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APRIL/MAY 2008

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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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ERIC THOMSEN
MANAGING EDITOR

FIRST GLIMPSE

ONLY ONE OPTION

COOL, DANK AIR SWEEPED FROM THE NARROW crack in the earth, brushing clammy tendrils across our faces and filling our nostrils with the pungent odor of moist earth and untold depths. My youth group whispered nervously to one another as they eyed the small, dark hole before us.

“Are we really going in there?” Dan finally voiced the question in everyone’s mind.

“You asked to go spelunking,” I replied with a smile.

“Yes, but...” Dan’s voice trailed off, and he turned to eye the tiny entrance again. “For a place called Mammoth Cave, this sure seems small.”

One by one, we followed our guide into the hole. On hands and knees (and sometimes stomachs), we inched through a long, narrow passage until it finally spilled into a large, open chamber.

Rising stiffly, we huddled in the darkness, like explorers on a strange, new planet. The dim glow of the guide’s flashlight revealed grotesque rock formations, with twisted fingers of stalagmite and stalactite reaching from the darkness. Glistening cave walls provided an eerie backdrop as our guide turned to us with a serious face. “From this point forward,” she whispered dramatically, “there is no going back. The passage we are about to enter is too small to turn around. You have only one option—keep moving ahead. If you are not willing to do this, turn around now and return the way we came.”

For a long moment the group was silent—dubious expressions on tense faces. Then Dan’s calm voice cut through the skepticism. “What are we waiting for? This is the whole reason we came. Let’s go!”

The thought of outreach sometimes makes us feel as though we have arrived in a dark, strange, and frightening place. The thought of telling a friend or coworker about Christ (not to mention a complete stranger) turns our insides to jelly, leaves our mouths dry, and our hands shaky.

Far too often, we glance around cautiously, waiting for someone else to take the lead, unwilling to step into the darkness ourselves. Statistics tell us this evangelistic caution has reached epidemic proportions. In 2007, nearly 50% of self-described Christians who responded to a survey by research analyst George Barna said they had no plans to share their faith with a non-believer in the coming year.

But this caution is incongruent with Christ’s final command to proclaim His life-changing message to “all the world.” He included no disclaimers like “unless it makes you feel uncomfortable,” “when it is convenient,” or “as long as it is safe.” No, His command was simple, straightforward, and imperative.

The only question is how we will respond. Will we abandon ourselves to His call? Or will we shirk the challenge before us. Dan’s words echo in my ears with one slight change: “What are we waiting for? This is the whole reason HE came. Let’s go!” □

LETTERS

I could find no information on sending articles to you to be published (if approved, of course). Would you email me this information? My daughter wrote an article I think will be good for Mother’s Day or whenever you thought it would fit in with your theme. The magazine is beautifully printed and designed. You are doing a remarkable job. Thank you from all of us Free Will Baptists.

Geraldine Davidson, Stella, MO

To Our Readers: If you would like to submit an article, please contact:
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ABOUT THE COVER



Carol (pictured) and Jerry Pinkerton are career missionaries to Côte d’Ivoire, West Africa. Their ministry has taken them from deep in the African interior to the crime-ridden streets of the capital city Abidjan. After 37 years on the field, they will retire in January 2009. Read more about their amazing ministry on page 26.



Put on your

By Barry Simpson

RALLY CAPS!

Turning our caps was a tangible way for us to express our solidarity and boost our team spirit at an obviously critical point in the game. We were a team. We stood together.

AS A LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL PLAYER in Shawnee, Kansas, my team and I were occasionally in one of those nail-biter games—when an error can cost you the game, or something as simple as a base hit can make you a hero. Momentum could shift swiftly. In those pivotal moments, fans laid aside their refreshments, stood to their feet, and cheered with all their might. Sensing that momentum had shifted in our favor, my teammates and I put on our “rally caps”—turned our baseball caps around backwards—and joined the cheering.

Turning our caps was a tangible way for us to express our solidarity and boost our team spirit at an obviously critical point in the game. We were a team. We stood together. Everyone had a role to play; no one was unim-

portant. When we won, we won as a team. We all shared in the battle and we all shared in the victory.

I was reminded of those Little League days after a recent conversation with Danny Dwyer, pastor of Cramerton FWB Church in Cramerton, North Carolina. Although a few years my senior, Danny is a dear friend and is well respected across the FWB movement. During our conversation he indicated we as Free Will Baptists need some rallying points—some happenings that unite us and make us proud to be Free Will Baptists. It was the “rally” idea that arrested my attention and took me back in time.

Danny went on to state that missions should be one of those rallying points. I couldn't agree more. Getting the gospel to those 2 billion people—

The annual World Missions Offering is an excellent opportunity for Free Will Baptists to put on their proverbial “rally caps” and propel the mission effort to a greater advance.

people like you and me—who haven’t heard it is the heart of the Great Commission. It is the purpose of the Church. This should be a natural rallying point for our FWB movement, or team. Regardless of our disagreements, advancing the gospel to the regions beyond is something around which we can unite.

A Little History

Until 2006, the annual April offering (World Missions Offering) was used for one purpose—to help underwrite the expense of the home office. In 2006, the *Change the World* coin banks were introduced and the offering was also used to fund four Bible institutes—one each in Cuba, Côte d’Ivoire, Russia, and India.

We continued funding the office and the four Bible institutes in 2007, but the WMO also placed \$2,000 in each missionary account. Over 500 churches “rallied” to the cause in

2007, and we broke the half-million dollar mark for the first time in the history of the Mission.

As we look to 2008, we do so with great enthusiasm and much expectation. The World Missions Offering goal is \$750,000. When we reach the goal, we’ll once again see to it that the Bible institutes are fully funded, and each missionary account will receive \$5,000. The WMO trains national pastors, preaches the gospel, disciples new believers, shares the Good News with boys and girls, and exalts God among multiplied peoples of the world.

A Team Effort

If I, as a shortstop, had been the only player to “put on my rally cap” during a strategic game, our team would not have received the boost it needed to forge ahead. Every member of our FWB team is important. Each role is critical. As we rally for the cause of advancing the gospel, we do so as a

team with many different players: missionaries in strategic places throughout the world, missions committees in local churches, faithful supporters and prayer warriors across our ranks, ambassadors, and stateside office staff. Each player fills a unique and indispensable field position, enabling the team to function successfully and, ultimately, experience victory.

Time to Rally

With the arrival of April (World Missions Month), we have an opportunity to rally for the great cause of missions. The annual World Missions Offering (WMO) is an excellent opportunity for Free Will Baptists to put on their “rally caps” and propel the mission effort to a greater advance.

Nine stateside missionary families currently face serious financial challenges. To address this critical issue, the board voted in late January to commit all WMO proceeds above



Photo: Barry Simpson’s little league baseball team. Barry is the third from the left on the front row.

ON THE ROSTER In recent years, a number of ambassadors have worked hard to make the World Missions Offering a success. These International Missions All-Stars include:

Jimmy and Janie Aldridge—former missionaries to Ivory Coast, former Mission staff member, and retired pastor; live in Alabama.

Earnie and Jean Deeds—former missionaries to Brazil and interim pastor in Oklahoma.

Galen and Barbara Dunbar—former Mission board member and retired pastor; live in South Carolina.

Fred and June Hersey—former missionaries to Japan and Brazil (June) and Georgia pastor.

Tom and Nancy Hughes—former missionaries to Brazil, retired; live in Arizona.

Mark and Deanna Price—pastor and Ohio state moderator.



Norman and Bessie Richards—former missionaries to Ivory Coast and senior adult pastor in Tennessee.

David and Pat Shores—former Mission board member, pastor, and Illinois state promotional secretary.

Henry and Virginia VanKluyve—former Mission staff member and retired pastor living in Tennessee.

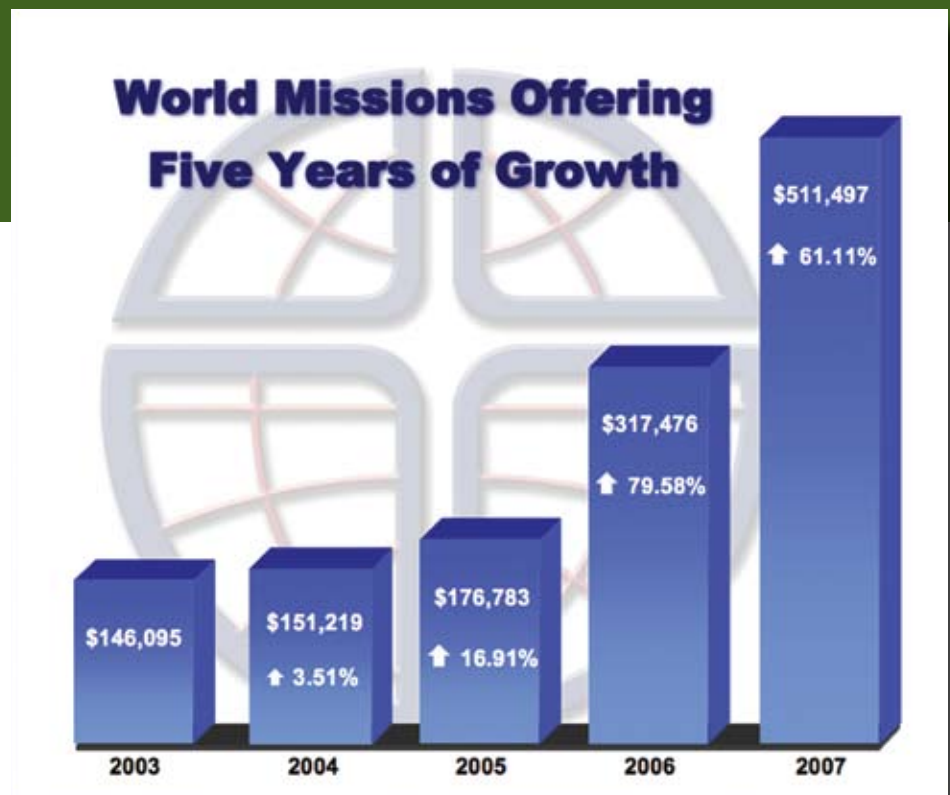
Fred and Rachel Warner—former Mission staff member and retired pastor living in Arkansas.

Rodney and Mary Yerby—FWBIM Advisory Board member and Alabama state treasurer.

\$750,000 to get these missionaries to the field. Now that is what I call a rallying point!

Remember, we're all in this together. We can all share in the giving, we can share in the praying, and we will all be able to celebrate in the victory. I have my rally cap on, the ambassadors have theirs on, and as I travel promoting the WMO, I sense that a lot of other people are wearing theirs, also. What about you? □

Barry Simpson has been director of development for Free Will Baptist International Missions since January 1, 2007.



PUT ON YOUR RALLY CAP!
Support the World Missions Offering, Sunday, April 27, 2008



LIKE PEAS AND CARROTS

BY DAVID WILLIFORD

EARLY MISSIONS IMPACT

Missions and world evangelism were ingrained in me at an early age. As a child, I remember our church making preparation for the annual Foreign (now International) Missions Offering. The church set a goal and monitored progress for a month. Sunday School classes were challenged to set and meet goals so missionaries could take the gospel to a world that did not know Christ.

As a pastor for 27 years, I kept the cause of world evangelism before my people, scheduling missionary speakers on a regular basis. I traveled the state of Florida five years promoting our missions program. Missions has been a vital part of my Christian experience.

The denomination gave me one of the highest honors of my life in 1996 by electing me to the Foreign Missions Board. Later, when President Matt Pinson asked me to join him at Free Will Baptist Bible College, I requested (and

received) permission to finish my second term on the (renamed) International Missions Board.

FWBBC AND MISSIONS

The college has impacted the international community through its commitment to world evangelism and its heart for missions. That's why I feel at home on the FWBBC campus. You may remember a line from a recent film in which the lead character said, "some things go together like peas and carrots." When you think about FWBBC and missions, they go together like peas and carrots. They are inseparable.

Every Wednesday during chapel, we observe a "Missions Moment." A student or faculty member will take three to five minutes to share information about a missions need around the world. The brief time concludes with prayer for that specific need.

On one occasion, President Pinson was asked, "Why don't we have business moments or history moments or

pastoral ministry moments? We offer degrees in those areas too."

Dr. Pinson replied, "Supporting missions is the duty of all Christians. Not every one is called to pastoral ministry. Business and history are not the purpose of the Church. We want every student to accept responsibility for carrying out the Great Commission."

That's why FWBBC students are involved in short-term mission projects. For a number of years, students and faculty or staff have traveled overseas during Spring Break. Two years ago, the student body raised \$10,000 to build a church in Tajikistan. A group of students then journeyed to Tajikistan to help construct the church.

FWBBC AND FWBIM

Our biggest impact is and has been in partnership with Free Will Baptist International Missions. In her 1985 book, *Touching the Untouchables*, Miss Laura Belle Barnard (the first Free Will Baptist foreign missionary) wrote about the vital role of prayer in her

ministry. "...we depended on continual prayer support. Missionary Prayer Band proved to be our inestimable asset in this vital aspect of our outreach. Originating on the Free Will Baptist Bible College campus during the school's first year of existence (1942), the prayer band has met daily, uninterrupted through the years."

When World War II prevented Laura Belle from returning to India, Dr. L.C. Johnson invited her to teach missions at the denomination's new college. Those early students still recount her prayers for the lost, and how she urged a generation of college students to develop a passion for world evangelism.

That passion spilled over into the lives of Dan and Trula Cronk and Carlisle and Marie Hanna, two couples among many who caught a vision for the lost and dedicated their lives to carrying the gospel to people trapped in spiritual darkness. Like many who would follow, the two couples enlisted for world evangelization under the auspices of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions.

What began in those early years continues today. In September 2007, I wrote the following to our donors: *What Miss Barnard wrote in 1985 continues to be true today. Each day at 1:00 p.m., FWBBC students, faculty, and staff gather for a time of prayer for specific missions needs around the world. The meeting is short, but as Miss Barnard testified, it still impacts the work of God around the globe.*

FWBBC has always been about missions, partnering with Free Will Baptist International Missions (FWBIM) throughout the years. The college serves as the primary training facility for our International Missions force. Eighty percent of FWBIM missionaries received all or part of their training here. The current general director, director of field operations, communications director, mobilization director, director of member care, and director of development all attended or graduated from FWBBC.

Over the years, missionaries like Eddie Payne, Clint Morgan, Tom McCullough, Bobby Aycock, and Ron

Free Will Baptist Bible College has always been about missions.

Callaway have served as missions professors after distinguished service on the field. One FWBBC professor left his position at the college to serve on foreign soil—Dr. LaVerne Miley. Longtime theology professor Leroy Forlines has partnered with Free Will Baptist International Missions in recent years, making numerous trips to Russia and Central Asia, lecturing and teaching believers in those countries, preparing them to reach their own nations.

Each year FWBIM provides a Missionary-in-Residence (MIR) for FWBBC by designating a missionary on state-side assignment to the college. The MIR (or missionary couple) live in the Laura Belle Barnard House on campus, interact with students, teach missions classes, and make themselves available to the college family. Their presence fans the flame for world evangelism among students, faculty, and staff.

FWBBC hosts E-TEAM members and the FWBIM staff for training sessions each summer before teens and sponsors circle the globe with the message of Christ. Many FWBBC students spend seven weeks in cross-cultural ministry as Overseas Apprentices during summer vacation. You guessed it; they serve under the guidance of Free Will Baptist International Missions.

Yes, our commitment to missions runs deep at FWBBC.

FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS AND FWBBC

For the past six years, I've seen both sides of the equation as an FWBBC employee and International Missions board member. The administrations of both ministries work together to craft a curriculum for the changing face of missions around the world.

A few weeks ago, at the invitation of Ron Callaway (FWBBC missions program coordinator), the FWBIM staff, and several former and retired mis-

sionaries met in the college conference room. We served as a mock "mission board" as members of Callaway's class appeared before us with results of intense studies they had done about a people group they desired to reach. They were expected to know information about the place they wanted to go and the people they wanted to reach, and present a plan to share the gospel with them.

It was gratifying to observe the students' level of commitment and hearts of passion. The experience was good training, since many of them will appear before a mission board at some point in the future. The quality of young people preparing to spend their lives in cross-cultural ministry encouraged us all.

So that's where we are. Where do we go from here? Frankly, none of us know. The world has changed dramatically in the past 20 years, and the face of missions changed with it. Areas are open today that no one could have imagined in 1988, and only God knows what will happen during the next two decades. I am confident, however, that whatever happens, FWBBC and FWBIM will cooperate in carrying the gospel to a world that has not heard.

The words of an old gospel hymn fit the ministry of both departments:

*We've a story to tell to the nations,
That shall turn their hearts to the right
A story of truth and sweetness
A story of peace and light
For the darkness shall turn
to dawning,
And the dawning to noon-day bright
And Christ's great kingdom shall come
on earth,
The kingdom of love and light.*

I plan to be part of making that happen. Missions will not vanish from my life when my term on the FWBIM Board expires. It is the core of my being. It is the essence of my alma mater and employer, FWBBC. It is the soul of FWBIM. We all fit together...like peas and carrots. □

David Williford is vice president for institutional advancement at Free Will Baptist Bible College.





*"The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."
— Psalm 126:3*

By Dr. Kenneth Eagleton

Seeds Planted

WHEN DAVE FRANKS, FREE WILL BAPTISTS' first missionary to Brazil, arrived in Campinas 50 years ago, he faced multiple challenges. A hostile religious environment spawned by deeply entrenched religious beliefs made communicating the gospel in the world's largest Catholic country extremely difficult. Many African traditions and spiritual rites brought to Brazil by the slave trade had been incorporated into religious practice. The introduction of evangelical Christianity during those early years received much opposition.

As people were saved, another hurdle arose. National believers answered the call to the ministry, but Free Will Baptists had no training programs. Many who were saved in our churches received Bible and pastoral training from other denominations. They now serve within those denominations, leaving a national leadership vacuum among our churches.

Many churches were started; some survived, others didn't. A national association of Brazilian churches was organized, but it did not endure.

A Fruitful Harvest

In the last few years, however, a new crop of national leaders has come on the scene. Trained by the three FWB institutions and extension classes in several churches, they bring fresh enthusiasm and vision. Most of our churches and mission works are currently in the hands of Brazilian pastors and lay leaders. These men are the key to our continued growth.

Our 25 churches and missions are located in 10 cities and towns distributed in four areas of two states (eastern and northeastern São Paulo; western and south-central Minas Gerais). An awareness of the need to reorganize into regional associations, and eventually a national associa-

Fruit

tion of churches, is growing. In 2007, the attendance in our churches increased by 16%. Together, they witnessed over 220 conversions and baptized 155 new converts.

We labor in large cities such as Belo Horizonte—2.5 million people with a metropolitan area twice that size—and in smaller towns. Our churches minister to those with a basic education as well as those who are well educated. Congregations use a variety of strategies to reach out to their communities with the gospel message, in addition to demonstrating the love of Christ through practical, loving actions.

The Brazilian Church has been actively involved in crosscultural missions throughout the years. Several Brazilians have served as missionary pilots with the Brazilian branch of Missionary Aviation Fellowship, while others have taken the gospel to Ireland, China, and the Brazilian Indians in the Amazon. A general awakening to the needs of unreached people groups around the world is occurring, and Brazilian Free Will Baptists want to be a part of the missionary effort.

Perpetual Growth

We continue to face the challenge of training national leaders who are thoroughly versed in FWB doctrine and history. To that end, we hope to develop, and translate into Portuguese, literature that will systematically enlarge our pastors' understanding of FWB distinctives.

The "hub" concept is a strategic method we can use to expand the work in Brazil. A strategic city with a strong

church serves as a hub. National leaders are trained within that body and then sent out to start other churches in the area. The nearby support of the sending church and its leaders strengthens the mission church.

Additionally, as we identify less-reached areas of Brazil, we'd like to identify cities that can serve as future hubs. In partnership with the national church, we would send a national pastor and a missionary to plant a strong church. This church should become self-propagating within a few years.

The Brazilian Church has acknowledged her own role in the Great Commission. We'd like to see the national church not only answer the call to go, but prepare missionaries and send them to other people groups. We need to take the gospel to Brazilian tribal groups who are yet unreached.

Brazilians are typically well accepted in many countries Americans find difficult to enter. We look forward to the day when we send missionaries to Muslim and other peoples within nations North Americans cannot easily access.

On March 21-22, delegates from most of our FWB churches gathered to celebrate what God has, is, and will be doing through Free Will Baptists in Brazil. As I looked at the faces of missionaries past and present, at believers who have stood firm through much testing, at pastors who sacrifice monetary wealth for heavenly rewards, and at generations of Brazilian Christians, I rejoiced at what great things God has done. And, I look forward to the fruit that will join the harvest in the next half-century. □

Dr. Kenneth Eagleton and his wife Rejane serve in Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil. They transferred to Brazil after serving almost 20 years in Côte d'Ivoire.



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Wherever He Leads

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST LANDSCAPE in Brazil spreads across 10 cities and towns in two states. Twenty-five churches and mission works dot this landscape and 20 ordained Brazilian pastors fill the pulpits each Sunday. Some of these men are tall, some are short. Some are married, some are single. Some have large families, some have no children. Some were raised in Christian homes, most were not. Several pastor large, thriving churches. A number of these dedicated men pastor churches in economically-challenged areas. Many are bivocational.

Most of them studied in a Bible institute while working full-time and supporting a family. One has worked with unreached Indian tribes within Brazil. Others have traveled outside their country to minister in other lands.

Each man has a unique story. Each one is called of God to preach the gospel. Jeancarło Achê is one such pastor.

Jeancarło had been attending church in Ribeirão Preto for about a month when he participated in a church-sponsored youth camp in Jaboticabal. Leis Fachini, former Brazilian missionary with Mission Aviation Fellowship, preached and the teen met Christ on January 21, 1981, at the age of 16. Within a few months his hunger for the Word led him to take a couple of courses at the local FWB Bible institute.

He grew in his faith and later in the year, during his private devotional time, God spoke to him through Mark 8:34-38. Jeancarło determined he would give his life for the sake of the gospel and answered the call to preach.

Upon graduation from high school, the resolute teen

pursued a four-year degree in business administration by day and studied at the Bible institute at night. In 1986, during his senior year at the Bible institute, Jeancarło accepted the invitation to preach monthly at the Jaboticabal FWB Church, and upon graduation in 1987 he assumed the pastorate full-time.

Change was a theme for 1987. In March, he left Brazil for a two-month graduate course in Israel where he studied biblical history, geography, and archeology. In July he married Flávia.

Flávia grew up in a Christian home and in the First FWB Church of Ribeirão Preto. As a result, she accepted Christ as Savior early in her life. During a session at youth camp, 13-year-old Flávia made a wholehearted decision to serve the Lord in whatever way He chose. She began attending Bible institute classes with her mother and eventually completed the Bible Certificate program. She subsequently majored in teacher education with a focus on music at a college in Ribeirão Preto.

The couple continued to minister in Jaboticabal, and over the next few years three sons and a daughter joined this family.

God began stirring the embers again in 1997. Jeancarło and Flávia attended a missions conference in Uberlândia in May. They met representatives of a Brazilian missions agency and were invited to participate

in a missions awareness trip to Europe. In July, they journeyed to Manchester, England, for a missions conference. They visited Ireland and experienced God's call to missions.





By Deborah St. Lawrence
Based on an interview conducted by Kenneth Eagleton

For the next two years they readied the Jaboticabal church to become a missionary-sending body. Assistant pastor Martin Chilliz prepared to lead the church during the Achê family's absence. In June 1999, the family of five went to Ireland as missionaries, supported by their home church and other FWB churches in Brazil.

Initially, the family intended to help a small group of Christians in the village of Carlow in southeast Ireland. Soon, however, they made contact with a group of eight Catholic women who had formed a dissident prayer group in the nearby village of Hacketstown. Through teaching and preaching the Word of God, Jeancarlo and Flávia helped this handful of women grow into a small church of 40-50 believers—the only non-Catholic congregation in the 3,000-member village.

After two years on the Emerald Isle they returned to Brazil. The Achês have kept in contact with the believers in Hacketstown, as well as other small pockets of Christians they met while in Ireland. They hoped to return to the country as missionaries in 2007, but changes in the immigration laws prevented the family from returning for an extended time. Meanwhile, Jeancarlo continues to pastor the Jaboticabal church. The congregation now averages 200 each Sunday and has outgrown their facilities. Recently, the church purchased property to build a 400-seat sanctuary, a Christian school, and, eventually, a missionary training center. The new church facility is under construction.

It has been 27 years since Jeancarlo answered the call to deny himself and follow Christ. He has followed faithfully—preparing for ministry, studying in Israel, serving as a pastor for 20 years, and even going overseas to share the gospel.

And his story is just one of 20. □



Brazil National Pastors

State of São Paulo

Araras

Elizeu Ardeli Cantelmo, First FWB Church
Hélio Torres, Second FWB Church
Helvécio Gouvêa Neto, Marabá Mission

Campinas

Lucas Lima, First FWB Church
Osmir Cruz, São José FWB Church
Paulo César Carvalho, Nova America Mission

Jaboticabal

Jeancarlo Achê, Jaboticabal FWB Church
José Roberto Alves, assistant pastor

Ribeirão Preto

John Poole, First FWB Church
Luciano, assistant pastor
Antônio, assistant pastor

State of Minas Gerais

Antônio Carlos

Flávio José Grossi, Campolide Mission

Barbacena

Flávio José Grossi, First FWB Church
José Antônio Coimbra, Nova Cidade Mission

Carandaí

Daniel Gouvêa, Carandaí Mission

Conselheiro Lafaiete

Manuel Messias Rodrigues, First FWB Church

Uberlândia

Martin Chilliz, First FWB Church
Agostinho José de Lima Filho, Jardim Botânico Mission
Ruí Magno Xavier, Jardim Palmeiras FWB Church





Paige Autry was appointed in April 2007 as a short-term overseas assistant. She will teach at a school in Barbacena upon visa approval.



Bobby and Sue Aycock were appointed as career missionaries in 1960. The Aycocks were involved in planting churches in Araras, Pirassununga, and Araraquara. They also taught in the Bible seminary in Barbacena. The Aycocks retired in 2007 and now reside in North Carolina.



David and Annette Aycock served as short-term missionaries from 1996-1998 and were appointed to career status in 1999. They are currently working in Barbacena.



Jim and Shirley Combs were church planters in Araras, Tubarão, and Jaboticabal from 1964-2004. The Combs retired to Araras, Brazil, in 2004.



Louis and Florine Coscia served as church-planting missionaries in Uberaba and Pirassununga from 1963-1991. They currently reside in North Carolina.



Jim and Karen Cowart were church planters in Ribeirão Preto, Uberlândia, and Jaboticabal from 1977-2000. The Cowarts are retired to Tennessee.



John and Connie Craft were appointed in 1968 and served until 1973 in Jaboticabal and Tubarão. John is deceased; Connie was last known to be living in North Carolina.



Earnie and Jean Deeds were appointed as career missionaries in 1962. They served as church planters in Conselheiro Lafaiete, Campinas, and Jaboticabal until 1998. Earnie serves as an ambassador for the Mission. He and his wife reside in Oklahoma.



Kenneth Jr. & Rejane Eagleton transferred from Côte d'Ivoire to Brazil in April 2003. They are involved in the seminary in Campinas and have also worked in Belo Horizonte.



Ken Sr. and Marvis Eagleton were involved in seminary work and church planting in Campinas, Jaboticabal, and Araras from 1958-1992. Ken continued to work in the Mission office until 1999. Both are deceased.



Terry and Jamie Eagleton were appointed in 1983, served as church planters to Araras, and resigned in 1984. They currently reside in Tennessee.



Dave Sr. and Pat Franks were church planters in Campinas, Belo Horizonte, Pirassununga, Conselheiro Lafaiete, Barbacena, and Jaboticabal. They worked in the Bible institute and taught Bible classes in public schools from 1963-2000. The Franks live in Alabama.

Brazil: 1958-2008 CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MISSION WORK

The first Free Will Baptist church in Brazil was organized in April 1958, in Campinas, São Paulo. Fifty years of evangelism, training, and church planting has yielded 25 churches and mission works and 20 ordained pastors. In 2007, at least 220 Brazilians accepted Christ as Savior in our churches.

Visit www.fwbgo.com for more historical information.



Cindy Hall was appointed as a short-term overseas assistant in April 2007. Upon visa approval, she will work in a school in Barbacena.



Curt and Mary Holland were church planters in Uberlândia, Ribeirão Preto, and Campinas from 1990-2002. The Holland's currently reside in Tennessee.



Tom and Nancy Hughes worked in Uberlândia, Araras, and Pirassununga from 1969-2005. The Hughes currently reside in Arizona, and Tom is an ambassador for the Mission.



Kimberly Johnson served as a short-term missionary from 2001-2003. She was appointed as a career missionary in April 2007 and plans to depart upon visa approval.

NEWS SNIPPETS



Eula Mae Martin (Fornell) served as a nurse and was involved in children's ministry in Campinas and Ribeirão Preto from 1959-1968. Eula is deceased.



Norman and Laura McFall were church planters in Belo Horizonte from 1985-1994. After resigning, the McFall's moved to Arkansas.



John and Kay Metcalf were appointed as career missionaries in 1983. John and Kay never made it to the field due to a deadly auto accident.



Andy and Andrea Moore have worked in Barbacena and Conselheiro Lafaiete as church planters since 1999.



Jim and Susan Moser were church-planting missionaries in Uberlândia from 1976-1984. The Moser's resigned from the Mission and currently live in Washington.



Bobby and Geneva Poole have been church planters in Ribeirão Preto since 1960. They currently head up the work in the Marincek community.



Mary Ellen Rice was involved in children's ministry and the seminary in Jaboticabal from 1962-1969. After resigning, she moved to North Carolina.



Don and Carol Robirds were church planters and participated in literature distribution in Campinas and Piracicaba from 1964-1971. Don worked as the director of public relations at the Mission from 1971-2003. Don and Carol live in Tennessee.



Esther Ruehle transferred from Cuba and worked as a medical missionary in Londrina from 1959-1961. We have no information as to her whereabouts.



Jim and Vicki Sturgill have been church-planting missionaries since 1970 in Belo Horizonte, Campinas, Jaboticabal, Araraquara, and Barbacena. They are currently working at the First FWB Church in Belo Horizonte.



Sam and June Wilkinson worked at the camp and as church planters in Jaboticabal and Tubarão from 1959-1979. Sam died in 1988; June married Fred Hersey in 1995 and now lives in Alabama.



Kristen Wilson was appointed as a short-term missionary in 2004. Unable to receive a visa, Kristen never made it to the field and now resides in Oklahoma.

HOKKAIDO, JAPAN—In December, Yoshino, a Christian lady, was instrumental in leading a terminally ill friend to the Lord. Her excitement bubbled over during a Bible study in Debbie Griffin's home. Together, Debbie and Yoshino helped another woman who had been studying the Bible for many months to take the step of faith.

RIVERA, URUGUAY—Members of Central FWB Church in Rivera delivered three performances of their Christmas play: December 22 in Santa Teresa with one person saved, December 23 at Central with three salvation decisions, and December 30 in Aguas Buenas with two people saved.

SVISHTOV, BULGARIA—Tim and Lydia Awtrey are experiencing problems in Svishtov: they have more people participating in services and home Bible study groups than they can house! On January 27, 45 people packed the small church. The three Bible study groups regularly have eight to 15 people in each.

NANTES, FRANCE—Robert Bryan baptized five students at the Nantes FWB Church on January 20. Each testified that their faith is about a relationship with God, not religion. Many unsaved family and friends were present.

CHITRÉ, PANAMA—The Good News FWB Church of Chitré, Panama, has continued to hold evangelistic campaigns in El Barrero, a small village about an hour and a half away. Although attendance in recent evening services was low due to a death in the community, four adults and one teen responded to Steve Torrison's simple, salvation message the second evening.



FENTON, MO—In a service on February 3, Calvary Fellowship Missions Chair Mrs. Delsie Troutman and Pastor Jerry Norris presented a check for \$35,168.01 to Barry Simpson, the Mission's director of development. The money is designated for building churches in India. Jerry Norris also serves on the Board of FWBIM.



I Remember

by John Poole

THE WORDS “RENDER TO CAESAR THE THINGS that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s” resound in my mind. I want to pay tribute to my parents, Bobby and Geneva Poole, who recently completed 48 years of non-stop missionary work in Brazil. I believe a tribute to someone compiles all a person is and has done, then acknowledges it all would have been impossible without God’s intervention.

I admire you for leaving for a place totally unknown in December 1960, after only three months of marriage. You’ve stayed for a lifetime, never abandoning your post, serving faithfully throughout all these years. I salute you for your perseverance.

I appreciate your love for the Lord and for His harvest. I know your commitment is not only due to your obedience to your missionary calling. But, because you experienced God’s love, you want to share His love with those you minister among.

I am grateful for the vision you’ve had—starting new ministries in our church and town, where none previously existed. I remember when you worked hard to bring the Gideon’s International to our city so Bibles could be distributed in our region. I remember you beginning the “Family Retreat” during *Carnaval* time. What began as a simple event of our local church, has continued and grown for 35 years.

I remember the *Fone Vida* (phone ministry)—you used answering machines to deliver taped messages for all those who called in. I remember you opening the Bible institute in our church because there were people who felt a call

to prepare for the ministry. They now form a lasting legacy of many laborers sharing the gospel over the last 30 years.

I recall how the correspondence course *Fonte de Luz* (Source of Light) was launched—reaching various prisons, many parts of Brazil, and even other Portuguese-speaking countries. It is still in use today. I remember how you invested in the young people, couples ministry, puppet ministry, choir, and drama.

I appreciate all the missions conferences. I remember your insistence that the fledgling church have a missionary vision. This has paid off. We have a missionary in China due to the vision you nurtured.

I remember you insisting on keeping the camp property in Jaboticabal. And so much more!

You are leaving a very important legacy. You have produced spiritual descendants. Many who are active in the harvest today—pastors, missionaries, lay workers—are faithful because you invested in their lives. This is the greatest tribute to someone who invests his entire life in the ministry: to know the work begun will perpetuate. To God be all the glory!

May God Himself recompense you greatly. □

John Poole followed his parents’ example and ministers in Brazil, pastoring the First FWB Church in Ribeirão Preto.

MISSIONS IN REVERSE

GOspel
ENCLOSED



Training Hispanic Workers for Ministry

By Patty Newton

THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GWEN Hendrix Free Will Baptist Hispanic Bible Institute is underway. What a blessing to get to know and love the many students who are eager to train for the Lord's work. When the institute opened, those involved in the ministry were excited, even overwhelmed at the opportunity to be part of this ministry. Many wondered how they would be able to communicate. Yet, God knew all the needs. Each group of students has one or more who speaks English well.

Each group of students desires to learn, to seek the place where God would have them minister. Some return to their homeland to minister. Others find new locations to minister.

The first session of the Institute brought three students, including Elias Perez, who now ministers with his father in the children's home in Oaxaca,

Mexico. About 60 needy children occupy recently built dormitories.

Graduates Jesus and Velma Del Angel minister in Georgia. The Diego Cueva family (who arrived from Colorado with little but faith) have overcome many obstacles and continue to hold tight to that faith. They minister in Virginia.

The institute also gives us the opportunity to meet pastors and laymen who give of their time to come to teach at the Institute. They leave homes, families, jobs, and churches to come for two weeks at a time to train these students for the ministry.

Many people support the institute financially, give their time and talents, and pray faithfully for the ministry. One may ask, "How can I be a part?" Let me make several suggestions.

- **Help the students.** Many students have difficulty raising money to

come to the institute. They need money for meals, and funds for dorm utilities.

- **Help the teachers.** Teachers also incur travel expenses. They need textbooks and classroom supplies, and any help is appreciated.
- **Help the institute.** Vans must be kept in running order to shuttle students from church to church in their ministry work. Dorms must be maintained and often require repairs.

These are only a few of the many ways by which you can support the Institute. For more information, please contact First Free Will Baptist Church, Inman, South Carolina, at (864) 472-2863 and ask for Patty Newton.

Patty Newton is a member of First FWB Church in Inman, South Carolina. The church is home to the Gwen Hendrix FWB Hispanic Bible Institute.



The Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute thanks the following contributors:

Rev. and Mrs. Buddy Morris, from Georgia, assisted with the purchase of textbooks for the Institute in addition to a monetary gift. Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Wright (pictured at left) presented the institute with a gift of \$25,000 at the May 2007 graduation and an additional gift of \$25,000 in December. The Wrights have pledged their continued support for the Institute with gifts to follow in the upcoming year.

Many other ladies groups, churches, and individuals have given to assist with this vital ministry. We are very grateful.

The need is great for a Hispanic ministry. With the growing population of Hispanics in the United States, we must reach out and give them the opportunity to know Christ. This can be accomplished by training and teaching students at the Institute. Will you become a part of this continuing ministry? □



CÔTE D'IVOIRE: Is the Work Finished?

Looking Ahead

- Target unreached people groups
- Fuel church planting movements
- Spread witness to surrounding countries
- Expand CHE
- Evangelize Muslims
- Train more workers/pastors
- Recruit more missionaries

*The 10/40 window extends from 10 degrees to 40 degrees north of the equator, and contains the largest population of non-Christians in the world.

FOR THE LAST 50 YEARS, MISSIONARIES have evangelized, preached, and planted churches; rescued lives medically and spiritually; developed discipleship and Sunday School materials; trained pastors; built churches, a clinic, and a Bible institute; worked in Christian publishing; taught Bible classes; visited prisoners; ministered to children, youth, and women; worked in maintenance; initiated Community Health Evangelism; and served at International Christian Academy, meeting the needs of missionary children in West Africa. Their passion to win the lost and build mature, reproducing saints has taken root in Ivorian believers, who also long to see Free Will Baptist works expand. The labor has not been in vain.

Is the work finished, then? What ministry opportunities exist for the next 50 years?

Jerry Pinkerton, veteran missionary of 37 years insists, "The need for missionaries in Ivory Coast still exists. There are unreached people groups in this land bordering the 10/40 Window*. Islam and Catholicism are rapidly growing." The former field chairman concluded, "Needed are those who are called of God to give many years of their lives for the purpose of winning the lost and building His Church."

Pastor Jérôme Kambou, president of the Ivorian National Association of Free Will Baptists, recently noted three areas the national church desires to see grow:

1. Groups of believers formed through lay people in areas of Côte d'Ivoire where

Free Will Baptist churches do not exist.

2. Expand witness into neighboring countries like Ghana, Burkina Faso, and Mali.
3. Multiply bivocational workers—tentmakers who will respond to the Lord's call to plant churches as they serve in various occupations.

Current Field Chairman Verlin Anderson adds, "In cooperation with the existing church, it is critical to develop inexpensive and relevant children's and youth ministries, while continuing theological training." Anderson cites a need for "mature and zealous Free Will Baptist examples with whom to worship, labor, and learn to avoid the charismatic tendencies rampant on the African continent."

Short-term teams and missionaries can spearhead joint church plants with the national church. Many Muslim and animistic peoples in the nation remain untouched by the gospel. Teams focusing on Muslim evangelization, Community Health Evangelism, gospel story-telling, and other means to reach the lost can break new ground in Côte d'Ivoire and West Africa.

Anderson issues a challenge to a new generation of Free Will Baptists: "God is still working in Côte d'Ivoire. Hear His voice and join us. Be His answer to the call, 'Come and help us!'"

Regional Director Clint Morgan concludes, "When we see all that has been accomplished in Côte d'Ivoire we may be impressed, but if we could see where the work is going under the present and future leadership, I think we'd be awed." □



Paul Amiezi



Robert Houessou

Training Faithful Men

By Clint Morgan

THE CÔTE D'IVOIRE FIELD COUNCIL FACED A CLEAR dilemma. After 26 years of ministry, we had just two ordained pastors for the 50-plus churches and Christian communities. We were compelled to consider opening a formal leadership program.

Research yielded a plan. An institute was built at Bouna, with a three-year curriculum adopted. The missionaries on the field committed to subsidize the first two classes of students, and possibly others if necessary. Mike Cousineau served as director, I was assistant director, and we invited past and present missionaries to help teach. The Free Will Baptist Bible Institute of Côte d'Ivoire opened in October 1987.

The first class of 10 students faced many challenges. Two students fell into sin and were dismissed. Despite difficulties, eight students persevered and received their degrees in June 1990. What a glorious day!

Three more classes have graduated, the last one directed by Kenneth Eagleton and Jerry Pinkerton. Of the 32 graduates from all four classes, most have entered the ministry and serve the Lord faithfully. A few fell into sin and were put under discipline, and two former students died. Prayerful efforts are in place to see those under discipline restored to a faithful walk with the Lord.

While every pulpit is not filled with a pastor, 23 years after the historic opening of the institute, tremendous strides have been made. Soon, 10 ordained pastors will be joined by several others who are in the process. One of the greatest accomplishments has been seeing two gradu-

ates from the first class, Paul Amiezi and Robert Houessou, receive higher training and now directing the Bible institute. The official transition to national hands took place in August 2005.

Progress in leadership development has been good, but under the capable direction of Pastors Paul and Robert the training program can soar to new heights. As a new class began under their leadership in February, these godly men shared their objectives:

One of the challenges the Church encounters today is guarding its fundamental values in view of false doctrine and resisting the temptation to imitate others. Facing this reality, we want to make the Bible institute a modern instrument that will serve to teach sound doctrine and train all the workers of the Church, mobilizing the people of God for the missionary task. To achieve our objective requires targeting all the components of the Church: couples, families, youth, and leaders. In addition, all types of training (computer, music, etc.) interest us.

The Bible institute fulfills Paul's command in 2 Timothy 2:2, "And the things that thou hast heard of me...commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." Praise God for those with the vision to begin the training program, and for those who continue to teach others. □

Clint Morgan served as a missionary to Côte d'Ivoire from 1976–2005. He and Lynette live and work in France. Clint serves as International Missions' Regional Director to Creative Access Countries and Africa.

Saved to Serve

By Debbie Anderson

FROM THE MEGACITY OF ABIDJAN TO TINY VILLAGES OF mud huts, Free Will Baptist Ivorian pastors have labored fervently to evangelize and shepherd their flocks. Most were born into poor families where idol worship and consulting the witch doctor was a way of life. They were often persecuted or ridiculed for following Christ. Some have been estranged from their families for years—like one whose father finally accepted Christ in 2007, after expelling his son from the family 15 years earlier.

None of them are rich, and several (especially in the villages) do not receive a salary for months at a time. A majority of these dedicated men work fields to feed their families and depend on the creativity and hard work of their wives to bring in extra income. Love for Christ and the desire to see the gospel spread is evidenced in their lives. Each one has a deeply moving story.

Pastor Daniel's testimony is such a story.



Portrait of a Pastor

I was born in a pagan family and my parents worshiped fetishes (idols). They dedicated one of their fetishes to me. I never would have believed that one day I would be a Christian.

In my childhood my father died, and a male relative later took me to live with him in the village of Appimandoum where there was a plantation of cocoa. This new father took me to the fields to work all during the day. I begged him many times to put me in school, but in vain.

So, I offered sacrifices to my fetish, asking that I be permitted to go to school.

During the years 1970–71, missionaries came in the evening, visiting and greeting everyone. At that time white people were rare, so we followed them around to look at them. In public places they preached about man's disobedience in the Garden of Eden, and said every person must die. It was then that I feared for my life.

After I received the Lord as Savior, I was afraid to say so in public. My relatives said it was a bad church, teaching children to disobey their parents. Those of us who were saved got together to pray in secret. Our relatives found out and persecuted us. The persecution was so great in the village, that the church building was burned. In spite of this we remained faithful, and the missionaries encouraged us.

In my case, I did the opposite of what my new father thought I would do, because I obeyed him. Although he refused to go to church himself, he gave me a Bible and encouraged me to take my brothers to church.

In the following years, I went with missionaries on their trips to various villages. I watched them work, and also observed pastors. With their help, I learned to read and write. Later, I became the leader of the church at Appimandoum. I also visited other churches in the region of Bondoukou for numerous years. During this time, I began to sense the desire to become a pastor.

Later, at a CHE* seminar in Bouna, I said "yes" to the call of the Lord to be a pastor. I entered the Bible institute. Everything was going along beautifully—until close to the end of the training. I became ill for two years (tuberculosis), staying in bed constantly. But, by God's grace, I regained my health entirely and I continue in the ministry. I thank God for all He has done for me and my family. Amen! — *Kouassi Daniel Maizan*

Now in full recovery, Pastor Daniel recently assumed leadership of a second FWB church in Bondoukou.

The Lord has called other faithful followers to serve in government, medicine, education, business, and other professions. Their vibrant witness is crucial to sharing the gospel in all sectors of society.



Government Witness

Gboko Pascal Kouadio is a diplomat in the Department of Foreign Affairs. One day he expects to serve in an embassy abroad. He shares his account of his conversion in his own English words:

I was born in 1967 in a small village called Yézimala. My family is animist and has worshipped fetishes from generation to generation. I grew up in this idol environment until age 12, when I passed sixth grade and was sent to Bouna for junior high school. It is in this town that I really heard the Word of God and understood the real meaning of Jesus' sacrifice.

How did it happen? On the opposite side of the junior high was a Free Will Baptist church with a youth center where students could rest, read religious books, and listen to religious messages and songs. By reading books and pamphlets and listening to tapes during school break times, I realized I was a sinner, and because of my sins the Son of God came down, died on the cross, so that I could

be saved free of charge and become a beloved son of God. I believed in that wonderful message and accepted Jesus Christ in my life as my Savior and Lord in 1982.

I am sincerely thankful to the Lord because since I decided to follow Him, He has never let me down and is always covering me with uncountable blessings. Sometimes I go through bad and weak times; but He is always faithful to me and shows me the way out, leading me by His powerful hand. I wonder what I would have been, if I hadn't accepted Jesus in my life when I was only a teenager. Glory to His name!

These men exemplify the many thousands whose lives have been changed because of the faithful witness of Free Will Baptists—both Ivorian and American. □

*CHE-Community Health and Evangelism

As the daughter of missionaries Eddie and Sandra Payne, Debbie Anderson was born and raised in Côte d'Ivoire. She and her husband Verlin returned as missionaries in 1998.

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By Robert Bryan

Whatever It Takes

The Amazing Ministry of Jerry and Carol Pinkerton

“God will judge you for your sins,” Jerry insisted, “but he loves you, and sent Jesus Christ to die for you so you can be forgiven.”

Jerry Pinkerton witnessed to the two men in his car as they drove away from the church in Abidjan on Saturday afternoon. Typical words for a missionary—but Jerry wasn’t driving his car. Kidnappers were holding a gun on him in the back seat. Jerry knew the thieves intended to sell the car, but he had no idea what they intended to do to him. So he told them about Christ.

That incident illustrates the lives of Jerry and Carol Pinkerton. Committed to accomplishing God’s purposes, they are willing to take risks, even in the face of a waving gun. “Whatever it takes to get the job done” could be their motto.

That means giving 100% to the work. When Jerry contracted hepatitis, doctors said it would take several weeks of bed rest, followed by a long recovery before he could resume his normal pace. Not Jerry. He discovered the remedy Ivorians use for hepatitis and immediately set out to prove the doctors wrong. At best, the herbal tea remedy tastes revolting. One or two glasses a day is the limit for most people. Jerry gulped down six to eight big glasses per day. He had work to do, and he couldn’t do it lying in bed. In less than a month, he was back on his feet and functioning.

Doing “whatever it takes” has meant being flexible. The Mission faced a serious dilemma in December 1975: the house parents at the FWB dorm at ICA, the school for missionary children, left for medical reasons, and finding a replacement was imperative. Every missionary on the field had come to Côte d’Ivoire to start churches. None of them

sensed a particular calling to shepherd 18 teenage boys through high school. But it was a ministry role that had to be filled, so Jerry and Carol stepped up, and for the next eight years or so were steady hands in the lives of scores of boys who were away from their parents eight months out of the year.

Carol made countless houses into homes. First, they were in St. Léger, Switzerland, for language study; then they lived at Nassian, preaching in villages all around; Bouaké, herding high school boys; Bondoukou, training local leaders; Gouméré, then Tanda, re-establishing a church; Doropo, maintaining the equipment and buildings so the doctor could minister; Bouna, teaching at the Bible institute; Abidjan, working with Ivorian leaders to establish churches.

Their flexibility comes from listening to God’s voice. Carol disliked leaving the interior to go to Abidjan; Jerry hated the idea. Abidjan, the economic capital of the country, is also the crime and car-accident capital of West Africa. But when we needed a second couple to join Judy and me to plant churches, Jerry and Carol prayed for workers...and allowed God to change their hearts. They moved to the burgeoning city, and for over 10 years their ministry has contributed to the planting of four churches.

This untiring couple has taught, trained, preached, witnessed, and exhibited what it means to be committed to the Lord. The little incident with the kidnappers never even slowed them down. □

Robert Bryan and his wife Judy were assigned to Ivory Coast in 1968, serving there for 30 years. They transferred to France in 2002 and currently serve in the Nantes FWB Church. Robert’s passion is to train French Christians to lead the French Church.



Jimmy and Janie Aldridge served as church planters in Koun and Bondoukou from 1962-1984. They left the field to work in the Mission office. The couple retired to Alabama in 1999 and serve as ambassadors for the Mission.



Verlin and Debbie Anderson use CHE (Community Health and Evangelism) to plant churches. Since 1997 the family has worked in Gouméré and Bouna and is currently based in Bondoukou.



Robert and Judy Bryan's (1975-2002) multi-faceted ministry included serving as dorm parents at ICA, church planting, and Christian publishing in Bouna, Bouaké, Tanda, and Abidjan. The Bryans are missionaries in France.



Frank and Marie Cousineau were church planters in Gouméré and Nassian from 1968-1973. Marie lives in Texas; Frank is deceased.



Mike and Deleen Cousineau's diverse ministry included business manager at ICA, teaching in the Bible institute, and church planting in Bouna and Bouaké. They currently minister to unreached peoples through The Hanna Project.



Paul and Rhoda Creech served as dorm parents at ICA in Bouaké from 1989-2001. They reside in Georgia where Paul pastors.



Allan and LaRue Crowson were church planters in Bondoukou and Nassian from 1975-1980. They transferred to France in 1982 where they served until 1994. They now live in Tennessee.



Mark and Donna Daniel were church planters from 1983-1992. They moved to Kentucky after resigning.



Shane Davison served short-term as a teacher at ICA in Bouaké from 2000-2002. He and his wife Joy work in France.



Patrick and Susan Dickens served in Bondoukou and Damé as church planters from 1975-1985. They minister to the elderly in Arkansas.



Dr. Kenneth & Rejane Eagleton served in Doropo from 1984-2004. Their ministries ranged from medical to church planting to teaching in the Bible institute. They transferred to Brazil in 2004.



Ken Sr. and Marvis Eagleton served as ICA dorm parents in 1958. They then served 32 years in Brazil. After their return to the States, Ken conceptualized and directed TEAM, a cross-cultural teen missions program. Ken died in 1999; Marvis joined him in 2003.

*Gate
d'Ivoire:*

Since work in Ivory Coast first began in 1958 among the Koulongo tribe in the area of Gouméré, it has expanded mightily. Medical missionaries opened a hospital in the Lobi-land of Doropo that is now operated by Ivorians. A three-year Bible institute has graduated 32 students, and is led by graduates of an early class. Over 70 churches and mission works preach the gospel each week.

1958-2008 CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF MISSION WORK



Traci Epps taught from 1995-2001 at ICA in Bouaké. She lives in Oklahoma.



Ledgel and Sharon Ferguson served in Gouméré, Tanda, and Agnibilekrou as church planters from 1977-1989. The couple are currently involved in a short-term ministry in France.



David and Sharon Filkins served from 1983-1987 as church planters in Tanda. They reside in Oklahoma.



Howard and Joan Filkins served from 1980-1982 as ICA dorm parents in Bouaké and as builders in Doropo. They live in Oklahoma.



Howard and Willie Gage served as builders in Doropo and Nassian from 1966-1973. Willie lives in Oklahoma; Howard is deceased.



Dr. Paul and Tammy Gentuso worked in Doropo as medical staff and church planters from 1991-2000. They live in Tennessee.



Neil and Sheila Gilliland served as ICA dorm parents from 1980-1988. After receiving his doctorate in psychology, Neil was hired to serve as director of member care for the mission.



Dr. Ruby Griffin served as a medical missionary from 1965 to 1968. She lives in Mississippi.



Ginger Harrison was approved as a medical missionary in 1996. She pursued training in tropical medicine, but due to unrest in Ivory Coast never made it to the field. She lives in Missouri.



Tanya Hart taught at ICA in Bouaké from 1993-1997. She lives in North Carolina.



Ernest and Elaine Holland served in Doropo and Bondoukou as church planters from 1984-2003. Elaine served as a nurse at the Doropo medical station from 1979-1983. They live in Oklahoma.



Dan and Nina Huddleston served as maintenance missionaries in Doropo from 1989-1990. They live in Oklahoma.



Bill and Joy Jones planted churches in Koun Fao from 1959-1969. Bill served in the Mission office from 1970-1971, and on the Mission board for a total of 24 years. They reside in Oklahoma.



Glenda Leatherbury served as a medical missionary in Doropo from 1985-1994. She died on the field.



Sherwood and Vada Lee served in Doropo and Bouna as medical and church-planting missionaries from 1966-1993. Sherwood is a member of the Mission board. They reside in South Carolina.



Jalayn Martens served as a medical missionary and worked with women, children, and youth ministries from 1985-1995 in Doropo and Bondoukou. She lives in California.



Archie and Sarah Mayhew served from 1963-1981 as church planters in Bondoukou, Gouméré, and Tanda. Sarah lives in California; Archie died in 1997.



Dan and Margaret Merkh served as church builders in Doropo, Gouméré, and Laoudi-ba from 1957-1965. They transferred to France where they served until 1975. Margaret lives in Virginia; Dan died in 2002.



Dr. LaVerne and Lorene Miley served as medical and church-planting missionaries in Doropo from 1960-1979. Upon leaving the field, the Mileys served in a variety of ministries, including medical consultant for the Mission. Dr. Miley died in 2005; Lorene lives in Tennessee.



Lynn and Ramona Miley served as church planters in Doropo from 1973-1986. They transferred to France where they served from 1980-1986. They currently reside in Alabama.



Ron and Linda Moore served as church planters in Bondoukou from 1986-1995. They live in South Carolina where Ron pastors.



Clint and Lynette Morgan's diverse ministry included medical outreach, church planting, and Bible institute training in Doropo and Bouna from 1976-2005. The couple serves in France and Clint is regional director for creative access countries.



Darrel and Lila Nichols worked as church planters in Agnibilekrou and Gouméré from 1983-2003. They transferred to Panama in 2003. Currently on leave-of-absence from the Mission, the Nichols live in Oklahoma.



Lonnie and Bernice Palmer were church planters from 1963 to 1977. After resigning, they moved to Arkansas.



Dr. Mark and Kathy Paschal served as medical and church-planting missionaries from 1992-1998 in Doropo. They live in Michigan.



Eddie and Sandra Payne served as medical and church-planting missionaries in Doropo and Bouna from 1962-1988. Following departure from the field, Eddie worked in the Mission office. They live in Tennessee.



Jerry and Carol Pinkerton have served as church planters in Nassian, Bouaké, Tanda, Doropo, Bouna, Bondoukou, and Abidjan since 1971. They recently began a nine-month stateside assignment.



Lloyd and Betty Plunkett served as ICA dorm parents from 1992-1995 and 1997-1999. They live in Tennessee.



Norman and Bessie Richards were church planters in Koun and Agnibilekrou from 1966-1994. Norman serves as an ambassador for the Mission. He and Bessie live in Tennessee.



Randal and Karolyn Richards served as church planters in Agnibilekrou from 1993 to 1994. They reside in Tennessee.



Alice Smith ministered to women, children, and youth in Agnibilekrou, Doropo, and Abidjan since 1975. She joined the CHE ministry in 2002. She is based in Bondoukou.



Lonnie and Anita Sparks served as church planters from 1956-1973. They transferred to Spain where they served until 1989. They live in Michigan.



Jim and Evelyn Teague served as ICA dorm parents from 1986-1990. They live in Tennessee.



Tina Tolbert taught at ICA from 1995-1996. She lives in Tennessee and teaches at FWBBC.



Terry and D.D. Vandivort were dorm parents at ICA from 2001-2002. They live in Tennessee.



Robert and Pam West served as maintenance and church-planting missionaries in Doropo and Kafalo from 1982-2003. They live in North Carolina.



Arilla Wode ministered to children, youth, and women in Doropo and Agnibilekrou from 1976-1992. She lives in Oklahoma.



Kim Zegelian served as a teacher at ICA in 1995-1999. She lives in North Carolina.

For more information on the Mission's history, visit www.fwbgo.com.

*ICA is International Christian Academy, a boarding school for missionary kids.



CAMPS PROVIDE ESCAPE FROM CARNAVAL

CAMPINAS, BRAZIL—*Carnaval* (Mardi Gras) in Brazil provides an opportunity for people to release normal moral restraints. Extreme partying with a free flow of alcohol, drugs, sex, and lewdness fills the streets. To steer both Christians and unbelievers away from the temptations of *Carnaval*, evangelical churches often schedule activities away from the city.

The churches in the Ribeirão Preto, Jaboticabal, and Uberlândia region joined for a family retreat at the campground in Jaboticabal from Saturday, February 1, through Tuesday, February 5. A record 280 people participated. Separate activities were organized for children, youth, and adults. Area pastors brought messages in the joint evening services. Many people came forward for prayer and rededication. A climate of unity and excitement filled the air as the group celebrated the fruit of 50 years of Free Will Baptist ministry in Brazil. Bobby Poole presented a history of FWB supplemented by old pictures of the work.

The First FWB Church in Campinas held a youth camp in a rented country weekend home. Tents were used when the existing sleeping facilities overflowed. Around 60 people attended.

The São José FWB Church held a youth camp in a rented facility about an hour from Campinas. A total of 80 youth and staff were present for the four-day event. The majority of the youth attending were unchurched. Although some had been to a youth camp before, many heard the gospel for the first time. The wife of the facility's caretaker accepted Christ during the event.

LITTLE DEPARTS MISSION, MAINTAINS COMMITMENT

ANTIOCH, TN—Reverend Doug Little is departing from service at Free Will Baptist International Missions to pursue other ministry opportunities effective March 31. "I'm grateful for my time at IM," Little said. "I have a passion for reaching the world with the gospel and, wherever I serve in the future, I will be involved in missions."

Initially, Doug served on the IM Board (1998–2003), three years as chairman, before joining the staff. He left a successful 18-year pastorate at First FWB in Russellville, AR, where he led his church to become a model of missions support and involvement.

In his five years at the Mission, Doug has served as both director of development and director of mobilization. As director of development, he introduced a structured International Missions Emphasis Month plan and thematic materials, boosting the growth of the World Missions Offering.

As director of mobilization, Doug introduced the Global Outreach Church Network to connect and resource pastors with a passion for world evangelism. During his tenure, student and short-term missions had some of their most successful years and a new program, GPS (Global Purpose Seekers), was begun for junior high students.

General Director James Forlines said, "Doug's heart for missions is unequalled among Free Will Baptists; he has made a valuable contribution, and we know he will continue to make a difference wherever he serves."

HARVEYS DEPART IN MARCH



ANTIOCH, TN—Dale and Allysa Harvey departed for the field on March 17. The IM Board approved the couple in December 2006 for a one-year term of service in Central Asia. They worked diligently for over a year to raise funds and prayer support.

The Harveys will work alongside the Central Asia Baptist Union to coordinate children's ministry activities and train national believers to minister to children, an endeavor for which they are uniquely qualified. As a schoolteacher, Allysa ministered to inner city children for six years and worked many summers as a camp counselor. Dale worked for the YMCA of Middle Tennessee serving as a childcare site director. He also worked closely with children and helped develop curriculum.

Dale and Allysa are members of Bethlehem FWB Church in Ashland City, TN, where they previously served as the children's ministry coordinators and assisted in youth ministry.



PANAMA NATIONAL CONVENTION



CHAME, PANAMA—Panamanian Free Will Baptists gathered on the campus of the new seminary property in Chame for their national convention on January 13–14. Approximately 500 people attended the event, which included a Saturday business session, two preaching services, a children’s conference, and an afternoon of games and fun.

Pastors Uriel Velasquez and Tomas Mendoza shared thematic messages and challenged the church to take up the words of Isaiah and say, “Here I am Lord, send me.”

Missionary Eddie Bowerman outlined the seminary programs

scheduled to begin in March. Two future students shared testimonies about their plans to study at the seminary. The children’s program, coordinated by Brenda Bunch and Adelaida Mendoza, featured participation from almost all the FWB churches and kept kids enthralled for hours as they taught the Bible and challenged each one to serve God.

A baptism service held Sunday morning highlighted the two-day convention. Eighteen people, ranging from young to old, were baptized. The assembly was blessed to see such a large group of converts take this step of faith.

NEHEMIAH PROJECT MOVES FORWARD



VILLALBA, SPAIN—At 8:00 am, on a frosty December 24, the bulldozing crew was at the Villalba church’s lot, ready to begin. “What a great Christmas present!” Missionary Jeff Turnbough exclaimed.

Though a long-awaited and eagerly-anticipated event, missionaries and church members were surprised the crew was willing to start work on Christmas Eve, an important holiday in Spain.

Felician, the owner and head of the construction company the church hired, is also a member of the Villalba congregation. It was an unusual sight when many of those gathered at the work site stopped for a moment, with the head of the construction team, to give thanks to God for this event and to ask Him to bless, protect, and guide the workers.

People out for their last minute Christmas shopping created a traffic jam in front of the construction site. These were the first of many “looks” from people passing by.

Many asked, “What are they building?”

“As construction continues,” says Missionary June McVay, “pray many people will take notice and decide to visit the church.”





This Is Not a Drill!

The Remarkable Life of Luther Sanders

By Eric K. Thomsen and Emily Youree

Born in 1922, Robert Luther Sanders secured his spot in what some call the greatest generation in American history. From meager beginnings, he, his family, and his friends knew nothing of “great,” unless followed by words like “depression” or “war.” Yet the trials and turmoil of his youth gave birth to an unassuming perseverance that bolstered him through some of America’s worst and greatest moments, and—more important—into dedicated service as a soldier of the kingdom of God.

Kentucky Boy

Luther was born in Emma, Kentucky, son of a bivocational Methodist preacher who ran a barbershop where a gentleman could get a haircut for 35¢. Tragedy soon struck the family when Sanders’ father died of typhoid fever at age 33.

With only one year of schooling, his mother struggled to keep the family afloat. As a result, over the next 10 years the family hopped from house to house, relative to relative—a total of seven different residences. The family finally settled at Luther’s grandparents in Cow Creek, Kentucky. While living with his grandparents, Luther was converted as a young teen at the small Free Will Baptist church they attended.

At age 14, he began to preach, traveling throughout Eastern Kentucky as the featured speaker for many revivals. Although he enjoyed his ministry as a young evangelist, Sanders admits his sermons and delivery were not anything special. He drew large crowds, “not because I said anything great. People just wanted to hear the boy preacher.” Yet these early years of ministry served as the founda-

tion for a life devoted to faithfully sharing the gospel.

When Sanders was 16, a family graciously invited him into their home so he could attend school. While pursuing an education, he worked for his room and board by milking cows, feeding hogs, and other farm-hand chores.

Not Self, But Country

After a childhood on the move, the idea of a permanent home appealed to Sanders. Following his brother's example, he sought that "home" in the Navy. Sanders enlisted in July 1940 when the world found itself spiraling toward a second world war. After 15 weeks of basic training in Norfolk, Virginia, the 116-pound-Sanders was assigned to the aircraft carrier *U.S.S. Enterprise* based in Pearl Harbor.

Ironically, Sanders' brother, Merlin, was also stationed on the *Enterprise*, assigned to the engine room. With a little persuasion, Sanders' request to join his brother in the engine room was granted. The brotherly bonding was short-lived, however, and Sanders soon found himself working in the mess hall.

The work aboard the carrier was strenuous, with no sunlight or fresh air below deck. During an especially difficult assignment, he buckled to his knees and fell to the floor unconscious.

Though he didn't realize it at the time, his collapse became the turning point in his military career: "My division officer and one of the ship's doctors asked me how I was feeling. They agreed I needed to be transferred to the 'top side' so I could be exposed to sunshine and fresh air. This was the beginning of my career as a radioman."

Sanders began to learn Morse Code and soon became a radio operator, decoding messages from various military stations.

Panic at Pearl Harbor

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Sanders and the *Enterprise* crew were returning to Pearl Harbor from delivering a squadron of 12 F4F fighter planes to Wake Island. The *Enterprise* should have docked in Pearl Harbor 24 hours earlier but had been delayed due to a strong storm. Two hundred miles from port, the *Enterprise* launched its planes to land at Ford Island. Unfortunately, this Sunday morning did not follow routine. The unarmed planes flew into disaster.

The events of the morning are still clear in Sanders' mind. "I was in the radio tower when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. I was doing back up, making sure the other radiomen didn't miss anything. I will never forget the panicked message: 'Japanese planes attacking Pearl Harbor—this is not a drill.' It was the first time we had ever received a message in plain English on the code circuit. We knew something was desperately wrong. We headed for Pearl as quickly as we could."

However, the *Enterprise* was not prepared for battle and had to redirect its course, waiting just outside the mouth of the harbor. Many of the planes launched from the ship earlier in the day were shot down; some falling to friendly fire from the confused and disorganized ground forces.



Q & A With Luther

I understand you had an unusual nickname when you were a child. Yes, my brother called me "bully" when he was mad at me, and the name stuck. I obviously wasn't a bully. When I joined the navy, I only weighed 116 pounds soaking wet!

Who was the biggest influence on your life and ministry? I guess the old man who pastored the Cow Creek FWB Church. Isaac Stratton had a deep influence on my life. He came once a month to preach. On the other weeks, we met for Sunday School and singing, but I always looked forward to his visit. He always took time for me. At the Bible College, many people influenced me, Dr. Johnson for example. I was in school with Dr. Miley and others. It was a great environment.

What is your most vivid memory of WWII? I cannot shake the sound and feeling of bombs striking the ship. We took several bombs on the *Enterprise*. In the aftermath, we would honor the dead by keeping one unidentified body for a memorial service although 65-70 men would be killed. They would place their bodies in a canvas bag with a five-inch shell for a weight and bury them at sea.

Did you continue preaching while in the Navy? The men on ship learned that I was a preacher. Once a week, we met for a service. One chaplain allowed us to meet. The other would run us out of the chapel if we were caught. On those occasions, we met in the library aboard ship. I enjoyed my ministry there, and God blessed.

The *U.S.S. Enterprise CV-6* is remembered as the most decorated ship of the Second World War. Her final records boast 911 enemy planes shot down; 71 enemy ships sunk by her aircraft; 192 enemy ships damaged or sunk; numerous shore installations damaged or destroyed; 371 lost personnel; and earned 20 Battle Stars (out of a possible 22 in the Pacific Theater).

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When the Japanese attack ceased, under cover of darkness, the *Enterprise* nosed into the harbor. With a shaky voice, Sanders recalls the grim picture. "I will never forget the scene when we pulled into the harbor that evening. The ships were still burning, bodies were floating in the harbor, and the entire place was a scene of utter devastation. It looked like the end of a war rather than the beginning.

"We put on supplies, replaced our ammunition, and quietly slipped out of the harbor to avoid letting the Japanese know that the *Enterprise* had survived the attack. Then, we went on the hunt."

Post-Pearl Harbor

And hunt they did! The sturdy ship and its brave crew were involved in every Pacific battle, save two until 1945. With battles at Marshall and Gilbert Islands, Wake Island, and Marcus Island during the late winter and early spring of 1942 Sanders and his crewmates stayed busy. In April of that same year, Sanders witnessed the launch of 16 twin-engine, B-25 bombers headed for Tokyo. For that mission, the *Enterprise* rendezvoused with the *U.S.S. Hornet*, a ship from the mainland under the command of General Doolittle and his crew.

Perhaps the most famous performance of the *Enterprise* came during the Battle of Midway, June 4–7, 1942, considered the turning point of the war in the Pacific. Sanders recalled, "When the shooting and bombing ceased and the smoke cleared away, we had lost one carrier, 132 planes, and 307 men. But the Japanese lost four carriers, five battleships, a heavy cruiser, a seriously damaged second cruiser, all the planes on the four carriers, and about 3,500 seamen. From this time on, Japan was on the defensive."

During the invasion of Guadalcanal on August 7–8, 1942, Sanders played a key role. He was one of three radiomen who left the *Enterprise* for the Guadalcanal amphibious landing force. He helped set up radio communications between the floating carriers, the amphibious landing force, and the attacking planes.

Based on logistical intelligence he received from charge officers, Sanders was responsible for relaying messages to pilots concerning missions, targets, and when to return. "I will never forget one horrible moment when Japanese troops were hiding in a hospital and our pilots were directed to bomb the

hospital. I remember the night before the troops were to go ashore, I was privileged to meet and pray with a group of about 25–30 Marines. These men knew that tomorrow would be rough as they stormed the beach, but they had an unshakable faith in God. I was encouraged by their faith."

After completing the mission at Guadalcanal, Sanders rejoined his crewmates on the *Enterprise* via a boatswain chair (a basket and rope) slung between two moving ships. He was surprised when the whole naval task force stopped to watch his team's transfer. His shipmates welcomed him back with a promotion to First Class Radioman and a commendation for his role at Guadalcanal.

Sanders remained on the *Enterprise* until 1943. Through it all, Sanders remained true to his calling—both for his country and for his God. The same faith that carried him through the war gave him the strength he would need for life's next great adventure.

Home to Hawaii

After the war, Sanders received an honorable discharge, and days later, he and his wife packed up and headed across the country to Nashville, Tennessee, to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College. He recalls the trip with a wry smile, "Gas was 16–18 cents a gallon. I remember thinking, 'That's highway robbery' when we came to a station that charged a quarter per gallon!"

After attending Free Will Baptist Bible College for two years, Sanders earned his BA from Bob Jones University in 1951.

Through the following years, Sanders pursued the profession he began as a young teen by pastoring churches in South Carolina, Alabama, and Missouri. Remembering what he had seen in the Pacific, the quiet pastor began to make frequent suggestions to the leaders of the Foreign and Home Missions Boards that someone needed to start an evangelical work in Hawaii. In 1959, he realized that "someone" was Luther Sanders. "Be careful what you pray for," he chuckles.

In the early days of the mission work, the Sanders rented a small house on an unpaved road in a poor area of Oahu. They renovated the basement for use as a church. Though the facilities were primitive, the Sanders found that love and concern for people was enough to draw them into church. "With my military background, I had good rapport with the boys who

were stationed there. At first, the congregation was largely military, but then we began to branch out and the islanders began to attend church as a result of [my wife's] Bible studies with the women. The men would sit in the background and listen to her teach. Next thing you know, they would come to church."

As a Free Will Baptist pioneer in Hawaii, Sanders said that the hardest challenge was "getting someone to stand still long enough to share the Word with them. It was a fast-paced culture with many, many religions. I can't say that I have ever been anywhere more difficult. Eventually, however, our love and acceptance opened the doors to share the gospel with them."

Slowly but surely, a new congregation of believers began to form, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Sanders family. As Mr. Sanders had regrouped with the crew of the *Enterprise* years to sail on to great victories, he now turned his passion to winning souls. In the very same waters that entombed so many casualties of the War in the Pacific, Sanders baptized new converts.

When asked about the keys to building the church in Hawaii, Sanders said: "The first key was not to get discouraged, to remember that it wasn't us doing it. It was God doing it. Enlisting good helpers was another key. It was a long-term project—day in and day out faithfulness."

In 1977, Sanders and his family returned to the mainland to resume pastoral ministry there. Long since retired and quite frail, Luther still eagerly follows the ups and downs of the ministry in Hawaii—the place where he learned to fight for souls.

As he looks back on a life committed to fighting for truth and justice, Sanders finds it both amazing and comforting to see God weaving details and opportunities together. From a boy who faced hard times to a young man engaged in battle... to a man learning to fight—not flesh and blood but spiritual enemies—Luther Sanders' life is a testament to the deep faithfulness of God and His great detail concerning the paths of our lives. With tears in his eyes, Sanders murmurs, "To God be the glory!" □

Eric Thomsen is the managing editor of ONE Magazine. Emily Youree is a freelance writer living in Ft. Worth, TX. She is the former book acquisitions editor at Randall House Publications. Contact Emily at editoremy@gmail.com.



Islands in the Sun

by Larry Powell



Kahului, Maui, Hawaii—

God has burdened the hearts of Roger and Sandra Raper to build a Free Will Baptist church among the indigenous people of Kahului, Hawaii, on the beautiful island of Maui. Roger and Sandy will immerse themselves in the language, culture, and history of these Polynesian people.

Many nationalities are represented in the city of Kahului. The population includes Asians, native Hawaiians, and people from all over the Pacific Rim. Roger and Sandy will meet the tremendous spiritual need in Maui with a strong emphasis on repentance and faith for salvation in Christ alone.

The church in Maui will be Roger's second effort in church planting. Today in Ft. Collins, CO, there is a beautiful and strong Free Will Baptist church because of Roger and his family. Let's pray together that God will enable them to plant another great church in this island in the Pacific.

St. Croix, Virgin Islands—Just mention the Free Will Baptist church and school on the island of St. Croix to anyone in business, education, or government, and they know about it. They usually respond, "It's a great church and Christian school." Perhaps what they remember most is that the Free Will Baptist school is home to the champion soccer team on the island.

St. Croix is the largest of the three Virgin Islands. It is a United States territory. People from around the world have settled on the island. They come from the Windward and Leeward British, French, and Dutch islands to live and work in the community. West Indians from Trinidad and Tobago work in the oil refinery and industries of this island gem.

Pastor Kent and Jeanna Nelson, Stephen and Rejyna Beck lead the faithful Free Will Baptists of the church and school. They are a tremendous team doing an outstanding work on the island. The congregation is one of the largest evangelical groups on this tiny island that is 26 miles in length. Pray with me that God will continue this strong witness and outreach in this island paradise.

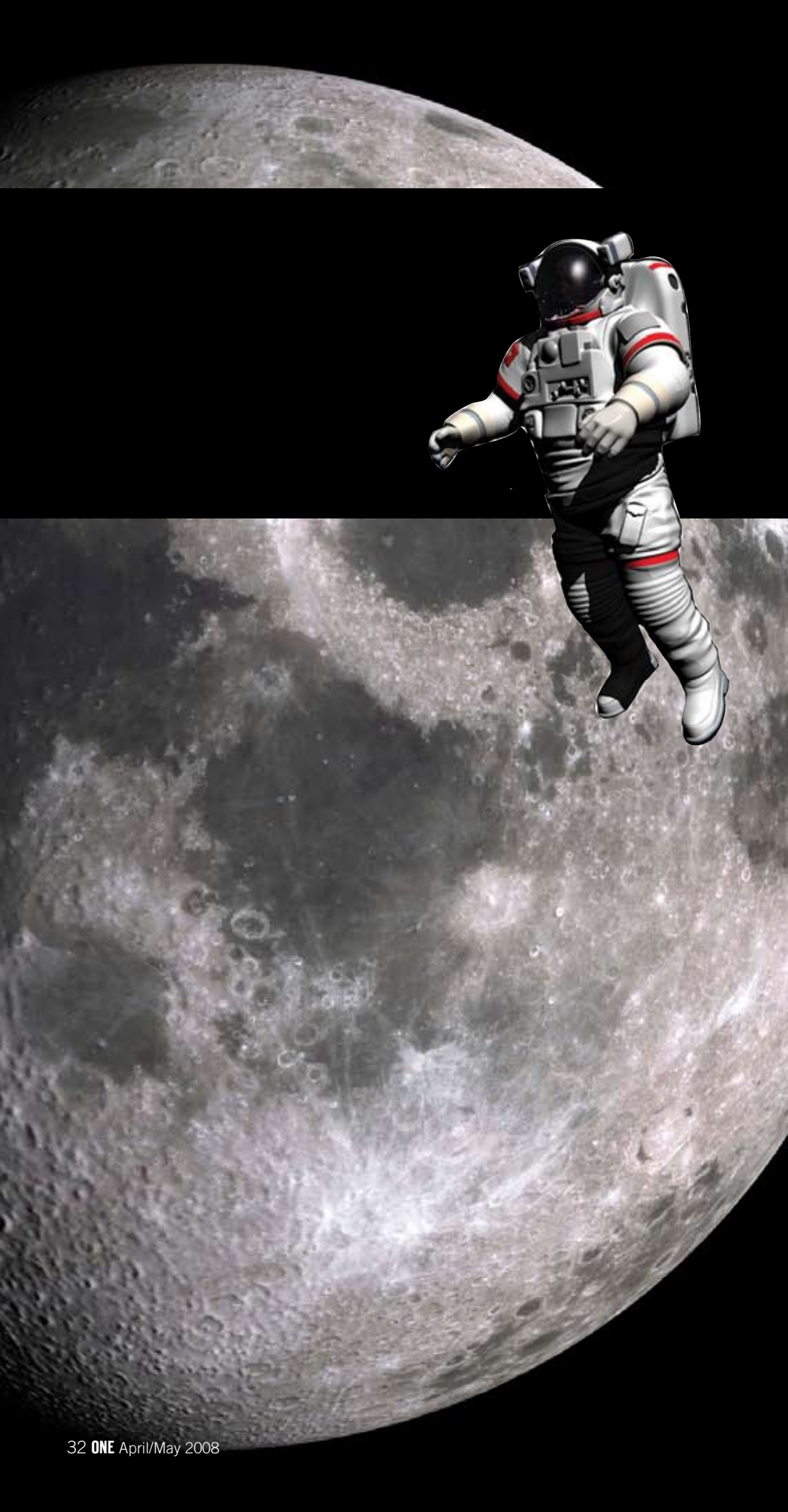
Puerto Rico— Puerto Rico (rich port) is located several hundred miles beyond Haiti and Santo Domingo. Called the "Jewel of the Caribbean," this commonwealth of the United States is 95 miles of mountains, rain forest, and pineapple plantations. The island is marked by the stark contrast between ancient fortresses, deserted beaches, modern skyscrapers, traffic jams, and high crime rates in sprawling cities like San Juan, Mayaguez and Ponce.

Deep in the heart of the Carolina region lies Rio Grande. The First Free Will Baptist Church lies in this beautiful area not far from the city of Fajardo. It is a beautiful church with a faithful congregation.

Church planters David and Connie Roy helped build this fine facility. They have consistently shared the message of salvation for more than nine years. David and Connie have a passion for the work. They have endured great challenges, and God has given them the victory. Pray for their continued safety and success.

Islands in the Sun—Anyone who travels in Hawaii, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico loves the high volcanic mountains and the ocean caves along the seashores. We love the warm, friendly people and their diverse cultures. But we must remember that the easy-going islanders need Jesus, too. What an opportunity to bring these precious people to our Savior. I am reminded of the hymn we sing in church, "Sing ye islands of the sea, echo back ye ocean caves: Jesus saves! Jesus saves!" □

Larry A. Powell is the general director of the Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department in Antioch, TN. Learn more about the ministry of Home Missions at www.homemissions.net.



TAKE C TAKE A

MILLIONS SAT ON THE EDGE OF their couches and easy chairs as one of the most watched television events (to that point) unfolded. Emotions ran high as two highly trained aviators piloted the lunar module to a destination never before reached by man. People worldwide held their breath as Neil Armstrong descended on the rungs of the lunar ladder, becoming the first man to leave a footprint on the moon.

There was no precedent for what Neil Armstrong did—no “how to” video, no step-by-step manual to read about walking on the moon. What kind of man would risk being the first to step foot on the moon, or the first to break the sound barrier, or the first to prove it impossible to sail off the edge of the earth? Many said men such as Armstrong, Yeager, and Columbus lacked a few important neurons in the brain; but history remembers them differently. The actions of these and many others who were the first to venture out on the edge brought new knowledge, growth, and products to the world.

In 1545, Martin Luther’s bold act of nailing *The 95 Theses* on the doors of the castle church in Wittenberg

ARE OR By Ron Hunter RISK?

sparked the Protestant Reformation, calling the church back to a theology of salvation by faith that recognized the priesthood of the believer. How long would it have been until a leader stood up against the status quo?

What if Nehemiah had not wept over the ruins of the city of Jerusalem and then left a cushy palace job to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem?

What if Joseph had not interpreted the dreaded news of Pharaoh's dream about seven years of famine and then explained how to innovatively create a means of survival for everyone in the Egyptian empire?

Each of these men could be described as pioneers, visionaries, initiators, groundbreakers, and trailblazers. Ralph Waldo Emerson must have been describing this type of leader when he said, "Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." Can we always brave new trails? No. But we should not timidly avoid a path because no one has ever done it before.

I have a friend who is a world traveler as the director of the National Associations Division for The Gideons International. When replying to the standard farewell, "Take care," Craig will reply, "Don't take care, take a risk." Craig, however, does not mean go climb Mt. Everest and attempt to ski down the south pass.

God gives us opportunities to decide whether or not to risk. Risk takes on different forms in our everyday lives. It may be as simple as witnessing to the person in the elevator, or as complex as moving your family halfway around the world to a new way of life. For local churches, it may imply taking a risk to reach out to a whole new group of people in your community because they are the new neighbors God has brought to your door. It could cause small groups or Sunday School classes to brave a new paradigm to keep touching lives. It could be asking for a raise from your boss.

However big or small the risk, it comes with some anxiety for everyone involved. Leaders have to be comfortable with some level of risk. If you never risk as a leader, then you may not be leading but only managing. What is the difference? Leading means being out front, influencing behaviors and directions. Managers control and organize daily affairs of an organization or group of people. Leaders always manage but not all managers can lead.

Nehemiah and Moses are two of the greatest leaders in God's Word. Each led by taking wise risks and moving large groups of people to new accomplishments. Likewise, they took time to organize after each new accomplishment. Build and organize, move and equip, cast vision and show plans for how to get there—they knew how to both lead and manage.

When you operate solely under a management philosophy, you never take a risk, rarely initiate new programs, and avoid failure of any kind at all costs. A manager wants precedent before attempting a new direction and asks, "Who else has done this successfully?" These may be vital traits for 80 percent of decisions, but this style will never allow an organization to thrive over a period of time. Only with innovation can a church, organization, or company continue to exist. Unless

you sell manhole covers, your service, product, and who you minister or sell to must change.

Operating solely under the management philosophy, you are always concerned about sending up trial balloons to see which way the wind is blowing. We often refer to this as giving in to peer pressure when talking to our kids. We do not want them making decisions this way. Yet, we often make decisions based on fear of what people will say, how they will criticize, or as Emerson put it, walking that new path alone.

Leaders understand that accomplishments come only after a number of failures. What Olympic figure skater ever medaled without falling a thousand times before sticking that triple axel? Wise leaders do as much research as humanly possible before making "higher risk decisions." Did Neil Armstrong have all the answers before opening that hatch and stepping onto a whole new celestial body? No, but he had very strong expectations of what would happen.

Free Will Baptists can pioneer new paths. In years past, we have often eaten the dust of other denominations that were 10 to 20 years ahead. I am thankful for men like Luther, Arminius, Tyndale, and Wycliffe—men in church history who took a risk to provide for those coming after them.

We have had some pioneers among us like the Mileys, Willeys, Hannas, Laura Belle Barnard, E. E. Morris, Lizzie McAdams, and Roger Reeds, to name a very few. These chose to risk (they also managed), but we are still benefiting from what they accomplished for God and Free Will Baptists. Now it's our turn. Will we take care? Or will we take a risk? □

ABOUT THE WRITER: Ron Hunter, Jr. is executive director of Randall House Publications.



BALANCING YOUR SPIRITUAL DIET

BY TI BARNHILL

COMMANDS, DECREES, AND REGULATIONS are firm, official-sounding words. That is just what we find in Deuteronomy 6:1-9. In these verses, God commanded parents to teach His law to their children. He laid out exactly how this should be accomplished. We are to teach our children of God's love and greatness at every opportunity—at home, on the road, in the morning, and in the evening. We should put reminders everywhere so our families can see them and remember God's love.

Many families today have no formal time, other than church services, when they focus their attention on God. There is little discussion of God. Family devotions used to be a staple activity in the Christian home, but many Christian families have laid aside family devotion time. We have become so busy with work, sports, and school that we forget to make time for God. We focus on temporary distractions instead of eternal matters, and then we wonder why our kids seem spiritually disconnected. Too many leave it to the church to train children in spiritual matters and neglect home instruction.

Recently, Fox News reported a shocking story of abuse. Jennifer and Alex Wood pleaded guilty to two counts of felony child abuse and one count of aggravated battery after his two daughters were discovered in an advanced state of starvation. A social worker discovered the girls, ages six and seven, starving and dehydrated in the basement. The

We have become so busy with work, sports, and school that we forget to make time for God.

home was well stocked with food and Jennifer Wood's children, a four-year-old girl and an eight-year-old boy, were found to be healthy and well fed. However, Alex traveled frequently on business, and his two daughters told police they ate only when he was at home.

As spiritual newborns, we take in God's Word in small, easy-to-handle

quantities. As we mature, we ingest God's Word in more meaningful, satisfying ways (See Hebrews 5:11-14). The more we mature as Christians, the more deeply we will enjoy feasting on God's Word.

If the only time my family or I get fed from God's Word is at church, then we are malnourished—much like Alex Wood's children. We need to be fed regularly to grow and be healthy. If we neglect our time in God's Word, we will be ineffective and unhealthy as Christians and as Christian parents. If we neglect to lead our families to find nourishment from the Savior, we are guilty of starving our children spiritually.

Will you make time for the One who sustains your life? Will you choose to grow closer to your heavenly Father by spending time with Him each day? Will you guide your family to spend time with Jesus during the week and not just on Sunday? □

ABOUT THE WRITER: Ti Barnhill is minister of youth at Temple FWB Church in Greenville, NC, where he has served four years. He and his wife Beth have one daughter, Julia Elizabeth.

Try these steps to begin a family devotion time in your home:

- **Set an appointment** (before school, after supper, or before bed).
- **Protect your family time**, but be flexible when important events arise.
- **Make it a fun**, enjoyable time to communicate with and about Jesus.
- Use a **devotional book** to encourage discussion and to guide you to explore the Bible together.
- Be thorough but concise. **Don't let it drag on** and become a chore.
- **Play games together and laugh!**
- **Listen to your children and provide counsel.** Be open and understanding. Kids have huge things going on in their lives, but they will never share them if they know you will merely respond with a sermon.

NYC NEWS

There will be a \$10 NYC Conference fee for adults to get an NYC badge. (An NYC badge is required for attendance to NYC worship services, competition, etc.)

Go to **www.fwbny.com** for NYC information. The competition schedule will be posted online by July 1.

Truth & Peace Leadership Conference will celebrate its 25th year during NYC 2008. Established in 1984, the conference has impacted the lives of over 1,000 Free Will Baptist students and is influencing the leadership of our denomination. Alumni are encouraged to participate in a special recognition of 25 years of Truth & Peace on Wednesday afternoon, and the launching of the T&P Alumni Association.

2008 NYC Speakers

Sunday School	Kelly Bowman (WV)
Sunday AM	R.D. Tolliver (WV)
Sunday PM	Stewart-Allen Clark (GA)
Monday PM	Todd Tennant (VA)
Tuesday PM	Sam McVay (Spain)

SCM offers free youth camp lessons. A five-day lesson series for youth camps and Bible clubs is available as a free download at www.SCMin.com. The lessons follow the NYC theme, "It's Not About Me," stressing the importance of lifting up Christ and dedicating one's life in submission to the will of God.

Buck-a-Week projects for 2008 include CrossPoint, the mission church in Salt Lake City, Utah; the Nehemiah Project in Spain; and the purchase of the Chame Property in Panama. You can share a part in global missions by setting aside a buck a week. The offering will be collected Tuesday evening, July 22, during the evening youth services in Charleston. Those not attending the National Youth Conference are encouraged to send their offering to SCM by July 10.

Don't miss "Mike at the Mic," a night of comedy starring Michael Jay Hollifield, and friends, Tuesday, July 22, 9:00 p.m., at the National Youth Conference.



In Review FEATURES

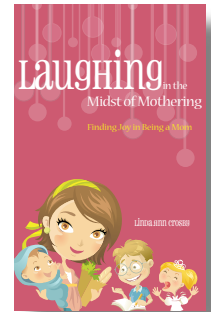
Laughing in the Midst of Mothering

by Linda Ann Crosby

ISBN 9780892655571

Price \$10.99

Motherhood is a demanding job that can easily become drudgery if the focus is not on the ultimate goal of raising a godly family. *Laughing in the Midst of Mothering* contains 52 devotional pieces that equip mothers to place their focus back on God with an extra infusion of humor.



Linda Ann Crosby does a wonderful job of weaving together a crisis common to mothering, a solution to the crisis backed up by Scripture, and a reminder to laugh and enjoy raising children in each segment. Mothers will benefit from taking a moment from the daily routine to have personal time and read a short devotional to which they can relate.

First Aid for Emotional Hurts

by Edward J. Moody, Jr., Ph.D.

ISBN 9780892655649

Price \$12.99



We have all been in situations where we desire to help someone who is hurting but the struggle of how to help overpowers the initial desire. This book will remedy that struggle we all face at one time or another in life.

Edward J. Moody has created an excellent resource tool for ministry to be used in the church, in the family, or in an extended circle of friends. *First Aid for Emotional*

Hurts provides the reader with knowledge and tools to help those facing significant emotional or mental issues in life. An extensive list of resources is also provided on each subject. The author speaks with a qualified voice to the spiritual and physical needs of the hurting.

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Can you say Change?

NEXT EXIT ↗

A wife and mother balances a college and international missions.

By Jena Simpson

CHANGE MAKES US UNCOMFORTABLE AND GETS US OUT of sorts. So why bother? Because change can be a good thing! It is often an indication of progress and growth. Life is about changes: adolescence, adulthood, marriage, children, jobs. However, *decisions* also bring about change. Some decisions are easy; others are difficult.

Changing Roles

One of the most difficult decisions my husband Barry and I have made in our married life was resigning the church we pastored 16 years, a church we had been part of for 25 years. That decision created other changes in our lives.

In October 2006, Barry was offered a position with Free Will Baptist International Missions (FWBIM) as director of development. The offer caught us by surprise and brought unsettling feelings. After much prayer, however, we decided Barry should accept the position, even though we knew it would result in huge changes for us and require a depth of sacrifice we had not previously experienced.

Barry accepted the position to help the department restructure its current funding system—the way we send and keep missionaries on the field. We both recognized the magnitude and import of this undertaking. Not only would our decision require changes in our family, it would require change across the denomination. We felt it was a worthy cause in which to invest our lives; a year later, we are confident we made the right decision.

Missionary Sacrifice

Have you considered the sacrifices missionaries make, not only going to the mission field but the sacrifice to get there? We watched Shannon Little (from our church) struggle almost three years raising funds to get to Japan.

We continue to see first-time missionaries struggling on deputation to raise support, enduring the exhaustion their families experience during this period.

After arriving on the field, it is a constant concern whether their account will remain strong enough to keep them there. Our hearts have been broken to see their frustrations. These are the reasons why Barry left the pastorate to become director of development at FWBIM. If missionaries can make sacrifices to get to the field and meet challenges once there, we could sacrifice some of our time together to help them.

Personal Challenges

We had to make numerous adjustments after Barry took the FWBIM position. For me, the hardest adjustment has been the amount of time spent home alone. We were accustomed to family dinners every evening and Sunday lunch together.

Our two boys are testing their wings and thinking of leaving the nest, so they're gone more than they are home. Barry's position keeps him on the road many days and nights at association meetings, churches, and conferences. It has not been easy for us. Except for his three-week trip to Russia in 2001, Barry and I had only been apart for a few days at a time until he accepted this position.

We continue to worship at the church we pastored (New Hope FWB Church in Joelton, TN). For the first month or so after Barry began traveling on weekends, it was hard for me to get through services without him there. The change from pastor's wife to church member was not as difficult as attending services alone. After several months, I began to adjust. The adjustment will be an ongoing process, since Barry's schedule changes frequently.

Lessons Learned

Barry's first few trips for FWBIM were extremely difficult for me. One of those weekends I forgot a Women's Brunch at our church because I was so "out of sorts" with him gone. A few weeks later, I attended a Sunday School class dinner alone. That may not sound so bad, but I found it difficult to be a single among couples. This was a new class for me, because we gave up the young couples' class Barry taught during his pastorate.

I quickly learned two lessons: what it's like to be single in a couple's world and a small taste of what widows experience. Yet one widower put things in perspective when he told me, "At least your husband is coming home. My wife is not coming back."

A month or so into Barry's travel, I was invited to attend a play and arrived home fairly late—for me anyway. Early to bed, early to rise, has always been my motto. I went to the basement to put our dogs in their kennels for the night, only to discover they had found a box of poison and eaten the entire box. Of course, Barry was out of town, so I called the boys home to help get the dogs to the emergency pet care facility. It seems these things happen at the most inopportune times. I am thankful that our boys are old enough to come to the rescue.

Unexpected Blessings

Two years ago, I reluctantly accepted a part-time position at Free Will Baptist Bible College. I say *reluctantly* because I had not worked outside the home in 17 years, and it was a big deal to reenter the work force. I felt the Lord had given me the OK to take the job, and I am so glad I did. I absolutely love it. The job has been such a blessing in my life.

God saw ahead in time and knew I would need this out-

let when Barry changed ministries. I work with Lifetime Learning and Teacher Education, which allows me the opportunity to know some of the students both on campus and online.

What a joy to help distance-learning students through phone and email. I can relate to those pastoring churches and taking online courses. I was a pastor's wife for years and understand their demands and challenges, making the job a good fit for me.

What a blessing to rub shoulders with students seeking God's will for their lives and preparing for service. I want to encourage them during their time at FWBCC. Most Free Will Baptist international missionaries were trained at the college, and I am sure many more will get their training here. I am glad to be part of seeing the *before* and *after*, so to speak, of these future missionaries who come through FWBCC.

Living With Change

Barry's first year with FWBIM has been a time of change and adjustment, a time of challenges and blessings. God is good. We have our health, and Barry has enjoyed safety over miles of travel. And praise the Lord! The goal for the World Missions Offering was met last year. Our prayer this year is that the denomination will embrace the new funding system for the sake of missionaries and mission efforts around the world.

I know more changes await us, but He who does not change will continue to be our Rock and our Fortress. And, Yes, Barry and I have learned how to say *change* and smile! □

Jena Simpson serves as Lifetime Learning/Teacher Education associate at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Her husband Barry is director of development with Free Will Baptist International Missions.



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www.fwbmastersmen.org



FOX NAMES GRAD, 'TOP TEACHER'

STACEY MCVAY, 2003 ELEMENTARY EDUCATION GRADUATE of Free Will Baptist Bible College, was recently named "Top Teacher of the Week" by Fox television (Channel 17, Nashville). Stacey is the librarian at Coopertown Elementary School in Robertson County where she has taught four years.

During a televised interview in which she received a "Fox 17 Top Teacher" plaque from one of the program sponsors, Stacey told reporters she became interested in library science as a student at Free Will Baptist Bible College when the librarian (Mrs. Carol Reid) encouraged her to consider a career in a school library setting. At the time, Stacey worked as a clerk in FWBBC's Welch Library.

"Many educators go unnoticed every day," Miss McVay said, "and it's nice when someone stops to say thanks." She was nominated for the Top Teacher award by a parent or student at Coopertown Elementary.

Responding to queries about favorite classroom activities and memorable teaching moments, Stacey said, "The most rewarding aspect of my work is seeing the kids enjoy reading and watching them advance each year. My favorite activity is story time with the kids.

In addition to the B.S. degree from FWBBC, McVay holds the Master of Library Science (M.L.S.) degree from Trevecca University. She attends Cofer's Chapel FWB Church in Nashville where she teaches toddlers on Sunday nights.



LEWIS RESIGNS POST

MELISSA LEWIS vacated her post as Administrative Assistant to the President in February 2008, according to President Matt Pinson. Mrs. Lewis has served eight years with Free Will Baptist Bible College, six years as administrative assistant and two years with the college's Enrollment Management office.

Pinson said, "Melissa is the consummate professional—efficient, calm in times of stress, skilled with computers, and people-oriented. She has a can-do outlook and an uncanny ability to meet deadlines while coordinating multiple events and projects. She has been the contact person for my office since I came on as president, and we're all going to miss her."

An Illinois native, Mrs. Lewis is a 1997 FWBBC graduate. She and her husband Brian traveled to Korea in February to adopt 17-month-old Rory Katherine SaRang. Rory Katherine is the Lewis's second Korean child. They adopted Camden (now 4 ½) in 2004.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed my time at FWBBC, both as a student and as an employee," Melissa said, "and it has been a pleasure to work with President Pinson. While I won't miss the daily drive or those ever-present deadlines, I will miss all my good friends."

Brian and Melissa Lewis are members of Oaklawn Free Will Baptist Church (Chapmansboro, TN) where Brian serves as youth and children's pastor and Melissa serves as pianist. Brian also teaches fourth grade at Pleasant View Elementary School.

After Melissa graduated from FWBBC in 1997, she worked two years with the Enrollment Management staff. She and Brian then relocated to Green Rock Free Will Baptist Church (Colona, IL) for three years where he served as youth and children's pastor. They returned to FWBBC in 2002.



STEVENS LEADS KOREAN WORKSHOPS

DR. JAMES STEVENS, chair of the Music Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College, was the American clinician in January 2008 at the Sunmin Music Church Music Workshop in Seoul,

Korea. While there he launched a new piano book of hymn arrangements and introduced two new anthems composed for the Korean churches.

Organizer Jang W. Choi said he expected 200–250 church musicians in the winter workshops. Following the workshops, Dr. Stevens led more intensive master and private classes.

Prior to departing for his Korean engagements, Stevens presented a piano improvisation workshop/class at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. The Thursday evening and all-day Friday workshop was offered as a graduate level class and promoted to area musicians.

Later in 2008, Dr. Stevens is scheduled to lead keyboard workshops during the Southern Baptist Church Music Week June 2–5 at Ridgecrest, North Carolina, and July 14–18 at Glorieta, New Mexico.

Stevens has served on the FWBBC faculty since 2004.

STUDENTS HONORED IN WHO'S WHO

THE 2008 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, according to Provost Greg Kettelman.

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:

Matthew Ryan Akers (TN)
Jared Wade Austin (TN)
Matthew Steven Bracey (TN)
Ashley Marie Boshers (TN)
Jennifer Megan Detherage (IL)
Grace Anne Gaskins (SC)
Kenneth Edward Gossar (KY)

Mary Elizabeth Hovies (TN)
Brandy Renay Howell (TN)
Heidi Nichole Lane (OH)
Derek Nelson Lewis (IL)
Jacob Douglas Riggs (TN)
Lynsey Marie Stripling (AR)
Benjamin Wayne Wheeler (NC)



WORTHINGTON, GLADSON TO ADDRESS FWBBC GRADUATES



Mike Gladson



Milton Worthington

TWO OUTSTANDING PASTORS, Milton Worthington (North Carolina) and Mike Gladson (Tennessee) are scheduled to challenge the 2008 Free Will Baptist Bible College graduating class in May.

Dr. Milton Worthington, co-pastor of Liberty FWB Church (Ayden, NC) and long-time denominational leader who served 26 years on the Randall House Board (16

years as chair) and 12 years on the International Missions Board (four years as chair), will address the graduates during 10:00 a.m. commencement exercises Friday, May 9.

Tennessee pastor Mike Gladson (Cofer's Chapel FWB Church, Nashville) will bring the baccalaureate message Thursday evening, May 8, at 7:00 p.m. Gladson's wife Linda serves as records and security associate at FWBBC. His daughter

Ashley is a student at the college; his daughter Amy graduated from FWBBC in May 2007.

President J. Matthew Pinson said, "Commencement week is such an important occasion for the entire college family, and especially for the graduating seniors. This special time 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 you will join us as we celebrate with our graduating class."

Dr. Worthington has pastored since 1959, highlighted by his signature 26-year pastorate at Central FWB Church in Michigan (1976-2002). In addition to pastoral duties, he served 20 years with the Michigan State Association as clerk and three years as moderator. He graduated from (now) Columbia International University with a bachelor's degree, then completed Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees at Luther Rice Seminary.

Reverend Gladson completed a bachelor's degree at Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1981 before earning a master's degree in pastoral ministry at Trinity Theological Seminary. He began preaching in high school and has ministered 28 years in churches, with three pastorates in North Carolina, plus his current pastorate at Cofer's Chapel FWB Church in Nashville.

98 FWBBC STUDENTS MAKE PRESIDENT'S/DEAN'S LISTS

THE FALL 2007 SEMESTER at Free Will Baptist Bible College ended with 98 students earning academic recognition, according to Provost Greg Ketteman. Twenty-eight students made all A's and were placed on the President's List—10 seniors, five juniors, eight sophomores, four freshmen, and one post-baccalaureate student. Seventy students earned a B average or higher and were placed on the Dean's List—22 seniors, 15 juniors, 16 sophomores, and 17 freshmen.

President's List: "A" Honor Roll

Akers, Ryan (Sr.) Monterey, TN
 Anderson, Cason (Soph.) Nashville, TN
 Austin, Jared (Sr.) Lavergne, TN
 Baumann, Kristy (Soph.) Marietta, GA
 Benninghoff, Samuel (Soph.) Murfreesboro, TN
 Bridgeman, Audra (Sr.) Geff, IL
 Carter, John David (Jr.) Nashville, TN
 Conner, Jacob (Jr.) Riner, VA
 Dederick, Timothy (Sr.) Nashville, TN
 Edwards, Kristen (Jr.) Turbeville, SC
 Eidson, Rachel (Sr.) Goodlettsville, TN
 Gaskins, Grace (Sr.) Aynor, SC
 Hill, Christa (Fr.) Norton, VA
 Hovies, Mary Elizabeth (Sr.) Lebanon, TN
 Howell, Brandy (Sr.) Pulaski, TN
 Hulquin, Kevin (Soph.) Norfolk, VA
 Jolly, Lauren (Fr.) Glasgow, KY
 Landing, John (Jr.) Dearborn, MI
 Lewis, Brian (Post-Baccalaureate) Chapmansboro, TN
 Lewis, Derek (Sr.) Cisne, IL
 Parks, Lindsey (Jr.) Pleasant View, TN
 Payne, Alisa (Soph.) Bonnie, IL
 Pool, Elizabeth (Soph.) Aulanda, NC
 Richards, Shawn (Fr.) Joelton, TN

Stokes, Sara-Ann (Soph.) Nashville, TN
 Trimble, Nathan (Fr.) Greeneville, TN
 Ward, Kurston, (Soph.) Van Buren, AR
 Williams, Lance (Sr.) Pocahontas, AR

Dean's List: "B" Honor Roll Seniors

Barbour, Crystal, Wilson, NC
 Bishop, Jennifer, Hokkaido, JAPAN
 Bosers, Ashley, Columbia, TN
 Bracey, Matthew, Ashland City, TN
 Bridgeman, Luke, Nashville, TN
 Davenport, Joshua, New Brunswick, CANADA
 Detherage, Jennifer, Fairfield, IL
 Douglas, Katie, Macon, GA
 Helms, Lauren, Allen Park, MI
 Ison, Natalie, Lewisburg, OH
 Landers, Daniel, Batesville, AR
 Lane, Heidi, Marysville, OH
 Morgan, Phillip, Cedar Hill, TN
 Postlewaite, Hannah, Florence, SC
 Robinson, Daniel, Indian Trail, NC
 Runion, Lindsey, Goodlettsville, TN
 Saunders, Kyle, Wilson, NC
 Spradlin, Shelby, Walnut Ridge, AR
 Stegall, BreeAnna, Edwardsville, IL
 Wheeler, Benjamin, Wilson, NC

Williams, Marlena, Kingston, TN
 Zink, Christina, Belleville, MI

Juniors

Collier, Teddie, Fair Grove, MO
 Corn, Paul, Ashland City, TN
 Clark, Tiffany, Dothan, AL
 Craft, Brittany, Pryor, OK
 Deckard, Matthew, Thayer, MO
 Downing, Jennifer, Blytheville, AR
 Drake, Eric, Springfield, TN
 Gladson, Ashley, Franklin, TN
 Hajek, Samantha, St. Charles, MO
 Inman, Brett, Lebanon, TN
 Johnson, Tiffany, Mayesville, SC
 Kernodle, Michael, Newport News, VA
 Stutts, Laura, Lawrenceburg, TN
 Webb, Lauren, Macon, GA
 White, Mallory, Bristol, VA

Sophomores

Collins, Rachel, Harrisonburg, VA
 Crozier, Megan, Lancing, TN
 Dankson, Lydia, Ashland City, TN
 Driggers, Mary Kathryn, Turbeville, SC
 Gibson, Jennifer, Sesser, IL
 Gilliken, Paul, Harkers Island, NC
 Higgins, Miranda, Cookeville, TN
 Holloway, William, Albany, GA

Jones, Keesha, Red Bay, AL
 Lanvermeier, Carrie, Johnsonville, NC
 McMillion, Jason, Aberdeen, MD
 Owens, Jesse, Franklin, TN
 Peterson, Katie, McDavid, FL
 Provow, Joshua, Fredericktown, MO
 Pugh, Karyn, Drummonds, TN
 Wolf, Lindsay, Brownstown, MI

Freshmen

Bequette, Rachel, Marquand, MO
 Bogart, Robin-Lynn, Tecumseh, MI
 Boss, Danielle, Oregon City, OR
 Christian, Alyssa, Plant City, FL
 Dennis, Nicholas, Vilonia, AR
 Ellis, Melinda, Florence, SC
 Franks, Nathan, Mt. Olive, AL
 Hoover, Brittny, Greenbrier, TN
 McAllister, Sara, N. Little Rock, AR
 Nelson, Megan, Nashville, TN
 Peck, Christina, Carrollton, VA
 Price, Lacey, Wheelersburg, OH
 Riley, Jimmie, Clay, KY
 Scrimshire, Jacob, Fairview, TN
 Shaffer, Hannah, St. George, WV
 Talbot, Christopher, Tecumseh, MI
 Weeks, Bradley, Nashville, TN



“PRAYING FOR YOU”

“I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT

I’m praying for you today.” That’s what the card said. Someone—I have no idea who since it was unsigned—slipped it under my door. I’ll have to admit my step was lighter the next day or so.

Not a Cliché

Often I say or write the same thing to a friend. I really do mean it, though sometimes my follow-through is pretty weak. Sometimes those words just fly out of my mouth as a default mechanism when I don’t know what else to say to a person who’s really struggling. “I’ll pray for you” sometimes seems like an anemic cliché.

Yet when sincerely intended and acted upon, this gift of intercessory prayer is a powerful resource God puts at the disposal of His children. “Nothing will so test and stimulate the Christian life as the honest attempt to be an intercessor,” claims Andrew Murray. Our word *intercession* comes from two Latin words meaning “to go between.” Intercessory prayer, then, is appearing in the presence of God through Christ on behalf of others.

Such prayers dot the landscape of Scripture. Abraham sought God’s grace for sinful Sodom (Genesis 18:20–33). Job fell on his face on behalf of his fickle friends (Job 42:8–10). Moses’ heart broke for his people due to their disgraceful disloyalty in breaking God’s law (Deuteronomy 9:25–26). Amos and Daniel pled for God’s help in strategic situations (Amos 7:1–6; Daniel 2:16–18). Stephen, Paul, John—they stand in good company with other advocates.

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

Tears and Trembling

Recently, though, the Holy Spirit overwhelmed my heart when the greatest intercessor of all whispered my name to the Father and let me eavesdrop—or so it seemed. I was in a group of two dozen or so men listening to a guy tell us how he had emerged from a crushing time of discouragement in his life. He explained that a group of friends had made a special point to meet weekly to pray for him and with him. Then he said this: “Best of all, I realized that Jesus was praying for me. And He’s praying for you, too, by name.”

When he said that, I was stunned. I couldn’t hear anything else the brother was saying. Tears welled up in my eyes and I began to tremble. At first I thought, “No—that’s not right. It couldn’t be!” I know Jesus prayed for Peter (Luke 22:32), but I’m not Peter!

Now About That Card

For the next several days, the truth that the Lord Himself was calling my name before the Father settled on my spirit like the glow of warm sunshine on a cool morning. I rejoiced in Christ’s “ever living to make intercession for us” (Hebrews 7:25).

“I am praying for those whom you have given me,” Jesus entreats the Father in that most holy of all prayers, “that they may see my glory...” (John 17:9, 24).

Those prayers of Jesus for me have sweetened my days ever since then. It really is as if I hear Jesus tell me, “I just wanted you to know that I’m praying for you today.” I wonder who *really* sent that card? □

HUBBARD TO LEAD RECRUITMENT



HEATH HUBBARD, a 2006 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, has been named director of recruitment, according to Jeff Caudill, director of enrollment services. The 23-year-old minister from Hot Springs, Arkansas, began his new role in January 2008. He succeeds Ryan Lewis who previously served in the position.

Mr. Caudill said, “We’re excited to have Heath join the Enrollment Management Team (EMT). His energy and creativity will be an asset in our recruitment efforts. He already has a taste of the work ahead; he served two years as a student recruiter while enrolled at FWBBC, traveling to cities and sponsored events to recruit.”

In his new role, Hubbard will work closely with the director of enrollment services. He will supervise the EMT staff, travel to retreats, camps, Christian schools, and other venues as chief recruiter, oversee the EMT booth at the national convention, and schedule campus tours. Major areas of responsibility will include Welcome Days, Senior Days, summer visit days, call center, and summer travel.

Heath answered the call to preach at age 15. He graduated from FWBBC with a B.S. degree in Bible with minors in missions and business. He served on the Student Council and played four years on the Flames basketball team. He was listed in *Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.

A motivated self-starter, Heath served six months (2006–2007) with Free Will Baptist International Missions (FWBIM), teaching English as a second language in Kazakhstan. He worked nine weeks in 2004 with the FWBIM Overseas Apprentice Program in Tajikistan and Kazakhstan teaching English and assisting with sports and music camps for teens.

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THE GOSPEL SONG OF THE PIANO MAN

Remembering the Life and Ministry
of Herman Hersey

January 1, 1926 - January 24, 2008

HERMAN LAWRENCE HERSEY WAS BORN in 1926, in Chicago, Illinois, to Samuel and Ruth Hersey. He accepted Christ at age five and preached his first sermon at a rescue mission when he was 13. Throughout his youth, Herman actively preached at his church, rallies, youth meetings, prayer meetings, and rescue missions, including the Pacific Garden Mission. After being ordained in 1949 at age 23, he preached the gospel faithfully for 58 years.

During high school, Herman studied at the Harris School of Music and Chicago Musical College. After graduating from Chicago Christian High School, he spent a year ministering with the American Mountain Mission and Bible Institute in Corbin, Kentucky. When the year was completed, Herman returned to his education at St. Louis Institute of Music and George Washington University in Missouri. In time, he became an accomplished classical and sacred concert pianist.

In 1945, however, God led him away from his music career into full-time ministry. He entered Bob Jones University in Cleveland, Tennessee, and graduated in 1949. During the summer of his junior year, he worked with the American Sunday School Union conducting Vacation Bible Schools and revivals. Throughout his college career, he preached at nearby churches on weekends, becoming well acquainted with Free Will Baptists in western North Carolina.

After Herman's graduation, Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., and others encouraged him to consider serving Free Will Baptists. He moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he worked part-time for the rescue mission and part-time with a small group of Free Will Baptists who had begun meeting for prayer in Gastonia. He organized the group into the Fifth Avenue FWB Church and pastored the new congregation for two years.

He continued to work part-time with the Charlotte Rescue Mission when he began traveling for the North Carolina Home Mission Board. He preached and raised funds that were divided between home and foreign missions. Dur-



ing that time, he met L.R. Ennis and Thomas Beamon, men who had a profound impact on his life. They taught him about church organization and how to work effectively in associational settings.

In June 1952, he married Vernie Hood, public school teacher from Bonneau, South Carolina. One month later, they moved to Raleigh, North Carolina, to reopen the First FWB Church. During a ten-year ministry in Raleigh, he and the congregation established mission churches in Garner and Micro, North Carolina. He and other local pastors also started a church in Cary.

In 1962, Herman and vocalist Bill Gardner began to present musical concerts and evangelistic services. When health concerns forced Bill to stop traveling, Herman continued traveling until 1965 when he accepted a pastorate at Garner FWB Church in North Carolina. During his ministry in Garner, Herman was elected to the national Sunday School Board. He served on the board 11 years, eight as chairman.

In 1967, he was elected to the North Carolina FWB Board of Superannuation. As president, he (along with fellow board members and other volunteers) prepared a comprehensive retirement plan for pastors. The North Carolina State Association adopted the plan, and in 1969, the National Association of Free Will Baptists voted to embrace the plan, resulting in the formation of the Department of Retirement and Insurance.

Although he continued to pastor the Garner Church, Herman served as part-time director of the new department, taking leaves of absence from the Garner congregation to attend state conventions and other meetings to introduce the plan. Along the way, he never missed an opportunity to preach.

In 1973, Herman and his family moved to Nashville, Tennessee, and he became the first full-time director of the Board of Retirement and Insurance. During those early years, he traveled extensively to state and local associations to present and promote the retirement plan. He visited local churches across the country, introducing them to the retirement plan and encouraging them to provide retirement benefits for pastors, missionaries, and others who served them.

In 1980, the Free Will Baptist Foundation was formed under the leadership of the Board of Retirement and Insurance. Herman served as executive secretary (general director) of the Foundation for 11 of the 20 years that he worked with the Board of Retirement.

**While God always used Herman's musical talent,
and he continued to present sacred concerts,
he remained first and foremost
a preacher.**

After retiring in 1993, he continued to work with the Executive Office to write and compile a comprehensive stewardship manual. He continued to preach in meetings and revivals. While God always used Herman's musical talent, and he continued to present sacred concerts, he remained first and foremost a preacher. He considered preaching his greatest privilege in life, and during his ministry that spanned nearly six decades, he preached in all but three states.

In October 1998, Herman and Vernie moved to Jackson, Tennessee, where he completed his final pastorate at Victory FWB Church.

Although God gave Herman a great variety of ministry opportunities, and he worked with a vast array of people, he always held a special place in his heart for those who preached the gospel, especially for their welfare. He always had great faith in God's promise and ability to provide for His church and ministers.

Herman concluded his faithful ministry when he died at home January 24, 2008. He left behind his wife Vernie, daughter Pat Lewelling, and brother Fred. □





We need to talk

Four simple words, “We need to talk” might just begin one of the most important conversations of your life.

“What about?” your spouse replies.

“Oh, I was thinking about making plans for retirement. We need to take a look at our finances.”

“Maybe later,” he replies. “Today’s not a good day.”

Sound familiar? And what about those who never ask the first question?

A popular national talk show host takes calls from people who struggle with financial issues and believe they don’t have the support of their spouse. After the caller vents her frustration, the host invariably says, “I’ll help you all I can, but you should really have this conversation with your husband!” “Does your wife know how you feel about this? Have you shared these dreams with your family?”

In nearly every instance the answer is “No, we haven’t really talked about it.”

Why is it so hard for people to communicate with the most important people in their lives about the most important subjects? *The Wall Street Journal* reports that personal finance remains one of the last refuges for privacy in America, and many financial disagreements stem from fundamentally different ways of thinking about money.¹

These beliefs about money stem from life experience, including those formed before marriage. These beliefs may find their origin in your parents and other early childhood influences.

Other reasons cited by the article for not discuss-

ing financial matters in a relationship include:

- He (she) always gets angry when we talk about money;
- She (he) is against saving for the future, since we are hardly getting by now;
- We have plenty of time to work on this later; retirement is still many years away;
- He wants to retire to the lake, but I want to stay near our children. Until he changes his mind, there’s no point in talking;
- She thinks finances are my job.

While your family may not be so outspoken, perhaps you still haven’t had that all-important talk about how and where you will live in retirement, what sacrifices will be required to maintain your standard of living, and, even more important, how you will resolve differences on money matters.

Whether or not you admit it, failure to communicate breeds resentment, tension, and uncertainty—definitely not ingredients for a happy relationship! Rather than focusing on areas of known (or perceived) disagreement, schedule four to five 30-minute discussions on the following topics:

- This is my dream of what retirement should look like;
- This is what I would be willing to do now to achieve financial peace;
- If we could move into retirement without

By Norma Jackson Goldman

debt, this is how it would impact our family;

- This is where I would most like to live in retirement, and why.

By limiting the discussion to 30 minutes and following a simple agenda, you will limit the opportunity for argument, but there will be time for each partner to be *heard*, and that's the key word.

Agenda: Give each partner 10 minutes to share his/her thoughts while the other makes notes about what is expressed. The listening partner must do just that—no interruptions, no questions, no challenges. Each partner has five of the remaining 10 minutes to describe what he or she learned by listening. As before, the listener simply listens and records. Both agree to pray about what was shared before the next meeting, asking God to give direction on creating a plan that will honor Him and strengthen the marriage.

These simple steps will put you in a stronger position to create a workable plan with or without outside help. We need to talk! □

Former magazine editor Norma Goldman enjoys a free-lance writing career in her retirement. She lives in Nashville, TN. For more information about the Board of Retirement, call (877) 767-7738.

¹Wall Street Journal, Sunday, December 30, 2007 p4E.

ASSAULTED!

By Bud Bivens

LAY PASTOR ROGELIO PEREZ and his wife Isabel were assaulted at gunpoint in their own home Sunday morning Feb. 11, 2007. Throughout the ordeal they prayed and God wonderfully honored their prayer.

When Rogelio unlocked his front gate that Sunday morning, he was preparing to go to the market to pick up fresh flowers for the church. Three young men waiting outside the gate asked him for a drink of water. As he went for the water two of the young men followed him to the front door.

When he returned with the water, the men shoved him back inside while brandishing a pistol. One knocked him to the floor, grabbed his wife, and forced her to lie beside him. Placing the gun against Brother Rogelio's temple, he cocked the trigger.

As the second man dumped out drawers, turned over things and ransacked the house, Brother Rogelio and his wife felt a great sense of calm. They discussed the fact that Jesus prayed for his enemies and agreed that they should do the same. They began to pray loudly for the Lord to forgive the young men who were treating them with such disrespect.

Finding only two twenty peso bills (about four U.S. dollars), one of the men took the money, Brother Rogelio's watch, and his wife's cell phone, then phoned the young man who was watching outside the gate. He apparently told them to get out of the house quickly. The two yanked brother Rogelio and his wife to their feet, shoved them into the bathroom and ran out the door.

Brother Rogelio gave testimony of the miraculous deliverance they experienced when he spoke to his congregation the following Sunday. He wished to publish this story as a testimony to the power and protection of the Lord. A strong drug cartel is at work in the area, and a lot of petty thievery is drug-related. During face-to-face confrontations, it is rare that the person who is assaulted escapes unharmed, especially if a gun is involved.

Since the assault, Brother Rogelio's wife has suffered a profound insecurity, bordering on panic. She is afraid to leave the home after dark, insisting that the house be completely closed and locked as soon as the sun goes down. Please pray for her.

Brother Rogelio Perez is an ordained deacon from the Betania FWB Church who founded and pastors the Bethel FWB Mission Church in the Lopez Mateo Colonia in Altamira, Tamps. Mexico. He also serves as the Director of the IBLAC Bible Institute in Altamira. □

Ruth Bivens and her husband Bud are veteran missionaries to Mexico.

Blessed Assurance

Remembering Carolyn Adams

By David Crowe

IT WAS THE MID-1980s. I was in my first full-time pastorate at Mt. Pleasant Free Will Baptist Church in Brilliant, Alabama. During my first year as pastor, I became discouraged because things weren't happening as fast as I thought they should. I was really struggling, wondering whether or not God had "called" us there. During this time I attended the Alabama Pastor and Workers' Conference in hope of finding help and encouragement. While at the conference, I was introduced to Carolyn Adams.

Voice of Encouragement

I had met Richard Adams while a student at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He spoke in chapel one day, and I was deeply impressed by the "mountain preacher" from East Tennessee. Richard was one of the keynote speakers at the conference, and Carolyn provided the special music. Her first song was "Blessed Assurance." I had never heard anyone sing that beautiful hymn the way Carolyn sang it. I knew she believed every word she was singing. I must ad-



mit that I got “stirred up.” I returned home renewed, refreshed, and revitalized! I’m truly glad that was not my last encounter with Carolyn.

When Richard and Carolyn left Elizabethton, Tennessee, to join the Home Missions staff, they produced several albums of Carolyn singing and offered them as appreciation gifts for a donation to the “Build My Church Campaign.” For nearly 20 years now, I’ve listened to Carolyn’s beautiful voice while driving or flying from place to place.

In 1996, I came to work for Home Missions and had the distinct pleasure of working with Richard and Carolyn. For almost 12 years, I watched Carolyn in the office and enjoyed her friendship. She was a gracious, complimentary, friendly, and kind lady—even through an extended illness. She sang while she worked, and I always enjoyed starting a song just to hear her finish it. She knew the words to more songs than anyone I have ever known. I saw that she lived and practiced what she sang about. She was a genuine Christian.

She was devoted to Richard, her family, Home Missions, and to the Lord. Her tapes and CDs raised thousands of dollars for Home Missions over the last 18 years. Only Heaven will reveal all that Carolyn accomplished for the Kingdom of God in her lifetime.

During her last days on earth I heard Carolyn say, “I’m not afraid to die, I just hate leaving my family.”



She lived her life holding onto a “blessed assurance,” and she left this life still clinging to that assurance. What an example and inspiration her life was to me, to my wife Kathey, to our children, and to thousands of others across this country and around the world.

Lasting Legacy

After Carolyn’s death, the Home Mission Board established the Richard and Carolyn Adams Endowment. Donations totaling \$1 million will be placed in this endowment in their honor and in her memory. The principle will never be spent, but the interest will be used each year to support the entire program of the Home Missions Department.

Perhaps you would like to honor the memory of Carolyn Adams. I know of no better way to do so than to give to the endowment named in their honor. This endowment will perpetually support the ministry into which she and Richard poured their lives.

If 1,000 churches or individuals will give \$1,000, the endowment will be secured and continue to provide income until Jesus returns. If you or your church gives a gift of \$1,000, as a token of appreciation, we will send you the Carolyn Adams Music Collection containing 40 different songs on four CDs. Take advantage of this great opportunity to honor Carolyn by supporting the ministry she loved so dearly. □

David Crowe is director of development for the Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department. He and his wife Kathey live in Cane Ridge, TN. Learn more about the ministry of Home Missions at www.homemissions.net.



And What, Exactly, Is Director of Developme

By David Crowe

On February 1 of this year, I assumed the role and responsibilities of Dr. Richard Adams, retiring director of development for the Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department. Richard served in this position 18 years and helped secure financial stability for the department. He raised funds for missionaries, the general fund, and endowments that continue to provide perpetual interest income to support many aspects of the ministry of Home Missions.

When I joined the Home Missions staff in 1996, I was the director of missionary assistance. For five years, my responsibilities included

visiting home missionaries to encourage, equip, instruct, and motivate them in the church planting process.

In 2001, I became the director of church growth. For the last seven years, I have visited 45–50 churches each year, preaching in churches, camps, and colleges while raising funds for the ministries of Home Missions. The job description for the first two positions was straightforward and easy to understand.

Now, I have another title, director of development. To be honest, I'm not sure exactly what a director of development is, or what a director of development does. I thought it might help to understand the definition of the words. *Webster's* defines *director* as, "one who leads or directs" (that wasn't much help). *Development* is defined as, "a step or stage in growth or advancement." Therefore, I assume that a director of development is one who leads a plan, a program, or a department in steps or stages of advancement. With that said, allow me to share my goals for the future.

The main goal and priority at Home Missions has and always will be the missionaries on the field. Everything at Home Missions revolves around the missionaries and their needs. Without the missionaries, there would be no need for Home Missions to exist.

In regard to **finances**, my goal is two-fold. First, to raise the million dollars for the **Richard and Carolyn Adams Endowment**. This will provide interest income that will strengthen the general fund as well as missionary accounts. **The Build My Church Endowment** and the **Dr. Roy Thomas Endowment** are presently providing income for all aspects of the ministry of Home Missions. When this third endowment is completed, I have no plans to start another one. Free Will Baptists have responded generously over the last 18 years as the first two endowments were raised and completed. Second, I plan to continue promoting the **Mission North American Offering** (formerly Benjamin Randall Offering) and the **Heritage Book Club**. These two programs provide necessary funds for the department and help strengthen the daily cash flow needed to operate and keep missionaries on the field.

In regard to the **Church Extension Loan Fund**, I will continue to promote the fund to investors as

a great way to earn a good rate of interest, and will oversee the application process for loans to Free Will Baptist churches. Investments in the fund are being used to plant and build Free Will Baptist churches across North America. Hundreds of Free Will Baptists have invested their money with CELF and hundreds of churches have been able to secure loans through Home Missions.

In regard to **church growth**, I will continue to visit as many churches each year as I possibly can. My heart is with our churches, our pastors, and their families. My great love is preaching, and I must continue what God called me to do more than 30 years ago. While I will reduce my travel schedule in light of new office responsibilities, I will stay on the road as much as God will allow. I would rather come to your church and be a blessing and help to you, than to just ask you to give. It is my desire to give back for what you have already given and for what God has given me over the years of my life.

In regard to **promotion and publicity of our offering and our programs**, we will constantly evaluate every item we publish and promote. Every trip we sponsor for our donors will have a three-fold purpose. First, we will learn from our past. I will emphasize areas where Free Will Baptists once had a significant presence that has dwindled or disappeared over the years. Second, we will listen to present home missionaries from the area as they share what God is presently doing through Free Will Baptists there. Third, we will look to the future and ask God to give us a burden of what we can do to plant churches, win souls, and once again establish a strong presence there for Free Will Baptists.

I'm still not sure that I completely understand everything involved in being a director of development, so I appreciate your prayers. If I can ever be of service to you or to your church, please let me know. If you have questions, feel free to contact us. My secretary Sarah Hadley or Sue Hayes, bookkeeper for the Church Extension Loan Fund, will be happy to assist in any way they can. Also, please pray for General Director Larry Powell and Director of Missionary Assistance Richard Atwood. At Home Missions, we don't believe we have been placed here for you to serve us. We believe we are here to serve you, our missionaries, our churches, and our denomination. □



News from the FROSTY FRONTIER

By Ron Wallace

THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, LOCATED 125 MILES south of the Arctic Circle, lies on the edge of North America's "Final Frontier." In the past decade Fairbanks has increased in population from 75,000 to almost 100,000. Many new arrivals are stationed at the Ft. Wainwright Army Base or the Eielson Air Force Base, and recent demographic surveys reveal that a large number of these families return to Fairbanks after they complete their military service.

Northern Lights Free Will Baptist Church targets the military personnel and their families, an endless supply of new prospects. Almost all the core families in our church have some military connection, whether retired, active duty, civil service, or the Alaska National Guard.

The mission work in Fairbanks has proven to be rewarding yet challenging. Northern Lights FWB Church gives many young families their first church experience. The church is focused on grounding and establishing them in the Lord so they will continue serving Him when they transfer to other places.

With a military congregation, however, our attendance is always in flux. We average 75 people in our monthly attendance cycle. Though the ministry is rewarding, it is also challenging. It has proven to be very difficult to reach enough families to become self-supporting. New families come to church and accept Christ. We disciple them and rejoice in their spiritual growth, only to see them stationed elsewhere. We stay in touch with many of them and know they continue to serve the Lord.

Another plus for having a Free Will Baptist ministry in a military area is the number of Free Will Baptist sons and daughters who are stationed here. The church currently has three displaced Free Will Baptist families in the congregation.

God called us to the frosty frontier. We came, and a Free Will Baptist church ministry is thriving. Is it easy? No, but the eternal rewards far outweigh the challenges. God be praised that a Free Will Baptist light shines in Alaska. □

Ron and Janice Wallace are veteran home missionaries to Fairbanks, Alaska. Learn more about their church at www.homemissions.net.

Alone, with only a small wad of money tucked into her right sock, June boarded a bus in Dearborn, Michigan, headed to Paducah, Kentucky. It was a 425-mile trip. The year was 1940. June was 10 years old. Headstrong and independent, she felt insulted when her mother asked a female passenger to watch out for her. "I didn't need anybody to do that. I knew I could do it alone," she said.



NEVER SAY NEVER
BY BILL AND BRENDA EVANS

On Her Own

Though just a pint-sized child, June was self-reliant. Her father died when she was four and a half, and she remembers telling her mother, "I won't cry if you won't." For years after his death, she and her mother shuttled back and forth between West Tennessee and Michigan to live with various family members, never having a home of their own. At times, June lived in one state and her mother in another.

"I ended up being on my own a lot in my life. But those experiences were good training," June says. In some ways, that first long, lonely bus ride set the stage for three important aspects of June Trimble's adult life: a can-do attitude, a love of travel, and the smart handling of money.

Even as a child, June thought she could do whatever she wanted to do. Saved at eight, she thrived at school and worked hard at her grandparents' farm in Woodland Mills, Tennessee. Her first job as a teenager was cleaning and sewing for \$5 a week. After graduating high school as valedictorian in 1948, she moved 200 miles east to Nashville to attend business-college, on half-scholarship and half pay-as-you-go.

Her can-do attitude translated into principles that guided her life: tithe on your income, give generously to others, and pay your own way. And so June tithed on her first paycheck, sent money back home to her mother, and provided for her own needs while paying her way through college. "I discovered that the Lord blesses you if you tithe and give

beyond that," June says. Today June gives generously above her tithe to the Lord's work around the world.

"I've always figured if I wanted to do something bad enough, I could," June says. As a young mother, she learned to water ski before she learned to swim. Not that June was worried: "I knew how to float," she says with a grin. "In business, I learned to work smarter, not harder and continued to move up."

Her confidence was tested, however when her husband of 20 years deserted her and the children for a colleague at work. June was devastated: "Partly because of loneliness, I went to work for the Welcome Wagon in our community. Sometimes I cried so hard I couldn't see how to clean house, so I'd pick up my Welcome Wagon basket, go out, and knock on doors."

Seven years later, in early December 1972, "two lonely Christians met at a single parents' fellowship at Melrose Bowling Alley," as June describes it. Within a month June McAdoo Ledbetter and Wade Trimble were married. It took them only a few days to know they were meant for each other. As Wade said to her seven days after they met, "Where have you been? I've been waiting for you."

June woke up the morning after their wedding thinking, "I don't even know what Wade likes for breakfast, but I do know we agree on worshiping the Lord, tithing, and child-rearing." She could have added sports to that list, for on Mother's Day five months later, Wade bought June her first set of golf clubs.

Since that bus trip in 1940, travel has been in June's blood. In the early 1970s, June bought the book *How To See Europe on \$5 a Day*. Then she, her daughter, and a female friend set out on a seven-country European tour. "We bought Euro-rail passes in Frankfurt and headed to the train with our luggage and a plan. At each stop one of us stayed with the luggage, another went to the travel bureau, and the third went to the bank to exchange dollars for the currency we needed."

When it comes to travel, June is unflappable and unstoppable. "We were on a bus in Barcelona and realized we were headed in the wrong direction. I told the other two women not to worry. We'd just go wherever it was going then come back. Besides, we might see something interesting on the way."

In addition to those seven European countries on the mainland, June has been to England, Scotland, and Ireland. She's also traveled to Israel, the Caribbean Islands, many provinces in Canada, including British Columbia and the Maritimes, and from New Orleans to New York including most points between.

"When I want to do something, I do it," June says with a smile. And right now she can think of only two things she has wanted to do that she has not done: "I've always wanted to take a riverboat cruise on the Danube. Also I never got to parasail. I just barely missed a chance in the Caribbean on my last day there, but my swimsuit

was back on the cruise ship." Even at age 77, with arthritic knees, June will never say never.

Managing her resources well is high on June's must-do list. That includes her artistic abilities. She paints florals and landscapes in oil, acrylics, and watercolors, and also does ribbon embroidery. A year ago when her missionary son Randy Ledbetter needed money to paint CrossPoint, the new mission church in Salt Lake City, Utah, June launched the "Paint for Paint" project. Among friends and acquaintances, she sold a few dozen of her paintings and sent several hundred dollars to Utah to buy paint.

"I'm thrifty and frugal," June says. "I think through what I spend, and I always have savings. It infuriates me to watch people concentrate only on their world and spend without thinking. I may pay \$3,000 for a trip, but I may also spend only 99 cents for a blouse at Goodwill. I plan, stretch five dollars into ten, and never worry."

Since Wade's death 15 years ago, June has had to make financial plans alone. One of those is a college fund for her grandchildren. She gives small items for birthdays and Christmas, but the bulk of each gift is a deposit for their future education.

June says two of the best financial decisions she has made are disposing of a home she and Wade lived in for many years and later selling the two-level condo they lived in during Wade's final months. June placed the proceeds from the sale of the home into a unitrust with the Free Will Baptist Foundation. With the proceeds of the condo, she purchased a one-level condo that better accommodates her health needs.

"I have always looked forward, not back," June says. Looking ahead is one of the reasons June chose to arrange the unitrust at the Foundation. It helped her avoid capital gains on the house, gave her an income for life and an immediate tax deduction. It also gave her a tool to benefit denominational agencies and her home church in Donelson, Tennessee, after her death.

At 77, uncertainty about the future does not worry June. "I've always had drive and determination, never been insecure, and I'm still learning. My body may be wearing out, but I'm still looking ahead. Besides, I've always had a tenderness for older people," she says with a gleam in her eye.

June may be older than some, but her friends think she's younger than most. By 9:30 a.m. on any given morning, June has already been out to breakfast with an elderly neighbor, dressed for her volunteer work at a nursing home, written her to-do list for the rest of the month, and decided it may not be too late for the Danube—not yet. □

Bill Evans, former director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, lives in Nashville, TN, with his wife Brenda, a retired English teacher. They are proud grandparents of six. To learn more about unitrusts and other planned-giving options offered by the Free Will Baptist Foundation, visit www.FWBgifts.org.

Miracle at Mount Horeb

By Rev. Marco A. Mendoza

Translated and edited by Dr. Thomas L. Marberry



Members of the Mount Horeb project.

IT WAS WITH GREAT JOY THAT

I received permission from the administration of El Seminario Biblico la Cruz in Reynosa to use the seminary facilities to begin a new mission work. It had been approximately one year since my pastorate at the Bethel Free Will Baptist Church ended, and the Lord placed the desire to start a new church in the hearts of my family and me.

On many occasions, as I drove through the neighborhoods to the seminary, I stopped my vehicle and prayed that the Lord would give us wisdom to win these people for Christ. I am referring to three neighborhoods,

each of which has a population of more than 3,000 people. Each community continues to grow, and the Mount Horeb project will mark the first effort to establish a Free Will Baptist church in this area.

I saw immediately that I needed to have a team with whom I could share this vision. On August 26, 2007, I met with the first members of this team to explain the plan and to prepare a strategy. We conducted a survey that enabled us to learn about the people who lived in these neighborhoods and how to work with them. Our goal was to develop an effective strategy to share the gospel. In the first phase of this survey, we visited 179 individual homes.

The second step was to hold a general meeting in the seminary chapel with as many people as we could bring together in order to share the gospel with them. This team effort took place in October. My wife, María Martina Alvarez, and our children, Martha, Sarahí, Santiago Antonio, and Mendoza Alvarea participated. Francisco Serrano Blanco, Norma Sánchez de Serrano, Aurelio López Cantú, and Rosalinda Tapia de López from the area churches also joined the effort. Several seminary students, including Isai Dueñes Moreno, Eunice Dueñes Moreno, Wendy Guadalupe Rangel de Santiago, and Alejandra Alvarez Vázquez, contributed a great deal of time and effort to this project.

Investments & Church Loans

Church Extension Loan Fund

Would you like to receive a good rate of interest on your investment and help build Bible believing, Bible teaching and Bible preaching churches, all at the same time? If so, please consider investing with CELF, a ministry of the Home Missions Department. The goal of CELF is to help build the right kind of churches. Several of our missionaries soon will need bank loans, and the Church Extension Loan Fund is anxious to be of help. There are no penalty fees for early withdrawal. For more information on investments and church loans, please contact David Crowe in the Home Missions Department at (877) 767-7674 toll free or (615) 760-6137 directly.



The Home Missions Department would like to introduce you to a new member of the family. Ever changing and progressing, Home Missions now has a new look, a new logo. The original logo has served the department very well over the years by visually showing each ministry under the Home Missions umbrella. The new logo will represent every facet of this Free Will Baptist ministry by encompassing North America and islands in a perpetual ring of motion. When you see this new logo, please breathe a prayer for all the ministries it represents.



Seminary of the Cross.

This opening service presented a challenge. The closest neighborhood is two kilometers (or one mile) from the seminary campus, and most of the people don't have reliable vehicles. We were able to borrow two vans to help provide transportation. In spite of this challenge, we brought together 176 adults, teens, and children. We had an afternoon full of different activities including games, food, a Christian video, a Christian concert, and a teaching session for the children. After these activities, I shared a simple gospel message. During the invitation

15 people (5 adults and 10 children) came forward to receive Christ as their personal Savior.

God continues to bless these efforts. The mission meets for worship every Sunday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. on the seminary campus. We also meet regularly in homes

where we have had great success in winning people to Christ. We have had several women's meetings where ladies have accepted Christ.

We recently presented a special Christmas program that included a drama and a musical presentation. During this special service, we gave toys to the children.

I want to express my personal thanks to all those who have worked with us on this project through their prayers and provided financial support. Rev. Jimmy Holbrook and his congregation at the Harrah FWB Church in Oklahoma sent us a check

for \$1,000 to pay the expenses for our opening service. Thanks to this generous congregation.

Please pray with us for those who have accepted the Lord as a result of this ministry and for those who will accept Him in the future. Our goal is to help them to grow in the faith.

I want to mention three special needs to you. We need a van to help transport people to the services, sound equipment, and Bibles to distribute to those who don't have them. Please pray with us that God will supply these needs.

We send our most affectionate greetings to Free Will Baptists around the world. □

Pastor Marco A. Mendoza is the leader of the Mount Horeb Project. Learn more about Free Will Baptist Home Missions work in Mexico at www.homemissions.net.

Executive Secretary Keith Burden and Clerk Randy Bryant prepare for business at the 2007 convention in Little Rock, AR.



ABOUT GOD'S BUSINESS

BUSINESS NUMBERS DWINDLE AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION

By Tim York

IN RECENT YEARS, THE NUMBER of delegates who attend the Free Will Baptist national convention business sessions has dropped dramatically. In Little Rock in 2007, at any given moment, fewer than 200 people made up the voting block. This is a dangerous trend when you consider that this handful of people made decisions on a budget of nearly \$30 million—decisions that will affect the course of the denomination for decades to come.

What makes the trend especially disturbing is that many pastors and delegates have simply found other ways to spend their time. While golf is a wonderful sport and the convention is a great time to relax and renew friendships, we convene with a primary purpose—to represent our congregations in the business of the denomination. We must protect our doctrine, guard our

spending, and define our vision and purpose. Sometimes, this means sacrificing worthwhile things like youth competition or an appealing seminar in order to carry out the purpose of the convention.

Let me be blunt. Through the years, I have felt an ethical responsibility, whether sent by church or state, to attend the business sessions. At times, I have even missed the competition performances of my own children because I felt the weight of responsibility to those who entrusted me with their votes and paid my way to make my vote possible.

Polls make it clear that the American public harbors deep resentment against political officials who miss legislative sessions or skip important votes while in public office. We must avoid being guilty of the same offense on a smaller scale.

While golf is a wonderful sport and the convention is a great time to relax and renew friendships, we convene with a primary purpose—to represent our congregations in the business of the denomination.



The editors of ONE Magazine asked Tim York how Free Will Baptists could make this year's convention a success:

What makes a good convention attendee?

- A good attitude.
- Enthusiastic participation.
- Love for Free Will Baptists.

How can Free Will Baptists make a good impression on a convention city?

First, pray. Our convention should be bathed in prayer for months in advance. Make it a part of your daily list. Ask God to soften hearts, preparing them to receive the gospel.

Second, take part in ministry opportunities. IMPACT West Virginia is a one-day evangelistic campaign to the greater Charleston area. Free Will Baptists from across the nation are encouraged to arrive at the convention one day early to participate in this unified effort on Saturday, July 19.

From door-to-door evangelism to work projects at homes and local churches, Free Will Baptists will flood the area with the Love of Christ.

During the week, volunteer for Reach That Guy events. These events, sponsored by the National Youth Conference welcome adult volunteers as well as junior high and high school groups. From soup kitchens to daycares, Reach That Guy provides opportunities to serve the people of Charleston.

Finally, consider the following practical suggestions:

- Be kind to your servers.
- Leave good tips.
- Be nice to the maid. Don't "trash" your hotel room.
- Tip the valet, even when it takes a long time to get your car.
- When things do go wrong, keep your cool.
- Say thank you to policeman, security guards, and other city personnel who go out of their way to make our stay safe and enjoyable.

For more information, visit www.nafwb.org.

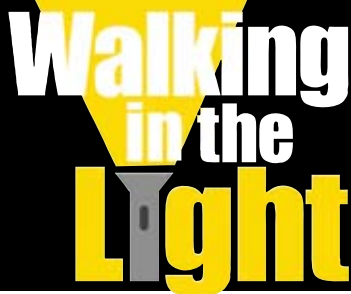
It's true that business sessions are not always fun. In fact, they often seem tedious compared to the excitement of the convention swirling around them. Yet those who skip business sessions miss their opportunity to hear denominational leaders share their vision and passion for the future. They are robbed of the encouragement that comes from taking part in an organization that continues to expand across the globe, and they rob their own congregations of their voice within the denomination.

It concerns me that pastors and leaders are not making themselves available to become contributors and leaders on a national level. Active participation in as-

sociational activities makes the denomination stronger and more unified, taking advantage of the wide diversity of talent within our ranks.

Many young adults think denominational business does not affect their lives—at least not yet. But what we do today in convention business will affect their churches and ministries throughout their lifetime. Today's decisions have far-reaching impact on the direction and success of the Free Will Baptist denomination. History is made within these meetings. Will you be part of it? □

Tim York has been the moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists since 2003. He pastors Woodbine FWB Church in Nashville, TN.



PRE-REGISTRATION **National Association of Free Will Baptists**

Women Nationally Active for Christ | National Youth Conference
Charleston, West Virginia | July 20-23, 2008

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

First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Country (Missionary Only) _____ Home Phone (_____) _____
 Cell Phone (_____) _____ Email _____
 Church You Attend _____
 Church Location: City _____ State _____

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

VOTING DELEGATES:

- National Board/Commission Member
- Ordained Minister
- Ordained Deacon
- State Delegate
- Local Church Delegate (Delegate Card Required) **\$100**

NON-VOTING:

- Licensed Minister
- Attendee **(includes infants and toddlers)**

Tickets:

Celebrate! International Missions Dinner Qty _____ x \$34 = _____
(Tuesday, July 22, 5:00 pm)

FWBBC Luncheon Qty _____ x \$25 = _____
(Wednesday, July 23, 12:00 noon)

National Association Information: www.nafwb.org

National Youth Conference

NYC or Competition Questions: 800.877.7030 or scm@randallhouse.com

SELECT ONE—

PRESCHOOL:

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

STUDENTS:

- Grades 1-3 (\$25)*
- Grades 4-6 (\$25)*
- Grades 7-12 (\$25)*

* On-site registration \$35

COLLEGE AGE / ADULTS:

- Attending NYC Events (\$10)
 Fee covers attendance to NYC worship services, competition, activities, etc.

Tickets:

Night of Comedy With Michael J. Hollifield..... Qty _____ x \$10 = _____
(Tuesday, July 22, 9:00 pm)

NYC Program Information: www.fwbny.com

Women Nationally Active for Christ

VOTING DELEGATES:

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

NON-VOTING:

- Missionary
- Attendee

Tickets:

WNAC Luncheon Qty _____ x \$25 = _____
(Tuesday, July 22, 12:00 noon)

WNAC Information: www.wnac.org

Register April 7–June 15, 2008 (postmarked) No Refunds After June 15

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- Check (Payable to FWB Convention)
- Credit Card (Visa or MasterCard only)

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

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

CONVENTION HOUSING08

NOTE: Reservations can only be made by phone or Internet and must be made directly through the hotel.

1 PROVIDE PERSONAL INFORMATION

(Provide the following information when making reservations.)

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

2 CONTACT YOUR HOTEL OF CHOICE

(See the chart to the right.)

3 RECEIVE YOUR CONFIRMATION NUMBER

Reservations will open at 9 am, CST, and 10 am, EST, Monday, April 7, 2008.

Hotels have been instructed **NOT TO ACCEPT** reservations before this time. Reservations must be made by **June 15, 2008**.

For More Information:
Toll-Free (877) 767-7659
Local (615) 731-6812
Web www.nafwb.org

Charleston Marriott Town Center (HQ) 200 Lee Street East Charleston, WV 25301 Phone: (800) 228-9290 www.CharlestonMarriott.com Group Code: FWBFWBA	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$119*	\$119*	\$119*	\$119*	\$119*

Embassy Suites Hotel 300 Court Street Charleston, WV 25301 Phone: (304) 347-8700 (800) 362-2779 www.embassysuites.com Group Code: FWB	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$154*	\$154*	\$154*	\$154*	\$154*

Holiday Inn Express Civic Center 100 Civic Center Drive Charleston, WV 25301 Phone: (304) 345-0600 Group Code: NFB	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$85*	\$85*	\$85*	\$85*	\$85*

Hampton Inn Downtown Charleston #1 Virginia Street West Charleston, WV 25302 Phone: (304) 343-9300 Group Code: C-FWB	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$95*	\$95*	\$95*	\$95*	\$95*

Charleston House 600 Kanawha Blvd. E. Charleston, WV 25301 Phone: (304) 344-4092 Group Code: FWB	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$84*	\$84*	\$84*	\$84*	\$84*

Best Western-Charleston Plaza Hotel 1010 Washington Street East Charleston, WV 25301 Phone: (304) 345-9779	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$79*	\$79*	\$79*	\$79*	\$79*

Fairfield Inn 1000 Washington Street East Charleston, WV 25301 Phone: (304) 343-4661	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$89*	\$89*	\$89*	\$89*	\$89*

Ramada Charleston 400 2nd Avenue South Charleston, WV 25303 Phone: (304) 744-4641 Group Code: FREE Suites Available: \$99*	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$83*	\$83*	\$83*	\$83*	\$83*

Microtel Inn 600 2nd Avenue South Charleston, WV 25303 Phone: (304) 744-4900	Queen Queen Bed With Sleeper	King King Bed With Sleeper	Dbl/DbI 2 Queens With Sleeper		
	\$69.95*	\$72.95*	\$89.95*		

Wingate Charleston 402 Second Avenue South Charleston, WV 25303 Phone: (304) 744-4444 Group Code: NAFB Suites Available: \$99*	Single 1 bed 1 person	Double 1 bed 2 people	Dbl/DbI 2 beds 2 people	Triple 2 beds 3 people	Quad 2 beds 4 people
	\$89*	\$89*	\$89*	\$89*	\$89*

*Prices do not include applicable taxes and city fees.



FORMER COLLEGE TREASURER DIES



NASHVILLE, TN—Reverend E. Bayless McDonald, who served 32 years as treasurer at Free Will Baptist Bible College, died January 28, 2008. He was 86 years old. Reverend McDonald and his wife Katherine both retired from FWBBC in December 1985. Mrs. McDonald supervised the college dining hall 26 years. She died in 2004.

Former FWBBC president Dr. Charles A. Thigpen said, “Brother ‘Mac’ was one of the few men who measured up to his full capabilities.”

Born February 20, 1921, in Cherokee County, NC, McDonald was converted in 1940 at Avery’s Creek FWB Church, which he later pastored. He soon answered the call to preach and pastored two North Carolina churches (1944–1948), then felt the need for more Biblical training and relocated to Nashville where he attended FWBBC. He pastored five Middle Tennessee churches while employed at the college.

In addition to the Bachelor of Arts degree at FWBBC, McDonald pursued graduate studies at the University of Tennessee (Nashville), Peabody College, and Winona Lake School of Theology.

E.B. and Katherine McDonald had four sons—David McDonald (Tennessee), Tim McDonald (Tennessee pastor), Richard McDonald (Oklahoma musician), and Donald McDonald (Free Will Baptist missionary to Japan).

WNAC LAUNCHES NATIONAL PROJECT

ANTIOCH, TN—Women Nationally Active for Christ recently unveiled its national project for 2008–2009. *Building for the Future: 20/20/20* focuses on expanding Kingdom ministries in three areas: local church, Christian education and financial accountability.

The two-year effort will help amortize property costs for the Free Will Baptist seminary in Chame, Panama, finance construction of the long-awaited church facility in Villalba, Spain, and build a funding base through the WNAC Endowment to cover operational costs and continue WNAC ministries. All gifts received will be divided equally among the three endeavors.

WNAC President Rebecca Pugh describes the project as “something big God wants to do through our women for His Kingdom.” Establishing a goal of \$60,000 (\$20,000 per cause), WNAC’s Executive Committee considers this amount reachable. In 2006, women raised over \$40,000 for Central Asia Christmas Joy.

Mrs. Pugh encourages women to “respond with extravagance, if possible” but notes that all women “can do something.” Find more information at www.wnac.org, or call toll-free (877) 767-7662.

FOUNDATION TRAINS LEADERS

ANTIOCH, TN—The Free Will Baptist Foundation is currently training state, regional and national leaders for roles in denominational planned giving, according to General Director David L. Brown.

“Our two newly-elected board members joined four state and regional leaders in January 2008 for a week-long professional seminar in Florida presented by R & R Newkirk,” Brown said. “North Carolina Promotional Director Billy Keith, Oklahoma Executive Director Mike Wade, Tennessee Promotional Director Glenn Poston, Hillsdale FWB College Vice President Bob Thompson, and new board members Len Blanchard and Mark Price rearranged their schedules to participate in the seminar that covered all aspects of planned giving and estate planning.”

Brown noted that 19 other Free Will Baptist leaders have attended previous seminars in an effort to elevate denominational awareness regarding the benefits of long-term financial planning. “We began training leaders in January 2003, and I don’t think it is a coincidence that the Foundation has seen dramatic growth in planned gifts and endowments during the last six years.”

“We will continue to provide this training to additional FWB leaders for a few more years,” says Brown. “We recognize the importance of their role. Our goal is to work hand-in-hand with them to provide planned giving services to their constituents through the Foundation.”

COORDINATOR NAMES NEW EDITOR



COCOA, FL—Randy Bryant, executive director for the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists, recently introduced Chrissy Kinney as editor of *The Coordinator* state newsletter. Chrissy’s work experience and background include college journalism and copy-editing courses, as well as on-the-job experience in public relations and marketing.

A member of the New Hope Fellowship FWB Church in Cocoa, Chrissy manages New Hope Fellowship’s website, produces the church bulletin, and creates PowerPoint presentations for worship. She is both treasurer and church clerk, a Sunday School teacher, and a member of the Christian Education Board of the Indian River Association.

When asked about her new position, Chrissy commented, “I feel extremely blessed and excited to be given this opportunity to serve the Lord and my denomination as editor of *The Coordinator*. I pray that I will perform this calling as well as my predecessors, and I look forward to working with God’s people—not only in the state of Florida, but throughout the denomination.”

YEARBOOK AVAILABLE

The 2008 Free Will Baptist Yearbook came off the press in February. The Yearbooks have been mailed to district association clerks for distribution of complimentary copies to local churches.

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



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

A PERSONAL WORD OF THANKS

REV. ROY HARRIS SERVED IN THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE for a little more than a year. As executive administrator, one of his duties was managing the annual national convention. Planning this meeting is an enormous task. It requires painstaking attention to a myriad of details, volumes of paperwork, and meticulous communication. The learning curve is very steep!

The 2007 convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, was successful. The meeting went off without a hitch, due in large part to Roy's efforts. The representatives at the Statehouse Convention Center, hotels, and the Convention and Visitors Bureau were very complimentary.

Additionally, Brother Roy traveled extensively, representing the executive office at state meetings; helped organize the denominational disaster relief program; and assisted in coordinating Building Kingdom Steward seminars. As executive secretary I want to give Roy the recognition he deserves and say "thank you" for a job well done.

DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE

I WAS RETURNING FROM the General Assembly of the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists. The long flight from Paris to Philadelphia was uneventful and arrived on time.

After clearing immigration and customs, I claimed my bag and proceeded to the ticket counter to get my boarding pass for Nashville. I removed my used claim tag, set my suitcase on the scales next to a kiosk, and moved to the counter a few spaces down when an agent offered to assist me. After obtaining my boarding pass, I returned to retrieve my bag and have it re-checked.

To my surprise, the bag was gone. When I expressed concern, the baggage handler assured me he had taken care of everything. "Your bag will be waiting for you in Nashville."

"But it didn't have a claim tag on it," I protested, holding up the old claim tag I removed earlier.

"Sir," he said defiantly, "Listen to me. I cannot put a bag on that conveyer belt unless it has a claim tag on it."

In a courteous, yet firm tone, I replied, "My bag did not have a claim tag on it. There would be a claim stub on my ticket jacket."

Exasperated, the baggage handler again emphatically stated, "I cannot put a piece of luggage on that con-

veyer unless it has a claim tag on it. It is impossible!" Unconvinced, I made my way to baggage claim and explained my predicament. Eventually, we located my bag on a carousel for "unclaimed" luggage. Just as I expected, the suitcase had no claim tag on it.

I considered taking the bag upstairs and showing it to the mistaken baggage handler; however, I exercised better judgment. After rechecking my bag and clearing security, I reached my gate for the final leg of the long journey home.

I must admit that I experienced a degree of satisfaction knowing I was right, and the baggage handler had done the impossible.

This issue of *ONE Magazine* focuses on world outreach. Some in our ranks are convinced we can never reach the world with the gospel. Like the baggage handler, they believe it is impossible. Carrying the message of salvation to the ends of the earth is, admittedly, a daunting task; however, Christ would not have commissioned the church to do so if it were not possible.

It is my prayer that all who read this issue will recommit to the Great Commission and find their place in fulfilling it. Nothing would please God more than to empower us to do the impossible. □



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“In addition to guaranteed fixed payments for life, I was able to support Women Nationally Active for Christ while benefiting from tax savings. Best of all, part of each payment is tax-free.”

If you would like information about how YOU can enjoy the benefits of a gift annuity, contact the **Free Will Baptist Foundation:**



Toll-Free (877) 336-7575
Email foundation@nafwb.org
Online www.FWBgifts.org



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Nashville, Tennessee

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visit the website:

www.fwbmastersmen.org.



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