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# ONE

MAGAZINE

# American Idol?

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

APRIL-MAY 2013

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## A BOLD STROKE

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# ONE MAGAZINE

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OF GOD'S KINGDOM.

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# First Glimpse >>>>

## The Sting

We turned to look back when we reached the palm-studded point where rocks and crashing waves marked the boundary of coral reef and ocean. Deserted Caribbean coastline stretched for miles, white sand gleaming, turquoise swells reflecting the warm, tropical sun. Low hanging palm fronds cast long shadows across the beach, and exotic flowers bloomed in the thickets beneath the trees. “Ahhh...paradise,” I murmured, closing my eyes and basking in the sun’s warmth. The sound of crashing waves, the smell of salty air, warm sand between my toes—what a contrast to the cold and dreary Tennessee fall we had escaped.

My daughter’s voice broke my reverie. “Hey, Dad, can we start back now? I’m hungry!”

We turned and began the trek back through the soft sand to our towels and snorkeling gear. Suddenly, I felt an intense burning pain in my right foot, and with horror, I realized I had been stung. Heart pounding, I lifted my foot and swept the convulsing insect to the sand. A bee, and not just any bee—a honeybee!

Suddenly, the warm, tropical day took on a distinct chill. At age seven, a painful encounter with a honeybee left me gasping for breath and covered with hives, leading me to avoid the striped stingers at all costs. “Anaphylactic allergy,” doctors tersely informed my parents. We learned that symptoms begin with severe itching and within minutes, lead to swallowing and breathing difficulties, cramps, vomiting, diarrhea, hives, and angioedema—hives beneath the skin. Without immediate treatment, the condition results in increased heart rate, sudden drop in blood pressure, shock, and ultimately death. Yikes!

For more than 30 years, I lived with fear, carrying an epinephrine syringe everywhere I went—everywhere, that is, except the deserted beach on the southeastern shore of Puerto Rico. “Don’t panic,” my wife urged, although I could hear the fear in her voice. Suddenly, the walk seemed very long indeed, and as I stumbled through the soft sand, I must be honest...I didn’t expect to make it.

Obviously, I did. The dreaded sting left me with a sore foot and an ugly bruise—nothing more. My greatest fear proved to be unfounded.

As I ponder that experience, I can’t help but wonder how many fears are just that way, including the fear many Christians have about sharing their faith.

Oswald Chambers once wrote about anxiety, “If your heart is troubled, you are not living up to your belief.” Hmm. He also said, “It is the most natural thing in the world to be scared, and the clearest evidence that God is in our hearts is when we do not get into panics.”

Maybe we should remember that the next time we have an opportunity to tell others about Jesus. The sting of rejection is no reason to risk their eternal destiny. **ONE**

ERIC THOMSEN, MANAGING EDITOR



**Suddenly, I felt an intense burning pain in my right foot, and with horror, I realized I had been stung.**

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## Letters: Have something to say?

*Say it!* The editors of **ONE Magazine** look forward to hearing from our readers. Your feedback, comments, and suggestions are necessary and appreciated.

Email [editor@nafwb.org](mailto:editor@nafwb.org) or send correspondence to:

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

**I WAS STUDYING MY LESSON FOR SUNDAY'S CLASS AND FOUND** myself chasing a "rabbit trail" on my computer, as I often do in preparation for my class. That led me to a wonderful article in your magazine called, "Honk If You Need Encouragement," by Norma J. Goldman. I intend to share it with my class on Sunday. I was unaware of your publication, and I must admit I was impressed. I applaud you for what you are doing and would like to become a subscriber. I am sure many of my church family will as well. Keep up the good work, and may God bless you.—*Larry Todd, Rock Island, TN*

**IN ONE OF YOUR MAGAZINES, THERE WAS AN ARTICLE ABOUT** geese, how when flying, they would honk to encourage each other. I have shared this thought with many of my friends, especially one whose husband has a brain tumor. Every time I write her, I always end with a HONK!—*Frances Brown, Moore, OK*

**BROTHER GREG KETEMAN DID ALL READERS A FAVOR BY** writing "American Idol?" in the February-March issue. His article, long overdue but timely and in good taste, addresses a subtle obsession that has been taking an ultra-heavy toll on Christendom, including the clergy, for decades. His two succeeding articles in the series may have the potential of revealing the shackles that greatly cripple today's church and rob God of hours of devotion due Him as well as those who need our time and affection. I'm in eager anticipation.—*Robert Helms, Boonville, IN*

**CAN YOU POINT ME IN THE RIGHT** direction to manage our subscriptions? I want to cancel a copy that is being sent to our church in error. This is an unread copy since most people receive **ONE** at their home address.

I am working on a system that will give everyone in our congregation an opportunity to sign up to receive the magazine. It's a great publication—very professional and informative. You and your staff are doing an excellent job.—*Mary Jones, Wagoner First FWB Church (via email)*

**FROM THE EDITOR:** Mary, thanks for the kind comments as well as your question. **ONE** subscribers can change, add, or delete addresses by visiting [www.onemag.org](http://www.onemag.org) and clicking on the Subscribe button. Also, we will be glad to send subscription forms to promote in your church. Simply email [editor@nafwb.org](mailto:editor@nafwb.org).



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# THE MANY FACES OF

# OUTREACH

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS



AFTER 15 YEARS OF PASTORING, I HAVE CERTAINLY LEARNED THE VALUE OF OUTREACH.

Churches grow, souls are saved, and the kingdom of God is expanded through our efforts to reach people. I have also encountered a number of misconceptions regarding this grand subject. For many, outreach is an event. Some see outreach as a “special day.” Others think the only real “outreach” is door-to-door evangelism—sharing the faith with New Testament in hand.

In 2009, God led my family and me to Buffalo, New York, to plant NorthPoint Free Will Baptist Church. Our official launch service was held September 11, 2011, and God has blessed the efforts, allowing us to have an impact on our community. Through this endeavor, He has taught me a number of lessons. One of the most significant is that outreach has many faces.

Take Paul and Kristi for instance. They visited NorthPoint because someone knocked on their door and left a door-hanger. Still, it was more than three months before they decided to come. Their marriage was in shambles, and they needed help. Not long after their first visit, Paul gave his life to Christ, and I had the privilege of baptizing him just a few weeks ago.

Or consider Jason and Kim, a couple my wife and I met through the Craigslist website. We needed to purchase a toddler bed for our son, and Jason and Kim just “happened” to be selling one. Through this initial contact, we became friends. A little over a year later, they began to attend our church, and Jason was baptized the same day as Paul.

Moncia is a single grandmother raising four grandkids, three under the age of six. Moncia’s first introduction to NorthPoint was through a mailpiece. She kept the card for some time, but she did not start attending our church until months later when she met my wife Emily and Amanda York at an area playground. She and her grandchildren are among our most faithful families, and Moncia helps lead our toddler ministry.

John is 72 years old, and by his own testimony, had never given his life to Christ. He started attending NorthPoint because a visiting mission team handed

THE TRUTH IS, PEOPLE SURROUND YOU DAILY, AND THEIR GREATEST NEED IS A SAVIOR.



out water bottles at a local grocery store. That “bottle of water given in Jesus’ name” changed John’s life forever. What joy he brought to our congregation when he trusted the Lord as his personal Savior!

Consider another John on the other end of the spectrum. He is 22 years old and in his words, his life was “falling apart.” John actually found our church through Google. He called the church office, and we set up a time to meet. After hearing him describe how he “lost his faith” and was starting to doubt the existence of God, we talked and prayed together for hours. Just a few weeks ago, he offered a salvation prayer and walked out of our church service a new man.

We met Crystal through a contact from another Free Will Baptist church. We met Alice because a friend spent years praying for her. We met Nell, Cathy, Ashley, Brittany, and Kaylanna through Alice. We met Jenny through our kids’ school. We met Gregg and Jennie through a community event. These are just a few of the many faces of outreach in Buffalo.

Several years ago, I remember being heartbroken as I listened to the song, “People Need the Lord.” One of the verses says, “Every day they pass me by, I can see it in their eyes, empty people filled with care, headed who knows where.”

The truth is, people surround you daily, and their greatest need is a Savior. Each person is just another one of the “many faces of outreach,” and you have the opportunity and responsibility to reach them with the gospel. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Brian and Emily Williams are planting a Free Will Baptist church in Buffalo, New York. The city is New York’s second largest, known as the “City with a Heart.” Learn more about their ministry: [NorthPointBuffalo.com](http://NorthPointBuffalo.com)



# OUTREACH = REACHING OUT

BY DARYL GRIMES

What do a coin collector, housewife, neighborhood watch member, telemarketer, former outlaw biker, homeschool mom, landscaper, antique dealer, grieving daughter, furniture salesman, retiree, great-grandmother, fuel purchaser, former pastor, college student, fast-food worker, dollar store shopper, and a former cult member have in common?

**Actually, more than you might think!**

Each of these “titles” represents someone with an eternal soul. Each individual represents a person for whom Christ died. And each of these people began attending Flagship Free Will Baptist Church because someone cared enough about them to reach out. As church planters in Erie, Pennsylvania, we have tried many different methods to meet and reach out to people. And each person listed above probably represents someone in your hometown who either needs to know Christ or needs to be part of a loving, nurturing church family.

It is easy for an established church to develop a lukewarm attitude toward the lost in their community. It can become easy to maintain the status quo when the building is 70% full, and all the bills are paid. But whether you are planting a new church or a member of one that has been around for more than a century, you must remember that Christ came to seek and save the lost. He has saved us to be His ambassadors in a lost and dying world.

I encourage established churches and church plants alike

to find new ways to plant the seed of the gospel. A church needs to be visible in the community and involved in the lives of others. Sharing the love that demonstrates we are Christ followers may very well give us a platform from which to share the gospel to a receptive audience.

How are we reaching out to the people of Erie? We met the people mentioned at the beginning of the article through casual conversations, distributing invitations and tracts, being involved in the community, and by canvassing the area around the church. Many responded to an invitation to visit our church simply because someone took time to strike up a conversation and hand them an invitation.

Another method of outreach to our community involved setting up a booth in Erie’s Rib Fest, which attracts thousands of people. Over four days, we shared the gospel hundreds of times, and as a result, we added 120 people to our mail-



Many people will be in Heaven because someone took time to leave a tract, share an invitation, or visit their home.

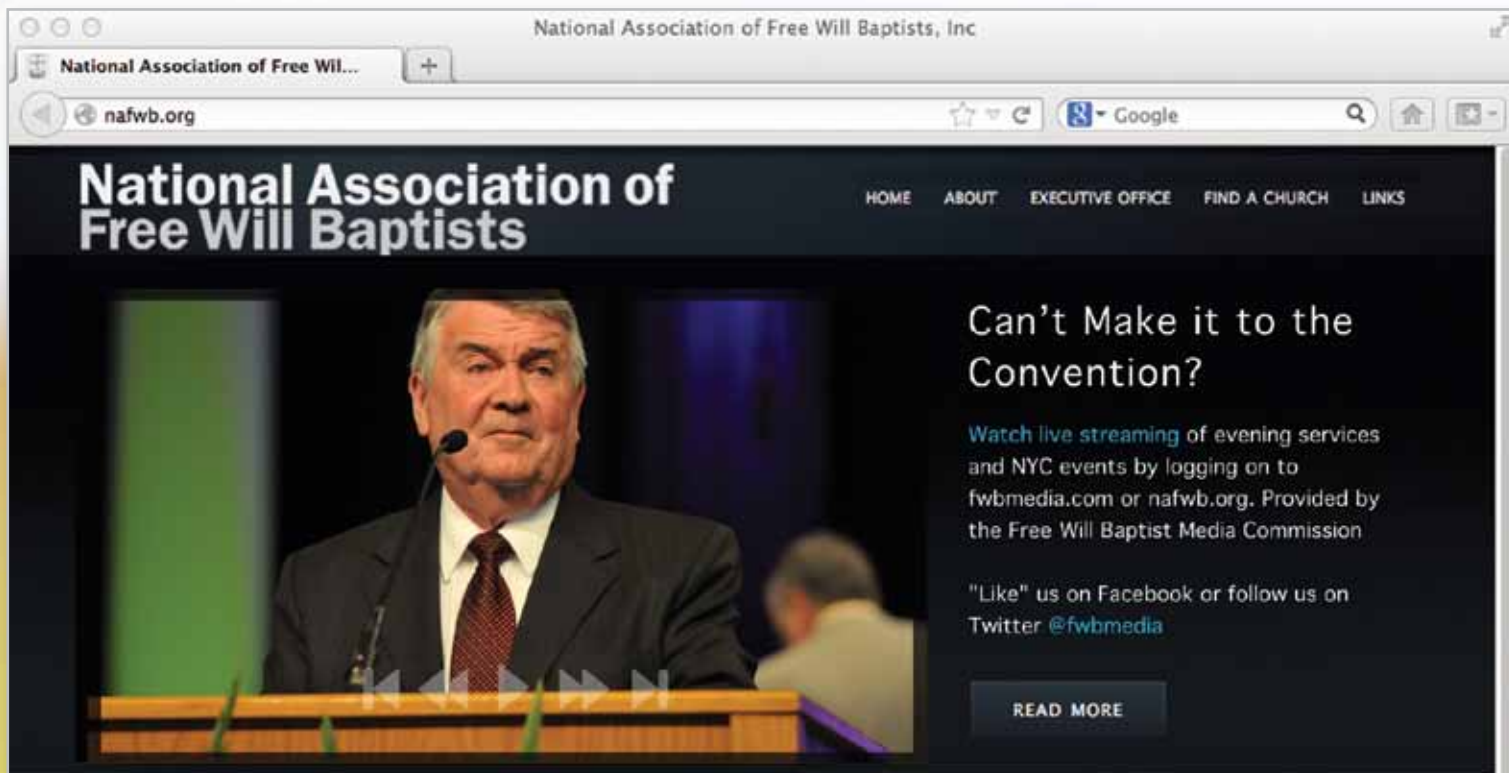
ing list. Though we haven't seen immediate fruit, we planted the seeds of the gospel, and we are praying that God will give the increase.

It is unfortunate that many people downplay the effectiveness of handing out tracts and going door-to-door. Nothing takes the place of one-on-one, Great Commission evangelism and discipleship, and going door-to-door often produces contacts with whom such relationships can be developed. While door-to-door evangelism is not the only method of outreach, neither should it be discarded as "out of date." Many

people will be in Heaven because someone took time to leave a tract, share an invitation, or visit their home. A couple that recently made a profession of faith began attending our church because someone left a simple invitation on their door. Someone decided they would take the time to reach out.

Will you be such a person in your community? Will you lay aside excuses and take God's call to be His ambassador seriously? Will you be involved in outreach by reaching beyond your comfort zone, saying no to self and yes to the Spirit's prompting? Just remember, when it comes to sharing your faith, outreach = reaching out. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Daryl and Michelle Grimes are planting Flagship FWB Church in Erie, Pennsylvania. Erie is the fourth largest city in the state, with a large segment of residents claiming no religious affiliation. Learn more: [FlagshipChurch.org](http://FlagshipChurch.org)



## Free Will Baptists: Doing More Together

WHO ARE FREE WILL BAPTISTS?

Have you noticed a Free Will Baptist church in your community? Maybe you have heard of "Baptists" all



# A SEARCH FOR TRUTH LEADS TO CHRIST



**DANIEL GREW UP IN SPAIN IN A STAUNCH CATHOLIC FAMILY.**

He went to mass on special occasions and, occasionally, even to confession. But he knew something was missing; he yearned for a more personalized approach to Christianity. So Daniel began to read the Bible. Then he added Protestant theologians such as Martin Luther to his reading list.


When Daniel was baptized, he came out of the water rejoicing at the top of his lungs!

As he continued his search to understand biblical truth, he happened upon the Villalba Free Will Baptist Church website and decided to visit. At first, he attended by himself. Soon, his live-in girlfriend joined him in services. After a few months, they decided they needed to be married.

Gradually, Daniel came to recognize that he was searching for a relationship with Jesus Christ. And to have that relationship, he had to admit his need for a Savior. As he explained, "I had never robbed, murdered, or anything like that; but I came to realize that, at my core, I was sinful. I came to the conclusion that I wasn't the good person

my parents thought I was. I needed a Savior who would forgive me and redeem me from my dark ways. Now, I think and feel differently. My outlook on life has been transformed!"

His wife also came to Christ and they were both baptized the end of July 2012.

Your support of the World Missions Offering allows missionaries, national leaders, and churches to lead men and women like Daniel—those seeking truth—to find Christ and be transformed by His redeeming power. Thank you for helping Daniel find Christ and fill the void in his life. 

# Oh, No!

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- Pray for God to move in your congregation.
- Print posters and hang them around the church.
- Show a video each Sunday in April.

- Print bulletin inserts and use them.
- Encourage Sunday School and children's church teachers to use stories and coloring pages.
- Preach missions-oriented sermons.

## Participate in the World Missions Offering on April 28

- Celebrate the congregation's response to God's leading!



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# the French CONNECTION

By  
Deborah  
St. Lawrence

Joel (a missionary kid) and Lydie (a French national) Teague are currently raising prayer and financial support to begin their ministry in France. I recently talked with them to discover how they made the transition from career-oriented professionals to missionaries.

**Deborah:** Joel, your parents are missionaries to France. Were you born there?

**Joel:** No, I was born in California. My parents were ministering there at the time.

**Deborah:** So, how old were you when you first went to France?

**Joel:** About five and a half.

**Deborah:** Do you remember your impressions of the change from living in America to living in France?

**Joel:** I was young, and the way I felt didn't necessarily reflect the way things were. I thought the kids in France were mean, especially the boys. I'd left a small town with lots of Christians and friends and moved to Nantes, the sixth largest city in France. I didn't speak the language or understand the culture.

**Deborah:** Tell me about some of the pros and cons of growing up as a missionary kid (MK) in France.

**Joel:** One of the big negatives for me was being separated from family—grandparents, cousins, uncles, and aunts. I felt distant, hardly knowing them after a few years. Also, being separated from my country and culture was hard. I had no Christian friends, no youth group. Although, maybe one of the reasons I'm so passionate about youth in France is because I didn't have that opportunity for fellowship myself.

**Deborah:** On the positive side?

**Joel:** In my opinion, growing up in another country gives you a more open mind. You have a better idea of what's going on in the world; it changes your worldview. You gain cross-cultural experience that's beneficial. Meeting Christians from other countries

helps you realize that different people worship God in different ways. I think maybe it's easier to accept people for who they are.

**Deborah:** Growing up as an MK, did you ever think you'd become a missionary?

**Joel:** No. I really wasn't interested in that at all.

**Deborah:** What changed your mind?

**Joel:** God, over time. He spoke in many ways, especially music lyrics and Bible verses. Matthew 16:26 and a song based on that verse really helped me realize my priorities weren't right. I was more concerned about the priorities of this world than His priorities. Since I was a kid, I wanted to get a degree and a good job. Romans 12:2 helped me realize obtaining a good job, nice house, and decent car were ways I was conforming to the world rather than following God's leading. On top of that were examples of different people in the Bible who gave up everything to follow Jesus.

**Deborah:** Could each of you summarize your spiritual journey for me? Joel, will you start?

**Joel:** God was always part of my life. I don't remember a time when I didn't believe in God. When I was eight, I listened as my mother explained salvation to my older brother and led him to the Lord. A little later, I told my parents I wanted to have my sins forgiven and go to heaven, too. And, they led me to the Lord. Obviously, at that age you don't understand everything, but I *knew* I wanted Jesus in my heart.

At first, it didn't really seem to have a huge influence in my life. But as I grew older, I started to realize that being a Christian was much more than believing in God and going to church. I had no

Christian friends, and I think it made me more aware of my need for the Holy Spirit to transform me. I also attended several youth events in Germany with powerful worship and engaging sermons that encouraged me to take my faith seriously.

**Lydie:** When I was 16, I went to the Saint Nazaire Church's youth group. I was touched by the kindness of the people and the joy they had. Jerry Gibbs led this youth group, and he asked us all, "Who is sure you are going to heaven?" I didn't raise my hand, so he talked to me about Jesus later. I was moved by the love Jerry Gibbs had for the unsaved like me. That's why I kept attending youth group and then later Sunday services. I didn't really "get" the gospel until I went to the St. Nazaire church. About two years later, I accepted Jesus as Savior, and He really changed my life.

**Deborah:** You were both Christian teens in different churches. When did you get to know each other?

**Joel:** There's a big youth event in Germany each year. I went three years as a participant and then three other years as a volunteer to help out. In 2003, Lydie and I both went as volunteers. To save money, several churches shared vehicles for the trip. Lydie and I ended up in the same van. Although we'd seen each other before, we hadn't talked and didn't really know each other.

**Lydie:** Joel and I talked a lot on the trip. I was a new believer. He helped me realize the importance of living different, that shar-

ing the gospel should be every Christian's goal. I knew from the beginning, that I didn't want to be a Sunday Christian, and our talks helped me know how to be the Christian I wanted to be.

**Deborah:** Did you start dating after the trip to Germany?

**Lydie:** No. It was several years later before we dated.

**Deborah:** Lydie, what was it like, being a French Christian?

**Lydie:** I never met another Christian in school in my whole life... all through high school and college, no other Christians. Most of the time, this is the experience for Christian young people in French churches. They usually have no other Christians unless it is a sister or brother. We hope this is going to change. In some areas of France, there are a few more Christians, but not in our area. Nantes has one of the lowest percentages of Christians in France, maybe 0.2%.

**Deborah:** Before you decided to pursue missions full-time, tell me what daily life was like in France.

**Joel:** I earned a Master's degree in computer programming and worked as a software engineer for six years. I liked the work, but it involved a lot of hours. I also served in our church in St. Sebastien. I set up the church website and took care of graphic design for the church and JCrois, an annual youth event my dad initiated. I continue to be involved in coordinating JCrois. I'm a

# A Legacy of Service

For decades, Dr. Laverne Miley's "use me anywhere anytime" attitude allowed God to impact the lives of people around the globe, from dusty villages in West Africa to college classrooms in Tennessee. No matter where he served, his ministry could only be described as remarkable, but he didn't see it that way. Dr. Miley was simply doing his job—serving God by serving others.

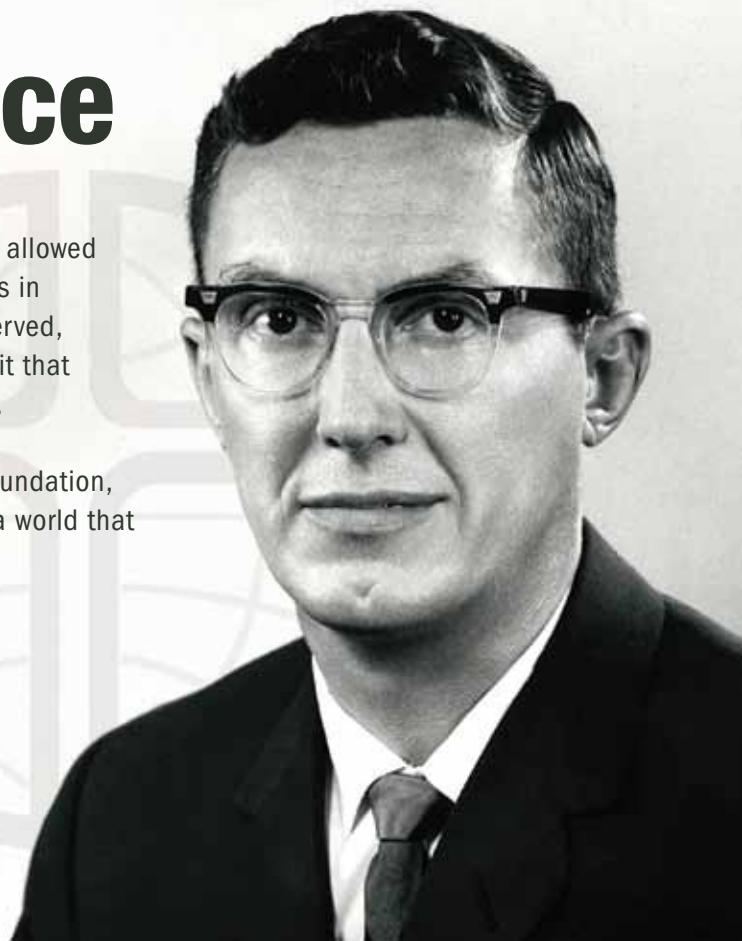
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member of the worship team, where I play drums and guitar, and I also serve on the church leadership council. Lydie and I both work with the youth.

**Lydie:** I was a legal advisor for an insurance company. I have a Masters degree in law, and initially, I planned to be an attorney but decided not to pursue that.

**Deborah:** Why did you decide not to pursue law?

**Lydie:** I worked part-time in a law office for about a year. During that time, I worked on a case where I had to defend a man who wanted to keep custody of his kids. I knew he wasn't a good father, but my job was to help him. I realized it would be extremely difficult to live with integrity and be a lawyer in France. I also saw the hours required, and I would have had no family life for several years. No time for ministry. I lead small discussion groups that help people wrestle with tough questions like "If God is good, then why..." I use the Bible to lead them to understand and come to Christ. Continuing on the law path meant no time to share the gospel with unbelievers.

**Deborah:** We've established that you both had good jobs, good careers. So, why did you decide to become missionaries?

**Lydie:** God just really touched our hearts. We felt overwhelmed by the lost people around us. At least 99% of the people around us didn't know God.

**Joel:** We were spending so many hours in things that were going to fly away, be worthless. France has such incredible need—so few churches, so few Christians. We'd do JCrois and people would get saved, and then we would go back to our jobs and wonder what we were doing there. It didn't make sense. People needed to hear the gospel. Once they heard it, they needed discipleship, while we went back to our jobs.

**Deborah:** So, you decided you wanted to minister full time. Why as missionaries?

**Joel:** We wanted to serve with Free Will Baptists. The work we

were already doing was with Free Will Baptist people, projects, and churches. If our church in France could hire us to do ministry full time, we would have done that, but they can't even pay our pastor.

**Deborah:** What do you plan to do when you return to France? What will be the focus of your ministry?

**Joel:** We'll continue JCrois events. JCrois takes place over a weekend. The Sunday morning service is for unchurched people, and we try to make everything clear with the gospel and the invitation. People have always been saved during that time. In 2011, 10 people were saved. In our context, that seems like a miracle!

While we can't do the three-day event more often, we can do what people here in America might call seeker services geared specifically for people to bring unchurched friends to hear a clear presentation of the gospel.

You can have the best preaching, music, etc. in church services, but people in France won't come. They are suspicious of church. So we want to reach out to young adults, people 30 and younger, and find a way to meet them. We want to invite them to other events in and out of the church building. Trust is low; we have to build relationships first. We want to use music, sports, art—anything to give us an opportunity to meet them and invite them to small group discussions and Bible studies, etc.

It's easy for new believers in France to turn away from God or have a worldly lifestyle. Lydie and I have a passion for discipling new believers, helping them to solidify their understanding of Scripture and their responsibility to share the gospel with others.

**Deborah:** Joel, having grown up in France, do you see you and Lydie as having an advantage over other young missionaries who go to France?

**Joel:** I think we have both advantages and disadvantages. On the advantage side, we don't have to learn the language and the culture. We "get" things that people who haven't grown up there won't. Here in the States, Lydie often misses colloquial humor or pop culture references. We don't have that problem in France.

We also have a network of people with whom we already have relationships. No one can tell I'm not French unless I tell them. The French media says our church is a cult from America; being immersed in the culture helps erase some of those stereotypes.

I want to make sure

## France - At-A-Glance

**Capital:** Paris

**Languages:** French 100%

**Population:** 65,630,692

**Unreached People Groups:** 32

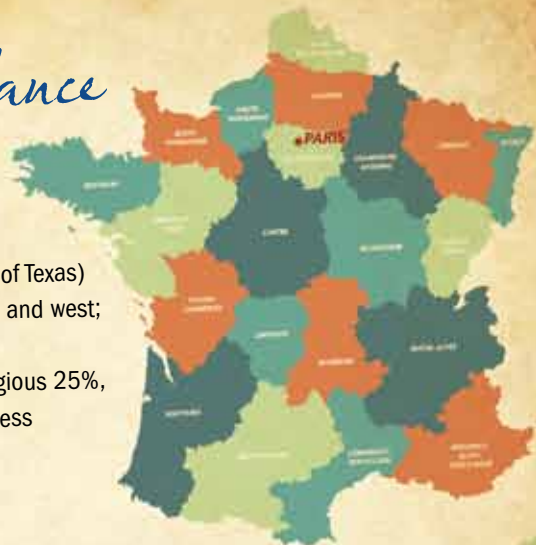
**Land area:** 643,801 sq km (slightly less than the size of Texas)

**Terrain:** mostly flat plains or gently rolling hills in north and west; remainder is mountainous

**Religion:** Roman Catholic 60%, Muslim 10%, Non-religious 25%, Buddhist 1.3%, Evangelical Christian 1% or less

**Literacy:** 99%

Sources: CIA World Factbook, Joshua Project



people know how much we appreciate and honor pioneer missionaries. Without them, we couldn't be second-generation missionaries. We have the opportunity to build on what they started years ago.

#### **Deborah: Disadvantages?**

**Joel:** Unfortunately, there is no Free Will Baptist official training or Bible college available in France or in French. We had to do our classes online in English from France, which was not easy, especially for Lydie. We haven't had the opportunity to go to a Bible college, which would be a huge blessing. Another disadvantage is the fact that we do not have a home church in the United States, and we don't know very many people throughout the

country. This is definitely a disadvantage when raising funds.

#### **Deborah: What's the one thing you want people to know about you and your ministry?**

**Joel:** Missions is teamwork. Everything people do in prayer or financially makes an eternal impact in people's lives. Lydie is a good example of this. Her salvation is a direct result of people sending missionaries to France.

**Lydie:** We can see signs that God is preparing to do something among the young people in France. They are way more open to the gospel than their parents. Some people say there's an awakening coming, and it is my dream to see this happen. **ONE**

## JCROIS

Government leaders, academia, and media push French youth toward a godless society.

JCrois, French for "I Believe It," is an annual youth conference designed to encourage Christian young people in their faith, give them the tools to defend what they believe, and create opportunities to evangelize friends.

Each year, Christian teens throughout Brittany attend the conference to hear influential speakers, participate in training seminars, and fellowship with other Christians who share their struggle to live out their faith. As they learn how to defend their faith, they are equipped to share what they learn with others.

Dennis Teague recruited a team from America to help put on the first event in 2003. They did all the speaking and worship music. Joel Teague says, "Dad's a visionary. He comes up with ideas and finds ways and people to make it happen. I thought that was crazy, but he was right."

Since the first year, French Christians have worked beside missionaries to plan and provide the annual event. Workshops about sharing the gospel end with young people taking it to the streets, engaging strangers, and putting what they've learned in to action.

"Learning by doing is one of the basic principles of the conference," Dennis says. "We intentionally unite training and ministry, believing the best way to learn the skills of ministry is by doing ministry." As a result, confidence is strengthened and local churches benefit from newly honed skills.

JCrois will celebrate its tenth anniversary October 2013. The original American team has been invited to return and participate.

### JCROIS THEMES

- 2003—The Bible is Reliable
- 2004—Creation vs. Evolution
- 2005—Making Ethical Decisions
- 2006—World Religions
- 2007—Dare to Talk About Jesus
- 2008—If God Exists, Why...?
- 2009—Decoding the Pop Culture
- 2010—Be a Hardcore Disciple
- 2011—Living for Eternal Objectives



**JOEL  
AND LYDIE**

**Married:** June 2008

**Children:** Eva, February 2011,  
another daughter is due May 2013

**Appointed:** December 2011



**Get Involved!**

This year, the National Youth Conference  
is raising funds for JCrois:

**FWBNYC.COM**

# A New Song

for Uri: The Life, Conversion, and Ministry  
of **Euribiades Gonzalez Vargas**

Written by Uri Gonzalez, Translated by Steve Lytle



I attended first grade in Cañita in 1962, since there was no school in Buenos Aires, the town where I lived with my family. Every Friday, I waited anxiously for the last class to be over so I could go home and see my family in the mountains.

One Friday during the Christmas season, we learned we should not leave school because a “gringo” was coming to bring toys, candy, and other gifts. Up to that time, I had never received a toy for Christmas because of the living conditions in the mountains and because, in our culture, things of that sort weren’t very important.

The hour arrived and I met Thomas Willey, Jr., for the first time. He arrived in his own plane and started passing out gifts right and left. I received a little purple Volkswagen car. This gave me incredible joy. For a little boy my age, and one living in the “campesino” (Latin American peasant or farmer) culture, the joy was more than I could possibly expect to experience.

In later years, I often saw Tom Willey around Cañita transporting sick people in his plane or by car. At that time, public transportation was terrible, and the roads were mud holes. People went down the Bayano River for medical help. Sometimes, small planes were available, but campesinos with few resources had little access to the larger towns and cities.

I went to fifth and sixth grades in the Las Mendozas School in Chorrera, 50-60 miles away from home. I lived with an uncle. Every night we prayed the rosary. I heard this so much during those two years that I learned it by memory. I left Las Mendozas in 1967 and returned to Buenos Aires. As a first-class reciter of the rosary, when someone died I was asked to come and intercede on behalf of the dead. For my part, I continued to ask priests and others who recited the rosary about the reasons behind the repetition of the litanies and other things related to the Catholic tradition. I never received a satisfactory response.

I enrolled in the José Dolores Moscote High School in 1968, and the professors began to teach us things contrary to Christianity, since most of them were atheists. Their influence was so strong that I became an atheist, completely removed from all things religious. I began to direct my life toward vices such as alcohol and other things.

Some of Tom Willey’s disciples, men like Daniel Dorati, Raúl Sanes, Nicolás Valdés, and others, arrived in Buenos Aires to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. By the end of 1976,



many people in Buenos Aires had been converted, including all my family...except for me.

I am grateful to God for the patience, love, and kindness of those who are now my brothers in Christ. They did not faint in sowing the seed, in spite of my offensiveness and the diatribes to which I submitted them when they dared to preach to an atheist.

One day, I threw out a challenge to God. I told Him that if He in truth existed as they said, I would believe only if He would show me He really did exist, but otherwise, no.

Sometime in 1977, during my fourth year in the Panama Nautical School, all my family left for a church meeting on a Friday. They invited me, but I said I wouldn't meet with hypocrites and had to study for a test on Monday. That was a lie. I was planning to go to a dance that weekend where they played the kind of music I liked. Something happened that night, and I ended up not going anywhere.

Instead, I fell asleep. I woke up during the night, and my family hadn't returned from the service. The strangest thing was that I was weeping when I awakened. As an atheist, I believed that men didn't cry. I laughed at myself, since I was doing something I had criticized. Then I thought of the challenge I had made to God, and I began to cry in earnest. I fell to the ground and confessed my sins to Jesus. I was baptized

April 26, 1978, in Buenos Aires. Since that experience with the Lord, no one has had to invite me to go to church!

I began to attend First Free Will Baptist Church in Panama City. Tom Willey, Jr. and later Gabriel Pérez pastored this church.

We lived in San Miguelito, a heavily populated area of Panama City. Yet, we continued to cross the city to attend First Church. Brother Alvaro Larrahondo from Colombia organized a group of us as a new church in our section of town in 1986. From there, we continued to grow, and in 1990, when Pastor Alvaro moved to the U.S. with his family, I began my pastoral ministry with the church for the glory of God.

Brother Alvaro had three elders (deacons) in the church, and it was his vision that one of us would take his place when he left. The others didn't accept the challenge, and I was the last one he approached. I accepted the challenge of leading the church without formal training. I understood that for that time (according to 2 Timothy 2:1-2), God was leading me to be strong in the grace of God and that faithfulness precedes giftedness. For that reason I said, "If I am faithful, the Lord will help me to become 'able' in His work." I have continued until this present time and will for as long as the Lord determines, with the help of His Holy Spirit. **ONE**



## Steve Lytle adds:

Uri González has pastored the San Miguelito church, known as "Templo Manantial de Vida" (Fountain of Life Temple), for 20 years. He and his wife Xenia have faithfully served the congregation and the denomination in a number of roles. They have raised three fine sons. Two of the boys are now married, and the González have two grandchildren. The youngest son, Eliezer, is engaged to be married. Middle son Eli is leading a new church plant in a heavily populated area on the outskirts of Panama City called Santa Librada. In January 2013, Uri was elected president of the Panamanian National Association.

Uri is well-known for his music. Inspired by the testimony of his Uncle Alberto, who was killed when a tree fell and crushed him in Buenos Aires, Uri followed Alberto's example and began composing "décimas," a musical form in which lyrics are sung campesino style, and the verses adhere to syllabic rules of rhyme and meter. He is much in demand in the evangelical community, and these songs give him yet another way to glorify the Lord. He is also a good preacher-teacher.

## News Around the World



### 40 Days of Prayer and Fasting 2013 Announced

**ANTIOCH, TN**—International Missions' General Director Clint Morgan issued a new call to prayer and fasting in March. "In 2011, as I began my tenure, I greatly sensed an immense need for God's direction and guidance. I asked others to join me and the Mission family in 40 days of prayer and fasting," Morgan recalls. "People responded generously. Many told me how God worked in their lives as a result of this focused time of prayer. Even more amazing was how God responded! We believe He gave wisdom and direction to International Missions' board and directors. Last year's World Missions Offering exceeded \$1 million—only through God's goodness and grace. Monthly income, though not at record levels, exceeds the previous year. Enthusiastic, highly qualified young people are seeking to serve overseas. God has totally exceeded our expectations, on every level!"

This year's 40 Days of Prayer and Fasting began Wednesday, March 20, and will conclude on April 28—World Missions Sunday. Prayer will be focused on three areas: missionary and Mission needs, the needs of national pastors and leaders, and the Mission's future strategies concerning fields of work, people groups, and finances.

"I believe fasting and prayer are essential elements of our Christian walk. However, we do not want either one to become ritualistic. For that reason, I was a bit hesitant to ask our Free Will Baptist people to join us in another 40 Days of Prayer," Morgan explained. "But several pastors and laymen asked if we were going to have another. Our office staff and some of the missionary force have requested it. I was delighted to press forward with this initiative."

Prayer requests are available via a PDF download on the Mission's website ([fwbgo.com](http://fwbgo.com)), are sent out through social media daily, and are released via email to inboxes each morning.

"We trust God will use this 40 Days to remind us of His faithfulness and, as a result of focused prayer and fasting, lead us to rely even more fully on Him," Morgan concluded. ■

### Brazil Camp Yields Salvation Decision

**CAMPINAS, BRAZIL**—Churches in Brazil, Panama, and Uruguay held family camps and retreats during Carnival celebrations, February 9-12. Carnival camps are used to strengthen Christian fellowship and dependence on God in contrast to the superficial alliances and debauchery of Carnival celebrations.

The First Church in Campinas sponsored one such camp. During the four-day event, 120-140 people participated in a mix of Bible studies, games, sports, and leisure. The camp theme "Unforgettable" highlighted the unforgettable things the Lord has done for each of us and the things He still wants to accomplish in lives.

One young man accepted Christ. Several others rededicated their lives during this camp. ■



### Panamanian Women Celebrate 25 Years of Service

**PANAMA**—Free Will Baptist women in Panama held their 25th annual national retreat February 1-3 at the seminary in Chame. This year's theme, "25 Years Serving," led the women to remember the past, serve one another now, and look forward to future service.

Kathia de Mendoza and Stephany de Acevedo, both graduates of the seminary, were featured speakers. New officers, representing several churches, were elected during the three-day event.

An annual women's retreat was initiated after two Panamanian women, visiting Steve and Judy Lytle in the States, attended WNAC's retreat at Ridgecrest in 1986. The women loved the people, dynamics, and fellowship. Fressia de Diaz asked Judy, "Why can't we do this in Panama?" When the Lytles returned to Panama in 1987, Fressia and Judy led the women to plan their first retreat in March 1988. Mabel Willey and Mary Ruth Wisheart were the speakers.

Over the years, the ladies have faithfully joined together to hear from God's Word, lift praise and prayers to the Lord, attend to business, and enjoy one another's presence as only Christian women can. ■



**Bulgaria:** Jonathan and Amy Postlewaite departed for Bulgaria Sunday, February 17, 2013, with daughters Anna Grace and Jonna Faith. They joined Tim and Lydia Awtrey and their two children (Yanna and Alex) in Svishtov, Bulgaria. ■



**France:** Vincent was baptized in the Nantes church on January 27. Many unsaved friends and family members heard him confess Christ as Savior. He accepted Christ in September 2012 after years of prayers on his behalf and even church attendance. Over the years, he moved from believing God did not exist to this step of faith. ■



**France:** The Nantes Boissiere FWB Church celebrated 10 years in its building recently. Friday, February 15, city officials and other local dignitaries participated in the official opening of events. Saturday, February 16, the church hosted a concert by an Algerian singer. Events concluded on Wednesday, February 20, with a children's outreach. The church also opened its doors to the public to view an exposition set up inside. ■



**India:** Carlisle Hanna returned to India, Tuesday, January 15. Brother Hanna carries a heavy load in India as he counsels pastors, guides the hostel and other ministries, encourages believers, etc. Ask God to give him strength for the many tasks he faces. ■



**Japan:** Heath and Joni Hubbard departed for Japan, Wednesday, January 16, with sons Eli and Micah. After participating in the Japan field council meeting outside Tokyo, they rented a home in Sapporo, unpacked, and began language classes in February. ■

## Goal Set for 2013 WMO

**ANTIOCH, TN**—Mark Price, serving as the national World Missions Offering chairman, recently announced a goal of having 900 churches participate in the 2013 World Missions Offering (WMO).

“Last year was a monumental year for International Missions,” Price acknowledged. “The Lord blessed us with the most generous WMO in the history of the effort. We asked Him for 650 churches to partner with us to get our missionaries back to ministry on their respective fields of service. The Lord moved on Free Will Baptist people, and they responded obediently and generously. The 650 churches we asked for became 731, including several overseas churches.”

Director of Advancement Mark McPeak added, “Last year we were ‘surprised’ by the way God moved on the hearts of people. We shouldn’t have been, but we were. So, for 2013, we are excited and trusting that His people will respond again. The goal of having 900 churches sign up is a faith goal. But we trust a God who honors our faith and we believe He wants all Free Will Baptist people involved in taking His gospel to the ends of the earth. Please pray with us that, through our obedience, He will amaze us again!”

Mark Price—Ohio pastor, FWBIM board member, and volunteer WMO chairman—has enlisted his fellow board members, state leaders,

and others committed to getting the gospel to the ends of the earth to head up efforts in their home states.

State coordinators are distributing packets with a DVD containing four new WMO videos, past WMO and coin bank videos, information about resources, a poster, and other helpful materials prepared for each stateside church.

Churches can sign up by registering on the Mission’s website ([www.fwbgo.com/wmo](http://www.fwbgo.com/wmo)), emailing [wmo@fwbgo.com](mailto:wmo@fwbgo.com), or calling the Mission office (1-877-767-7736).

“Honestly, after the December 2011 IM board meeting, I felt that—unless the Lord of the Harvest blessed in a miraculous manner—within a year we would be decommissioning missionaries, bringing them home for good,” Price admits. “Instead, General Director Clint Morgan announced missionaries held stateside could return to the people groups to whom they were called to minister. Now, we are prayerfully asking Him for 900 churches to partner with us, so our missionaries can stay where He has led them, and more new missionaries can be sent. We prayerfully anticipate His blessing on the 2013 WMO, asking our Free Will Baptist friends to partner with us in prayer and obedient giving.” ■

# From California to the World

BY SARAH FLETCHER WITH DOTTIE WRIGHT

**Free Will Baptists offer teens unique and exciting outreach opportunities.** This summer, 80 high schoolers will minister around the world through E-TEAM. Over 100 teens will participate in the Truth and Peace Leadership Conference. Others will go on mission trips organized by their local churches. The potential for personal growth and blessings is great, but so is the cost—\$1,500 for Truth and Peace, between \$3,200-\$3,700 for E-TEAM (depending on the destination). And a church mission trip tab can range anywhere from the mid-hundreds to the low thousands. For many teens, especially those in small congregations or from large families, these goals seem unattainable, even with family and church family support. The edifying opportunity remains an unfulfilled dream.

California Women Active for Christ recognize this dilemma and are seeking to change this through a Youth in Ministry Scholarship program. Assistant Executive Coordinator Dottie Wright explains, “As the mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and friends of our youth, we, the California Free Will Baptist Women, wanted to help our young people become more involved in the ministry opportunities available through our denomination and our local churches. Many of our young people need financial help in order to be involved in these activities. We also felt this would be a good learning experience for the youth, as they are required to raise a good portion of their funds.”

Women started the scholarship fund in 2005 with \$500—monies raised as part of that year’s WAC state project. They continued to add to this until gifts totaled \$2,000. They awarded the first scholarships in 2007, and since that time, women have contributed \$2,500 to youth in their state through this ongoing project.

Exclusively for high school students, Youth in Ministry scholarships cover both spring break and summer mission/ministry related opportunities. Students must meet certain require-

ments and complete an application that includes writing a short essay, detailing their local church involvement, and submitting a letter of recommendation from pastor or church leader. The Executive Board (comprised of current CWAC officers) reads and evaluates each application and makes awards based on the responses and the amount of funds needed for the applicant to participate in a particular ministry. Awarded amounts to date have ranged between \$75-\$200. Dottie Wright adds, “The amount to each applicant (who qualifies) may be small, but every little bit helps.”

Two-time recipient Crystal Hodges writes, “[CWAC] helped me in 2008 when I went on E-TEAM Japan and again in 2009 when I went on E-TEAM Spain. Those two mission trips were life changing for me. Going abroad to help with missions work expanded my love for culture and for those who are missing out on a relationship with God. He used these trips to break my heart with what breaks His.”

Scholarships impact not only participants, but families and churches as well. Pastor’s wife Kimberly Lindgren shares. “The scholarship awarded to our daughter Madison for her participa-

tion in E-TEAM was a wonderful blessing to our family on so many levels. Financially, it helped her achieve the monetary goals she had to reach. And spiritually it matured her faith and her love for her Savior as she learned how important it was to share God’s calling on her life with others—so they could support her not only financially but through prayer as well.”

Ewa Kear, whose sons Michael and Gabriel both received scholarships, agrees. “These scholarships impacted us by lessening our financial load. The cost is enormous when you are sending two who are involved in both E-TEAM and Truth and Peace. But it’s not just sending a kid on a trip. It’s molding them, allowing them to see needs, strengthening their faith and giving them a love for missions.”

Time in Truth and Peace at a National Youth Conference helped one of her sons solidify his faith. Ewa believes “an experience such as E-TEAM, broadens our children’s perspectives. It draws them out of themselves and helps them see the world.” (No matter how poor a family is here, it’s nothing compared to the needs abroad.) For her sons, “It gave them both a sense of urgency to share the gospel.”

Ongoing gifts and designated CWAC monies keep the fund solvent. "I appreciate the fact that California Women Active for Christ see this need and are heeding God's call," Ewa praises.

Crystal Hodges echoes these sentiments. "CWAC ministry has been a blessing not only to me, but to others globally. They financially supported the ministry God had called me to, while helping the gospel go around the world."

God continues to use these opportunities to shape her future. "Since these mission trips, I have felt a deeper calling to missions. I'm not sure if God wants me to go overseas for a lifetime commitment, or if He wants me to spread the fire and passion for missions here in California, occasionally going on a two-week trip. However, what I do know is I'm willing to listen, learn, and follow God...and I thank Him every day for ministry partners such as CWAC."

From California to the world, that's the goal of CWAC. "California women are hoping to generate more interest and more involvement from our local youth and continue to award more scholarships in the future," says Dottie Wright, who also hopes presenting this information will stimulate others to offer a similar program for youth in their states. Read more about the California Youth in Ministry Scholarship at [www.wnac.org](http://www.wnac.org). **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Sarah Fletcher is publications editor for Women Nationally Active for Christ. Dottie Wright lives in Fresno, California, and serves as Assistant Executive Coordinator for California Women Active for Christ.

## California Free Will Baptist Youth in Ministries Scholarship Recipients

The following California Youth have received scholarships:

Year	Amount	Name	Ministry	Church
07	\$100	Jared Wood	Truth & Peace	Harmony FWB Church, Fresno
	\$100	Yelena Lopuga	College Missions Program - Kazakhstan	Sacramento Russian Mission
	\$100	Allison Hibbard	E-TEAM - Panama	Turlock FWB Church
08	\$200	Jared Wood	Truth & Peace	Harmony FWB Church, Fresno
	\$200	Crystal Hodges	E-Team - Hokkaido, Japan	Clovis FWB Church
	\$100	Allison Hibbard	College Missions Program, Kazakhstan	Turlock FWB Church
09	\$200	Crystal Hodges	E-TEAM- Spain & Truth & Peace	Clovis FWB Church
	\$200	Madison Lindgren	E-TEAM - Chicago	Harvest FWB Church, Bakersfield
10	\$200	Michael Kear	E-TEAM - Mexico	San Diego FWB Church
	\$200	Gabriel Kear	Truth & Peace	San Diego FWB Church
11	\$150	Michael Kear	E-TEAM - Cuba	San Diego FWB Church
	\$150	Gabriel Kear	Truth & Peace	San Diego FWB Church
	\$150	Madison Lindgren	E-TEAM - Brazil	Harvest FWB Church, Bakersfield
12	\$150	Gabriel Kear	E-TEAM - France	San Diego FWB Church
	\$ 75	Shanna Martin	Mexico Mission Trip	Clovis FWB Church
	\$ 75	Bret Tyler	Mexico Mission Trip	Clovis FWB Church
	\$ 75	Breanna Tyler	Mexico Mission Trip	Clovis FWB Church
	\$ 75	Jacob Tyler	Mexico Mission Trip	Clovis FWB Church

## Out of High School, On to College

Scholarship opportunities don't end with High School. WNAC annually offers the Mary R. Wisheart Scholarship to a promising female student at each Free Will Baptist college. In addition, these Women Active for Christ groups offer or fund college scholarships for students in their states:

**MISSOURI**—MWAC Scholarship for young women attending a Free Will Baptist college.  
**Contact:** Lee Ann Wilfong [lee\\_annwilfong@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lee_annwilfong@sbcglobal.net).

**ALABAMA**—Jimmie/Janie Aldridge Scholarship. \$1,000 for a freshman (male or female) entering Welch College. **Contact:** Paulette Boyd [boypdchs48@yahoo.com](mailto:boypdchs48@yahoo.com).

**NORTH CAROLINA**—Women contribute to the Leah Waddell Memorial Scholarship.  
**Contact:** Welch College [finaid@welch.edu](mailto:finaid@welch.edu)

**ARKANSAS**—Velda Tucker Trust Fund. Scholarships for missionary children attending Bible college.  
**Contact:** Lisa Bowden [lisabowden@suddenlink.net](mailto:lisabowden@suddenlink.net).

**OKLAHOMA**—OWAC Scholarship. Awarded annually to a young woman attending a Free Will Baptist affiliated college. (\$1,000—\$250 per semester for 4 semesters). **Contact:** Tracy Payne [tlpok1960@yahoo.com](mailto:tlpok1960@yahoo.com)

**VIRGINIA:** (No award in 2012-2013.) Past scholarships have been part of yearly VWAC state projects with award amounts dependent upon monies received and divided equally among Virginia students.

For over 75 years, we've witnessed God's Mighty Hand supply the needs of missionaries, answer prayers, restore homes and change lives as Women Active for Christ have humbled themselves before the Lord and banded together to accomplish His purposes.

**Celebrate and support the ministry of WNAC**



# ESSENTIAL...

## Not Optional

By Josh Bennett

**LOOKING AROUND THE ROOM, IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT OUTREACH WAS NOT AN OPTION.**

When the Marana team moved across the country to start a church, we knew outreach would be essential. My wife Ashley and I, along with my co-pastor Jeff, his wife Heather, and their daughter Ava, would be a lonely congregation if we never reached new people. Thankfully, we have discovered many avenues of outreach that have worked (or not worked in some cases) for us.

We view outreach as an organized and energized effort to connect with people in a way that will open a door for the gospel to penetrate their lives. The goal of connecting people with the gospel is vital and can be a multi-step process. I would like to share our approach to outreach. While it is far from perfect, God is using it to grow a church in the middle of the desert. It is my prayer that God will use what we are doing to spark some fresh ideas for the outreach in your local church setting.

## Every Week Outreach

Our first level is Every Week Outreach, using the same approaches on a regular basis. One example is placing A-frame signs all over the area on weekends. We place these signs near our meeting location as well as at a busy shopping center in the area. We also equip our people with invite cards for church. These cards have different themes and the meeting times and location for our service. The cards are always available, and we encourage everyone in the church to keep these small cards handy. While signs and cards work great for us, the best weekly outreach for any church is word-of-mouth evangelism. People come to our churches because they are invited by people they know.

## Exposure

Our second level of outreach is called Exposure, simply getting the church noticed by as many people as possible. These efforts usually do not result in immediate guests to our church, but in the long run, they establish the church as a place to visit. “Experts” say it takes three “touches” or contacts to get someone to visit your church. I am not sure how many it really takes, but in most cases, it is more than one. In our earliest days, we advertised our church at a local theater. I cannot recall any person who came to our church from those ads. However, several people recall seeing it and remembering it when they decided to visit. It helped establish our existence in the community.

We take any opportunity to put our church in front of people. We attend little league flag football events and set up a free coffee and water stand. We hold drawings and give away footballs. We sponsor a booth at the local Christmas festival and are making plans for future community festivals. We had nine first-time guests two weeks after our first Christmas festival.

## Dynamic Days

The third level of outreach, and perhaps our most effective, is Dynamic Days. We have used this concept to build our church over the last year, and we believe it has a great deal to do with why we have doubled in attendance. I first learned about this type of outreach from Terry Forrest, chairman of the Pastoral Ministry program at Welch College. I later became reacquainted with the idea by reading the book entitled *Ignite* by Nelson Searcy. We have adapted these ideas into a formula that works well for our setting.

We celebrate four dynamic days a year, beginning in the fall, shortly after school has resumed. Three others follow in late January, on Easter, and one day during the summer.

The idea is to have one day when everyone focuses all their attention and effort toward inviting people to church. Our first step is to create a special day for people geared towards attracting the unchurched. This can be done by having a special theme, a popular guest speaker, offering a big giveaway, or providing a meal. The possibilities are endless.

After establishing the special day, we equip our people for outreach. We print special invite cards for the day, challenge our people to invite five people, pray for the invitees during our services, utilize Facebook, and more. On some special days, we create an invite campaign within the church. For example, last Easter we promoted the Invite Your Peeps campaign. We made a funny video challenging the church people to invite their “peeps” to church and gave them helpful suggestions on how to accomplish this task. These dynamic days are a lot of fun and have been crucial to our growth as a church. It is not abnormal to see our church grow 20% from one of these days.

## Mini-Big Days

Mini-big days are a form of outreach. These almost always revolve around holidays. Our most common of these is what we call “Church in the Park.” We hold church in a local park, enjoy a meal, and play games in the park as a church family. These days are always effective. For some reason, people will attend these services when they will not first visit an indoor service. We also host special Christmas services. Use mini-big days as an essential part of keeping the outreach temperature high in your church.

## Follow-up

When someone asks me for the most important part of outreach, I always respond with follow-up. While getting someone to come to your church once increases their chance to be impacted by the gospel, getting them to return significantly increases those chances. We do everything we can to make people feel welcomed and comfortable in our church. It is important to be up front and clear with them that we take the Bible seriously, and that Scripture has a way of making us uncomfortable. Pastor Jeff does a great job of heading up our follow-up program. Like outreach, our follow-up plan has multi levels, and we are consistent in following the process.

Follow-up cannot be done without good contact information. At The Springs FWB Church, we use connect cards. To encourage people to fill the cards out, we make a donation to our local food bank for every card filled out by a first-time guest. The food bank is able to convert this small donation

## PEOPLE WANT TO ATTEND YOUR CHURCH... THEY JUST DON'T KNOW IT YET.

into \$10.50 worth of food. People help feed the hungry, just by filling out the card. We have a gift ready for every first-time visitor, whether or not they fill out the card. The gift is usually a promotional item with the church logo on it and a book entitled *The God Questions*.

The next step of follow-up is to make contact. Jeff usually sends visitors a text on Sunday afternoon to let them know we enjoyed having them in our service. We try to find them on Facebook. The next day, we take them a small gift bag with chips, salsa, a salsa bowl, a card with a letter from the pastors, and more information about the church.

We like to think of ourselves as the “follow-up ninjas.” In other words, we drop off the bag quietly at the front door

and try to leave unnoticed. We have heard more positive feedback about these gifts than anything we have ever done. It is funny to hear church people talking to each other about how important that small gift was in making them decide to return to The Springs.

You may find that some of these methods work in your setting, or they may not be helpful at all. Regardless of how these methods work in your church, don't give up on outreach. Remember, we view outreach as an organized and energized effort to connect with people in a way that will open a door for the gospel to penetrate their lives. We are commissioned to make disciples of all nations. To do this, we must connect with people in meaningful ways. People want to attend your church...they just don't know it yet. Make it your business to bring this awareness to them. After all, they need Jesus, and you are their connection to Him. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Josh and Ashley Bennett are planting a church in the city of Marana, located about 15 miles north of Tucson, Arizona.

## News Across the Nation

### Chaplain Awarded for Service

**NEW YORK CITY**—Major David Trogdon, 1st Aviation Brigade, Ft. Rucker, Alabama, and Ft. Stewart, Georgia, was awarded the Witherspoon Award at the 2013 National Bible Week Awards Gala held in New York City, November 15, 2012.

The prestigious award, considered the highest honor a military chaplain can receive, is named after famous chaplain Maurice Witherspoon, who served with excellence in both World Wars. The Witherspoon award is given to three chaplains who demonstrate and promote Bible reading in a unique and effective way over the course of a year. Trogdon was selected to represent the U.S. Army chaplaincy.

During the ceremony, the Indiana native was presented with a large framed page from a 1611, first edition, King



James Version of the Bible. Chaplain Trogdon said, “I am humbled and amazed to be honored for doing what God has called me to do and what I love to do as an Army chaplain...to be a ‘Free Will Baptist preacher in uniform.’”

Chaplain Trogdon first entered the Army as an enlisted soldier in 1979 and served until 1987. He also served in the

Tennessee National Guard from 1987-1991 and the Army Reserves from 1991-1995 before returning to active duty as a Chaplain in 2000.

He received a B.A. in Pastoral Administration and Bible from Welch College and a M.Div. in Biblical Languages from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and School. Ordained as a Free Will Baptist minister, he served as pastor at Tippet's Chapel FWB Church in Clayton, North Carolina, for nine years.

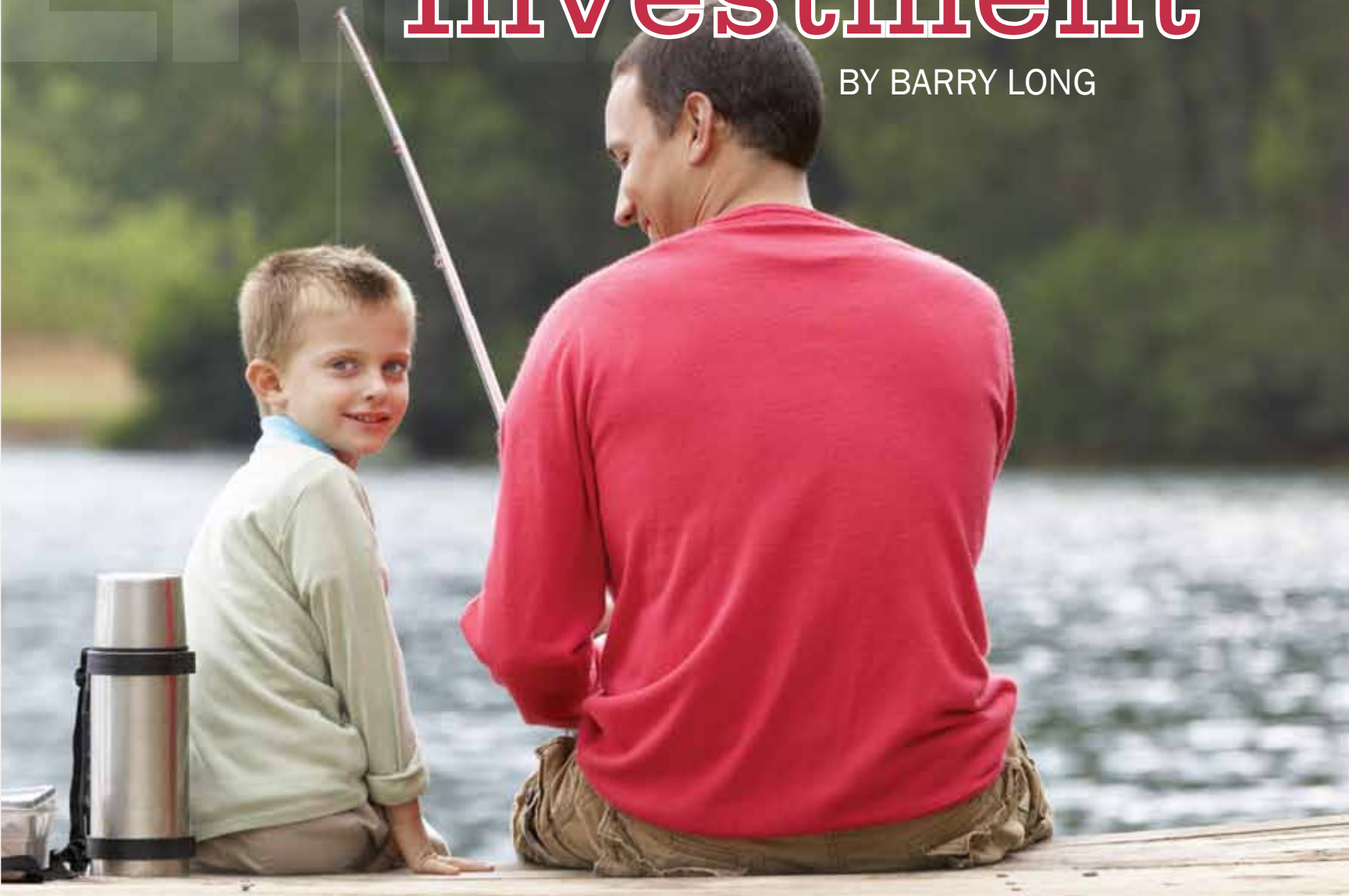
“We are so proud of our chaplains,” said Home Missions Director Larry Powell. “Their hard work and excellence speaks for itself as they serve God, the men in their command, and Free Will Baptists. I am glad to see Chaplain Trogdon receive this special honor. It is well deserved.”

To learn more about the Free Will Baptist chaplaincy, visit [www.homemissions.net](http://www.homemissions.net).



# Eternal Investment

BY BARRY LONG



**The morning starts like any other.** You wake up, get your early cup of coffee, swing by and pick up your brother, and head down to the sea to begin the daily task of fishing. Sure, it is your livelihood, but it is also something you enjoy, and you are good at it. You and your brother Andrew launch the boat into the sea with coffee in hand and nets ready to cast. You discuss the previous day's tremendous catch and hope for another good day. As the morning wears on, you go about your business of fishing. You laugh and joke between each cast of the nets. But don't be deceived. This day is not like any other day.

As you row in to empty your catch, you notice Someone on the shore. He catches your eye, and you know you have seen Him before. He speaks, and you hang on every word! Something seems to surge inside you as He calls you to follow Him. You know this man because Andrew introduced you to Him before. You have heard His teachings, but you were unwilling

**Making disciples is about investing your time, your life into theirs. Not so they can dress like you or act like you, but so they can begin to know and understand what it means to live like Christ.**

to let go of the familiar—the sea, the nets, the good-natured humor of other fishermen. This time, however, you hear His call and you *know* you must follow Him!

Can't you just see Peter and Andrew step from their boats with a determination to follow Christ? Their hearts racing, palms sweaty, anticipating an incredible, life-changing experience. With deep compassion, Christ looks at them and says, "You've made a wise choice; you will not regret it." With that, He leaves without instructions. He walks away, and they never see Him again.

Ludicrous? Absolutely.

In contrast, after Jesus called His disciples, He spent the next three years teaching them, training them, correcting them, challenging them, and sometimes even provoking them as He taught them what it really means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

While it is ludicrous to consider Christ walking away from His new disciples, many churches and Christians do

this to new believers on a regular basis. They treat discipleship as though it stops with a salvation decision. Without clear direction, new believers struggle to find their way in their walk with Christ.

What would Peter and Andrew have thought if Christ had simply left them standing beside their boats as willing but ill-equipped disciples? Thankfully, He didn't. Instead, He gave them clear directions that culminated with His last command in Matthew 28:19: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

When I look at the way Christ lived before His disciples, I notice one major thing—an investment. Making disciples is about investing your time, your life into theirs. Not so they can dress like you or act like you, but so they can begin to know and understand what it means to live like Christ.

Discipleship is not easy and is sometimes even painful. After all, when you pour your life into someone, you become vulnerable. But vulnerability and openness is at the core of true discipleship. It is investing your life, your time, and even your resources into teaching others to be like Christ.

Even Christ was hurt by those closest to Him. Remember the story in Matthew 26 when He asked them to pray with Him? Can you imagine the hurt and maybe even the frustration Christ felt when He returned to find them asleep? Yet, Christ still invested in them. He knew what they could and would become.

The same is true for you. Who knows, that person you pour yourself into could be the next worker in the church to have a great eternal impact. Sure, you risk being hurt along the way, and yes, you might experience disappointment; but think of the joy you will receive when you see them invest in others. Who have you invested in? As Christians, we are called—just like Andrew and Peter—to be "fishers of men," molding and making disciples. It's an eternal investment, one you will never regret. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Barry Long and family are home missionaries in Aurora, Colorado. Learn more: [HomeMissions.net](http://HomeMissions.net)

# Brown on **Green** >>>

## How to Pay **FOR COLLEGE**

College expenses continue to rise. For the last several years, the costs for college have gone up faster than the overall inflation rate. Many families are asking, “Where is the money coming from to pay for college?”

*Here are a few ideas to consider:*

### Academic Scholarships

If your child will soon enter college, and his grades are not so good, it may be too late to stress the importance of academics. But those who have children in middle school or below can take heart. Instill the importance of good grades in your children early to make college affordable. While grades are important, students should also strive to do well on the ACT and SAT tests. Many times, the scholarships they earn are based on these tests. Consider a prep course or take advantage of available study resources. Students should take tests more than once as scores generally improve with each subsequent test.

### State Scholarships

Many states offer scholarships to students meeting certain minimum requirements. Some state requirements are not particularly difficult to achieve for any above-average student. For instance, in Tennessee, students must have a 3.0 (out of 4.0) or a B-average GPA and make a 21 (out of 36) on the ACT or 980 (out of 1600) on the SAT. Tennessee pays \$4,000 a year for students who meet minimum requirements and \$5,000 a year for high-achieving students.

### Need-Based Scholarships

Many colleges offer need-based scholarships based on the parent’s ability to pay. Higher income parents will not qualify, but if your income is limited, you may receive some help. Such scholarships vary widely, so you will need to contact the financial aid office at each college under consideration.

According to the census bureau individuals with a college degree earn \$26,000 more per year than a high school graduate.

Some studies have indicated that over a lifetime, a college graduate will earn \$1.3 million more than a high school graduate.

**College = Good Investment!**

### Specific Scholarships

Some colleges offer specific scholarships if you meet certain criteria. For instance, at Welch College, pastoral training students, students from a particular state, or children of alumni may qualify for scholarships. Some colleges offer scholarships to children or grandchildren of World War II veterans. Each school has its own specific scholarships, and prospective students should contact the college they are considering to see if they qualify.

### Student Loans

Use student loans sparingly and pay them off quickly. Unfortunately, many college graduates accumulate too much debt, and it haunts them for many years. Student loans should not be your first choice. It may be better to spread out college over five or six years to avoid student loans.

Funding your children’s college education may be a challenge, but hopefully, implementing these ideas will help make it possible. **ONE**

Housing  
\$\$\$

Medical  
Expenses

# MINISTERS AND Taxes

BY D. RAY LEWIS

After graduating from Free Will Baptist Bible College (now Welch College) in 1976, my family and I loaded up a U-Haul and headed to our first pastorate. Even though I had my diploma carefully packed away, it didn't take me long to discover many things about the pastorate I did not know.

I did not grow up in a Christian home, much less a pastor's home. I never had a class in church finances. I knew nothing about a housing allowance or quarterly tax deposits, and unfortunately neither did the people I was on the way to pastor. I just knew I was on the way to my first pastorate, and I would receive \$125 per week in salary.

None of the \$125 was designated as anything but salary, making it all taxable when I filed my 1976 tax returns. That is when I learned I should have been making quarterly tax deposits. The old adage "ignorance of the law is no excuse" took on a whole new meaning for me that year.

## FAIR Property Rental?

Not only did I have to pay the taxes that had accumulated on everything the church had paid me, but I paid a hefty penalty for not making quarterly tax payments as well.

By the time you read this article, you will probably already have filed your 2012 tax returns, and you may have found yourself in a similar situation. The good news is that the breakdown of your compensation may be revised during the year, but it is also important to note that no changes can be made retroactively.

This article touches briefly on some benefits the IRS allows churches to include in the pastor's compensation package that will reduce the pastor's tax liability. This is by no means an exhaustive list.

First of all, consider the housing/parsonage allowance. This is the most important tax benefit available to ministers. Ministers who own or rent their home may save on their taxes if their church designates part of their income as a housing allowance. Ministers who live in a parsonage may also be entitled to a housing allowance designated by their church if they have eligible housing expenses.

From time to time I am asked, "What can I include in my housing allowance?" Ministers can exclude the following items from their gross income to the extent it is used to pay expenses in providing a home: house payments or rent, utilities, insurance, property taxes, furniture or appliance

purchases, yard work expenses, maintenance and repair, just to name a few.

To take advantage of this benefit however, the church must officially designate and document the amount of the minister's housing allowance in advance of paying the minister. The

## WISE USE OF TAX LAWS IS SIMPLY A MATTER OF GOOD STEWARDSHIP

church should record this action in the church minutes.

Ministers who own their homes can exclude the lowest of the following three amounts from income for federal income tax purposes as long as their church properly designates a housing allowance for them: (1) the housing allowance designated by their church; (2) actual housing expenses; or (3) the fair rental value of the home (furnished, including utilities).

Another tax-saving help to the pastor is for the church to provide ministry-related expenses. A popular method of providing this benefit is to use

an accountable-reimbursement plan. With this, the church budgets money to fund reimbursements. The minister turns in a record of all business miles driven and receipts for other ministry-related expenses. The church then reimburses the minister from the budgeted expenses. The minister pays no taxes on amounts reimbursed under an accountable-reimbursement plan (within IRS limits).

Several other employee benefits are not taxable to the minister as long as they are designated as such.

The law allows the church to pay for medical coverage (for an employee and dependents) and disability and group term life insurance for its employees. When a church pays for this coverage directly, the money is not reported as taxable income, although group term life insurance above \$50,000 for employees is taxable. A church can also make tax-sheltered contributions to a minister's 403(b) retirement savings account.

These tax-saving ideas are not "loopholes." They represent wise use of tax laws to help ministers pay the least amount of tax legally owed. It is a simple matter of good stewardship.

An excellent addition to any minister's library is Richard Hammar's *Church & Clergy Tax Guide*. The Internal Revenue Service's *Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations* (Publication 1828) is another helpful tool for ministers and can be downloaded free from the IRS website: [irs.gov](http://irs.gov). **ONE**

# SMOKE IT OVER

*By Bill and Brenda Evans*



**Jimmy Aldridge was in grad school, married to a nurse named Janie, and studying missions at Columbia International University, but he didn't know how to “smoke it over.” So he asked a car dealer to teach him. As it turned out, the lesson became one of the most valuable skills he ever learned.**

Simply stated, smoking it over involves knowing how to separate truth from lie, the wisdom to detect deceit and trickery and, on the other side, to lay hold of the good and the right. Spiritually, it is exercising discernment.

To teach Jimmy, the dealer started with what he knew best—a used car. “Look at everything,” he said. “Don’t let anything get by you. Smoke it over.” And so, Jimmy learned to probe, analyze, and assess...not only cars, but also life and ministry.

“I’ve used it in everything,” he says. “If you and God agree on it, it passes the test. So go for it.” That creed has shaped Jimmy and Janie for more than 50 years of marriage and ministry.

After grad school and French language study in Switzerland, they landed in Ivory Coast, West Africa, as missionaries. It was the mid-1960s. Village work came first and then the move to Bondoukou, north of the capital city of Abidjan. “There, everything was toward church planting,” Jimmy says. “Early on, Bill Jones and I started a Bible institute, but illiteracy was widespread in those days, and converts were not ready. We found that a one-on-one Paul and Timothy arrangement worked better.”

When the Ivorian government gave them permission to teach Bible lessons in Bondoukou schools, Jimmy used his old smoke-it-over creed: Don't let anything get by you. He taught high schoolers and Janie the younger children, but outside the classroom Jimmy launched another model. "Children left their village homes and came to town for school. All they had was a room to sleep in and food purchased on the streets," he says.

So Jimmy built a place to be, a place with things to do: a youth building beside a bookstore with games, activities, Bibles, with general coming and going—the hustle and bustle students like. Determined to reach

young people, he talked, encouraged, befriended. Adults noticed. One man said to him, "If you had come 50 years ago, we would all be Christians instead of Muslims."

Islam did have its appeal, Jimmy says. "Muslims were often literate traders who prospered, and prosperity draws men, even if they are exploited by it." Poverty and deprivation were ever present for Ivorians in those days. Even indigenous religions bowed to the lure of prosperity.

"A man could do Loukoubé. He could take a rooster to the animist shaman to be sacrificed. If the dying rooster stumbled into the fire and was burned, it meant the spirit of Loukoubé had accepted a pact with

the man: the man's soul would burn in the afterlife, but he would enjoy riches in this life. So, when I preached, I showed every way I could that God was greater than Loukoubé," Jimmy said.

Ordinary life brought the opportunity to smoke it over as well, Jimmy says. "We needed a more reliable used car, so went down to Abidjan. It took six or seven hours. The road was unpaved and terrible. Their rainy season does awful things to ruts and holes." The seller praised a vehicle Jimmy had his eye on, called it perfect—no problems, no wrecks, completely reliable. Jimmy smoked it over, even underneath. "When did you have the accident?" he asked. The man looked



## ESTATE PLAN

**According to statistics**, 70% of Free Will Baptists have no estate planning documents in place, leaving distribution of their assets vulnerable to the courts—total strangers who may not hold the same faith and values. The **Free Will Baptist Foundation** has partnered with **Cornerstone Estate Planning** to offer seminars to help you put your estate in order and your mind at ease. Although focused initially in Tennessee and Alabama, the one-hour seminars are available upon request. They offer much more than information, with local attorneys ready to help you formulate all the documents you need.



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startled, but admitted he had lied.

The first years of missionary ministry are always testing grounds, Jimmy says. “Early on, I had to decide if I really believed God was who He said He was and would do what He said He would do—the impossible.” Bumping up against Islam, animism, illiteracy, hunger, and disease measured Jimmy’s faith in the God of the impossible. “First term is like that,” he says, “always a test.”

But Jimmy held to the God of impossibilities. When Christians wanted a place to meet, an official said, “Forget it. This is a Muslim town.” But Jimmy pressed on. He looked at everything. So, believers built a

later, back in France, became a pastor.

“If the Lord ever wants us out of Africa,” Janie told Jimmy one day while watching children teach an illiterate elderly woman how to memorize Bible verses, “it will take dynamite.” They had planted and reaped for 22 years, and Jimmy knew more harvest was coming. But God used His dynamite, and Jimmy’s complicated and recurring bouts of debilitating malaria blasted them out of Bondoukou and back to the States.

“God made it clear we had to go, and we had one week to get ready,” Janie said. Jimmy took care of the business end. She did the rest. “I walked through each room, looked

Back in the States, Jimmy was tapped as overseas secretary for International Missions. He prepared candidates for service, kept contact with international missionaries, and traveled to various fields to help solve problems. Later, he became *Advance* coordinator, a celebration of 50 years of Free Will Baptist international missions. He was charged with raising \$1 million for new training among nationals, new buildings, and new missionaries for the fields.

“To me, the *Advance* project was never about money as a goal,” Jimmy says, “but about money as a tool to reach the goal. I didn’t want to count dollars; I wanted to invest in getting

**“EARLY ON, I HAD TO DECIDE IF I REALLY BELIEVED GOD WAS WHO HE SAID HE WAS AND WOULD DO WHAT HE SAID HE WOULD DO—THE IMPOSSIBLE.”**

brush arbor in a cow pasture along a dirt road outside the city limits. Later, that road became the main one between town and the airport, and a brand new church building sat on the former cow pasture.

Jimmy’s foresight to work with children and young people brought rich harvest as well. In one village, he saw a small boy grow into a godly, educated man who built and paid for a church, but asked that no one know who did it. On a side-trip to France, Jimmy met a young mathematics teacher whom he invited to Bondoukou. Gerard Tynevez became a three-year Godsend to the youth work and

at everything, packed one 55-gallon drum and four suitcases. That’s all. I knew a time and season had passed, and a new one had begun. That’s all we would need.”

At the airport in Abidjan, they were emotional but steady. They had smoked it over and knew God was in charge. Jimmy talked about football. “I remembered the time I was taken out of the game on a stretcher, but the game still went on. ‘This will, too,’ I told Janie. And Mr. Alexander, a godly brother in Bondoukou, knew it, too. He kept saying, ‘Missionaries will not be here forever, but we’ll carry on.’ And they did.”

the gospel preached.” Even after official retirement, Jimmy smoked it over and traveled to Russia again and again to help send what he called “a boatload of Bibles” to people who had never seen one. And Jimmy is not finished yet.

“I’m a contented man,” he said recently. “God has given me the desires of my heart, and when Janie and I die, everything will go to the Lord’s work. We’ve got the trust, the plans. We’ve put everything in order.”

As usual, Jimmy Aldridge has smoked it over and hasn’t missed a thing. **ONE**

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





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BRIAN HAYNES

How a Welch College student overcame monumental personal challenges to graduate in May 2013.

# MIRACLE

## WALKING

BY BRENDA SPRUILL

On May 10, 2013, a miracle named Carol Holland will walk across the stage and receive a diploma at Welch College during commencement exercises.

College graduation, for many young people, comes only after the struggles and hard work from both the student and often the entire family. Some overcome financial obstacles, some overcome family opposition, and still others, like Carol, must rise above their own physical limitations.

Carol Holland, a 34-year-old stroke victim, completed requirements for an Associate of Science in Business degree through the Welch College Adult Degree Program by taking one or two courses a semester. This was possible only through the encouragement of the administration and staff.

## WELCH COLLEGE ENCOURAGERS

A single mom living only on her disability check, Carol had a desire to complete her college education. She began her journey with online courses offered by the college in 2007 and continued with on-campus classes as a traditional student.

### JENA SIMPSON

As Carol's online studies contact and encourager, Jena Simpson constantly emailed Carol and offered suggestions on courses to take so that Carol could be successful in reaching her goal. Carol relied on Jena greatly to provide the right road map to graduation.

*"Jena Simpson, constantly emailed Carol with suggestions and encouragement."*

### LIBRARIANS

Carol ventured to the college library in those early attempts to take exams. Librarians Carol Reid and Margaret Hampton were patient as they helped her sign on to the computer and submit tests. They offered a "pat on the back" and prayed as they watched her struggle through each assignment.

### HEALING THROUGH SPEECH

Much praise goes to Welch College faculty member Tina Tolbert who encouraged Carol in her first classroom situation ten years after the 1999 stroke. The Speech classes were non-threatening, and her fellow classmates were supportive. Big steps in healing took place as Carol shared with the class her personal difficulties and triumphs through speeches she presented.

## THE ALGEBRA CHALLENGE

College Algebra proved to be a challenge—so much so that she almost gave up. But Dr. Nasab, adjunct faculty member at Welch College, would not let her quit. He knew she needed to exercise another part of her brain in order to bring about recovery. Since that class, her short-term memory has improved, her handwriting is improving, and her daily conversations are back to normal.

*“Dr. Nasab, adjunct faculty member at Welch College, would not let Carol quit algebra.”*

## REBECCA DEEL

Before the stroke, Carol, then a Wachovia (now Wells Fargo) bank teller, was pursuing a business degree. Dr. Rebecca Deel, her advisor and instructor at Welch College, nurtured that love of Bible-based business again. Dr. Deel chairs the Welch College Business Department. She has been not only a teacher but also a friend on campus.

## MIRACLE WALKING

Physical limitations may prevent her from pursuing a full-time job in the near future, but Carol enjoys her part-time volunteer service as Welch College receptionist in the mornings.

In 1999, doctors told Carol's family to prepare for a bed-ridden and/or blind individual, but God in His faithfulness and mercy, allows a walking miracle to receive her diploma in the first graduating class of Welch College. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Mrs. Brenda Spruill, mother of Carol Holland, works in the Business office at Welch College. A preacher's kid, Brenda grew up in Hawaii where her father, home missionary Luther Sanders, established a Free Will Baptist church.

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**WELCH**  
COLLEGE

Online Learning

a  
**BOLD**  
stroke   
BY JACK WILLIAMS

**The staff physician at Baptist Hospital seemed** to be in a playful mood that morning until I told him I planned to give my wife of 50 years a baseball bat for Christmas. He smiled grimly and said, “You might want to rethink that. She will be your primary caregiver when you go home, and she will get very tired. She may be tempted to apply that baseball bat to your head within a couple of weeks. Caregiving is harder work than most people realize.”

Three weeks after my 70th birthday, something unexpected happened that changed my life. I had a stroke at approximately 7:15 a.m. on Tuesday, November 6, 2012. Election Day. I had taken my wife to her duty station as a poll worker during the Presidential election and driven across town to Welch College, arriving on campus at around 6:00 a.m. An hour later, I smelled coffee brewing on the first floor of the Administration Building and walked downstairs to fill my blue cup. I stepped into the copier room to make copies of a document for my wife then slowly began backing away from the copier. My foot encountered a slippery spot on the concrete floor.

The next thing I knew, I was in nearby St. Thomas Hospital, having been transported by ambulance. I spent the next 39 days in St. Thomas and Baptist Hospitals. Most of these days I endured five to seven hours of physical therapy, occupational therapy, or speech therapy. Since being released from the hospital on December 15, therapists have come to my home three times a week to continue the helpful sessions.

During a visit to a local doctor on December 17, the physician told me I was fortunate to be alive. Half the people who have a stroke like the one I experienced do not survive.

## HERE ARE 16 SIMPLE LESSONS I LEARNED FROM THE STROKE:

- 01** You need two cooperative hands to tie a tennis shoe.

---

- 02** Hospital beds are notoriously uncomfortable; at least the bed in Room 6310. One afternoon, a staff doctor came to my room and asked if I was hurting. When I explained that I felt as though I was sleeping in a mud hole and couldn't get out, the good doctor said, “I've never met a patient who liked our beds. We paid too much for them (\$23,000 each) and didn't get our money's worth.” I agreed.

---

- 03** Physical Therapists are professional, courteous, and patient-oriented. They also remind me of Marine Corps drill sergeants by constantly repeating, “Your left, your left, your left,” as a reminder to work the weak side after the stroke.

---

- 04** Nurses enjoy stabbing people with sharp objects at 4:00 a.m. At least they did that to me, making sure I received daily doses of blood thinner.

---

- 05** Baptist Hospital employs a number of beautiful vampires who show up each day before dawn to take your blood.

---

- 06** It costs \$663 to ride in an ambulance, no matter how short the distance. It's cheaper to rent a limousine and a driver, if you have a choice. I did not have a choice.

---

- 07** If you're a patient in a hospital, modesty does not exist.

---

- 08** Prayers do more good than money, plus they cannot be taxed.

---

- 09** “The good goes up; the bad goes down.” That's the mantra therapists repeat. Step up with the strong side. Step down with the weak side.

---

- 10** No matter how often the hospital staff takes your blood pressure, they will do it again the next time they enter the room.

---

- 11** Most women have no idea how great it is to get up at 3:00 a.m. and go for a three-mile walk. For instance, my beautiful wife is a 9:00 a.m. girl whenever possible.

- 12** The best a team of doctors can do is practice medicine; it's still up to the Great Physician to heal the mind, body, and spirit. So I take the prescribed medicine, pray, and wait for healing.
- 
- 13** Cards and notes from friends can brighten the darkest days. The John Wayne card from Wayne Spruill bore the message, "Get well, Pilgrim. You're burning daylight!" It was signed by 18 colleagues. Several friends sent cards expressing surprise that I'd go to so much trouble as having a stroke to avoid work . . . suggesting that I was getting lazy by design. Others sent cards expressing surprise that an MRI showed a picture of my brain. Several said, "I didn't know you had a brain." It surprised me too.
- 
- 14** Being a caregiver can be exhausting—no relief. My wife stays tired.
- 
- 15** Computers never sleep. They're always adding more emails. By December 28, my office computer had accumulated 1,400 emails since November 6, and was increasing that by almost 100 per day.
- 
- 16** The most important lesson I learned is that God is in charge, not a staff of doctors and nurses. I also learned that while doctors wear a big title, nurses keep the lights on and the hospital operating.

Several doctors, nurses, and therapists told me that strokes change people's lives. It certainly did mine. The most alarming aspect came when doctors told me that I could not drive and could not go to work. That limits me in many ways and is frustrating. But people move past strokes, and I intend to do whatever is necessary to recover from mine. Recovery time is different for each person, and I want to get back in the driver's seat and back to work as soon as possible.

Dr. Charles Thigpen, former president of Welch College, had a stroke in July 2011. He told me in late December that he has fully recovered, according to the medical community. No surprise, because Dr. Thigpen is a fighter. That's my goal as well—to fully recover and get on with life. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Jack Williams serves as director of communications at Welch College.



# Players Needed!

The Music Commission would like to invite anyone (age 13+) to participate in the convention orchestra in Tampa this July. No matter your skill level, you will enjoy playing with musicians from all over the country.

If you'd like to be involved or have questions, contact Joshua Riggs at [joshua@bethanyfwb.com](mailto:joshua@bethanyfwb.com) or connect with the Music Commission on Facebook: [facebook.com/fwbmusiccommission](https://facebook.com/fwbmusiccommission)

**We can't wait to worship with you.**

## News at WELCH College



### Preaching Team Ministers in Kansas City Area

Six Welch College ministerial students headed west November 3-4 to preach in churches belonging to Kansas and Missouri's East Kansas Quarterly and Greater Kansas City Association, according to Christian Service Director John Murray.

"As we traveled, I listened to the young preachers discuss and challenge each other. We as Free Will Baptists are blessed to have such discerning young men who will be our future pastors and leaders," Murray said.

Sophomore Noah Demerchant said, "This was my first preaching trip, and I loved it. The people at Bethel Free Will Baptist Church (Kansas City, Kansas) were very welcoming. I pray God will continue to use them to minister in their community."

The group arrived back in Nashville at midnight after traveling over a thousand miles on the 19-hour weekend round-trip. This marked the second preaching trip of the year for Welch College and the first taken to Kansas. A group will travel to Ohio in January for a men's retreat and another to Mississippi in February.

## 106 Students Make President's / Provost's List.

The fall 2012 semester at Welch College ended with 106 students receiving academic recognition, according to Provost Greg Kettelman. Twenty-nine students made all A's and were placed on the President's List—nine seniors, six juniors, seven sophomores, and seven freshmen. Seventy-seven students earned a B average or higher and were placed on the Provost's (formerly Dean's) list—12 seniors, 14 juniors, 27 sophomores, and 24 freshmen.

### President's List: "A" Honor Roll

Ailworth, Kameron (Fr.) TN  
 Ayers, Rebekah (Sr.) AL  
 Bellar, Brandi (So.) TN  
 Brown, Brittany (Sr.) VA  
 Clem, Kristina (Sr.) TN  
 Cloninger, John (Jr.) TN  
 Conner, Emily (So.) MI  
 Cozby, Tina (So.) TN  
 Dankson, Charity (Jr.) TN  
 Deel, Austin (So.) TN  
 Freeman, Amber (Sr.) TN  
 Hewett, Samantha (So.) AR  
 Hicks, Kelly (Sr.) TN  
 Hill, Elizabeth (So.) VA  
 Hoffmaster, Thomas (Fr.) WV  
 Hovis, Bethany (Jr.) MO  
 Jackson, Rachel (Sr.) TN  
 Lewis, Casey (So.) NC  
 Manning, Jacob (Jr.) NC  
 Morgan, Rebekah (Fr.) TN  
 Parrish, Emily (Fr.) NC  
 Pierce, Aaron (Sr.) MS  
 Ramos, Leigha (Sr.) TN  
 Sample, Kayla (Sr.) IL  
 Smith, Candice (Fr.) Canada  
 Trotter, Audrey (Jr.) TN  
 Tuttobene, Raven (Fr.) TN  
 Williams, Samantha (Jr.) AR  
 Zuniga, Zuri (Fr.) AR

### Provost's List: "B" Honor Roll

#### *Seniors*

Coker, Daniel (MS)  
 Culwell, Jacob (TN)  
 Cyrus, Christian (KY)  
 Hampton, Nicholas (TN)  
 Horton, Toney (TN)  
 Looney, Jordan (TN)  
 Pointer, Catherine (AR)  
 Shope, Bethany (TN)  
 Sims, Brittani (MI)  
 Stone, Kacy (KY)  
 Thornsby, Frank (KY)  
 Wilkerson, Allison (AL)

#### *Juniors*

Cox, Cassandra (TN)  
 Forlines, Joel (TN)  
 Frisbee, Tracy (TN)  
 Fry, Katy (MO)  
 Hall, Mary (NC)  
 Ham, Pamela (TN)  
 Hutchinson, Tim (MI)  
 Kyburz, Richie (MO)  
 Monroe, Jade (TX)  
 Mouser, Matthew (TN)  
 Nelson, Melissa (NC)  
 Sisk, Hope (TN)  
 Suarez, Josue (FL)  
 Whitworth, Emily (TN)

#### *Sophomores*

Bell, Victoria (NC)  
 Brown, Reese (TN)  
 Burns, Rachel (OH)  
 Coats, Bethany (SD)  
 Dunbar, Joshua (AR)  
 Fondren, Brooke (MS)  
 Herren, Dakota (NC)  
 Houske, Russell (TN)  
 Lane, Collin (AR)  
 Lindgren, Madison (CA)  
 Lindsay, Deandra (AL)  
 Lute, Derreck (OH)  
 Mouser, Amanda (TN)  
 Nelson, Kelsey (NC)  
 Petty, Maria (IL)  
 Pool, Mary-Catherine (NC)  
 Pugh, Daniel (TN)  
 Reeves, David (KY)  
 Riggs, Johanna (France)  
 Riggs, Laura (France)  
 Shamblin, John (MS)  
 Smith, Wayne (SC)  
 Snow, Elizabeth (TN)  
 Trussell, Kristin (FL)  
 Tucker, Gregory (TN)  
 Wilson, Christian (TN)  
 Wilson, Derek (TN)

#### *Freshmen*

Armstrong, Eric (AL)  
 Campbell, Anna (TN)  
 Clarke, Staci (OH)  
 Congleton, Jacy (NC)  
 Driggers, Hannah (SC)  
 Forlines, Jared (TN)  
 Hampton, Rachel (TN)  
 Heeter, Marissa (OH)  
 Hester, Spencer (TN)  
 Holden, Trevor (AR)  
 Hollis, Michael (NC)  
 Jenkins, Lesley (TN)  
 Melvin, Jessica (TN)  
 Merkh, Caroline (TN)  
 Milling, Caleb (TN)  
 Newland, John (TN)  
 Owen, Melissa (GA)  
 Pickett, Amy (AR)  
 Price, Hannah (OH)  
 Simpson, Keri (VA)  
 Stonerock, Paula (OH)  
 Thrasher, Emily (MI)  
 Trimble, Alyssa (CA)  
 Williams, Hannah (FL)

## 66 Visit Campus for Fall 2012 Welcome Days

Sixty-six high school students from 14 states gathered on the campus of Welch College November 8-10, as the college hosted its Fall 2012 Welcome Days, according to Director of Enrollment Services Debbie Mouser.

The 66 students (40 women, 26 men) represented North Carolina (15), Tennessee (12), Illinois (6), Missouri (6), Oklahoma (6), Alabama (5), Arkansas (4), Ohio (4), Georgia (3), Florida (1), Indiana (1), New York (1), South Carolina (1), and Texas (1). For several, Welcome Days marked their first visit to any college.

The two-day event gave visitors an opportunity to experience life as a Welch College student. They went to classes, ate in Cumberland Cafeteria,

and worshiped in chapel. The eventful schedule also included a campus-wide scavenger hunt, a reception hosted by President Matt Pinson, and “tailgating” outside of Picirilli Activity Center before the Friday night Flames basketball games. The students also met with Welch College professors and learned about financial aid in a Friday afternoon workshop for juniors and seniors.

The visiting students completed a brief survey of their Welcome Days experience. On a scale of one to five (1=poor; 5=excellent) the students awarded a 4.81 and 4.78 respectively to Welch College students and faculty and staff on their hospitality. The students were optimistic about both academic and spiritual life on campus as well,

giving a 4.56 satisfaction rating to the classes they attended and a 4.85 to the chapel service.

“It was exciting to have Welcome Days students on campus,” Mrs. Mouser said. “In talking with them, it is obvious that quality Christian higher education is something they are interested in. This embodies the work of Welch College, and we hope to have the opportunity to provide that for our young people.”

The next Welcome Days event is scheduled for April 18-20, 2013. For more information, contact the Enrollment Management Office at [recruit@Welch.edu](mailto:recruit@Welch.edu).

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## Student Selected for Prestigious Carlisle Award

The Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL) met at the State Capitol November 15-18, and selected Welch College Student Body President Frank Thornsbury to receive its prestigious Carlisle Award. Sixty colleges and universities were represented at the model legislature that takes place annually and provides Tennessee college students an opportunity to learn about, and be involved in, the law-making processes of the state.

Frank Thornsbury, a graduating senior from Kentucky, led a four-person delegation from Welch College. This marks the second year this team has represented Welch College at TISL. Collin Lane, a sophomore from Arkansas, served as alternate senator. Sophomore Bethany Coats (South Dakota) and senior Daniel Coker (Mississippi) both served in the House of Representatives.

“Our students had a very successful session.” Thornsbury said. “We represented the conservative Christian values espoused by our campus. Although we were in the minority as conservatives, we were able to push through some excellent legislation and block bad legislation. We took that role seriously in that TISL bills have the potential to become actual legislation.”

The 2011 session saw TISL participants vote Frank Thornsbury “Best Senator.” This year, Thornsbury was given the oldest and most prestigious award TISL offers participants: the Carlisle Award, voted on by the executive council.

“Receiving the Carlisle Award was a bit of a surprise. Honestly, I went in focused on defending my ‘Best Senator’ title,” Thornsbury remarked. “I was honored to receive this prestigious award and grateful for the opportunity to represent Welch College in the process.”



Welch College Provost Greg Kettelman said, “The Carlisle Award is evidence of Mr. Thornsbury’s commitment to excellence. I commend Mr. Thornsbury and our other TISL representatives for their voluntary service and for exercising their right and responsibility to bring Christian principles to bear in the public arena.”



# +Intersect >>>

## Oh Say, Can You See? A Look at Spiritual Blindness

*“I can’t see! I can’t see!”*

*“What’s the matter, kid?”*

*“I’ve got my eyes closed!”*

The old Three Stooges shtick between Curly and Moe always made me chuckle. But over several months last year, the reality of sight loss hit me pretty hard. It’s frustrating not to be able to see clearly. My problem was cataracts, but surgery has taken care of that.

Along with this vision loss issue, a fresh reading of Isaiah alerted me to a deeper, more troubling concern: spiritual blindness.

Sensory images—touching, hearing, and the like—dot the landscape of Isaiah’s oracles. In particular, though, the themes of sight and blindness surface repeatedly. Just start with chapter one, verse one and you’ll see (pardon the pun): “The vision of Isaiah . . . which he saw . . .” Keep reading passages such as 6:9-10; 29:9-10; 42:18-20; and 56:10 and you’ll see what I mean.

Here and elsewhere, the prophet warned his generation about the danger of not seeing clearly when it comes to spiritual matters. And his warning arches across the ages to reach us. Spiritual blindness plagues God’s people now, at this critical time when the “eyes of our hearts” need to see 20/20.

*Consider several factors Isaiah described in relation to spiritual blindness.*

### **Spiritual blindness is a real possibility for those who will not see God’s truth.**

In Isaiah 6:9, the prophet is instructed to announce to the people that they will see, but they will not understand. They will see but not see. They “blind themselves” (29:9) because they do not welcome the truth they would discern. Spiritual blindness is the condition of those unable to see and understand revealed truth because they are unwilling to obey it.

### **Spiritual blindness may affect people in a covenant relationship with God.**

Those without Christ do not see the truth, of course (2 Corinthians 4:4). But these are God’s people (6:10; 29:1). They have eyes, but don’t see.



### Spiritual blindness is self-induced at first, but becomes a judgment from God.

“Blind yourselves,” the Lord commands in 29:9. As He tells Ezekiel, His people have eyes to see, but do not see because “they are a rebellious house” (12:2). The resistant crowds who heard Jesus’ kingdom parables in Matthew 13 wouldn’t repent and obey; “they have their eyes closed,” He explained. When they persisted in their stubbornness, God blinded their eyes (John 12:38-40). Their situation resembled that of Pharaoh, who initially rejected God’s edict to release the Israelites from bondage in Egypt. When the king persisted in his defiance, however, God hardened Pharaoh’s heart and willed that the stubborn ruler’s fate be sealed in his rebellion. Pharaoh chose his own judgment and God saw that it happened.

### Spiritual blindness comes upon God’s people who are able to see, but refuse to make the commitment to see.

In Isaiah 29:11, God gives His Word to people in a sealed scroll. When a man who is able to read receives it and is told, “Read this,” he refuses and gives the excuse, “I cannot, for it is sealed.” He could break the seal with minimal effort and read the message, but he will not even try.

The Lord of the Book calls us to “break the seal,” to engage in serious, disciplined study of Scripture with a view toward understanding and applying it to our lives. When we study the Bible out of love for its author and its message, we truly worship.

### Spiritual blindness comes upon God’s people who, while not able to see, refuse to learn to see.

“When they give the book to one who cannot read,” Isaiah continues in 29:11, “saying, ‘Read this,’ he says, ‘I cannot read.’” Like this one who is spiritually illiterate, God’s people are often lazy, inattentive, and immature in refusing to grow in knowledge. This man couldn’t and wouldn’t even try to apply himself in a serious effort to know the truth. All too often, neither will we. The blindness continues. We get used to the dark. **ONE**

**In the next Intersect:** “Oh, Say Can You See? A Look at Spiritual Blindness,” Part Two.

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



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# Maintaining a Zest for Life

By Norma Jackson Goldman



## WHAT ARE THE KEYS TO GOOD HEALTH, OR IS THERE JUST ONE, MAGIC KEY?

Thoughtful health experts generally agree that having purpose in our lives is the key to good health—emotionally, physically, socially, and spiritually. Scripture provides a great deal of support for this conclusion, which should not surprise us, since God knows us better than we know ourselves!

While some people make good financial plans for retirement, few give enough attention to how to make the transition from years of work life to a productive, stimulating and engaging retirement.

## A Reason to Get Up

Humans need a reason to get up in the morning—something meaningful to do and be part of, the opportunity to make a difference in the world or in someone else's life. People who lack purpose decline in all other areas. Each person must work through what that reason means for him or her. A good place to start is by observing friends and family already in retirement. Who seems to be happy, energized and engaged, and who does not? What are the observable reasons for their zest for life or lack thereof?

Scripture describes work as God's design (and therefore good) and tells us that "sweet sleep" results from labor. In other words, we rest better when we've accomplished something. Opportunities to work, paid or not, abound and retirees often have the freedom to choose those things that provide the most enjoyment or switch to something else when they don't. Work that requires thinking, problem-solving, making choices and decisions is best because it stimulates brain activity.

## Listen to Your Body

How well do you listen to your body? Do you take steps to make sure you are physically fit? Not all may be able to run a marathon (although many retirees do) but most can certainly complete some sort of physical activity 3-4 times each week. Interestingly, those who consistently participate in group exercise experience better results than those who go it alone.

We already know the dangers and costs to health imposed by obesity and poor eating habits. Only you can make the right decisions about diet and exercise, but these decisions have a huge impact on your quality of life. Proper rest is essential in maintaining a zest for life. Trouble going to sleep, waking up during the night, or general tiredness are all reasons to consult with your physician to determine the cause.

Aches and pains are a normal part of aging, but abrupt or exaggerated symptoms need further examination by a doctor. Most claim that aches and pains fade into the background when they are busy at something they love to do.

## Social Engagement

Designed by God to live in community, it makes sense that humans need regular, meaningful social interaction. It takes work and planning to maintain healthy relationships, but there is a big payoff in making time to spend in fun, engaging interactions with those important to us. As we look beyond our own concerns and contribute to their lives, we are blessed and energized.

## Spiritual Engagement

We've saved the best for last! Time alone with God and His Word every day provides the energy and purpose we need to be all He intends us to be. When we are aligned with His plans, His Spirit empowers us to use our minds, our bodies, and our relationships all for His glory.

The common thread in this discussion is personal choice. We can choose to be engaged in meaningful work, to listen to our bodies and remain fit, to interact with others, and to give first place to our relationship with God—or not. This is the stewardship of life in Him—finding our purpose, making right choices. **ONE**

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

*Thanks* to the *First FWB Church, Mountain Grove, MO*, and *Glenn Poston, Nashville, TN*, for the donation to the Labor of Love Campaign. Learn more at [www.boardofretirement.com](http://www.boardofretirement.com).

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Part two in a three-part series

# AMERICAN IDOL?

## The Christian and Sports

BY GREG KETTEMAN

### Christians, Sports, and Culture

Although sport is obviously a major player in daily life in America, it is a near sacrosanct subject among conservative Christians. We argue vociferously about the proper version of the Bible, what music is acceptable for worship services, and the meaning of modesty and its application in contemporary life, but there is no similar controversy about involvement with sport. Sure, we may disagree over which team to cheer for, but fanatic loyalty to sports teams, and idolization or emulation of certain athletes, is noted with approval (or at least little apparent concern).

Most conservative Christians view participation in sports as the norm. From pastor to Easter-only layman, from parents to great-grandchildren, dedicated and even fanatic participation in sports is considered healthy. It may be risky to discuss theological viewpoints or political involvement at a monthly, non-denominational community minister's meet-

ing, but little risk is associated with the details of our latest round of golf, conquests of the church softball team, attendance at the professional hockey match, or the weekend spent at a child or grandchild's baseball tournament.

Conversely, criticizing involvement in sport or questioning support for amateur and professional sport carries great risk among conservative Christians. A quick—and often heated—defense enacts questions and platitudes such as, “What’s wrong with golf? It’s not immoral.” And “Involvement in sport keeps young people off the streets.” Or “This sport is part of the fabric of America.” And the clincher, “Sport gives Christians a platform to demonstrate and discuss their faith.”

In fact, anyone *not* involved in sport or who questions Christians' unfettered involvement in sport is likely to be viewed with the suspicion usually afforded to one who questions the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, or the Resurrection.



## SPORTS METAPHORS IN THE BIBLE

**Hebrews 12:1:** Wherefore, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27:** Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain...

**Wrestling:** Genesis 30:8; 32:24; 32:25; Ephesians 6:12

**Running/Racing:** Psalms 19:5; Ecclesiastes 9:11; Hebrews 12:1; Philippians 2:16; Galatians 2:2; Galatians 5:7; 2 Timothy 4:7; 1 Corinthians 9:24-25; Philippians 3:14

**Training:** 1 Timothy 4:8; 2 Timothy 2:5; 1 Corinthians 9:26

**Boxing/Fighting:** 2 Timothy 4:7; 1 Corinthians 9:27;  
1 Corinthians 15:32

### FOR A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON SPORTS:

<http://goo.gl/cvSEv>

Many evangelical Christians can sing word-for-word, “Take Me Out to the Ball Game,” but struggle to remember lyrics to the “Doxology” on Sunday morning. They can define terminology like third and inches, cleanup batter, hit the A-gap, or hat trick much more confidently than terminology like the Trinity, omnipotence, or salvation by grace. Their lives are much more entwined with lives of other fans than other Christians because they share more in common.

As evangelical Christians have attempted to shed Victorian and Puritan prudishness, we have emphasized recreational virtues over how they might distract us from worship or jeopardize our rest on the Lord’s Day. In much the same way that Christians have embraced routine work on Sundays, and have chosen to join our secularist counterparts at stores and restaurants, we take an “if you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em” approach to sport.

It is true we should avoid purely legalistic Sunday observances or prohibitions, but in terms of serving as salt and light in our culture, we may have thrown the baby out with the bathwater. In fact, it is likely that sport, for a growing number of professed Christians, is actually their primary religion, with Christian practice taking a back seat to dedication to sport, including its rituals, traditions, and values.

Any significant discussion about the contemporary relationship between sports and Christianity must acknowledge that, for many people, sport is the only “religion” they practice. This trend is not a passing fad but a full-blown societal and economic revolution comfortably situated in the culture of postmodernity. It illustrates, as nothing else, the need for Christian leaders to pay serious attention to the relationship between the Christian and sports, and to provide real and straightforward guidance for those they serve.

## Uneasy Relationship

This uneasy relationship between sports and Christianity is nothing new. In the first century, the early church did not embrace sporting activities because of their pagan religious significance in Greco-Roman culture. Early church leaders were concerned that participation in sport might interfere with religious devotion.<sup>1</sup>

More recently, Hilmi Ibrahim points out, “Calvinists stood against play in Colonial America when Massachusetts and Connecticut banned quoits, bowling, or any other unlawful game in the hours, yard, garden or backside ... All sporting was unholy in Colonial America.” Ibrahim believes the attitude of Puritans toward sport showed they only believed that the body is ordained for the service of God.<sup>2</sup>

In *Emile*, written in 1762, however, Rousseau advocated the benefits of sport and exercise and described physical education as important for the formation of moral character. This new attitude toward sport began in the U.S. in the mid-1850s. As the population began to shift from rural to urban, and work shifted from manual labor to machines and industry, physical wellbeing became a priority.

English writers Charles Kingsley, who praised Darwin’s *Origin of the Species*, as God’s way of creating the many diverse

species, and Thomas Hughes, who wrote *The Manliness of Christ* in 1879, and later founded a utopian community in Rugby, Tennessee, are credited with the idea of “muscular Christianity.” The development of this concept played a significant role on the contemporary relationship between sports and Christianity.

Muscular Christianity brought together piety and physical health and popularized the notion of spiritual value in sports. Physicians and ministers alike began to promote the concept of health through physical activity. Universities began to hire medical doctors to promote health among students, and organizations such as the YMCA were founded to promote spiritual and physical fitness, glorifying God by taking care of the body.

Following this surge of thought, basketball was created by James Naismith to help build Christian character and to support activity at the newly founded YMCA. The same is true of volleyball, invented by William Morgan. Amos Alonzo Stagg, a Yale University divinity student credited with many innovations in football equipment and coaching, also promoted the concept of muscular Christianity and helped to link Christianity to collegiate football.<sup>3</sup>

Evangelist D.L. Moody preached about muscular Christianity while Olympic champion Eric Liddell and early 20th century evangelist Billy Sunday used recognition of their sports achievement as evangelistic platforms. The movement coincided with the promotion of physical education in the secular arena creating a powerful common ground for American society in the 20th century.

The influence of muscular Christianity thought is still evident today. According to Christine Thomasos, many athletes—think Tim Tebow—“exemplify muscular Christianity through sharing their faith with their fans.”<sup>4</sup>

## Sports in the Bible

Numerous sports-related allusions, analogies, and metaphors are found in Scripture (see the short list in the sidebar). Do these references provide guidance for Christians seeking to honor God in their lives?

While the presence of sports metaphors and analogies within inspired Scripture is not tantamount to God’s approval, the fact that these references exist in the Spirit-breathed text is significant and leads to several logical conclusions:

First, references to ancient sports and athletics confirm the historicity of God’s word. It is clear that sports were an impor-

tant part of ancient life. References to sports take their place alongside other analogies and metaphors drawn from agriculture and warfare.

Second, the use of sports analogies in Scripture supports the conclusion that biblical authors and readers had a certain level of familiarity with sports.

Third, if sports existed in the ancient world but were not mentioned in the Bible, we might infer that the authors disdained such activities or deliberately chose not to communicate by using sports analogies.

Fourth, sports analogies and metaphors are not presented in a negative light. It is clear that the reward for completing the temporal, physical race is vastly inferior to the heavenly reward for completing the spiritual race; and that the stakes are eternal as we wrestle against spiritual wickedness or strive to keep under our body and bring it into submission. However, the race and wrestling match were both considered appropriate tools for making the point.

Fifth, these references typically treat values of sports and competition such as striving to win through discipline, hardship, and diligence in a positive light. “Laying aside weights,” “pressing toward the mark for the prize,” “striving lawfully,” “fighting the good fight,” “finishing the course,” “striving for mastery,” “temperance,” and “running with patience” are all analogies clearly built on values of sport. Most Christians would agree that these values are desirable.

## Make the Right Call

Scripture provides no specific command to participate in sports and no explicit prohibition against participation in sports. Based on the facts that the Apostle Paul did acknowledge “a little” value to bodily exercise and that sports analogies were not avoided in the Scripture, it is reasonable to conclude that sports are not all bad.

By themselves, however, these conclusions do not provide adequate guidance to achieve a Christian view of sport. In Part Three of “American Idol: The Christian and Sports,” we will examine scriptural principles Christians must use in governing their participation in and promotion of sports. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Greg Kettman is provost of Welch College. Learn more about the college: [www.welch.edu](http://www.welch.edu).

1 Woods, Ronald B. 2007. *Social Issues in Sport*. Human Kinetics, Champaign, IL.

2 Ibrahim, Hilmi. 1975. *Sport and Society: An Introduction to Sociology of Sport*. Hwong Publishing Co., Inc. Long Beach, CA.

3 (Woods, Yiannakis, and Melnick, Mary Jane Dunlap (March 13, 2012) Kansas University.

4 Thomasos, Christine. October 20, 2011. “Tim Tebow Brings in a New Wave of Christian Athleticism.” <http://www.christianpost.com/news/tim-tebow-brings-in-a-new-wave-of-christian-athleticism-58871>

# LeaderProfile >>>>

Leadership comes in all forms and sizes, but the results are the same. Leaders influence behavior and make a difference in people's lives. Profiling leaders shows a diverse combination of traits, but impacting lives is always a common theme. **by Ron Hunter Jr.**

## Will Beauchamp >>>>>>>>



**Tell me about your quiet time.** It all starts when I get to my office in the morning. I have a devotional book I really enjoy, and then I spend time in prayer for the day ahead of me.

**What are you reading right now?**  
*Text-Driven Preaching* by David L. Akin, David L. Allen, and Ned Mathews  
*Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus* by Kyle Idleman  
*Crazy Love* by Francis Chan

**What are your top three books (other than the Bible)?**  
*Kingdom of Priests: A History of Old Testament Israel* by Eugene H. Merrill  
*The Cross of Christ* by John R. Stott  
*Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy* by Eric Metaxas

**What is your biggest failure?**  
 Balancing church time and family time.

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

Cadence (age 10) - Compassionate  
 Emory (age 5) - Animated

**What is your one indulgence?** Glazed doughnuts

**Paper or Plastic Questions**

- >> *Mountains or Ocean?*  
Mountains
- >> *Music or Talk Radio?* Music
- >> *Coke or Pepsi?* Sweet Tea
- >> *Email or Texting?* Texting
- >> *Mac or PC?* PC
- >> *Socks or house shoes?* Bare Feet

Called to preach after graduating from Welch College, Will pastors First Free Will Baptist Church of Tampa, his home church. Prior to becoming the senior pastor in October 2011, Will served as assistant pastor under Roger Duncan, who pastored the church for 37 years.

When asked what he hopes to see occur at the church, Will replied, "My prayer is that the church uses spiritual and doctrinal discernment to recognize truth and reveal error." Will spends a great deal of time working with a widow ministry called the James 1:27 Team, doing handiwork for these precious ladies. "They probably bring us more encouragement than we bring them," he reflects.

Numerous biblical examples illustrate the power of family influence—good or bad. One can easily identify the spiritual influence Will's parents had in his life. Because Will's parents were full-time gospel singers, his childhood included a great deal of time on a tour bus. Now, his leadership helps other parents pass along their faith. He models this at home, where his love for Christ is being passed along to the next generation. Will recently listened to his girls (ages 5 and 10) sing together in church. Will and his wife Jennifer enjoy getting away for a long weekend but say it does not happen often enough.

Some leaders seek control of the team, services, and life in general. Not Will. He desires the Holy Spirit's leading in decisions, services, and life. His reliance on the Father helps balance his tendency toward being overly concerned with details. (Although his attention to detail brings an excellence in quality and focus to the entire organization.)

**Will, You are a great leader!** ONE



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## NYC News



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**DR. TIM KIMMEL** is founder of Family Matters, whose goal is to see families transformed by God's grace into instruments of reformation and restoration. Tim has authored many books including: Gold Medallion Winner *Grace Based Parenting*, *Raising Kids for True Greatness*, *Basic Training for A Few Good Men*, *Homegrown Heroes*, *Extreme Grandparenting*, *Little House on the Freeway*, *Raising Kids Who Turn Out Right*, and *Connecting Church and Home*. Kimmel has also produced several DVD studies including the Grace Based Parenting video series.



### NYC TEEN WORSHIP SERVICE SPEAKERS:

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Sunday PM: **GENE WOOTON**

Monday PM: **TIM KIMMEL**

Tuesday PM: **CHRIS SARGENT**

### BUCK-A-WEEK PROJECTS

Church Planters, Tyler & Kellie Penn's student ministry at the University of Illinois and the 10th Anniversary celebration of JCrois in France.

### Reach That Guy

SERVICE PROJECTS

will be listed online at [reachthatguy.com](http://reachthatguy.com) as they become available.

### REMINDER ABOUT NYC COMPETITION REGISTRATION FORMS DUE JUNE 1

The NYC event schedule will be online at [fwnyc.com](http://fwnyc.com) by the first week of May and the complete NYC directory will be online the first week of June.

#### NYC CONFERENCE FEES:

Competition Event Fee for all events (*often paid by the association*)

Student Conference Fee \$25 at preregistration (*for grades 1-12*)

Adult Conference Fee \$15 (*for access to competition and NYC worship services*)

Note: Make sure you have the revised Competition Guidelines for 2013.

## News About the Denomination

### Free Will Baptist Yearbook Now Available

**Antioch, TN**—The 2013 Free Will Baptist *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, contact Randall House Publications at 800-877-7030 or log on to [www.RandallHouse.com](http://www.RandallHouse.com). ■

### Missouri Free Will Baptists Celebrate 100 Years

**Springfield, MO**—The Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists will celebrate a Centennial anniversary June 3-5, 2013, in



Springfield, Missouri, at Ramada Oasis Convention Center. Speakers will include Clarence Burton; Gary Fry; Nathan Ruble; Keith Burden, executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists; and Missouri Executive Director Stan Bunch. Evening services will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Throughout their history, Missourians have been active in Free Will Baptist cooperative efforts. They played an important role in the formation of the National Association in 1935, when representative Winford Davis delivered the first message of the organizational meeting and was later elected assistant moderator and secretary of Sunday School work. Fellow Missourian B.F. Brown

was elected to the Executive Committee and Selph Jones was appointed to the first Joint Educational Committee.

Missouri played an important role in promoting the use of Free Will Baptist Sunday School curriculum, and began publishing its own periodical, the Free Will Baptist Gem, in 1929. It continues as one of the longest-running Free Will Baptist publications and served for a time as the national Free Will Baptist magazine.

Today, the Missouri State Association includes 173 churches in 19 associations, with state office and bookstore in Lebanon. For more information, visit [www.mofwb.org](http://www.mofwb.org). ■

### Introducing 2013 Nominees

**Antioch, TN**—The following have been nominated for board and commission positions to be filled at the 2013 National Association of Free Will Baptists in Tampa, Florida, according to Mike Wade (OK), Nominating Committee chairman:

#### 2013 Election Schedule For Standing Boards and Commissions

##### BOARD OF THE FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION 2019

Donnie Miles (SC) - *(eligible for re-election)*

Wendell Walley (CA) - *(eligible for re-election)*

Hubert Stafford (GA) *to replace Brian Hurst (TN)*

**Hubert Stafford** is chairman of the deacon board at Colquitt FWB Church (GA). A retired businessman, Hubert has broad experience in investments. He graduated from Troy State University with a B.A. in Business and Marketing, and in 1977, after several years of working in the grocery industry, he and his wife opened their own grocery store in Colquitt, which they oper-

ated until their retirement in 2007. Hubert and Barbara have been married 47 years. They have two children—Ashley and Sonia—and three grandchildren: Hunter, Erin, and Andrew.

##### BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS 2019

Jeff Jones (NC) *to replace Jerry Atwell (MS)*

Frank Wiley (OK) *to replace Bobby Shepherd (AR)*

Frank Webster (MO) *to replace Matt Upton (CA)*

**Jeff Jones** moved to Fuquay Varina, North Carolina, and began ministry at Hilltop FWB Church in 1987 after graduating from Southeastern FWB College with a Bachelor's Degree in Bible and Pastoral Training. Jeff served first as assistant pastor until becoming senior pastor in 1996. In 2010, he graduated from Bob Jones University with a Master of Ministry degree. He teaches

Homiletics at Southeastern FWB College, where he has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1997. He was a member of the North Carolina Mission Board from 1996-2006, serving two years as chairman. Jeff and his wife Rose have two daughters: Leslie and Stacie (Ange).

**Frank Wiley** has pastored Sunnyslane FWB Church in Del City, Oklahoma, since 1972. The Oklahoma native earned a B.A. in Theology from Hillsdale FWB College in 1975. He has been a member of the Oklahoma State Executive Board for 16 years and served 12 years on the Board of Trustees of Hillsdale FWB College. As chairman of the First Oklahoma (District) Mission Board, Wiley was instrumental in 11 new church plants and four joint missions projects with the Oklahoma Church Extension Program. He also led the Sunnyslane Church to start Winnwood FWB

# Pre-Registration

## National Association of Free Will Baptists

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

**One Form Per Person | Register Online: [www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org) | Name Badges Required for All Convention Events**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Missionary Country (if outside USA) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (preferably cell) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Church You Attend \_\_\_\_\_ Church City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

### National Association

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

#### Voting Delegates:

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

#### Non-Voting:

- Licensed Minister
- Attendee (includes infants and toddlers)

#### Tickets:

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

**National Association Information: [www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org)**

### National Youth Conference

#### Preschool:

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

#### Students: \$25

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

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

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

#### College Age / Adults: \$15

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

- Adult Attendee (No students or children)

#### Tickets:

The Skit Guys .....Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Tuesday, July 23, 9:00 pm

**NYC Information: 800-877-7030 | [www.fwbny.com](http://www.fwbny.com)**

### Women Nationally Active for Christ

#### Voting Delegates:

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

#### Non-Voting:

- Missionary
- Attendee

#### Tickets:

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

**WNAC Information: 877-767-7662 | [www.wnac.org](http://www.wnac.org)**

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

#### PAYMENT OPTIONS:

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

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

#### RETURN TO:

##### Convention Registration

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

**Questions: 877-767-7659 / [convention@nafwb.org](mailto:convention@nafwb.org)**

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

# Convention Housing

2013 National Association of Free Will Baptists

## Tampa Marriott Waterside (HQ)

700 South Florida Avenue  
Tampa, Florida 33602  
Phone: 888-789-3090  
Rate: \$139  
Valet Parking: \$22



## Westin Tampa Harbour Island

725 South Harbour Island Boulevard  
Tampa, Florida 33602  
Phone: 888-627-8158  
Rate: \$129  
Self-Parking: \$10 | Valet: \$14



## Embassy Suites Tampa

513 South Florida Avenue  
Tampa, Florida 33602  
Phone: 800-362-2779  
Rate: Single/Double \$160  
Triple/Quad \$170  
Valet parking: \$22



## Hilton Tampa Downtown (formerly Hyatt Regency)

211 N Tampa Street  
Tampa, Florida 33602  
Phone: 800-445-8667  
Rate: \$99  
Group Code: NAFW  
Self-Parking: \$16 | Valet: \$20



**Note: Reservations can be made by telephone or internet directly through the hotel.**

**Room rates do not include applicable taxes (12%).**

## 1. Prepare Personal Information

You will need the following:

- +Name(s)
- +Address, City, State, Zip
- +Phone/Email
- +Credit Card Information
- +Special Requests:
  - Non-Smoking Room
  - Wheelchair Accessibility
  - Rollaway Bed
  - Crib

## 2. Contact Your Hotel of Choice

(See details above.)

Reservations will open at 9 am, CST, 10 am, EST, Monday, May 6, 2013.

Hotels have been instructed **NOT TO ACCEPT** reservations before this time.

- +Hotels may limit the number of reservations made by an individual.
- +Cut-off date: Friday, June 21, 2012.

## 3. Receive Your Confirmation

**On Monday, May 6, links to hotel reservations will be available at:**

**[www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org).**

Church in Oklahoma City. Wiley also serves as chaplain for the Del City Fire and Police Department.

**Frank Webster** left a pastorate at First FWB Church, Neosho, Missouri, in 2007 to become state missions director for the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists. The 1994 Crowder College graduate has served the Missouri State Missions Board in some capacity for nearly 20 years. Since becoming director, he has traveled more than 100,000 miles promoting missions endeavors, leading three missions trips to international locations and 14 trips to Home Missions church plants in North America and Mexico. He is founder of Support Walk, a state-wide missions fundraising event.

#### BOARD OF MASTER'S MEN

2019 – Ken Oleson (OK) - (eligible for re-election)

Jason Vinson (AL) - (eligible for re-election)

Sam Lucky (FL) to replace Rudy Taylor (MI)

**Sam Lucky** has been a deacon at Ryanwood Fellowship FWB Church in Vero Beach, Florida, since 1976. In addition to his work as a deacon, he teaches an adult Sunday School class, presides over his local chapter of Master's Men, and serves on the Board of Trustees. Sam is a member of the Christian Education Board of the Indian River Association, serves on the district ordaining board, and acts as the district representative to the Florida State Association.

#### BOARD OF RETIREMENT

2015 – Larry Clyatt (FL) to replace Mark Ousley (TN)

**Larry Clyatt** pastors Harmony FWB Church in Lake Butler, Florida. The Florida native graduated from Welch College in 1969 with a B.A. in Bible. During his 44-year pastoral career, he has pastored four churches in Illinois, Tennessee, and Florida. He was a member of the Board of Randall House Publications from 1986-1998 and served as moderator of both the Tennessee and Illinois State Associations. Clyatt was a member of the Illinois Missions Board for more than a decade and currently serves on the Florida Missions Board. He and his wife Peggy have three daughters, Elise, Larae, and Bethany.

2019 – Rick Cason (GA) - (eligible for re-election)  
Mike Gladson (TN) to replace Craig Cook (TN)  
Randy Wilson (OK) to replace Jack Ward (NC)

**Mike Gladson** has served as pastor at Cofer's Chapel in Nashville, Tennessee, since 2005. Called to preach as a teenager, Gladson was ordained in 1981 and has pastored for 29 years. He holds a B.A. in Bible and Pastoral Ministry from Welch College, and an M.A. in Pastoral

Ministry from Trinity Theological Seminary. He has served on the Tennessee Executive Committee since 2008. He and his wife Linda have three children.

**Randy Wilson** began his current pastorate at Bethany FWB Church in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, in 1992. A 1979 graduate of Hillsdale FWB College, he received a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Theological Seminary in 1983. He has served as vice-chairman of the Free Will Baptist International Missions Board, on the Oklahoma State Executive Board, and on the Board of Trustees for Hillsdale FWB College. Randy and his wife Donell have two grown children and a grandson.

#### COMMISSION FOR THEOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

2016 – W. Jackson Watts (MO) to replace Paul Harrison (TN)

2018 – Matt Pinson (TN) – (eligible for re-election)

**Jackson Watts** began pastoring at Grace FWB Church in Arnold, Missouri, in August 2011. The South Carolina native was called to preach shortly after beginning his studies at Welch College where he studied English and Pastoral Ministry. He was ordained into the ministry shortly after graduation and served from 2007-2011 as Minister of Education at Tippet's Chapel FWB Church in Clayton, North Carolina. During this time he earned graduate degrees from both Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (M.Div.) and Duke Divinity School (Th.M.). Currently, he is earning a Ph.D. from Concordia Seminary in addition to his pastoral responsibilities. Jackson and several ministry colleagues operate a website known as The Helwys Society Forum. He will publish his first book, *Biblical Beliefs*, later this year.

#### HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2018 – David Crowe (TN) – (eligible for re-election)

#### MUSIC COMMISSION

2018 – James Stevens (TN) – (eligible for re-election)

#### MEDIA COMMISSION

2018 – Stephen Lopes (TN) – (eligible for re-election)

#### GENERAL BOARD 2018

Alabama: Rick Cash

Arizona: George Harvey, Jr.

Arkansas: Tim Campbell

Association of Mexico: Luis Felipe Tijerina

Atlantic-Canada: Oral McAfee

California: Millard Sasser

Colorado: Mark Thomas

David Marks Heritage: Tom Jones

Florida: Donnie Hussey

Georgia: Wayne Miracle

Idaho: Gene Kissinger

Illinois: David Shores

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2016 – Tim Campbell (AR) - (eligible for re-election)

David Shores (IL) - (eligible for re-election)

Millard Sasser (CA) to replace Rick Cash (AL)

**Millard Sasser** is a veteran pastor who has served churches in Florida, Missouri, Washington, and California during 50 years of ministry. The Florida native attended Welch College from 1961-1963. He earned a B.A. in Bible and Social Psychology from Missouri Baptist College in 1976, and a M.A. in Pastoral Ministry from Covenant Theological Seminary a decade later. He has been a General Board member representing the states of Missouri, Washington, Florida, and (currently) California. Sasser has served as moderator of the California and Missouri State Associations, as executive secretary of the Florida State Association, and as moderator of the Northwest Association. He also served as academic dean of California Christian College. He and his wife Margie have three daughters, Joanna (Felts), Rhonda (Hodges) and Felicia (Lopez).

2014 – Wayne Hale (DE) to replace Chris Clay (IN)

**Wayne Hale** has pastored New Castle FWB Church in Delaware since 2001. The Missouri native graduated from Welch College in 1979 with a B.A. in Bible, and earned both an MAR and a M.Div. from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. He is pursuing a D.Min. from Luther Rice Seminary. Hale grew up in Park Hills, Missouri, and has nearly 30 years pastoral experience in Mississippi, Missouri, and Delaware. He is moderator of the Mid-Atlantic Association.

#### GENERAL OFFICERS -

Moderator: Tim York (TN)

Assistant Moderator: William Smith (GA)

Clerk: Randy Bryant (FL)

Assistant Clerk: Ernie Lewis (IL)

*The following boards do not elect members in 2013:* Board of Randall House Publications, Board of International Missions, and Welch College Board of Trustees.

Photo: Mark Cowart



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

## One to ONE >>>>

### *Thank You for Being Polite*

I was attending a meeting in a state that shall remain nameless. I stayed in a hotel that provided complimentary parking, Internet service, and a continental breakfast. Before leaving for the morning session, I stopped by the dining room to grab a bite to eat.

As I surveyed the various food options, a friendly hotel worker greeted me. She had a warm smile and offered her assistance if needed. I thanked her, made my selection, and found my way to a table in the dining area.

I ate my breakfast as I scanned the headlines of the daily newspaper. Just then, my pleasant dining experience was interrupted as I heard the loud voice of an obviously unhappy hotel guest.

“Is this all I have to choose from?” she snapped angrily at the hotel employee. “You’re telling me you don’t have eggs and bacon?” She continued her tirade saying, “I paid good money to stay in this hotel. You would think you people could do a little better than this!”

By now, all eyes in the room were focused on the scene. We were wondering how the dining room worker would respond to the rude comments of this woman. To everyone’s surprise, she smiled and politely explained that the hotel offered different food items on different days during the week. It just so happened that this wasn’t a “bacon and eggs” day. She calmly apologized for the inconvenience, then turned and walked back into the kitchen.

Everyone ate in silence as the disgruntled patron continued to complain aloud about the food. Thankfully, she gobbled down her breakfast quickly and exited the dining room. Momentarily, the hotel worker emerged from the kitchen and resumed her duties.

Quietly, I got up from the table, retrieved some bills from my wallet, walked over to the employee, pressed the money into her hand and said, “Thank you for being polite.” She smiled and nodded as if to say, “Thanks for noticing.”

I was appalled by the attitude and actions of the unhappy woman. Imagine—complaining about a complimentary breakfast! I thought of a lot of things I wished the hotel employee had said to her. That’s when it came to me...those times when I complained about God’s blessings. In one sense, I was no better than the ungrateful woman. I felt convicted.

Fortunately, that experience wasn’t wasted on me. Not only did I learn something from that whiner, I was reminded of a truth from God’s Word: “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger” (Proverbs 15:1).

The response of the worker may have been lost on the grumbler, but it didn’t escape my attention or the attention of others in the dining room. In a day when gentility seems to be disappearing from society, may we as Christ-followers live out the admonition of Scripture, “Let your speech be always with grace” (Colossians 4:6a). **ONE**



# Concerned about rising taxes?

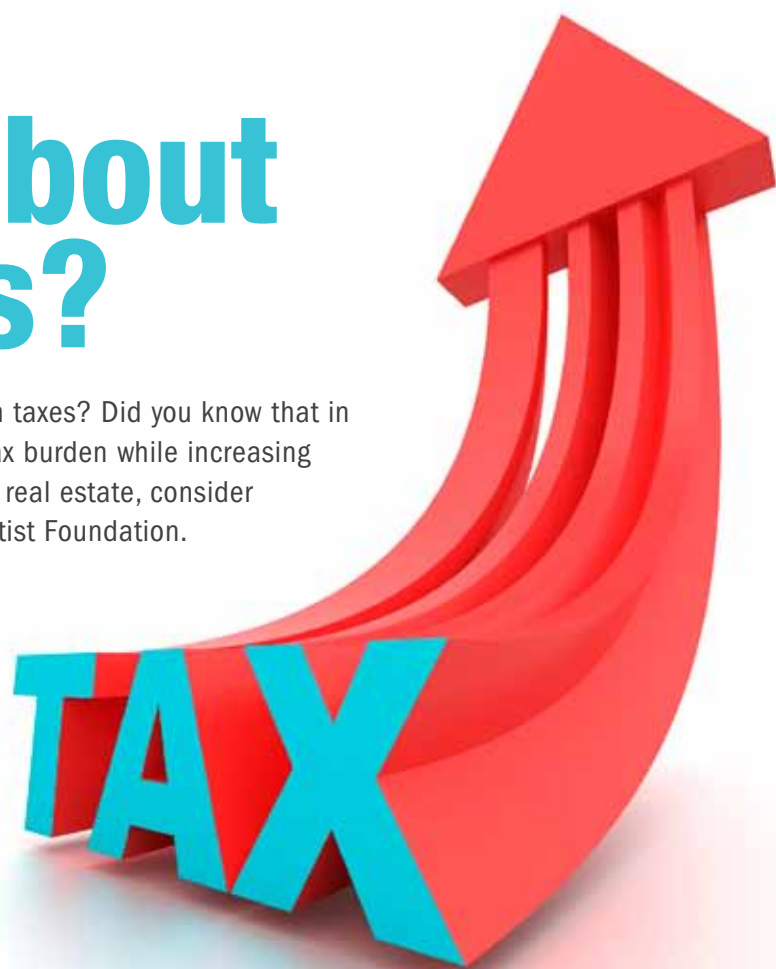
**Do you find yourself worrying** about a sudden increase in taxes? Did you know that in spite of the uncertain economy, there is a way to lessen your tax burden while increasing future income? If you own appreciated assets such as stock or real estate, consider moving them to a charitable remainder trust with Free Will Baptist Foundation.

## **Benefits include:**

- +charitable deduction
- +potential for increased income
- +bypass of capital gains tax
- +a perpetual gift to International Missions



**Free Will Baptist Foundation**  
www.fwbgifts.org | 877-336-7575  
(now on Facebook)



# Tee one up & hit it deep!

## **National Golf Challenge**

**August 1**

Compete in the Master's Men National Golf Challenge at Windtree Golf Course in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee.

## **National Softball Tournament**

**August 2-3**

Join softball teams from across the nation to compete in the annual tournament sponsored by Master's Men. Enjoy two full days of high-impact tournament play.



**Reserve a spot today:**

(877) 767-8039

[www.fwbmastersmen.org](http://www.fwbmastersmen.org)

HELP HIM HEAR  
THE GOSPEL.

GIVE TO THE 2013



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SUNDAY, APRIL 28

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