growing list of booklets, pamphlets, and tracts. Lucy translates Dr. Michael Guido's sermons and devotionals into Spanish for his 1,500 worldwide newspaper columns. They also teach a Sunday School class at Albany's First FWB Church.

Gamecock and the Lady

Next time you attend a Free Will Baptist national convention and spot a striking couple dressed in red, that's probably the Gamecock and his Missouri lady. Ask him if his all-time favorite TV program is still *I Love Lucy*. It better be! □

John Arlon Hawke is a freelance writer and journalist with a wide range of publishing experience. He currently makes his home just south of Nashville, TN. To find out more about Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement, call toll-free (877) 767-7738.

Master's Men

NATIONAL SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Reserve
a spot for your
team today!

Call (877) 767-8039
or visit www.nafwb.org/mm today.

Note: The tournament is open only to churches affiliated with the National Association of Free Will Baptists or to mission churches under the direction of the National Home Missions Department.

August 3-4, 2007
Nashville, TN

Father's Day is coming!

This year, remember to support Master's Men by taking part in the Father's Day Offering on June 17, 2007. When you support Master's Men you support the Free Will Baptist Disaster Response Team, regional rallies, mission trips, Operation Saturation, and important projects like repairs to the Church on the Ridge, historical site of the First FWB Church in America.

Find out more about how YOU can partner with Master's Men. Call (877) 767-8039 or visit the website at www.nafwb.org/mm.

Too good to be TRUE



AVOIDING SCAMS AND PITFALLS

BY NORMA JACKSON GOLDMAN

RETIRED PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY SENIORS, are prime targets for unscrupulous people who have devised ways to discover account information, passwords and other sensitive personal information. The most common scams relate to banking, credit cards, and sweepstakes. It's good to remember that if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

TELEPHONE TRICKS

You may be snared by a telephone inquiry, asking for sensitive information so that your credit line can be increased. This ruse is a phony excuse for the caller to gain access to your account. Nearly every legitimate organization makes it a policy NEVER to ask for such data by telephone. Simply ask for the caller's name and extension, saying you will call the organization directly. Use ONLY the customer information numbers provided on your

most recent statement to report details of the inquiry.

E-MAIL SCAMS

You may receive an e-mail from someone claiming to represent your bank or lending institution (such as a mortgage holder) asking for a password or PIN number to verify that "they have reached the right person." Even though the message may give your name, address or other details to trick you into thinking the message is legitimate, don't reply. Instead, contact your bank or lender directly, using the customer information telephone number shown on your last statement to investigate further.

It's good to remember that if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

SWEEPSTAKES AND LOTTERIES

A caller may advise that you have just won some cash and ask you to send along several thousand dollars as a "token of good faith,"

telling you that much more will be deposited to your account as soon as your money is received. Legitimate sweepstakes do not require any cash to be advanced by the winner.

CREDIT CARDS

Carefully read the "Terms and Conditions" before accepting a card. The law requires companies to make such information public to prospective customers. Once you've accepted a credit card, you can be held to the terms and conditions of that specific organization. Limit the number of cards and authorized signatories. A friend related how a couple obtained a one-time shopping pass by simply claiming she had authorized them to be added to her account. The department store required neither her written permission, nor any photo identification from the couple when they provided her account number and her mother's maiden name.

They purchased two \$700 gift cards using the shopping pass, plus several hundred dollars' worth of merchandise. Imagine her surprise when her



monthly statement showed nearly \$3,000 due! She wisely took these steps:

1. She went into the department store immediately, challenging the addition of unauthorized signers.
2. She closed the account, paid the balance due on her own charges, and asked for a new, zero balance statement.
3. She promised to follow up if the zero balance statement had not arrived within 10 days.
4. She prepared a written account of all that had transpired, notified the Better Business Bureau, and called the credit manager again on the tenth day.
5. She cancelled her bank account, all existing credit cards and personal identification numbers, and asked for new account numbers, since she could not be certain what other personal financial information the couple had obtained.

Most major credit card holders will not hold individual consumers liable for undelivered goods or unauthorized transactions unless they can prove that you have been negligent. Check to see what your lenders or credit card companies term “negligent” under the printed Terms and Conditions they provide to you.

On internet agreements, here’s an important tip. When you click “I agree,” you can be legally bound to the agreement, so think twice before clicking.

Anytime you suspect a potential scam, check with the consumer affairs department of your state government. Too good to be true? It probably is! □

Former magazine editor Norma Goldman enjoys a free-lance writing career in her retirement. She lives in Nashville, TN.

Seven Practices of Effective Ministry

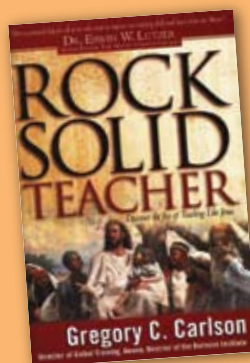
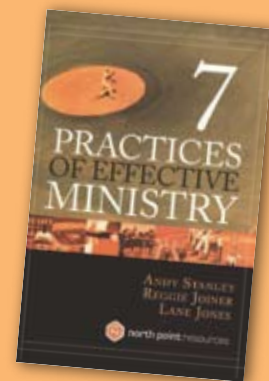
by Andy Stanley, Reggie Joiner, and Lane Jones

ISBN 1590523733 Price \$19.99

Seven Practices of Effective Ministry was not written by theoreticians but active practitioners. Each author is a member of the leadership team at North Point Community Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

The book does not give you a list of programs complete with directions for implementing them. Instead, it emphasizes practices that will bring clarity and focus to your ministry.

These practices will help you “determine which programs to start, what to stop, and how to improve what’s working.” Andy Stanley admits, “You will find no new strategy hidden in these pages. But as you embrace each of the seven practices, your ministry cannot help but become more strategic in everything it does.”



Rock Solid Teacher by Greg Carlson

ISBN 0830739203 Price \$17.99

Greg Carlson portrays the rock solid teacher as one holding students in one hand, the Word of God in the other, bringing the two together for maximum impact. Life change is the only goal for a rock solid teacher, not the distribution of information or the gaining of knowledge. The author drives home the simple truth behind John Milton Gregory’s *Seven Laws of Teaching*—where there is no learning there is no teaching.

Can anyone be a rock solid teacher? Carlson says, “I often tell evangelical teachers, ‘If something’s worth doing, it’s worth doing poorly at first until you can do it better!’” This is the heart and soul of the beginning Bible teacher. It is the Holy Spirit who will teach both the teacher and the student to be rock solid in the faith.

Rock Solid Teacher (a must read companion book to *Rock Solid Kids*) is ideal for anyone who wants to teach like Jesus.

Do Fish Know They’re Wet?: Living in Your World—Without Getting Hooked By Tom Neven

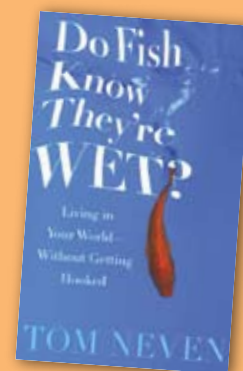
ISBN 0801065186 Price \$12.99

The author raises a very important question that we all must answer. “Have you considered that maybe you’re looking at everything through world-colored glasses instead of Christ-colored glasses?” Sorry. This book is not really about whether or not fish know they are wet, but whether or not we have adopted a pagan worldview without knowing it.

Neven skillfully compares a Christian worldview with competing opinions found in our culture. The author, the former editor of *Focus on the Family* magazine, manages to make a difficult subject fascinating.

If you are yawning and asking what’s the big deal about worldviews, consider this. Your worldview “affects the way you live, share the gospel, and become a good citizen, parent, or friend.”

This book is important for anyone who wants to understand today’s culture in order to affect it...and avoid getting hooked by it.



All products reviewed above can be purchased from Randall House. Call (800) 877-7030 or visit www.randallhouse.com.



What is it?

What do you know about the Free Will Baptist Foundation—the planned giving arm of the denomination? Recently, we sat down with retiring Director Bill Evans to discuss their ministry.

Q. How would you describe the “ministry” of the Foundation?

A. My simple answer would be that it is a ministry of “helps.” The Foundation helps people accomplish their goals to meet family needs and dreams and to support various FWB ministries.

Q. What can you do for folks who need income but also want to give to ministry?

A. We offer several agreements that could accomplish both goals. Factors such as age and income needs among others will determine which agreement is appropriate.

Q. Why does age make a difference?

A. Well, for one thing, a 50-year-old should be more concerned about inflation than an 80-year-old. The agreements we offer address these differences.

Q. What about a 55-year-old who wants to provide retirement income?

A. He or she can fund an agreement with no IRS contribution limits and at the same time receive a partial charitable tax deduction.

Q. Those are interesting features. How is this possible?

A. There are no limits on the amount you give to

charitable causes and since this results in a gift to ministry at your death you receive a partial charitable tax deduction.

Q. What about individuals who have some assets but not a lot of cash?

A. Oh! Assets other than cash are ideal for this type of agreement. Highly appreciated assets are specially favored because the gift is valued at its full fair market value (partial tax deduction) while avoiding all capital gains.

Q. You’re kidding. I thought it was impossible to avoid capital gains. How does that work?

A. When you transfer the asset to this agreement, because it is irrevocable, it is the same as if you had transferred it to a Free Will Baptist ministry and charitable organizations are tax exempt.

Q. Let me get this straight. Through this agreement you can avoid capital gains, receive a partial tax deduction, receive a lifetime income and upon your death it goes to a FWB ministry. Is that correct?

A. Yes. This agreement is one of the best vehicles you can use to benefit your favorite ministry.

Q. What does the Foundation do with the asset when it is transferred?

A. In most cases it is sold and the proceeds re-invested in a diversified portfolio of stocks and bonds.

Q. Does the Foundation staff choose the investments?

A. No. We have developed investment policies to match the needs of the donor, then leave the day to day decisions of choosing investments with a professional. We also take care of all the administrative requirements and filings required by the IRS.

Q. Once it has been invested is the income the donor receives taxable?

A. Usually Yes. The donor generally receives a mixture of long-term capital gains, dividends, short-term capital gains, and interest income. Long term capital gains and dividends are currently favorably taxed so we try to incorporate that into the investment policy to take advantage of this tax savings.

Q. Well, I guess you can't expect the income to be tax-free as well. How long and how many of these agreements do you currently manage.

A. The Foundation was founded in 1980, but we starting managing our first two agreements in 1993. We now manage several.

Q. Are there any other advantages that I have missed?

A. Yes. It is possible to enter a joint agreement benefiting two or more people for life. In some situations, agreements can be drafted to go beyond the

donors' death and benefit your children or others for a fixed number of years.

Q. So your children would receive a partial inheritance, right?

A. That is correct. The number of years may vary due to your age at the time you establish the agreement and the payout rate.

Q. You have done a great job describing this agreement, but what is it?

A. It is called a Charitable Remainder Unitrust sometimes referred to as a CRUT or simply a Unitrust.

Q. The program sounds great. How can someone get more info on the Unitrust?

A. Our interactive website www.fwbgifts.org allows people to run general "what if" scenarios for their situation. More specific information is offered via email at foundation@nafwb.org or by calling our toll free number at (877) 366-7575.

WHAT IS IT?

Are you curious about the picture? When the orbs are placed in the muzzle of an animal, and a lead is tied through the circles at the other end, wrapped around the arms, and into the hook, an effective lead is provided. Even the largest of animals can be easily led. That's why the item in the picture is called a "come-along".

Less Can Be More.



THANKS TO THE WAY TAX LAWS ARE WRITTEN and the advantages charities experience in that system, this statement can be true.

Need income but want to make a gift to Master's Men? Consider a charitable remainder trust. You get a partial income tax charitable deduction immediately but receive an income for one or more people for life or a set term of years. For specific personal help considering the options, please call the Foundation or fill out the coupon below and mail it in.

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Foundation
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Or Call Toll-Free: **(877) 336-7575**

Or Email to: foundation@nafwb.org

Or Fax: **(615) 737-1160**

www.fwbgifts.org.

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BEST TIME TO CALL _____

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HYMN BOOK

Relic or Treasure?

By James Stevens

Is the hymn book a relic of the past or a treasure for the future?

Many seem to think that the traditional use of the hymn book has ended. I would hate to see this be the case.

Recently, I was surprised by a survey conducted by Ellison Research and released in “Facts and Trends” by LifeWay Christian Resources. It stated that while the use of Praise and Worship music has dramatically increased in congregations (with 74 percent including it in their worship services), the use of the traditional hymn has increased up to 88 percent. The use of the hymnal has also increased.

Before listening to much talk about the demise of the hymn book’s usefulness in our worship services, let’s consider some of its positive attributes.

Compiled by the Best

Most of the best hymn books have been compiled by top theologians, pastors, worship leaders, and lay leaders to ensure that hymn texts contain sound doctrine true to the Word of God and appropriate for its intended church or denominational use. This helps guard against lyrics creeping into our worship that may lack biblical integrity.

When using new music, pastors and worship leaders should carefully examine the words of the songs. A good hymn book provides an added confidence of theological integrity.

Hold That Book

There is nothing like holding a book in your hand and being able to carefully examine and meditate on the text.

Many churches that project lyrics onto screens do not use or make available the actual book. This works all right for many new songs designed with a radio format. These songs offer lyrics that are quickly digested while making an immediate, although sometimes shallow, impact. Some of the best hymns, however, are rich in poetic imagery and contain theological depth that demands involved thinking and meditation.

Learn Hymn Stories

The hymn book is a history of our rich heritage—the stories and struggles of the saints who have gone before us. Its music and lyrics allow us to join an unending song passed

down through the ages. One can learn many things by studying the lives of hymn writers and the times in which they wrote.

A good start would be to read some of the excellent books on hymns by Robert J. Morgan who pastors Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville. The stories of the great hymns are truly inspirational.

Test of Time

Should we use the best new music in our services? Absolutely! Many great new Christian songs have been written in recent years, with some of the best hymn texts being created by English writers. Some of these new songs will stand the test of time, although we can only truly say which ones in retrospect. With the hymn book, we have the music and words which have endured.

So, let's not throw out the hymnal just yet. It is not an ancient relic of a time gone by, but a valuable treasure that can be used and passed on to future generations to the glory of God. □

Dr. James Stevens chairs the Music Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He is a prolific musician and composer of more than 200 songs. Dr. Stevens writes a column for Christian Today and serves as its senior music and culture advisor.

Adapted by permission from Christian Today, October 27, 2006, edition.

The hymn book
is a history of our
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SHAWNEE PRESS TO PUBLISH STEVENS ANTHEMS



NASHVILLE, TN—Four anthems by Dr. James M. Stevens, chairman of the Free Will Baptist Bible College Music Department, were recently selected for publication by Shawnee Press. One of the anthems, “No Other Fount,” was released in time for spring 2007. Three others scheduled for release this summer will be available for the winter season.

The four anthems include:

“No Other Fount”—A contemporary anthem for four-part choir with lyrics by J. Paul Williams with references to the old hymn, “Nothing But the Blood of Jesus.”

“Two Gentle Blessings”—Two SATB prayers of response for choir and organ.

“Hold Onto Hope”—An SATB arrangement of a new song by Ed Rush.

“Every Good Gift”—An SAB Thanksgiving anthem arranged for choir, piano, and flute with text by J. Paul Williams.

A composer of more than 200 published compositions with 20 national companies, Dr. Stevens is frequently cited by ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers) for his excellent work. He also serves as Senior Music and Culture Advisor for *Christian Today*, an international Christian newspaper based in London.

Dr. Stevens has served on the FWBBC faculty since 2004. For more information about his music, see his website at www.jamesmstevens.com.

WORLD MISSIONS SUNDAY IS APRIL 29

If you'd like an International Missions representative in your church, call (877) 767-7736 to see if someone is available for your area.

FWBBC SIGNS CONTRACT TO SELL CAMPUS



FREE WILL BAPTIST Bible College signed a contract December 6, 2006, with Monument Property, Inc., to sell its West End Avenue campus, according to President Matt Pinson.

Pinson said, "This is an important step in our relocation process. We are pleased with the \$16.75 million purchase price. Lease arrangements will permit us to continue using most of the current campus for 25 months after closing next May while our new campus is constructed."

The contract provides a five-month period before closing in which the buyers will complete inspections and perform other due diligence related to the purchase of the campus. During that same five-month window, FWBBC will finalize selection of a new campus site in the Greater Nashville area. The sale will not be completed until the transaction is closed in May 2007.

Colonel Mark Johnson, who led the college's feasibility study, said, "If the contract process proceeds as planned, we will begin transferring certain lots and buildings to the new owners for their use soon after the closing. The core portion of the campus,

including academic buildings, library, gymnasium, auditorium, dormitories, dining facilities, and the student center will continue to be used by the college during the lease period."

Monument Property, Inc., a locally owned real estate development company with national and international ties, is owned and operated by Darren Cioffi. Mr. Cioffi and Monument Property, Inc., are exclusively represented by John G. Brittle, Jr., of French Christianson Patterson & Associates, the local affiliate of Christie's Great Estates.

"Mr. Cioffi has been involved in 15 different projects in the three years he has been in Nashville," says Brittle. "He is an 'old house' enthusiast and is currently renovating his own historic residence in Brentwood, but he plans to live in one of the college's historic mansions."

Brittle continued, "Mr. Cioffi and our team are preparing concept plans to discuss with the neighborhood association and Councilman Summers. Since we assured the neighborhood that we would discuss the plans with them first, the plans are not concrete.

"There will, however, be individual parcels available almost immediately, and we will be updating the website www.monumentproperty.com weekly with news of the upcoming development of the college property."

President Pinson noted the college's long history in the Richland-West End area and said, "We are pleased with our understanding of the buyer's intent to develop the site in a manner which is consistent with its residential and historic context." Following a six-month feasibility study, the FWBBC Board of Trustees voted to relocate the college during its June 29–30, 2006, meeting. College officials project that it will cost more than \$32 million to buy land, build a new campus, and relocate.

The college has secured Hastings Associates, LLC, a Nashville firm, to design the new campus.

STUDENT'S LISTED IN WHO'S WHO

THE 2007 EDITION of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* will include the names of 14 students from Free Will Baptist Bible College who have been selected as national outstanding campus leaders.

Campus nominating committees and editors of the annual directory have included the names of these students based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.

They join an elite group of students from more than 2,000 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and several foreign nations.

Outstanding students have been honored in the annual directory since it was first published in 1934.

Students named this year from Free Will Baptist Bible College are:

Jennifer Altom (TN)
Drew Bigley (IL)
Ashley Coker (TN)
Tonya Corbett (VA)

Joshua Detherage (AL)
Carolyn Head (TN)
Mark Headrick (MO)
David Jones (MO)
Jill McAlister (CA)
Leslie Meadows (KY)
Bethany Parks (TN)
Alan Skiles (AL)
Susan Stewart (TN)
Megan Wilfong (MO)



KIRKLAND VISITS CLASS

PREMIER CHURCH MUSICIAN Camp Kirkland addressed a Choral Arranging class on November 17, according to Dr. James Stevens who chairs the college's Music Department. The Franklin, TN-based churchman has emerged as one of the nation's leading musicians, pioneering the use of instrumental music as a viable medium in the life of church music programs.

Dr. Stevens said, "Camp Kirkland has become one of the most well known Christian choral and instrumental arrangers during the past 20 years. We were delighted to have him on campus to speak with our music students."

Kirkland's lecture included practical choral and instrumental arranging tips. He also allowed students to listen to recent orchestrations and choral compositions and offered his personal analysis of the pieces.

Mr. Kirkland began creating an instrumental music program for churches in 1971 while serving at First Baptist Church in Jacksonville (FL). His program is still a model of excellence in music and effectiveness in ministry. In addition to being a skilled educator and clinician, Kirkland has enjoyed a brilliant career as an arranger and orchestrator. He has over a thousand publications in his catalog.

Camp has gone on 20 music mission trips around the world in the past four years. "Music," he says, "is an 'instant magnet' to connect and build relationships that cross international boundaries and cultures."

The Nashville Praise Symphony under the direction of Mr. Kirkland played for the opening of the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville on October 7.



Camp Kirkland at the piano.

MORGAN, RUSSELL TO ADDRESS GRADUATES

TWO LEADING PASTORS, Rob Morgan (TN) and Rusty Russell (NC), are scheduled to challenge the 2007 graduating class in May.

Reverend Robert J. Morgan, pastor of Donelson FWB Church in Nashville and author of more than 25 books, will address the graduates during 10:00 a.m. commencement exercises Friday, May 4.

Wilson, NC, pastor Rusty Russell (Peace FWB Church) will bring the baccalaureate message Thursday evening, May 3, at 7:00 p.m. Russell's daughter Jennifer is a member of the 2007 graduating class.

President J. Matthew Pinson said, "This is such an important occasion for the entire college family, and especially for the graduating seniors. Commencement week always brings us face-to-face with our mission as a college—to educate leaders to serve Christ, His Church, and His world through Biblical thought and life. We hope that you will join us in this special time of celebration."

Rob Morgan has led the 1,200-member Donelson FWB Church for 27 years. A best selling and Gold-Medallion winning writer with 1.5 million books in print, he is a staff writer for Dr. David Jeremiah and *Turning Points Magazine*. He graduated from Columbia International University, and earned master's degrees at Wheaton Graduate School and Luther Rice University.

Rusty Russell completed a bachelor's degree at FWBBC (1981) before earning master's degrees at Middle Tennessee State University and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He became part of the leadership team at Peace FWB Church in 1993 and senior pastor in 2006. Rusty has served in five Free Will Baptist churches since 1980.



Rob Morgan



Rusty Russell

34 ATTEND SENIOR DAYS

THIRTY-FOUR STUDENTS from 11 states gathered on the college campus November 9–11, 2006, for Senior Days, according to Ryan Lewis, director of recruitment. Nine students came from Virginia, eight from North Carolina, four from Missouri, three each from Florida and Arkansas, two from Illinois, and one each from Oregon, South Carolina, Alabama, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Mr. Lewis said, "Eleven of the 34 students made application to enroll at FWBBC in the

fall of 2007. Senior Days continues to be a highly successful event that generates interest among seniors."

Each student was accompanied by a personal guide during his stay on the FWBBC campus. Visiting students attended classes of their choice Friday morning after a series of welcoming activities and events Thursday evening. Following chapel, they participated in a question and answer time with Ryan Lewis.

Lunch with President J. Matthew Pinson put the students in direct contact with the

college's energetic young leader who shared his educational vision and encouraged them to follow God's.

Mr. Caudill said about the event, "The Senior Days' guests were exposed to an up-close-and-personal look at FWBBC. They interacted with our students, quizzed academic advisors, checked out financial options, and enjoyed a special lunch with President Pinson. All that positive exposure will influence their decision to attend FWBBC."



CHURCH 'OPERATES' COLLEGE FOR A DAY



(L) Leo Martin, Steve Trail, Terry Forrest, Leroy Scudder.

FIRST FWB CHURCH in Walnut Ridge, AR, presented a \$3,500 check to Free Will Baptist Bible College on December 3, 2006, continuing a long-standing tradition of operating the college for a day.

Pastor Steve Trail, along with church leaders Leroy Scudder and Leo Martin, presented the check to Terry Forrest, pastoral ministry program coordinator, during the church's 13th annual Bible College Day.

"We are so thankful for the faithful support of friends like First FWB Church in Walnut Ridge," Reverend Forrest said. "I was honored to be with Pastor Trail and his congregation for this special moment."

The concept of a local church operating the college financially for a day was developed by the late Paul Kettelman who served as director of public relations. The amount is determined by dividing the gift income needed by the college for a year by 365.

JSOT PUBLISHES REID

THE JOURNAL FOR THE STUDY of the Old Testament (JSOT) published a 4,500-word article by Dr. Garnett Reid, Old Testament professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College, in the December 2006 issue. Reid's article is titled, "'Thus You Will Say to Them': A Cross-Cultural Confessional Polemic in Jeremiah 10:11."

A frequently published author in denominational and theological journals, Dr. Reid confirmed that the article was first read at the Theological Symposium sponsored by the FWB Commission for Theological Integrity and later submitted as a freelance project to JSOT editors who selected it for publication.

JSOT, established in 1976 and published five times annually, is one of the three leading Old Testament journals in the world and is widely regarded as offering the best in current scholarship on the Old Testament across a range of critical methodologies. JSOT regularly showcases new and established scholars who pioneer original and creative approaches to the interpretation of Old Testament literature.

Dr. Reid has served on the FWBBC faculty since 1982.

123 MAKE DEAN'S LIST

THE 2006 FALL SEMESTER ended at Free Will Baptist Bible College with 123 students earning academic recognition, according to Provost Greg Kettelman. Thirty-one students made all As and were placed on the President's List.

Ninety-two students earned a B average or higher and were placed on the Dean's List. The Dean's List includes 27 seniors, 23 juniors, 17 sophomores, and 25 freshmen.

President's List: "A" ROLL

Akers, Ryan (Jr.) TN
Altom, Jennifer (Sr.) TN
Benninghoff, Samuel (Fr.) TN
Bigley, Drew (Sr.) IL
Brandenburg, Mark (Jr.) TN
Bridgeman, Audra (Jr.) TN
Burba, Joshua (Jr.) TN
Cameron, Lauren (Sr.) MI
Carter, John David (Soph.) TN
Christian, Jesse (Fr.) AL
Corbett, Tonya (Sr.) VA
Detherage, Joshua (Sr.) AL
Driggers, Mary Kathryn (Fr.) SC
Edwards, Kristen (Soph.) SC
Eidson, Joshua (Sr.) TN
Higgins, Miranda (Fr.) TN
Holloway, Thomas (Fr.) GA
Howell, Brandy (Jr.) TN
Hulguin, Kevin (Soph.) VA
Jones, David (Sr.) MO
Jones, Keesha (Fr.) AL
Lewis, Brian (Post-Bac) TN
Lewis, Derek (Soph.) IL
Marcum, Stephanie (Fr.) TN
McAlister, Jill (Sr.) CA
McDonald, Katie (Fr.) TN
Skiles, Alan (Sr.) AL
Stacks, Trisha (Fr.) MO
Stewart, Susan (Sr.) TN
Wheeler, Benjamin (Jr.) NC
Zint, Kera (Fr.) IN

Dean's List: "B" Roll

SENIORS

Bequette, Sarah (MO)
Birmingham, Shawn (MS)
Colf, Edward (TN)
Colf, Elizabeth (TN)
Douglas, Katie (GA)
Douglas, Logan (TN)

Edgmon, Jeff (TN)
Eidson, Rachel (TN)
Fisher, Nicole (TN)
Frixen, Mary Elizabeth (VA)
Gaskins, Grace (SC)
Greer, Jarrod (MS)
Headrick, Mark (TN)
Hearn, Erik (NC)
Hodges, David (GA)
Johnston, Ryan (MO)
Judkins, James (AR)
Lemons, Amanda (IL)
Lemons, Michael (IL)
Mitchell, Amanda (MO)
Oakley, Cynthia (NC)
Owens, Joshua (TN)
Price, Ashley (GA)
Riggs, Jacob (TN)
Warden, Anthony, Jr. (TN)
Watkins, Heather, (AR)
Wilfong, Megan (MO)

JUNIORS

Austin, Jared (TN)
Bishop, Jennifer (Japan)
Boshers, Ashley (TN)
Bragan, Robert (TN)
Craft, Jeremy (GA)
Davenport, Joshua (Canada)
Deel, Casey (TN)
Fisher, Megan (NC)
Hardin, Miriam (NC)
Hicks, Katie (IL)
Holcomb, Brittany (TN)
Kennedy, Phillip (IL)
Klug, Jessica (MI)
Landers, Daniel (AR)
Lane, Heide (TN)
Lundquist, Kasey (NC)
Owen, Jared (FL)
Pool, David (NC)
Postlewaite, Hannah (SC)
Powell, Vanessa (SC)
Simpson, Jennifer (IL)
Sutton, Phillip (NC)
Teel, BreeAnna (IL)

SOPHOMORES

Brown, Brittany (VA)
Clark, Tiffany (AL)
Conner, Jacob (VA)
Dobbs, Christopher (IL)
Gibson, David (SC)
Hajek, Samantha (MO)
Hall, Allison (NC)
Hall, Jessica (NC)
Inman, Brett (MO)
Johnson, Tiffany (SC)
Mishler, Chad (IL)
Nix, Eric (WA)
Parks, Lindsey (TN)
Stockton, Darla (TX)
Stutts, Laura (TN)
Webb, Lauren (MS)
White, Mallory (VA)

FRESHMEN

Atkins, Alyssa (TN)
Christian, Alyssa (FL)
Cobb, Kathryn (IN)
Collins, Rachel (VA)
Crozier, Megan (TN)
Davis, Scottia (TN)
Ellison, Amanda (NC)
Fawver, Rachel (TN)
Franks, Elisabeth (AL)
Gillikin, Paul (TN)
Hunter, Melinda (TN)
Lanvermeier, Carrie (NC)
Lynch, Kayla (TN)
Ouellette, Racheal (NC)
Owens, Jesse (TN)
Peterson, Katie (FL)
Pool, Elizabeth (NC)
Provow, Joshua (MO)
Reel, Sarah (VA)
Stokes, Sara-Ann (TN)
Theisen, Hannah (MI)
Thompson, Mary (NC)
Trimble, Byron (MI)
Ward, Kurston (AR)
Wolf, Lindsay (MI)



A Grief Shared

By Eric Thomsen (as told by Daron Dwyer)

Friday morning, December 1, 2006, began like a hundred others in the little house on Linwood Road in Gastonia, North Carolina. Beth Dwyer went about her daily routine of getting sons Matthew (5) and Taylor (8) dressed and ready for the morning trip to Cramerton Christian Academy, where the boys attended school. As usual, things were hectic. After helping Matthew find his new hee-lies (shoes that transform into roller skates), Beth picked up a blowdryer to finish her hair. She had no idea that her life was about to change forever.

*But I would
ye should
understand,
brethren, that
the things which
happened unto
me have fallen
out rather unto
the furtherance of
the gospel.*

*—Philippians
1:12*

Tragedy Strikes

The steady hum of the blowdryer covered the faint stirrings from Daron and Beth's bedroom, as a pistol was found lying beside the bed. The gun, a gift from a family member, gave Beth a sense of protection on nights when her husband Daron was miles away, attending Southeastern Seminary at Wake Forest.

At 7:50 a.m., as the boys played in the hall bathroom, a single shot ripped through the quiet morning. When Beth burst into the room, she stepped into every mother's worst nightmare. Matthew lay bleeding, struck in the forehead by a bullet fired at close range.

Daron was in the seminary Music Lab printing a research paper when he received the call from his hysterical wife. "He's been shot! He's been shot! You've got to come now!"

"In that moment," Daron recalls, "I felt a thousand things at once—an immediate sense of worry for my wife, panic, hurt, and the cry of 'Oh, God, this can't be happening.'"

He dashed to his car and began the three-hour drive down Highway 98 to Gastonia, "the longest yet shortest drive of my life."

After the initial phone calls, Daron found himself alone with his thoughts. "God, I don't even know what's going on. I don't know how to pray. How could this happen to me? How could this happen to my child? So *this is how* you treat your servants?" His desperate prayers melted into the silence as the miles slipped by.

At the Dwyer home, Beth frantically applied CPR to Matthew, reviving him briefly before police and emergency personnel arrived. The Gaston Emergency Medical Team attempted to fly Matthew to

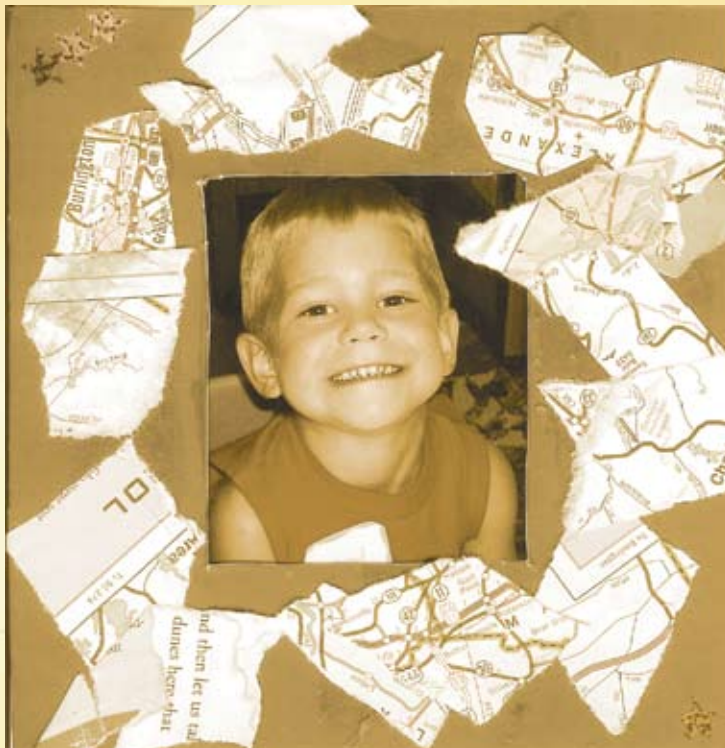
Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, but windy conditions forced them to make the trip by ambulance.

Shocked family members huddled at the hospital, waiting for news—praying for the best, expecting the worst. Dr. Randy Sawyer, the Dwyers' pastor later remembered,

The 2006 Matthew Dwyer Global Outreach Celebration

Since they were born, I talked and prayed with my boys about God using them to do great things for His Kingdom. It appears that one of Matthew's "great things" will impact world missions. In August, God led me to arrange a special missions musical to accompany our annual Christmas Global Outreach Offering because He really wanted to use it to propel our missions strategy. The rest of the staff agreed, a goal of \$50,000 was set, and we began to promote the theme, "This is My Everything." Matthew gave exactly that, and his heart for missions was shared with everyone after his death, creating an unprecedented spirit of surrender and giving. To date \$67,500 has been received, two couples at First FWB Church have surrendered their lives to missions, countless others have rededicated their lives to God, a massive wave of compassionate ministry and outreach has begun, and at least nine souls have come to Christ through the funeral and Matthew's story.

—Daron Dwyer



Matthew's Vacation Bible School project

"her [Beth's] worst fears, the worst fears of any parent, unfolded in the next few hours." When Daron arrived at the hospital, Beth rushed to him, sobbing. "I'm so, so sorry." It was the first time they had spoken since the hysterical call hours earlier.

At 1 p.m., doctors told the family that Matthew's brain was not functioning. Life support was removed at 8 p.m., after additional family members reached the hospital.

Matthew was dead.

Grief Beyond Compare

The news spread like wildfire. Friends and church members gathered with the family at the hospital, sitting in stunned silence, remembering the energetic little boy who lived every moment to its fullest. "Matthew used to fight sleep until he would nearly fall asleep standing up." Daron smiles at the memory. "He just didn't want to miss anything. He was 'life wide open.' He loved the color green, chocolate, ranch dressing. He played, sang, loved, and lived like there was no tomorrow. Looking back, it's like he knew his time was short, and he wanted to get it all in."

The next 48 hours passed in a blur. "What I remember most," Daron says, "is the sobbing, the grief, the reality. Every time I saw the children running around, he was missing. Every time I glanced at a family picture, I realized that he would never be in another one."

On Saturday evening, both sides of the family gathered for the first time. Driven by a sense of guilt and worried about what her family was thinking, a sobbing Beth tried to apologize for Matthew's death. Without letting her finish, grandfather Danny Dwyer embraced his daughter-in-law. "I have nothing but honor in my heart for you, and I always have. The way you raised your children—I am more proud of you than I can ever express."

The family meeting transformed into sharing, prayer, and songs Daron had written about Matthew. Daron's dad said later, "It was the most sacred moment I have ever experienced." Healing had begun.

As children will do, eight-year-old Taylor dealt with his grief in a unique way. When he saw his brother at the funeral home, he did not want to leave his side. Time after time, he asked Darin Gibbs, student pastor from the family's church, to snap a picture of him with Matthew. When Daron saw Taylor slip a dollar bill into the casket, he pulled him aside and asked his son what he was doing. With a serious look, Taylor replied, "That's so Matthew can buy a drink in Heaven." The childish sincerity was almost more than Daron could stand as he embraced his grieving child.

Turning Point

The visitation and funeral became the turning point for the Dwyers. When asked what they remember, they reply with a smile. "After 2,000 hugs, we know what love feels like!" People poured into the funeral home. A stranger drove three hours from Durham and sat for hours before approaching Daron and Beth to explain, "I just felt compelled to come and tell you how sorry I am." The funeral home director told Daron, "In our 75-year history, we have never experienced such an outflow of support before, dur-

ing, and after a funeral.”

Daron reflects on what he felt during the service, which lasted an hour and a half. “The funeral gave us a new perspective on how far the influence of our child’s death had reached.” I will never forget the people who were saved during the service—two from my wife’s own family.

“During the last chorus of the song, ‘Made Me Glad,’ I was compelled to stand. In that moment, my own heart was saying, ‘I’m not going to fall. I’m going to stand. I am going to rise and worship God—the worship of which He is worthy.’ From that moment, I have had a sense of peace. I know my son’s death was not in vain. God had a purpose.”

A Grief Shared

Another truth became clear to the Dwyers in the weeks after the funeral—They were not alone in their grief! Thousands of cards, letters, and emails poured in from around the country. Churches of all denominations contacted the family to share their condolences. Words of encouragement came from missionaries in Africa and Spain. The Dwyers’ church (First FWB Church, Gastonia) provided food—every meal—from December through March. Matthew’s part in the Christmas play was left unfilled; a robe and crown lay in the space that would have been occupied by the little “wiseman.”

To honor Matthew, the church’s Upward™ basketball program framed his jersey and presented it to his parents. In January, members of each team from the church began wearing green armbands to represent Matthew and his favorite color.

Members of their church partnered with Cramerton FWB Church (pastored by Daron’s father Danny) to remodel the Dwyer’s house. They repaired the damaged ceiling, cleaned the carpet, painted the entire house, remodeled the bathrooms, organized the attic, and put a new roof on the house after Lowe’s donated the shingles. The yard was landscaped, the deck replaced. A businessman from the Cramerton FWB Church donated new bedding and custom window treatments for the entire house. Several families joined together and purchased a new bed, mattress, and box springs for Daron and Beth. The family received gift cards to Target. On the day before Christmas Eve another family gave the Dwyers a Dodge Durango. Time and again, gestures of love and support reminded the Dwyers that they did not grieve alone. After weeks of experiencing such love, Daron remembers, “With the love, grace, and hope enveloping me I said to God, this time with gratitude, ‘So *this is* how you treat your servants.’”

Dash, the Miracle Dog

Concerned about Taylor, Daron decided that he would purchase a puppy for his son’s Christmas. He discovered that the type of puppy he wanted for his son is both scarce and expensive at Christmas. After searching local newspapers and the internet, he found just the dog being sold by a man named Darren Shockey, who lived in Cookeville, Tennessee.

He called the owner and blurted out his story, only to learn that the dog had been sold to another buyer. Disheartened, Daron consigned himself to the idea that he would be unable to get Taylor’s dog in time.

When he checked his email, he was surprised to find a note from Shockey, the dog’s owner. The note explained that

continued on page 48

Helping Hands

Daron and his family compiled a (partial) list of people and organizations who comforted them during their loss:

1. Our family, laughter, tears, presence, and work on our house.
2. Trissia Smith and Brandi Anderson, food coordinators.
3. Dozens of families, meals and restaurant gift cards.
4. Chuck Belk, Jack Phillips, David and Karen Fuller, Matt and Farrah Brackett, Steve Fuller, Phoebe Philbeck, Teresa Lucas, Phoebe Burgess, Bryan and Missy Harrington, Donna Parnell, Danny and Carolyn Dwyer, and Garland Harris, house painting.
5. Dan Flowers, Daniel Padgett, Chad Garrigan, and Nick Burgess, back porch repair.
6. David Pearson, Darrell Griffin, ceiling repair.
7. Nancy, Jenny, Michelle and Cassie Rogers; Phoebe Philbeck and Teresa Lucas; Carolyn, Wendy Dwyer Haynes, Sara Dwyer Hopkins, and Ann Harris, house cleaning (three times).
8. Andy Holman and Chuck Belk, carpet cleaning.
9. Dennis Dillard and Danny Dwyer, electrical work.
10. Travis Bell, Bryan Harrington, Daniel Padgett, Nick Burgess, and Danny Dwyer, bathroom remodeling.
11. Randy Rabb, plumbing.
12. Johnny Nichols, paint, window treatments, and bedding.
13. Cheryl Martin, painted pictures for Taylor’s room.
14. Barry and Tabitha Friday, Jack Phillips, Curtis Martin, landscaping.
15. Tim Harvell, Jack Phillips, roofing.
16. David Fuller, pool and lighting repair.
17. Johnny Nichols, power washing.
18. Tripp and Amy Kirby; Ed and Sandy Conzel; Kevin and Sara Tugwell; new bed.
19. Ann Harris, Teresa Lucas, Phoebe Philbeck, Phoebe Burgess, Wendy Dwyer Haynes, Taylor’s bedroom.
20. Wendy Dwyer Haynes, Sara Dwyer Hopkins, and Carolyn Dwyer, master bedroom decor.
21. Tripp and Amy Kirby; Ed and Sandy Conzel; Kevin and Sara Tugwell; attic reorganization.
22. Kevin and Sara Tugwell, dog run.
23. Melvin and Kathy Price, dog house.
24. First FWB Church Wee Care Day School and First FWB Church Christian Academy kids and staff, Dash the Wonder Dog.
25. Doug and Cindy Huffstetler, Dodge Durango.
26. Dozens of individuals, churches, and institutions gave monetary gifts to the Dwyers.
27. Jim and Annette Hale, Cameron and Keaton, Ashbrook kids Jersey.
28. Chad and Donna Garrigan and others, Target™ gift cards.
29. Lacey Robinson family, Charissa Townsend, Tajel Patel, Home Depot and Wal-Mart gift cards.
30. Ken Lane, Ernie Dove, Garland Harris, Linda Fletcher (aunt), Brent Fletcher (cousin), Greg Harris (brother), Grandma Dunn, others from Mr. Harris’ Sunday School class at Gateway FWB Church, Matthew’s grave marker.

The basketball team of Cramerton Christian asked Taylor to be the ball boy for all home games this season and the players are wearing green armbands in honor of Matthew.

The Ashbrook High School football team presented a team jersey and pass to attend all home games, to be on the sidelines with the team, and dedicate the first game of the season to Matthew Dwyer.

While we have tried to keep good records, so many began doing things before we were even aware, and are still doing things without us knowing. We wish to thank them as well. (Daron Dwyer)

Conversations with Charlie

EXCITEMENT GRABS MY NECKTIE AND leads me through the front doors of Goen Hall. I shoulder through the blustery wind toward the small office on the bottom floor of the Cook Building. Because my appointment is with Dr. Charles Allen Thigpen, I quickly straighten my tie and smooth down my wind-blown hair as I knock on the office door.

Such meetings have been a regular part of my schedule during four years at Free Will Baptist Bible College. I became acquainted with the former college president as a freshman. Our initial discussion has grown into a very candid relationship based on many lively afternoon conversations. Although he recently celebrated his 80th birthday,

he still offers valuable and relevant professional and personal insights to Christian life and ministry.

As our friendship has grown, I have come to realize that few stories are more impressive than Dr. Thigpen's journey from the sleepy small town of Olanta, South Carolina to his role as professional educator in Nashville, Tennessee.

Early Ambitions

Charles Allen Thigpen was born on September 26, 1926, the fourth of five children born to Allen and Mabel Thigpen. Though his father was a jeweler, most members of the Thigpen family were farmers. He and his family were Southern Methodists, attend-

ing the Turbeville Southern Methodist Church, a few miles down the road.

His amazing journey began at age 13 during a revival held at the local schoolhouse. As the meeting progressed, something marvelous captured the hearts of Charles Allen and his friend Laura, known to most as "Lolly." Although they can't remember the evangelist's name or the exact dates, both teens were saved during the revival.

Charles Allen was ambitious. He aspired to attend the University of South Carolina and become a lawyer. However, this was only the beginning. From there it was just a short trip to the Governor's Mansion, the position he dreamed of filling.

Education

B.A. in Bible/English, Bob Jones College, 1947

M.A. in Religious Education, Winona Lake School of Theology, 1953

M.Ed. in Psychology, Middle Tennessee State University, 1970

D.A. in English, Middle Tennessee State University, 1975

Professional

Pastor, Tuscaloosa Southern Methodist Church (AL) 1946-48

Dean of Men, Free Will Baptist Bible College 1948-53

Registrar, Free Will Baptist Bible College 1949-53

Pastor, Highland Park FWB Church (MI) 1953-57

Moderator, National Association of Free Will Baptists 1954-60

Dean of Students, Free Will Baptist Bible College 1957-67

Academic Dean, Free Will Baptist Bible College 1957-79

Faculty, Free Will Baptist Bible College 1948-53, 57-80

President, Free Will Baptist Bible College 1979-1990

President, of American Association of Bible Colleges (now ABHE), 1984-86

President, Tennessee College Association 1990-91

Chancellor, Free Will Baptist Bible College 1990-91

Tennessee State Promotional Director 1991-2006

Editor, *The Echo* (TN State FWB Publication) 15 years

Frequent guest speaker in revivals, association meetings, and conferences.

Publications

Co-author of *Survey of the New Testament*, Randall House Publications.

Bible Scholar, Randall House Publications.

Various journal and magazine articles throughout the years.

Allen and Mabel had different plans, insisting that Charles attend a Christian college for at least one year. (Thigpen still praises his parents for their wisdom on this matter.) Although he didn't like the idea, he decided to make Bob Jones College (now University) his next stop. Because his girlfriend Laura planned to attend the college, the move served to please his parents and foster his relationship with Laura. Only God knew the great work he had in store for the young man.

Throughout childhood, Thigpen's friends and playmates knew him as Charles Allen, but when he arrived at

themselves in ministry at the church in Tuscaloosa, starting two other churches along the way. It was only after correspondence and a meeting with Free Will Baptist Bible College President L.C. Johnson that they realized they were more Free Will Baptist than Methodist.

After much prayer and consideration, Charlie and Lolly headed to Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, in the fall of 1948. With the exception of four years when Charlie felt an urging from the Lord to pastor again, the couple spent the next 43 years serving the college. During

Recently, while cataloging old chapel tapes for the college, I encountered numerous tapes from the early 1980s, recorded during the early years of Dr. Thigpen's presidency. Inserting several of the cassettes into a tape player, I soon began hearing the sound of his voice from the pulpit in Memorial Auditorium.

The voice resonated with the concern of a college president as he told students, "Straighten up, and act like young men and women!" Thigpen often pounded the pulpit with his index finger when emphasizing a particular point.

At other times, however, his tone was gentle, like a grandfather who ten-



By W. Jackson
Watts

Bob Jones, his friends began to call him Charlie. Not long after arriving, God began to deal with him. Charlie found himself conceding that he would serve God no matter what—even if it meant farming!

The Lord clarified things, and Charlie began to prepare for the ministry. Throughout his senior year, he made weekend trips to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to preach in a small Methodist church there. Though he did not own a car at the time, he hitchhiked, or "directed traffic" as he calls it, in order to get a ride south.

The College Years

After graduating from college the young couple married and immersed

the time away, Thigpen pastored the Highland Park FWB Church in Royal Oak, Michigan, (now Central FWB Church). The church blossomed under Thigpen's pastorate and attendance more than tripled during his four-year ministry. In spite of Charlie's success, Dr. Johnson continued to urge the couple to return. They moved back to Nashville in 1957 and remained at the college until their retirement in 1991.

The Voice

One of the most memorable characteristics of any man, especially a preacher, is his voice. Anyone who sat under the preaching or teaching of Thigpen for very long remembers the resonating, sharp, steady voice.

derly, yet firmly admonished students, "Just surrender your life to Christ and serve him faithfully." Thigpen has preached the same way for 64 years. His style never wavered.

Dynamic Duo

Someone recently remarked, "You couldn't have a Dr. Thigpen without a Mrs. Thigpen." This is certainly the sentiment of all who encountered the couple over the years. They were a team.

Mrs. Thigpen taught speech and drama and helped refine the speaking skills of many effective Free Will Baptist preachers. Known for her attention to detail and no-nonsense classroom policy, she lit up the classroom with her vibrant energy.

he had asked the buyer to return the dog in order to sell the dog to Taylor instead. He sold the man another dog he had planned to keep for himself. The email went on to explain that 19 years earlier, Shockey lost his own son in a similar accident. He knew that God had directed Daron's steps. "I realize now that God sent you to me to give me the opportunity to minister to you."

Dash quickly became part of the family and Taylor's constant companion. With wonder in his tone, Daron says, "He doesn't whine. He doesn't fuss. He doesn't make messes. He listens. Dash really is a miracle dog."

Church Locks Arms

As he looks back on the last 90 days, Daron shakes his head in amazement. "As the encouragement of our Christian family embraced us, I realized that through His Church, God gives us the strength to bear a load that would crush us alone. I can truly say that He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. I felt as though I were locked arm in arm with thousands. I firmly believe that this was a grief that could only be shared. It was simply too large to carry on our own. It wasn't just us grieving. It was our church. It was the family. It was God. This must be what the church in Acts chapter two experienced when they worked together, prayed together, and yes, grieved together. If every person who walked into church today experienced what we have experienced, it would turn the world upside down...again." □

About the Family: Daron Dwyer is minister of music and Christian education at First FWB Church, Gastonia, NC. He is pursuing and Master of Divinity in Worship Leadership.

Eric Thomsen is the managing editor of ONE Magazine.



W. Jackson Watts is a graduating senior at Free Will Baptist Bible College, where he is studying Pastoral Ministry and English. He attends Horse Branch FWB Church in Turbeville, South Carolina.

Although the Thigpens worked diligently at the college, they were also dedicated Christian parents. Charlie is quick to talk about his 4 children, 14 grandchildren, and his lone great-grandchild. Three graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College, and two even taught at the college in past years.

Follow the Leader

Charles had the ability to make suggestions and ask hard questions when no one else was willing. His pioneering spirit significantly affected the direction of the college, and even the denomination.

In Charlie's early years at the college, he urged president L.C. Johnson to take the college from a two-year program to four-year status. Thousands of graduates later, the college has flourished as a result of the decision. The current Teacher Education program also has its beginnings with Thigpen.

Word on the Street

As story after story began to emerge during our conversations, I began to wonder if others shared the same admiration and respect for this man as I do. I began to ask questions of pastors and leaders who attended Free Will Baptist Bible College while Thigpen was president. Time and again, I heard words of appreciation, gratitude, and respect. One pastor referred to him as Barnabas, one who had been an incredible encourager to him.

Another pastor was deeply affected by Thigpen's remarkable capacity to remember the names and faces of the 648 students (the college's record enrollment). One rumor says that the former president would sit in his office with the college yearbook in his lap, carefully perusing each page so he could call students by name.

Whether this is true or not, there is little doubt that Thigpen had an unusual ability to remember students.

One pastor said, "He is a man of awesome integrity, who lived what he preached and lived what he thought."

Often during our afternoon chats, Dr. Thigpen would not hesitate to disagree with a philosophy or practice. He was always respectful, however, and quick to point out that his personal view is not an absolute.

God has given me a mentor of great wisdom, integrity, godliness, and humility. The only time I ever heard Dr. Thigpen boast, he informed me that he got to drive his dad on his honeymoon—an odd feat for anyone. Of course, this occurred when his dad married Kathleen Green after his wife's passing.

The Road Ahead

Never mind that Charlie will be 81 this year. He is still going strong—serving as interim pastor at the Head's FWB Church in Cedar Hill, Tennessee, 35 miles north of Nashville.

With their family living in Georgia, the couple (who will celebrate 60 years of marriage in just a few months) plans to relocate to the state in the coming year. It will be the first time the blue house on Murphy Road has been vacated since 1959. Of course, 50 years of paperwork must be sorted first.

Though it seems Dr. Thigpen's professional ministry has come to an end, his ministry has always been about people, not positions. His message today is simple: "Live for God, be faithful stewards, and influence as many people for the Lord as you can." □



GATEWAY COLLEGE ANNOUNCES DATES

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA—The annual Gateway Bible Conference was held March 4–7. Service coincided with the college Open House. Church members, students, and guests were blessed by messages about loving the Word of God, experiencing revival, and holy living. Speakers included Frank Rice, Jr., David Crowe, Dr. Johnny Pope, and Dr. David Gibbs, Jr.

The 2007 Spring GCC Golf Tournament will be held April 3. This year's event will feature great golf and refreshing fellowship while raising support for the college. Event details are posted on the college website.

The fourth commencement service of Gateway Christian College will be held on Sunday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m. Guests are invited to attend. Already, graduates of the college are serving as pastors, associate pastors, missionaries, Christian school teachers, and church secretaries.

Find out more information about the college at www.gatewaychristiancollege.com.

SCM FORMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

NASHVILLE, TN—Student & Children's Ministries has recruited an eclectic group of children's pastors, youth ministers, and pastors to serve as an informal Advisory Council. The insight and experience of these dedicated individuals will be a great asset in the development of the ministries of the SCM.

Mark Walker, First FWB Church, Albany, GA
Johnny Miller, Cavanaugh FWB Church, Ft. Smith, AR
Dean Stone, CrossPointe FWB Church, Norman, OK
Steve Greenwood, Donelson FWB Church, Nashville, TN
Christian Powell, Faith FWB Church, Goldsboro, NC
Randy Raines, Farmington FWB Church, Farmington, MO
Barry Raper, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, TN
Joe Wilson, First FWB Church, Lebanon, MO
Curt Gwartney, Locust Grove FWB Church, Locust Grove, OK
Steve Berry, First FWB Church, Melbourne, FL
Darren Walker, First FWB Church, North Little Rock, AR
Steve Lindsay, New Hope FWB Church, Joelton, TN
Gowdy Cannon, Northwest FWB Church, Chicago, IL

RANDALL HOUSE SPONSORS WORSHIP EVENT

LITTLE ROCK, AR—Michael Boggs, of FFH, will provide a worship concert Monday night at the National Youth Conference. Ticket information is available on the Convention Pre-registration form. For more information, visit www.fwbny.com.

National Youth Conference participants, parents, coaches, and directors: Remember there are two types of "registration fees" for the National Youth Conference—the \$25 Conference Fee on the Pre-registration form is required for every student (grades 1–12 and preschool worship) to receive a badge to enter the youth conference activities (including RTG, youth services, competition, etc.). The Conference Fee is NOT paid by your state. The Conference Fee will be \$35 at the door, so pre-register for a discount.

The other fee covers the Competition Event Entry. This is a graduated amount based on the number of participants in the entry (see page 6 of the NYC Guidelines booklet). This fee is sometimes forwarded from the fees paid to the State Youth Conference. This fee only applies to the competition event registration. This fee is to be included with National Youth Conference Competition Registration form (page 52 of the NYC Guidelines booklet), due by June 15.

SCM SEEKS ADDRESSES

NASHVILLE, TN—Danny Conn, director of Student and Children's Ministries at Randall House Publications, is updating the department's database of youth workers and children's workers. To provide your contact information, email SCM@randallhouse.com and include your name, mailing address, phone, email address, church name, and ministry age group. You may also fax this information to SCM at (615) 367-0535.

SCM is striving to improve communication among youth workers in order to share news, ideas, and needs. Please share events and needs in your area.

PRAYER COMMITTEE FORMED

LITTLE ROCK, AR—The prayer committee for the 71st NAFWB National Convention to be held in Little Rock, Arkansas, July 15–18, 2007, has begun efforts to enlist and mobilize prayer support for the convention. In an effort to enlist an army of prayer warriors who will seek God's face and lift our convention up to the Lord in prayer, the committee is asking volunteers from all walks of life to join them in striving to saturate every aspect of the convention with prayer.

As the convention draws closer, pray for the convention planning team and Executive Office personnel as they organize and promote the important meeting. Additional prayer requests and news will be released through various Free Will Baptist media outlets in the coming months.

For more information about the committee, or to find out how you can help, email us at nafwbpray@westweb1.net or call us at (870) 886-6715.

2007 YEARBOOK AVAILABLE

ANTIOCH, TN—The *2007 Free Will Baptist Yearbook* came off the press in March. Yearbooks have been mailed to district association clerks for distribution of complimentary copies to local churches.

If you wish to purchase a yearbook for personal use, call Randall House Publications at (800) 877-7030 or visit www.randallhouse.com.



I GO TO THE ROCK

A PREVIEW OF THE
FREE WILL BAPTIST
NATIONAL CONVENTION

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
JULY 15-18, 2007

When French Explorer Benard de la Harpe landed near an unusual rock formation on the bank of the Arkansas River in 1722, he called it La Petite Roche, the "little rock." The name stuck. When the United States acquired the Louisiana Purchase from the French in 1803, Little Rock was a struggling frontier settlement. A popular stopping point on the Southwest Trail to Texas, the crossroad had a rough and rowdy reputation and served as home to many colorful frontier characters.

In time, however, the town grew and matured. Churches and schools were established, newspapers were

started, and by the time Arkansas was granted statehood in 1836, the city was the obvious choice for the title of state capital.

Today, the population of greater Little Rock has reached nearly 600,000. The city continues to grow, boasting a recently-expanded convention center, a revitalized downtown area and riverfront market district, a 42,000-square-foot Center for the Arts, and the William J. Clinton Park and Library named for the former President and Arkansas native.



Little Rock will become the temporary home to thousands of Free Will Baptist men, women, and children on July 15-18 when the denomination's 71st annual convention returns to Arkansas for the fifth time (three of the previous conventions were held in Little Rock). Plenary sessions will meet in the Statehouse Convention Center, while various activities will take place across the downtown area.

Convention planners have blocked rooms in six downtown hotels for the week: The Peabody (headquarters), Doubletree, Wyndham Riverfront, Courtyard by Marriott, LaQuinta Inn Downtown, and the Holiday Inn Presidential.

The housing process has changed. Reservations can ONLY be made online or by calling each hotel beginning Monday, April 2, 9:00 a.m., Central Standard Time.

To pre-register, visit www.nafwb.org.

Little Rock Hotel Amenities

The Peabody (headquarters, connected to the [SCC] Statehouse Convention Center)
(800) PEABODY / peabodylittlerock.com
Group Code: 283335

- Free internet service (wireless in lobby)
- Health club available 24 hours
- Business Center available 24 hours
- Rollaway beds available for double rooms at minimal cost
- Refrigerators available (\$25 per night)
- Nearby River Market District has a variety of restaurants and attractions

Doubletree Hotel (2 blocks to SCC)
(800) 222-8733 /littlerockdoubletree.com
Group Code: FRE

- Free wireless internet service (all public areas and guestrooms)
- Trolley stop in front of the hotel
- Free parking for registered guests
- Fitness room
- Free airport shuttle
- In-room coffeemaker
- River Market District, six blocks
- The Plaza Grille offers the following buffets: daily breakfast (\$7.95 + tax), lunch M-F (\$8.50 + tax), and dinner (\$12.95 + tax)

Wyndham Riverfront (across the river, 10 minute walk to SCC)
(866) 657-4458 / wyndham.com

- In-room coffeemaker
- Free internet access in guestrooms
- Free newspaper and Web TV
- Safe
- Sofa-bed
- Two-line, speaker phone with voice mail



Courtyard by Marriott (4 blocks from SCC)
(800) 321-2211 / marriott.com / Group Code: FWBO

- The Courtyard Café offers a daily breakfast buffet (\$8.95 + tax)
- River Market District nearby
- Trolley stop within half block
- Indoor pool and spa
- Workout facility

LaQuinta Inn (six blocks from SCC, free shuttle) (501) 374-9000

- Free Continental Breakfast
- Free Airport Shuttle
- Free Parking for registered guests
- Wireless internet throughout the facility
- Outdoor pool
- Fitness Center available 24 hours
- Business Center available 24 hours

Holiday Inn Presidential (8 blocks from SCC, free shuttle) (501) 375-2100

- Free wireless internet
- Two-line phone
- Fitness center
- Outdoor pool
- Full-service restaurant
- Room service and laundry facilities
- Free USA Today
- Free shuttle to airport and downtown

Quick Facts About the City

- The capital and largest city of Arkansas
- Located in the center of the state in Pulaski County
- Population: 184,055 in the Little Rock city limits; 580,625 in the Greater Little Rock metropolitan area
- Average temperatures range from 40° F in January to 81° F in July
- Population: 47% males, 53% female
- Median Age: 31
- Became the 25th state on June 15, 1836
- Made up of 75 counties

FOR MORE CONVENTION INFORMATION AND LITTLE ROCK ATTRACTIONS, VISIT WWW.ONEMAG.ORG



The "Old Mill" in North Little Rock was featured in the opening scene of the classic movie *Gone With the Wind*.



Pre-Registration

National Association of Free Will Baptists

Women Nationally Active for Christ / National Youth Conference
Little Rock, Arkansas / July 15-18, 2007

One Form Per Person / Register Online: www.nafwb.org / Name Badges Required for all Events

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Church You Attend _____

Church Location: City _____ State _____

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

VOTING DELEGATES:

- National Board/Commission Member
- Local Church Delegate (Documentation Required) \$100
- International Missionary (Country: _____)
- Home Missionary
- Ordained Deacon
- Ordained Minister
- State delegate cannot pre-register without delegate card.

NON-VOTING:

- Licensed Minister
- Attending but not a delegate

TICKETS:

Int'l Missions Dinner..... Qty _____ x \$30 = _____
 (Tuesday, July 17, 5:00 pm)
 Hillsdale Reception..... Qty _____ x \$15 = _____
 (Tuesday, July 17, 9:00 pm)
 FWBBC Luncheon..... Qty _____ x \$25 = _____
 (Wednesday, July 18, 12:00 noon)

Women Nationally Active for Christ

VOTING DELEGATES:

- National Officer
- State President
- State Field Worker
- State Delegate
- Local WNAC Delegate (Documentation Required) \$10

NON-VOTING:

- Missionary
- Attending but not a delegate

Tickets:

WNAC Luncheon..... Qty _____ x \$25= _____
 (Tuesday, July 17, 12:00 noon)

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

From _____

National Youth Conference

NYC or Competition Questions, call (800) 877-7030 or email scm@randallhouse.com

STUDENTS: \$25 conference fee (\$35 onsite) required for students to attend NYC events and competition. Competitors and students watching competitive events must pay this fee.

- Grades 1-3 **GRADE (Spring, 2007)** _____
- Grades 4-6
- Grades 7-8
- Grades 9-12

PRESCHOOL WORSHIP (ages 3-5): \$25 fee (\$35 onsite)

- Preschool Worship

OTHERS: (No charge)

- Attendee (birth-5 or college age and older)

TICKETS:

Michael Boggs Worship Concert..... Qty _____ x \$10 = _____
 (Monday, July 16, 9:00 pm)

Youth Leader _____

**Deadline: June 15, 2007 (postmarked)
No Refunds After June 15**

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- Check Enclosed (Payable to FWB Convention)
- Visa MasterCard

Card # _____

Card Holder _____ Exp ____/____

Return Form and Payment to:

Convention Registration
 PO Box 5002
 Antioch, TN 37011 / FAX: (615) 731-0771
 Questions: (877) 767-7659 / convention@nafwb.org

Register online at www.nafwb.org.



Housing Information

National Association of Free Will Baptists
 Women Nationally Active for Christ / National Youth Conference
 Little Rock, Arkansas / July 15-18, 2007

THE RESERVATION PROCESS HAS CHANGED! Reservations can ONLY be made by phone or via the internet and must be made directly through the hotel.

1 Personal Information

(Provide the following information when making reservations.)

- Name
- Address
- City, State, Zip
- Phone
- Email
- Credit Card
 - Card Number
 - Expiration Date
- Special Requests:
 - Non-Smoking Room
 - Wheelchair Accessible Room
 - Rollaway Bed
 - Crib

2 Contact Your Hotel of Choice (see below).

The Peabody (Headquarters)

3 Statehouse Plaza Little Rock, AR 72201 1-800-Peabody (732-2639) www.peabodylittlerock.com Group Code: 283335 Self Park \$7.50 Valet \$10	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Db1/Db1 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$135	\$135	\$135	\$145	\$145

Doubletree Hotel

424 West Markham Street Little Rock, AR 72201 (800) 222-8733 / (501) 372-4371 www.littlerock.doubletree.com Group Code: FRE Complimentary Parking	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Db1/Db1 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$117	\$117	\$117	\$117	\$117

Wyndham Riverfront

2 Riverfront Place North Little Rock, AR 72114 (866) 657-4458 / (501) 371-9000 Complimentary Parking	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Db1/Db1 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$84	\$84	\$84	\$94	\$104

Courtyard by Marriott

521 President Clinton Avenue Little Rock, AR 72201 (800) 321-2211 / (501) 975-9800 www.marriott.com Group Code: FWBO Self Park \$5	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Db1/Db1 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$123	\$123	\$123	\$123	\$123

La Quinta Inn & Suites

617 South Broadway Little Rock, AR 72201 (800) 642-4258 / (501) 374-9000 Complimentary Parking	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Db1/Db1 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$89	\$89	\$89	\$89	\$89

Holiday Inn Presidential

600 Ferry Street Little Rock, AR 72202 (501) 375-2100 Group Code: Free Will Baptist Complimentary Parking	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Db1/Db1 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$99	\$99	\$99	\$99	\$99



3 Receive Your Confirmation Number

Reservations will open at 9 am, CST, Monday, April 2, 2007.
 Hotels will not accept reservations before this time.
Reservations must be made by June 15, 2007.



KEITH BURDEN
Executive Secretary
National Association
of Free Will Baptists

ALL WET

THE CALLER ON THE TELE-phone identified himself as the owner/manager of a local cemetery. He said he needed assistance and wanted to know if I was willing to help. I tried to sound interested and willing but remained non-committal. My mind shifted into high gear, trying to imagine what he wanted.

Briefly he explained the nature of his request. Each year a special ceremony was conducted at the cemetery on Memorial Day. The community gathered to pay their respects to the departed, especially those who served our country in the armed forces.

The program consisted of a color guard, speech by a local politician, taps, 21-gun salute, and prayer. He asked if I would pray. Without the slightest hesitation I responded, "Sure! I can pray. I'll be happy to help you."

The next day, however, I began to consider what I had done. The church office was closed on Memorial Day. I usually took the day off. It was a rare opportunity to sleep late. Our family typically got together and grilled out.

It also occurred to me that I made a commitment to someone I did not know. Although I had met the man and seen him as I conducted services at the cemetery, I didn't really know him. What was I thinking when I made a promise to a total stranger?

I rose early that Monday. Convinced I needed to look professional, I put on a suit and tie. The sky was overcast, and I

remember hearing the rumble of thunder in the distance. I decided to take an umbrella, just to be on the safe side.

I paused as I pulled into the cemetery. Although I had been there on numerous occasions, the well-kept grounds and expansive memorial park were particularly striking that day. The roadway was lined with dozens of large, American flags.

A small group assembled in front of a tall, native stone structure. As I took my place with the other participants, it began to rain. The ceremony was brief, but long enough for everyone to get thoroughly soaked.

Sloshing through the water I returned to my car, vowing I would never do that again. Yet when I received an invitation to pray the following year, inexplicably, I consented. As you might imagine, it rained again.

I lost track of how many years I prayed at the Memorial Day ceremony. Eventually, however, the cemetery owner and his wife began to attend our church. They committed their lives to Christ and proved to be a tremendous blessing—not only to our ministry, but to the denomination as well. Today, they remain actively involved in a Free Will Baptist church, and I count them among my dearest friends.

Sometimes being a witness means going outside your comfort zone. It may cause inconvenience, and you may lose valuable time. But the rewards of leading others to Christ far exceed any sacrifice we make, even if it means getting wet! □

Ladies,

Get an income for life and support the work of WNAC, too!

Consider these benefits:

1. A regular income for life
2. A portion of your income will be tax free
3. A significant charitable tax deduction
4. Assurance of a future gift to the WNAC
5. A lifetime gift subscription to *Together With God* (for agreements of \$5,000.00 or more)



I am considering \$ _____
to establish my WNAC Gift Annuity.

SINGLE LIFE RATE		JOINT LIFE RATE		
Age	Rate	Younger Age	Older Age	Rate
55	5.5%	55	55	5.0%
60	5.7%	60	60	5.4%
65	6.0%	65	65	5.6%
70	6.5%	70	70	5.9%
75	7.1%	75	75	6.3%
80	8.0%	80	80	6.9%
85	9.5%	85	85	7.9%
90+	11.3%	90	90	9.3%

WNAC GIFT ANNUITY COUPON

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

WNACGA040507

MAIL TO:

Free Will Baptist Foundation
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002
Or Call Toll-Free:
(877) 336-7575
Or Email to:
foundation@nafwb.org
Or Fax:
(615) 737-1160
www.fwbgifts.org



You get peace of mind fixed rate income for life (one or two people) and help WNAC continue its ministry supporting missions and education. Contact FWB Foundation for a confidential, personal profile without pressure or obligation.



MASTER'S MEN 14th ANNUAL NATIONAL Golf Tournament

Pine Creek Golf Course, Mt. Juliet, Tennessee • August 2, 2007



The Master's Men National Golf Tournament is an 18-hole, two-man scramble tournament. This fund raising event for the Master's Men Department costs \$70 per golfer. Fee includes: Green fees, cart, 2 mulligans, practice balls, prizes, door prizes, and a buffet lunch.

Play will begin with a shotgun start promptly at 7:30 a.m. Check in will begin at 6:00 a.m.

From Nashville: Take I-40 east to exit 226 (Mt. Juliet). Go south on Hwy 171 (approximately 1 mile to Hwy 265). Go east on Hwy 265 to Logue Rd. Turn right on Logue Rd. and the golf course will be on your left.

Hole Sponsorship is available for churches, businesses, Master's Men Chapters, individuals, organizations starting at \$50.00. Sponsors will receive a sign at a tee box acknowledging their support.

To register, call the Master's Men office at
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Hope in God

Psalm 78:7

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