

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

# ONE

MAGAZINE

**Victory Over Stress**  
**Transformational Faith**  
**Ode to the Insignificant**

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

JUNE-JULY 2011

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# THE KEY TO CHURCH SURVIVAL



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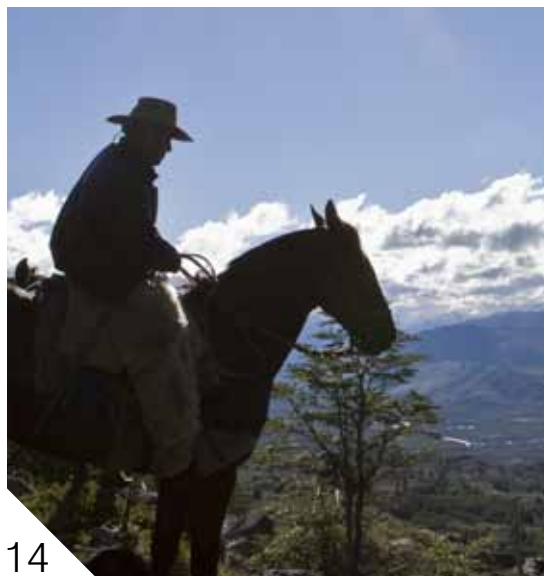


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# ONE

MAGAZINE

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



14



30

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# FIRST GLIMPSE

## Why Me, Lord?



Photo: Mark Cowart

ERIC THOMSEN  
MANAGING EDITOR

### I'M SURE MOSES JUMPED A FOOT OFF THE

ground when the bush burst into flames before him and the voice of God began to thunder (Exodus 3). He listened in disbelief as God told him he would become the leader of Israel; confront Pharaoh, the most powerful ruler on earth; and lead the People from slavery in Egypt.

A new and dangerous mission was the last thing Moses wanted. "Who am I?" he responded quickly. "Nobody will listen to me. I don't have credibility. I'm not eloquent or quick on my feet" (Exodus 4:1, 10).

"Why me, Lord?" It's a common response when God calls us from comfort and routine.

When told he would save Israel from the marauders of Midian (Judges 6), Gideon protested. "How will I save Israel? I am the least important member of the weakest family in the tribe."

"Why me, Lord?"

Two days after his great victory over the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, Elijah found himself lying under a shade tree in the wilderness (1 Kings 19:4), frightened and exhausted. "I'm the only faithful one left. I can't go on. Just let me die."

"Why me, Lord?"

Jonah told God, "I'd rather die than see Ninevah repent" (Jonah 4:2-4).

"Why me, Lord?"

I can almost see Peter shaking his shaggy head slowly. "But we spent all night fishing and didn't catch anything. It doesn't make any sense to put the nets back in the water" (Luke 5:4).

"Why me, Lord?"

Time and again, God's response to their muttered excuses was the same. "I will go with you, I will equip you, and I will give you success." And He didn't give them an option.

"Why *not* you?" It is the question He still asks today.

"I'm not qualified," you say. That's what Moses thought. "I don't have the leadership skills." Neither did Gideon. "I've already done my part for God." So had Elijah, but God hadn't finished with him. "It's dangerous." No kidding! Just ask Jonah how dangerous it is to run from God's will. "It doesn't make sense." Peter would agree. Still, God's Word makes it clear. God wants you.

"Why me, Lord?"

Because He can—and will—use you just as you are. He doesn't expect you to know all the answers. He knows your shortcomings, your weaknesses, your limitations, and He is able to work in spite of them. He simply needs people willing to say yes. He will do the rest. **ONE**

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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 THOROUGHLY ENJOYED READING JEFF Crabtree's** article ("Gaps in Theistic Evolution," February-March 2011) and feel that its presentation was well thought out and simply presented. He reminds us once again that our Lord Jesus Christ is the final authority on questions of origin as well as other subjects.

**Al Messer, Ashland City, TN**

**I LOVE ONE MAGAZINE, AND I READ IT FROM** cover to cover. I was greatly blessed by the article, "Why Be A Christian?" by Dr. Garnett Reid in the February-March Issue. Romans 8:28 has been my life verse, but he provided many wonderful insights in other verses in the chapter. Each time I read it, I find something new to rejoice in.

**Dorothy Cox, Paintsville, KY**

**I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION** for the February-March issue, especially for the excellent article written by Matthew Bracey on "Going Green." The article reflected a well-balanced and studied approach to the issue of environmental care. While it is certainly true that our primary concern as Christians is to announce the gospel, and a person's eternal destiny far outweighs the comparatively minor concerns of pollution and abuse of God's creation, that does not give us an excuse to not care for this earth. We who believe that God is the Maker and Giver of all life ought to be the first to cry foul when mankind degrades His magnificent handiwork. Bravo for this necessary and timely article.

**Steve Riggs, Nantes, France**

### A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Page 49 [of the April-May issue] identifies five 1956 Convention officers. The second man from the right is listed as Thomas Hamilton. In reality, he is my father, John I. Morgan. He was assistant moderator of the convention for some time—the only layman to hold that post, so I've been told. That's what took us to several national associational meetings when I was a child.

**Robert J. Morgan, Nashville, TN**

# HONORING OUR HERITAGE

The National Association of Free Will Baptists will mark its 75th anniversary at the 2011 convention in Charlotte. In light of this important milestone, the Executive Office has produced two commemorative items. **Honoring Our Heritage** is a stunning video documentary that takes viewers on an unforgettable trip through our rich history. **Convention Sermons** is a beautiful, thousand-page, hardbound volume that compiles sermons from 75 years of conventions. **Order one for \$15 or both for \$25.**

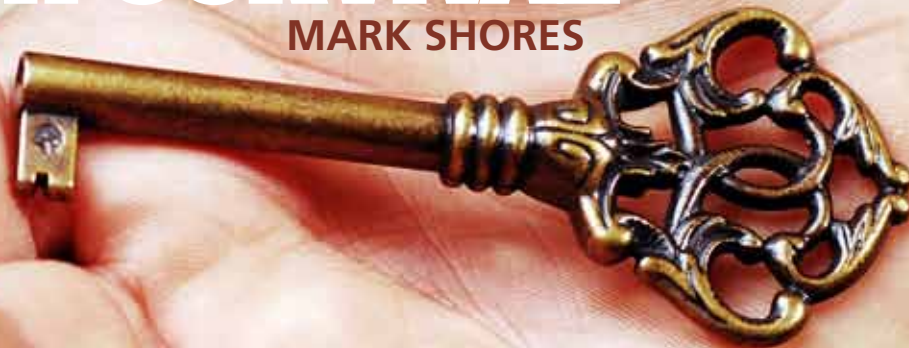
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# THE KEY TO CHURCH SURVIVAL

MARK SHORES



## THE CHURCH EXISTS BECAUSE OF LAY PEOPLE.

I know people in full-time ministry seem to get all the publicity, but it's people who fill the pews, fill the choir loft, fill the bus ministry positions, fill the Sunday School class teaching positions, work in the nursery, and clean the facilities who make up the Church. The simple fact of the matter is the church could not survive without lay people.

Most of my life has not been spent as a pastor/church planter but as a layman. I did not answer the call to pastoral ministry until age 36. Having grown up in a pastor's home, I often say I have held every position in the church but nursery director. Through those expe-

riences, I have come to understand at least some of the basic principles of being a good lay worker.

I began to view the laity from the pastoral perspective during my first pastorate in Illinois, and I quickly came to appreciate Marcie. Every pastor and

church would be blessed to have a layperson like Marcie in the church. She is the kind of worker who never has to be asked to do anything. She is always the first to volunteer, and she works harder than any two or three people put together. She always goes above and beyond the call of duty and never complains about doing anything for the Lord. Organization is one of her strong points; everything she does is for the Lord.

Let's take a look at four simple principles for being a valuable layman.

**Stay in the Word.** Even though this seems too obvious, it still needs to be said. Staying focused on His Word and seeking Him first must be the guiding principle of every believer who hopes or

expects to live a victorious life.

**Do what you can.** The story of Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, anointing Jesus as found in the 14th chapter of Mark is a wonderful example. Everyone present that day considered the breaking of the alabaster box by Mary a huge waste; everyone, that is, except Jesus. When the disciples mocked her and murmured against her, and when Judas exclaimed that the perfume could have been sold and the money given to the poor, what was Jesus' response? "Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always" (John 12: 7, 8). Mary did a good thing; she gave her best.

Isn't that what the Lord expects from all of us? Have you ever consid-

ered the impact the Church could have on the world if we all simply did what we could? If the Great Commission is ever going to be fulfilled, that is what it

will take. It is much easier to find excuses why something *can't* be done instead of doing what *can*.

**Be sure to give it your all.** I think it is relevant that Mary not only did what she could, she did all she could. She didn't just open the box and pour out a few drops of oil to wash His feet; she poured it all on Him. This was her

widow's mite—her all. Are there a few drops left in your alabaster box? Have you poured it all out for Him? I would say this is an area where I sometimes

fail. I work and give until people are satisfied, without asking the Lord if He is satisfied. Yet, isn't His opinion what really matters?

*So, remember to stay in the Word, do what you can, and give it your all. After all, your work is the key to the survival of the church!* **ONE**

## HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED THE IMPACT THE CHURCH COULD HAVE ON THE WORLD IF WE ALL SIMPLY DID WHAT WE COULD?



**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Mark and Khristi Shores are serving as home missionaries in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



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# BODY BUILDING

with **WNAC**

BY SARAH FLETCHER

When Harmony Free Will Baptist Church leaders met with potential pastor Tim Forman, they posed this question. “Could your wife help us get a women’s group started?” Tim assured them this would be no problem. He knew his wife Sandy would jump at the chance to involve women in WNAC.



**ABOUT THE WRITER:**

Sarah Fletcher is editor and designer for WNAC publications and manages [www.wnac.org](http://www.wnac.org).

## Setting the Pace

The Formans arrived at Harmony (Tim’s first pastorate) in June 2005. In August that same year, 23 women met at the parsonage for the first meeting of the Harmony Women Active for Christ. Today, the group numbers 54 and spans generations. Women ages 11 to 93 meet monthly for fellowship, study, and prayer, and joyfully involve themselves in a host of service efforts that impact their community as well as the world. Under Sandy Forman’s leadership, Harmony Women Active for Christ continues to thrive.

Sandy was not always a WNAC enthusiast. She confesses, “I was the child whose mother dragged her to auxiliary meetings.” She offered plenty of excuses. “There’s no one my age. It’s boring. They never do anything fun.” “Please don’t make me go,” she begged.

Her mother didn’t budge, and Sandy kept going. That maternal persistence paid off when as a 20-something, Sandy chose to take an active role in her local Women Active for Christ in Pontotoc, Mississippi. She credits the change in attitude to the influence of Rhonda Whitley. As a new pastor’s wife, Rhonda revamped woman’s auxiliary and began a WAC group in Sandy’s home church. Sandy says, “Under her leadership, we discovered that studying God’s Word is interesting, helping missionaries is rewarding, and the strength we gain from other women is something we could not find in other organizations. Rhonda made WAC come alive.”

## Vision for Growth

Sandy emulated her mentor and transported those same leadership goals and vision to an eager congregation in Rye, Arkansas. Today, Harmony Women Active for Christ is the largest local WAC group in the nation. Over half the congregation actively participates. The group’s goal this year is to involve every woman. Sandy gives all the glory to God.

She also points to women’s faithfulness, willingness, and joy in working with each other as contributing factors to the group’s effectiveness. “We promote unity. We help one another and build each other up.”

The mutual help and encouragement among women is also building and strengthening the entire church body. The church continues to experience steady growth. Sandy believes part of the growth came as a direct result of the efforts of WAC. When women began meeting together, men in the church recognized their need for fellowship and discipleship. In October 2006, they organized a Master’s Men chapter. This drew several unchurched husbands and fathers, and eventually whole families committed their homes to the lordship of Christ. One girl accepted Christ as Savior through the influence of godly mentors within the WAC.

A couple who recently joined the church started attending



after they received a snack bag through a WAC community outreach project. They commented, “We realized this church was actively doing something and was not just concerned with itself; Harmony Church truly cares about our community.”

### Reaching the Goal

Harmony exemplifies the aim of WNAC to help women fulfill the Great Commission through God-designed roles in the home, church, community, and world. Over the past six years, the group has collected eyeglasses for the Lion’s Club, provided school supplies for the church’s van ministry children, distributed snack bags throughout the community, and offered volunteer service and supplies for a nearby crisis pregnancy center. They’ve mailed care packages to soldiers in Iraq and workers in a creative access region. Women have given socks to homeless shelters and abuse centers, made quilts for every bed at the Florence Crittendon Children’s Home in Little Rock, and provided crayons and homemade pillows for children at the Arkansas Children’s Hospital.

They’ve assisted a Free Will Baptist mission church with cleaning and door-to-door evangelism. Women routinely sing at a local nursing home. The group participates annually in Operation Christmas Child, the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, and their county festival. They regularly support Free Will Baptist home and international missionaries, the WNAC office, and other local church ministries. Recently, when six members of the church’s Master’s Men chapter decided to participate in the July 2011 Alaska Missions Trip, women raised funds through a “Crockpot Sunday Donation Dinner.”

### Characterized by Caring Commitment

From cooking dinners to collecting donations, Harmony women love projects. Yet the fuel for all these efforts stems from their commitment to Christ and their care for one another. Women pray together. Several meet monthly at the parsonage for an afternoon Bible study. A monthly email newsletter communicates needs and keeps women connected.

When members of the church family get sick or go to the hospital, the group sends cards and provides meals for the family. A WAC-sponsored prayer blanket ministry reminds sick or homebound individuals that Harmony women are covering them in prayer.

Faithful supporters of Harmony Church, these women also fill roles as Sunday School teachers, choir members, musicians, and church committee members. Harmony women encourage WNAC involvement at every level—participating in local, district, and state events, serving on district and state WAC boards, and attending national conventions and retreats.

For anyone starting a women’s group or considering WNAC, Sandy offers this advice. “Don’t think you can’t do something just because you are few in number. Although your group may be small, you can still do mighty things for the Lord; even one or two can do mighty things. Listen for the Lord’s calling, then step out and do it.”

Sandy Forman concentrates her efforts on teens and junior girls. She delights in getting them involved. Her enthusiasm, acceptance, and positive influence are making a difference. Unlike the child whose mother dragged her to Auxiliary, girls at Harmony Church eagerly participate and rarely miss a meeting. **ONE**

# Impact

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# THEY SHARE THE LOAD

BY EDDIE HODGES

istry commanded my attention. I am grateful for men in our church who give sacrificially that I might be available to invest myself in the other aspects of ministry.

For 15 years, on the first and third Sundays of the month, three other men join me at 6:00 a.m. to intercede on behalf of the ministry of our church. For the past five years, another man has faithfully visited with me every Wednesday afternoon. Others are involved in our church GROW outreach ministry. Several men are both willing and able to lead prayer meeting in my absence. Still others respond to benevolence requests from our community.

Our local Master's Men chapter includes men who have served for more than a decade in various leadership positions. They serve without fanfare, devoting themselves solely to the glory of God and the edification of His kingdom.

I thank God for faithful men and our Master's Men chapter. These men have grown and been challenged as they have studied, taught lessons, filled leadership positions, and ministered to others.

Master's Men provides an outlet for me to be "one of the guys." Sure, I'm still the pastor, but I am also a man who enjoys fellowship. We play golf together, go fishing, and go out to eat. As a

member of our Master's Men chapter, I advise the men, but I don't have to take the lead. It is a great way to develop lay leadership.

Our group enjoys fellowship and friendships that developed with men from other states. The Master's Men department creates opportunities to be part of a national movement, encouraging growth in the Lord and response through service. These opportunities include Operation Saturation, Disaster Relief, and international ministry opportunities. Director Ken Akers sought the help of our men during relocation of the Master's Men office last fall.

I thank God for faithful men who love the Lord as well as their families, church, pastor, and denomination. The Master's Men mission and burden is to challenge and equip men to do those things.

We have had an active Master's Men chapter for over two decades. As a pastor, it has been beneficial to our ministry, the men, and the church as a whole. Wylie Fulton, a thriving member of our congregation at age 92 said, "I was always proud of Master's Men. I have never heard of any other church group with a similar ministry to men. I enjoyed it." Pastor, let the Master's Men department help you develop a chapter in your church. **ONE**

## It's 2:45 Thursday afternoon.

The day began with a hospital visit at 6:40 a.m., but I did not get to see the patient before surgery. After leaving the hospital, I traveled 30 miles to show support for a family going to court. After my visit with them, I ministered to a bereaved family, then stopped by the nursing home to encourage an aging lady in our church. After praying with her, I returned to the hospital to spend time with the family and visit the patient.

I have made up my mind to spend the afternoon in the study. It's Thursday, but Sunday's coming! I feel both satisfied and guilty. You see, a group of men gathered to plant some trees at the church this morning. I wanted to be there to help them, but the min-

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Eddie Hodges pastors Hendersonville FWB Church in Hendersonville, TN. He is a member of the Master's Men Board.

# + INTERSECT

where the BIBLE meets life



## The **LITTLE BOX** in the Corner

They're everywhere—the culture pundits. Books, blogs, and broadcasts stream from media outlets far and wide trying to help us understand the times. Included in their number are many 21st century “Issacharians” (see 1 Chronicles 12:32), people of God with a discerning eye turned toward the culture.

### WHAT'S IN THE AIR?

Certain prevailing winds in society are easy to spot.

Our culture thrives in an electronic existence. The links of social media connect people as never before. Last winter's revolution in Egypt, of all places, exploded against Hosni Mubarak; Facebook and Twitter were the catalysts for insurgents to vent their rage.

Despite a sputtering economy, raging, reckless consumerism is running on all cylinders. Marketers have convinced us that our “status toys” are must-haves.

The insistent demands of diversity have made all of us minorities, and we're all mad at somebody, mostly the government.

Our “me-first” posture finds its token expression in the “self-shot”—the self-portrait we take when we stretch our arms away from the phone cam and turn the lens back toward us. It's all about me!

The aftertaste remains from postmodernism, even when the main course failed to satisfy—namely, our reluctance to identify anything as right or wrong.

The sovereign, subversive voice of entertainment chains our brains to the internet, movies, downloads, video games, earbuds, television, and the cult of celebrity.

Traditional religion continues to find itself shoved to the fringes of a culture that mocks it as irrelevant to reality.

Increasingly, people caught in the web of trans-modern culture find no satisfying center outside of self and, often,

none there either. Deep purpose and to-the-core commitment elude them.

### WORD MUST GET OUT

Into this fog must shine the searchlight of the Christian worldview. Perhaps no Bible writer says it better than Peter. In chapter two of his first letter, he wrote to bewildered believers set adrift in a hostile culture. His message spans the centuries to help us make sense of our own situation.

First, treasure your identity as the people of God spared only by His mercy. We are a mercy-drenched priesthood chosen to “proclaim His excellencies” (2:9-10).

Be sure to own your status as aliens and pilgrims. We are in the culture, but it doesn't own us. Be stewards of your stuff, not slaves to it (2:11).

Fight for holiness; otherwise, the forces that drive the culture will take us hostage. What's at stake is your very soul (2:11).

Even as we do battle, we must live honorably in this current age. Our good deeds testify of our great God (2:12). Serve others. Live kindly. Give yourself in the same gracious spirit through which you received God's grace in Jesus.

Part of faithful living in the kingdom of God is respectful living in the kingdom of man. Submit to the structures of social order in the culture (2:13-17). This is God's will. Honor the flag. Support public officials. We serve God by being loyal to His authority both in the state house and in the sanctuary.

**IN THE CORNER BUT ON THE SCREEN**

Philip Yancey tells of a 2004 incident in the Ukraine that illustrates the role Christians must play in the culture. Reform candidate Victor Yushchenko ran for President against the state party candidate. His opponents even tried to poison him, but he survived—barely. Yushchenko stayed in the race; on election day, exit polls showed him with a 10% lead.

But the state-run television news that evening announced that he had lost. Clearly his opponents had stolen the election.

Yet, while the news anchor told of Yushchenko's defeat, the deaf interpreter in the little box on the lower right side of

the TV screen signed to all the hearing-impaired viewers, "Don't believe them. They are lying. Yushchenko is President!" No one in the studio realized what she was doing.

The deaf population texted their families and friends, other journalists picked it up, and the "Orange Revolution" ensued. A million people wearing orange poured into the streets of Kiev demanding a new election. The government caved, and Yushchenko won the vote.

Until Jesus comes and we "own the station," Christians must be the little box in the corner of our culture. All who watch us must see the truth amid the deceptions of prevalent culture. Whatever the voice of the age says, our voice must tell the real story. **ONE**

**INTERSECT: Where the BIBLE Meets Life** is a regular column written by Dr. Garnett Reid, a member of the bible faculty at Free Will Baptist Bible College.



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80	7.2%	80/80	6.3%
85	8.1%	85/85	7.1%
90	9.5%	90/90	8.3%



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# ODE TO THE IRREPLACEABLE INSIGNIFICANT

BY LARRY  
REYNOLDS

## ABOUT THE WRITER:

Larry and Sherry Reynolds are home missionaries planting a Free Will Baptist church in Meridian, Mississippi.

**No, this is not a misnomer.** Some church members are irreplaceably insignificant. It has been my privilege to become acquainted with some of God's choice servants. I refer to the Journeyman From Zero, the Seamstress From Sand Ridge, and many others. They may not be famous or enjoy vast fortunes, but their faithfulness leaves an indelible mark.

First, I want you to meet the Seamstress From Sand Ridge, my late mother-in-law, Pauline Burgess. As the funeral director was casually filling out the biographical sheet for her obituary in the newspaper, he remarked, "Wife, mother, grandmother, factory worker—guess that about covers it. Would you like to mention anything else, family?"

In the depths of my spirit, I wanted to remind him that she was not just a sewer of gloves; she was a mender of hearts. Often, after meeting

her production quota, she would assist someone else. It is not unusual for others to recall her genuine care and open witness. I lovingly refer to her as the "Hound of Heaven" God graciously put on my trail during my military service. Mrs. Burgess taught primary and junior age Sunday School classes and worked as song director for more than 40 years. Her legacy shines on through the love she so freely imparted and instilled in her family.

Second, let me introduce the Journeyman From Zero. Robert (Bob) West is affectionately referred to around our mission church as Brother Bob—a mentor, faithful friend, and master builder. He and his wife Marie attended our first service and have continued to be an integral part of the mission work. Brother Bob built a beautiful intercessory prayer wall for our sanctuary based on the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. He also built a children's playground and is always helping others. His spirit and demeanor are readily summed up through often-repeated words of encouragement and support: "Now, Pastor, the Lord sent me here to shoulder some of the load I know you bear." The value of such loyalty and commitment is immeasurable.

I could share much more about the Seamstress From Sand Ridge and the Journeyman From Zero, but what makes them who they are is the fact that they came to know the Carpenter From Nazareth. He is the Savior and Builder of our souls. **ONE**

a Man

# ALONE

BILL AND BRENDA EVANS



## Go to Eau Claire. By car is probably best.

Take US 53 North. Stop at Gordy's County Market. Buy apples, plums, and a half-pound of Wisconsin cheddar. Gas up at Pump Perks outside Gordy's. Wash fruit in lavatory.

Return to car. Cut cheddar into thick slabs. Start engine. Head north again on US 53 toward Wisconsin's Northern Highlands—that's how you get to Deaton's house and dairy farm, and that's where we're going.

I've sometimes imagined being a man alone on horseback making his way in a wilderness—build shelter, stay warm, keep dry, survive. I would camp by a stream, prepare a brushy roof, kill game, and scavenge for plants. In my mind, I've worked all the steps. I believe I could survive.

But a car is better. Besides, I'm heading to Deaton's, and I have fruit, cheddar, a map, and a hotel room at the end of the day. Not things I'd find in the wilderness.

On my way into the rolling hills, the sky is an immense dome above. Shallow glacial lakes dot the landscape like silver and platinum disks. Dozens of small streams striate the forests and fields, burbling a caustic brown. I stop and scoop up a handful of water. It is clear in my hand, not tannic after all. Some things are not what they seem in northern Wisconsin. Dead leaves in the streambed must have distorted my perception.

Deaton's house is just off a hard-packed dirt road. It is almost September. Frosts that stopped in late May will resume again soon. About three months of freeze-free weather is all a man can count on here, as Deaton knows. A scant 100 miles south of Lake Superior, winters are cold. Deaton remembers Superior freezing over entirely twice in his life—1979 and 1962.

I hope I will not find Deaton dead. Since my first visit a year earlier, I have feared, for a reason I do not understand, discovering Deaton's body in his house or dairy barn. Not that he is old or feeble. It is, I think, his alone-



ness, his clean isolation that strikes my fear.

My notes in the report of my first visit say something like “Deaton is an obvious bachelor.” It is a fact, not a low opinion. Deaton lives without companion or comrade, friend or ally, child or pet. And without beauty—at least beauty as I define it. His home is strictly utilitarian. No paint, paper, color, or fabric to beautify. No flower or shrub to soften the harshness.

He doesn’t like dairy farming, he says, but cannot escape it. He speaks of his dream of marriage and family, yet feels captive to the inherited land. Though I’ve visited him three times and talked to him by phone a few more, somehow I can never simply say, “Why haven’t you married? Why haven’t you left the farm?”



## ISOLATION CAN BE HARSH, UNRELENTING, EVEN BRUTAL

Piles of broken wood from collapsed buildings are scattered about like refuse he can’t or won’t burn and turn to ashes. He would like to sell out, relocate, enter the job market, but is unable to face the risks. Deaton is stuck in his dream and hope of a different life.

His small church is welded to the past, he says, satisfied with how-it-used-to-be. The few women are married already. Town is miles away. No close neighbors either. One brother lives somewhere farther north.

Deaton’s radio is the one road out of his lonely dairy farm. Each evening, he huddles near it to travel beyond his own back door. He knows about the mission organization I work for because of early broadcasts. For years, he has faithfully tithed his annual Holstein calf crop to support world evangelization.

I visited Deaton for the last time in the mid-1980s. I knocked at appointment time. No response. The old fear of his death gripped me. I beat harder. Nothing. Walking the outside perimeter of the house, then into the dairy barn, I called, “Deaton, Deaton.” I found him in the barn, standing ankle-deep in manure, repairing a stanchion. His hands were small, fingers delicate, not made for the hard labor of a dairy farmer. I knew he was forcing them to do something he neither wanted nor was well suited to do.

I was there for the third time because he had asked me to explain a deferred gift agreement he thought might benefit our organization. But as our conversation went on, I knew he mostly just wanted company.

And so we talked. Deaton dreamed of a different, more varied life but had not yet found it. Despite his reserve, he asked good questions, and we spent the time discussing his dream, our organization, and financial agreements he might make. Mostly, I was just being a friend. Deaton was a man who needed comradeship and exchange and rarely found either one.

I haven’t seen Deaton for 25 years. I trust he found a good wife and another life, for that was his dream. But what I took from my visits with him all those years ago still resonates with me. Though monotonous and hard, his life was purposeful.

I tended to see Deaton’s aloneness as a bitter existence. He had choices, didn’t he? He was a free man. Why didn’t he do something? But escape or even change is not always as simple as choosing differently. I often oversimplify what it means to be “free indeed.” Deaton was looking but not finding. Seeking but not getting. When night

fell, it was still Deaton, his herd, his house, and his radio—a man alone. But some things are not what they seem.

Isolation can be harsh, unrelenting even brutal. My little dream of surviving with just a horse and scant supplies in the wilderness is idealized, even romanticized, and always turns out well. Real life is different. People need each other, some more than others. On the other hand, relationships can lock us up while solitude could free us.

Marriage is good but not essential for a full life. Agreed, God means for us to interact with others. The church in Acts exemplifies that connection, comradeship, and companionship. The epistles even call us one body—a corporate, unified, integrated, working-together body. Deaton’s church was a lonely place for a single man or woman. But church doesn’t have to be that way. In fact, it shouldn’t be.

Deaton’s greatest joy was his annual gift of the tithe from his Holstein calf crop that helped send out the gospel. Unable to launch himself into the unknown, he nevertheless helped launch ministries around the world. Giving to make a difference in local and international missions, education, discipleship, and church growth unchained him from a dull job on a dreary farm with only his cows as companions.

Some things are not what they seem in northern Wisconsin. A man alone can find his way out. **ONE**

# TRANSFORMATIONAL FAITH BY KENNETH EAGLETON

**Francisco Lima came to class at the Bible institute** one evening beaming with good news. The school board in the neighboring town of Vinhedo had just included creationism in its science curriculum. It would be taught alongside evolution as one of the explanations for the origin of the universe and life. A personal victory for him as a science teacher, the decision was not only fruit of the transformation in his life, but also of the way his commitment to Christ impacts the way he teaches science in Brazil's public school system.

## Personal Transformation

Francisco came to Christ in 2005 at age 49. A lifelong, faithful Catholic, he had fulfilled the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and holy matrimony. Considering himself a mostly-good person, Francisco assumed he was in good standing with God, in spite of his weaknesses. When asked what made him change his mind about his spiritual condition, he answered: "Pain. I was suffering emotional pain because of serious problems I was facing in my marriage."

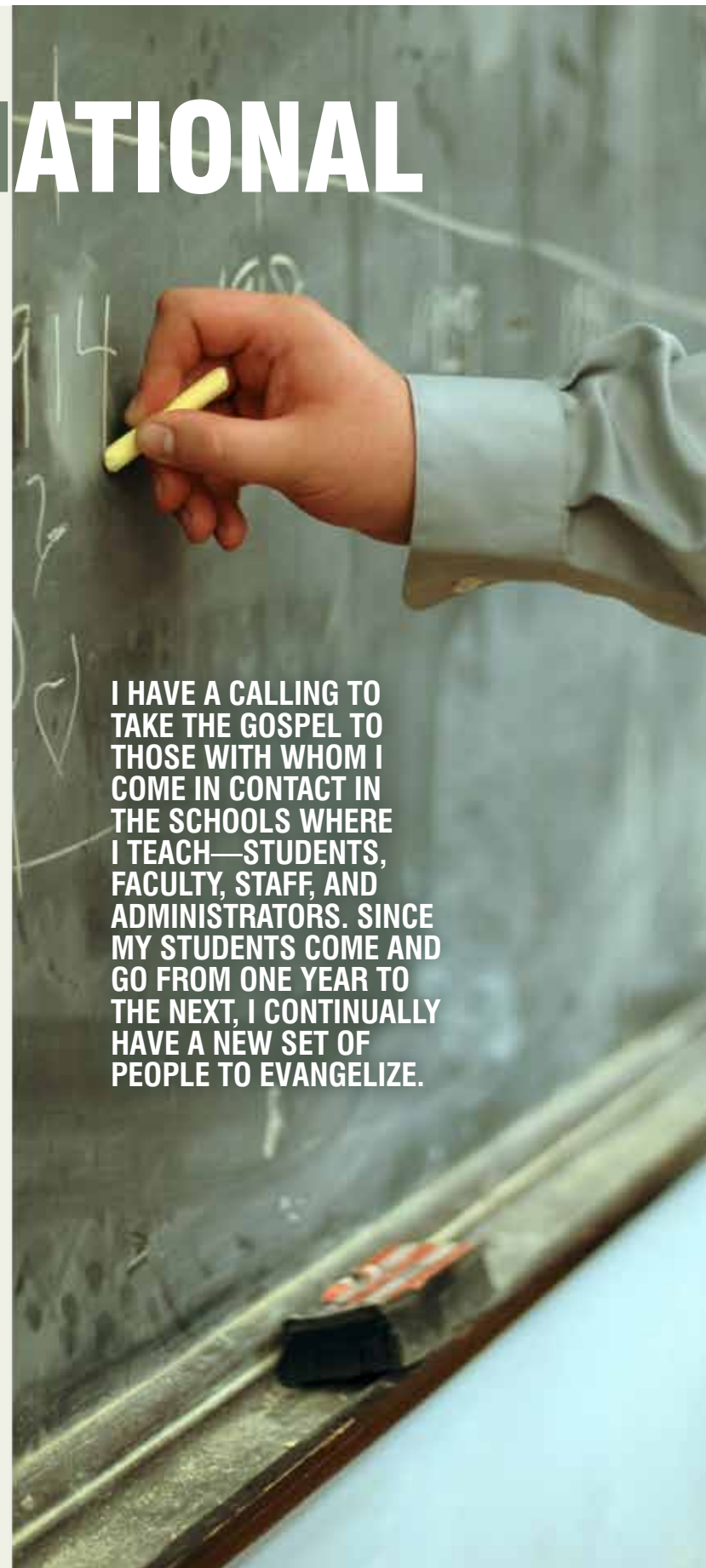
As a result, he began seeking God early in 2005. "I started feeling I needed change in my life and was under conviction of sin. This went on until June, when in the midst of my suffering, I gave my life to Christ at home."

Two months later, Francisco made a public profession of faith in church. During the last half of 2005, he was discipled by Pastor Lucas Lima (no relation) of the First Free Will Baptist Church and then baptized in February 2006. One year after his conversion, he started studying at Campinas' Free Will Baptist School of Theology (ETBL).

## Teaching Transformed

Francisco took "Science and the Bible," a class I was teaching at ETBL in Campinas. It challenged him, made him rethink everything he had learned about evolution. It even made him consider how he taught human reproduction and sex education in his classroom. The class proved to be a turning point for him.

He began to seek ways to integrate biblical truth into his teaching methods and content. He started writing a verse of Scripture on the board at the beginning of each class, us-



**I HAVE A CALLING TO TAKE THE GOSPEL TO THOSE WITH WHOM I COME IN CONTACT IN THE SCHOOLS WHERE I TEACH—STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, AND ADMINISTRATORS. SINCE MY STUDENTS COME AND GO FROM ONE YEAR TO THE NEXT, I CONTINUALLY HAVE A NEW SET OF PEOPLE TO EVANGELIZE.**



ing the first five minutes of class time to explain it. Some students regularly write the verses in their notebooks. Even though this brought opposition from fellow teachers, the school administration has not intervened. One of his most vocal opponents gave his heart to the Lord after he started dating a Christian girl. Francisco's supervisor was also saved and is currently studying at a Bible institute in her town.

Change didn't stop there. Human reproduction is covered in his eighth-grade classes. Francisco now bases his teaching on biblical principles about the body being the temple of the Holy Spirit. He addresses the responsibility individuals have in relation to abortion, homosexuality, euthanasia, sex education, and contraception.



This is a major departure from the textbooks' position. As in most U.S. public schools, the different methods of contraception are provided in detail, without any moral values attached. Homosexuality is treated as a normal sexual orientation that should be respected. In fact, the Brazilian National Department of Education has a specific office to promote tolerance towards gay, lesbian, and transsexual individuals. They deploy a vast amount of materials to each city's board of education to promote tolerance of different sexual orientations in the schools.

"A gay agenda lobby group sent a psychologist to my school at the end of last year," stated Francisco, "to give a talk to the teachers concerning the need to teach sexual direction tolerance in our classes. They placed books in the school library that give teens orientation on how to get their parents to accept they are gay. This is all part of an active campaign to make alternative sexual orientations accepted as normal."

Another great change Francisco implemented was the inclusion of creationism as an explanation for the origin of life and the universe. Before his conversion, Francisco had not formed an opinion about the biblical account of creation. In fact, he only had a vague notion of the Genesis creation record. "In school and university all I was taught was evolution," he confirmed. "It was taught as scientific fact, and I never questioned it."

## Curriculum Transformed

After learning about biblical creationism at the Bible institute and researching it for himself, Francisco introduced it into the content of his science classes. When the coordinator responsible for the school curriculum for the town of Vinhedo called a meeting of all the science teachers to discuss the science curriculum, Francisco proposed creationism as an explanation of the origin of life and the universe. The proposal created a heated debate.

As expected, many evolutionists strongly argued against it, touting creationism as unscientific—a backward step. Unexpectedly, many teachers who had never openly expressed themselves in favor of creationism spoke up and defended Francisco's proposal. It was put to a vote, passed, and was included in the curriculum for all the schools in town.

Francisco also lobbied for the same inclusion in the science curriculum of Campinas, a city with a population of over a million. Again, this science teacher made a difference. Though the language is not explicit, the curriculum lists evolution "and other explanations" for the origin of life and the universe as part of the subject matter to be taught.

## Personal Mission Field

"I had the privilege of hosting American mission interns David and Justin in my home while they did their internship here in Brazil," says Francisco. "In the same way that God has called them to take the gospel to other people groups, I have a calling to take the gospel to those with whom I come in contact in the schools where I teach—students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Since my students come and go from one year to the next, I continually have a new set of people to evangelize." Francisco has ten science classrooms of eighth and ninth graders. In each classroom, he has four classes a week, totaling 40 class hours. This is a huge mission field that changes every year. **ONE**



**ABOUT FRANCISCO:** Fifty-five-year-old Francisco Lima is the father of four grown children. He has bachelor degrees in biology and pedagogy. In November 2010, he received a B.A. in theology from the Free Will Baptist School of Theology in Campinas. He teaches science in two public schools in Campinas and Vinhedo.

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Kenneth Eagleton, M.D., served as a medical missionary in Côte d'Ivoire for 18 years. He and his wife Rejane currently serve in Campinas, Brazil, where he aids in leadership training and discipleship in one of the exciting harvest places where Free Will Baptists labor.

# LAYMEN: THE ARMY OF GOD

BY NORMA JACKSON GOLDMAN

## THE CHALLENGE

The enemy uses circumstances in today's world to cause believers to feel helpless, unable to stem the tide of unrest, political confrontation, and ever-increasing challenges to Christianity. He also muddles our focus so other issues and pursuits keep us from our real task: winning a lost world to Christ. Happily, this is not the picture the Bible paints of God's army.

Since our marching orders were first given in the Great Commission, Matthew 28:19, 20 (confirmed in the other three Gospels and Acts 1), Christians have been engaged in sharing the gospel by every means possible. Under His authority, we make disciples among the nations, baptize in His name, teaching them to observe everything He has commanded with the full assurance that He is with us.

## OUR WEAPONS

Since those marching orders were delivered, the arsenal of weapons with which we wage war has increased tremendously. Barriers to distance have all but dissolved with improvements and speed in methods of travel. Air, ship, automobile, or rail can take us virtually anywhere with relative ease.

Bibles are now available across the globe, with a steadily diminishing number of people groups who do not have Scripture in their own language. Laymen and women are traveling to remote locations in unprecedented numbers to share their faith and to minister to human needs, while technologies like the internet allow us to stay in constant communication with those on the field.

Our most powerful weapons—the written and Living Word, the leadership of God's Holy Spirit, and prayer—remain our best offense and defense in carrying the gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth, starting next-door.

## WHO IS CALLED TO GO?

Few thoughtful believers would say they haven't been called, but many of these would admit to some degree of uncertainty about their involvement. All are called, but not all have the same role or the same location. Not all can preach, but all can share a personal testimony. Not all are teachers, but all can impart spiritual truth through daily habits and activities. We cannot always heal the sick, but we can be part



of medical mission teams that alleviate physical, mental, and spiritual pain and suffering. We can volunteer by feeding the hungry, conducting vacation Bible schools, providing child-care, coaching teen sports, and ministering to the elderly. We can minister compellingly through music, art, recreation, and skills training.

have a wealth of experience gained through a lifetime of vocational work that can be tapped in marvelous and fruitful ways in God's army. Just as our nation calls on Special Forces to fight at a moment's notice, God's special forces possess extraordinary skills and weapons to use in presenting the gospel.

## SCRIPTURE COMMANDS A CONSTANT STATE OF BATTLE-READINESS, AWARENESS OF THE PRIORITY OF THE GOSPEL, AND A WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE THE CULTURE.

### GOD'S SPECIAL FORCES

Retirees have the opportunity to perform short-term assignments, meeting critical needs locally and globally. They

### AM I A SOLDIER OF THE CROSS?

Scripture commands a constant state of battle-readiness, awareness of the priority of the gospel, and a willingness to engage the culture. Our focus is not the past, nor the future, but today—on the task at hand in the time He has given us. This means that every activity, every commitment, every organization, or project in our lives must be evaluated and prioritized in the light of His charge to go and spread the good news of Jesus.

The haunting words of the old hymn inspire: "Sure I must fight if I would reign; increase my courage Lord. I'll bear the toil, endure the pain, supported by Thy Word." **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).

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*An Alabama truck driver searching for God's will swaps his big rig for a duty station in the men's dormitory at Free Will Baptist Bible College.*

# GONE to GOEN

BY MICHAEL OLIVER

**Sometimes, I still can't believe the sweeping changes that started 11 years ago when I thought I had life all figured out.** God stepped in, opened one door, closed another, stirred the mix, and unwrapped surprise after surprise, until my family and I moved from a rural parsonage to a men's dormitory at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Instead of having two sons, I suddenly had 80 young men looking to me for direction. Here's how it happened.





## HOW I GOT HERE

My home church (Sulphur Springs Free Will Baptist Church in Northport, Alabama) voted to “set me aside” as a deacon in September 1999. I sought God’s will, understanding that church leadership demanded high standards of spiritual and personal conduct, especially for an ordained deacon.

After a season of prayer and confirmation through a message preached by Evangelist Fred Warner, I surrendered to God’s calling on January 15, 2000—not to be a deacon, but to preach the gospel and get a biblical education. A few weeks later, my pastor and his wife (John and Ann Reed) gave me my first tour of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

The decision to attend FWBBC was complicated, because I was no longer single, 18, and living at home. I was 25, owned a dump truck, and lived on the outskirts of Northport with my wife Kim and one-year-old son, the first grandson on both sides of our family.

I was hesitant about relocating to Nashville, knowing it would mean a change of lifestyle and taking our son away from nearby grandparents. I was pulled in two directions. My flesh said, “You do not need to go to Nashville; look how good you have it.”

The Spirit said, “Come, follow Me.”

Seven months later as I sat in Dr. Garnett Reid’s Old Testament Survey class, I thought to myself, “Look how humble you are. You left your home, family, and friends to follow Jesus.”

But there was one thing I did not forsake. I held a tight grip on my security blanket—that maroon Kenworth dump truck. Kim and I agreed we could not make it financially if I sold the truck. Surely God did not want me to forsake the Kenworth! Boy, oh boy, was I in for a life lesson.

Doing things my way instead of the Lord’s way, I was out of control and out of my comfort zone. And that’s exactly where God wanted me, completely dependent on Him. Unfortunately, I’m a slow learner, and some lessons had to be repeated several times before I finally got it. Spiritual, emotional, financial,



and physical challenges began popping up from every direction. I hated it.

Things got so bad during the fall 2000 semester that we moved back to Alabama in order to make ends meet. The spring 2001 semester found me commuting 600 miles roundtrip twice a week in the maroon Kenworth, hauling freight from Alabama to Tennessee in the early morning hours and attending classes afterward. One semester of long-distance commuting was all I could take.

That led to a five-year break in my education, as I trucked grain and rock up and down the interstates. I was also a part-time pastor during that time, but FWBCC was constantly on my mind. I sold the Kenworth in 2005. A few months later, Terry Forrest (Pastoral Ministry program coordinator at FWBCC) called about an open youth pastor position at Olivet Free Will Baptist Church in Clarksville, Tennessee.

We moved into the Olivet Church parsonage on October 1, 2005, and I returned to FWBCC classes in the spring of 2006—this time with Kim, two sons (Seth, age 6; Jon-Albert, age 3), and confidence that the Lord's plans were better than mine. I was finally back on track and in the Lord's will. While I

was not the typical student and probably looked out of place at times, I was where God wanted me, ministering the gospel and getting a solid biblical education.

Of course, there were bumps along the way, but we persevered. I had learned a valuable lesson from my mother who raised my sister and me after Dad died—if you want anything with eternal value, you must sacrifice. So that's what we did. The result? In May 2011, I graduated with a BS degree in General Christian Ministries.

## WHAT I DO HERE

While enrolled at FWBCC, I worked in the college's cleaning and advancement departments. I now serve a dual role as administrative assistant in institutional advancement and men's resident director.

Several people approached me after I accepted the job as resident director, saying, "Congratulations on becoming men's RD; I'll be praying for you...and especially your wife."

I remember thinking, "What have I gotten into?"

Transitioning from a family of four in a rural church parsonage to a three-story building with 80 young men was

a radical change. I was not concerned so much about me but for Kim. She was the one who trusted me saying, "Wherever you lead I will follow, even if it means moving our family from a cozy country setting to a men's dormitory in the city."

Did I have reason to be concerned? Yes! We had less living space, no room for our kitchen table, a lack of privacy, and no opportunity to sit on the front porch, which my wife loves to do. Kim and I talked hours about how hard family life was. We no longer had kitchen table discussions; the boys missed their dogs, trampoline, and four-wheeler. My cell phone seemed to ring or receive a text message every 10 minutes. But that first year in Goen Hall (men's dormitory) turned out to be a blessing for our entire family.

The guys living in Goen called often to ask if Seth and Jon-Albert would like to have a Nerf war, throw a football, or practice basketball. They included our boys in as many activities as possible. What a blessing they are to our family.

## WHO I SERVE HERE

A week before the guys moved into Goen Hall, I was walking across campus when Wayne Spruill, FWBCC's director of institutional research, stopped me: "Brother, if there's any advice I can give you on being resident director, it's this—love those guys. Sure they need discipline, but they need to be loved."

That's what I did. It has been two years since I became resident director,

and what I'm witnessing on campus is the result of loving these young men, listening to them, advising them, counseling them, helping them get jobs, and treating them like young men want to be treated.

The Guys of Goen Hall thrive on love. The more they are loved, the more they respond. Theirs is not just a surface, jittery emotion disguised as love. These young men are encased with a genuine love for the Lord, and the spirit of the whole campus is changing because of it. Who gets the credit? God does!

### **GOD IS AT WORK HERE**

I'm convinced that God is at work here. The Holy Spirit enriches our lives as we submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. I not only serve FWBBC, but I also pastor Stoney Point Free Will Baptist Church in nearby Vanleer. Kim is

now a junior at FWBBC; our sons (Seth, 12 and Jon-Albert, 9) attend Pleasant View Christian School. Looking back, I can't believe that 11 years ago I wasted so much time and energy thinking that God needed my help planning everything. I thank Him every day for being gracious to our family.

God also has plans for the Guys of Goen. It's exciting to see young men committed to God's will. Many have forsaken family, friends, and jobs to attend FWBBC. Their sacrifice reminds me of the words of 21-year-old Free Will Baptist evangelist John Colby when he left family and friends to do the Lord's will.

On November 14, 1809, Colby wrote: "O must I now leave, must I now be separated from all my natural connections in life? Yes, I am constrained so to do! The worth of souls lay upon

me, I cannot rest. I must bid farewell to my kind parents and their home: take my life in my hand, and go forth into the wilderness world and pay the Lord my vows."

As He did with John Colby 200 years ago, God is transforming the Guys of Goen into the image of Christ, shaping them into ministers for His Kingdom. He wants their willing hearts and obedient minds, and that's what the Guys of Goen have to offer. I'm thankful to be affiliated with these young men, and I'm honored to call them my brothers.

**ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Michael Oliver serves as administrative assistant in Free Will Baptist Bible College's institutional advancement office and as men's resident director. He graduated in May 2011 with a bachelor's degree and plans to pursue a master's degree this fall.



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## NEWS at FWBBC

### FWBBC 'Holds the Line' on Tuition Costs

In a bold move geared to help parents and students struggling with the economic downturn, Free Will Baptist Bible College announced a tuition freeze for the 2011-2012 academic year, according to President Matt Pinson. The college's decision to hold the line on tuition and all other basic costs (room and board, miscellaneous fees, and more) keeps the sticker price within reach of families dealing with the worst economic crunch since the Great Depression.

"Our current and prospective students and their parents are taking a hard look at the financial bottom line," President Pinson said. "While we can't change the recessed economy our Free Will Baptist families face, we wanted to take a positive and bold step to make a difference where it mattered most—tuition and other expenses."

This marks the first time in almost 50 years that no increase in tuition or other expenses has occurred at FWBBC. With families becoming more rigorously selective in choosing a college, freezing tuition costs for a year will spotlight the student-friendly atmosphere of FWBBC.

David Williford, vice president for institutional advancement, said, "Thank God for the faithful support of donors whose financial commitment to the mission of FWBBC

makes this decision to flat-line tuition for 12 months a possibility. It needed to be done, and I'm so glad the Trustees made the decision, but it would not have happened without the generous gifts of our donors."

The college's enrollment services staff pushed the word out nationwide this spring and summer to prospective Free Will Baptist students and parents regarding the cost freeze on tuition.

Rusty Campbell, director of enrollment services, said, "We plan a news blitz with post cards, emails, letters, phone calls, website updates, chapel announcements, and more. This is a unique moment, and we want to spread the good news as far and as fast as we can. The 'Hold the Line' decision on tuition costs may well be the deciding factor for a number of prospective students and their parents."

FWBBC began charging tuition for the first time in 1948. While the college operated from 1942 until 1948 without tuition fees, economic conditions in post-World War II America plus rising costs to maintain an expanding curriculum and a professional faculty placed FWBBC on the same page with other U.S. colleges as a tuition-driven institution. ■

### Arkansas Welcomes FWBBC Preaching Team



The Social Band Association in Arkansas hosted a 10-man preaching team from Free Will Baptist Bible College, February 19-20, as a number of local churches opened their pulpits Sunday morning to the ministerial students following a Saturday night youth rally at First Free Will Baptist Church in Jonesboro. Junior student Zachary Maloney preached during the youth rally. Weekend activities resulted in the Preaching Team addressing nearly 1,300 people and traveling over 1,000 miles, according to John Murray, Christian service director and event organizer.

"We have some exciting young people in our churches," Mr. Murray said. "I was so glad we had a chance to visit with a number of them after the rally on Saturday. The parents and host pastors were open and welcoming, eager to learn more about the ministry of FWBBC."

Fourteen Arkansas students are currently enrolled at FWBBC. Reverend Mark Stripling, pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church in North Little Rock, serves on the college's Board of Trustees. Student Body Chaplain David Landers is from Arkansas, as are freshman class officers Catie Pointer (secretary-treasurer) and Nick Hewitt (chaplain). Other Arkansas students also provide campus leadership roles in student organizations. ■



## JETS Publishes Pinson, Reid Articles

The *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* (JETS) published materials by two Free Will Baptist Bible College personnel in the December 2010 issue. One item is a book review by Garnett Reid who teaches Bible and specializes in Old Testament Studies; the other is a major paper on Arminian theology by President Matt Pinson.

Dr. Pinson's 13-page paper, "The Nature of Atonement in the Theology of Jacobus Arminius," is presented in six sections plus a summary-conclusion.

Pinson writes, "Jacobus Arminius is one of the best known and least studied theologians in the history of Christianity. His writings have been neglected by Calvinists and Arminians alike. Arminius scholar Carl Bangs is correct when he says that most modern treatments of Arminius assume a definition of Arminianism that does not come from Arminius."

Dr. Reid's two-page article reviews *Judges*, a 538-page volume by Trent Butler, published in 2009 by Thomas Nelson (\$49.99). Reid says the author "likens his work in solving the riddle of *Judges* to that of a detective. Over the course of his investigation, Butler unravels many enigmas, examines evidence that may solve a few more, and leaves some to stand as cold cases."

Reid places the volume in the top tier of studies on *Judges* for four reasons: It tackles difficulties in the text honestly and offers plausible solutions; it converses with an extensive sampling of modern literature on *Judges*; it displays sustained sensitivity to the rhetorical features of the text; it views the book as accurate historical testimony.

Both Dr. Pinson and Dr. Reid are frequently published in theological journals and denominational publications. Books by Pinson include the 2009 *Perspectives on Christian Worship: Five Views* (ed.) (Broadman & Holman); *The Washing of the Saints' Feet* (Randall House, 2006); *Four Views on Eternal Security* (ed.), (Zondervan, 2002), and others. Dr. Reid's most recent book, *Deuteronomy 6 in 3D: What Matters Most*, was published in 2010 by Randall House. He also writes the regular column, "Intersect," in *ONE Magazine*.

Matt Pinson has been president of FWBBC since 2002. Garnett Reid joined the FWBBC faculty in 1982. ■

## Earl Langley to Represent FWBBC in Tennessee



Reverend Earl Langley, long-time pastor and state leader, has joined the staff of Free Will Baptist Bible College as the Tennessee field representative. He will promote FWBBC at district and quarterly meetings, according to David Williford,

vice president for institutional advancement. Reverend Langley is an FWBBC alumnus with more than 50 years of pastoral experience.

"We are so pleased that Brother Langley will represent FWBBC in Tennessee," Mr. Williford said. "He is well known and respected in the state. He has been a successful pastor here and understands how the state association functions; he is also a champion of Christian education. Earl chaired the organizational committee to establish Pleasant View Christian School and worked with a group of pastors to organize Newport Christian Academy."

Langley, the fourth of 12 children, was born in East Tennessee. He was called to preach as a teen in Sparta. He and his wife Melba and their two children moved to the Nashville area where he attended FWBBC. He later graduated from Luther Rice Seminary. His pastoral ministry spans 52 years in five states—Tennessee, Missouri, Kansas, Mississippi, and Florida.

His broader denominational outreach includes two years as principal of the Free Will Baptist School in the Virgin Islands, as well as elected positions on state boards and moderator of quarterly meetings and district associations. He published a column in the *Mississippi Messenger* while pastoring in Mississippi and wrote Bible studies for Master's Men while pastoring in Tennessee.

Reverend Langley said, "President Pinson contacted me in the summer of 2010 and invited me to travel the state of Tennessee to represent FWBBC at various district and quarterly meetings. I'm a supporter of the college and Christian education in general, and I'm delighted to share in this important work." ■

# HAITI: A Year Later

BY KEN AKERS

**On January 12, 2010, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0 hit the country of Haiti. The epicenter just outside the nation's capital of Port Au Prince devastated the city and surrounding countryside. An estimated 300,000 people were killed. More than 3 million people were directly affected by the quake.**



**Since the earthquake, Master's Men and Free Will Baptists have continued to minister to the people of Haiti.**

In February 2010, Master's Men organized a medical team to go to Haiti. While most relief efforts had been focused in the Port Au Prince area, this medical team went to the mountains. Many city residents fled the city and returned to their mountain village hometowns. During a four-day clinic, the medical team saw over 1,000 patients, completed major surgery, and helped a lady whose back had been broken when her house collapsed on her get into the University of Miami tent hospital. Another medical mission trip was organized in August with similar results.


In May, a crew rebuilt a dormitory that had been destroyed by the quake. Twenty displaced boys had been housed in tents (and anywhere else they could find to sleep). Four Free Will Baptist Bible College students and their faculty advisor were part of this group.

A major problem in Haiti continues to be a lack of food. Master's Men established The Greenhouse Project to help address this ongoing problem. The first greenhouse structure has been completed, and by the time this article is printed, a third planting will be started. More than 20,000 plants were distributed to locals at no charge after each of the first two plantings. The Haitians plant the seedlings and shortly

thereafter enjoy the harvest of food. Plans for the construction of a second greenhouse are underway.

If the earthquake wasn't enough, a cholera outbreak started during the rainy season of 2010. This disease is often spread through unsanitary water. Master's Men has been active in a water filtration project to help provide clean and safe water. Several water purifiers have been purchased and plans are underway to train both Haitians and Americans in water filter building procedures. Filters will be built and placed in key areas to provide maximum effectiveness. A group from Missouri traveled to Haiti in May to assist with this project.

As Haiti slowly recovers from the natural event that devastated their country, the concern and generosity of Free Will Baptist people continue to make relief possible. And those efforts go beyond the physical needs of the Haitians to their spiritual needs. Thank you for your continuing support.

To learn more or to donate to ongoing relief and evangelistic efforts in Haiti, visit [www.fwbmastersmen.org](http://www.fwbmastersmen.org). 

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Ken Akers has been involved in missions work in Haiti since 1999. He is director of Free Will Baptist Master's Men.

# LESSONS FROM HEARTBREAK RIDGE

BY KEN  
AKERS

In the 1986 blockbuster *Heartbreak Ridge*, Clint Eastwood played the role of a battle-hardened gunnery sergeant. Throughout the movie, he repeated the military mantra “improvise, adapt, and overcome” to the men under his command. In the world in which we live today, this is valuable advice. Scripture often compares the Christian life to warfare. In 2 Timothy 2: 3, 4, Paul told Timothy to be a good soldier. He urged him to fight the good fight by not becoming entangled in the things of the world. With this advice in mind, let’s consider how we can be good soldiers of Jesus Christ.

## IMPROVISE

Stay current and use the “weapons” available to you. We don’t have to look very far to see the world we live in is changing quickly. Many times, we confuse tradition with godliness. Just because a method is “the way we’ve always done it” doesn’t mean it’s the way we always have to do it. Use new methods to connect with the new generation. In a changing world driven by Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, we can keep up or get left behind. Learn to improvise and use the new tools technology provides to reach the next generation for Christ.

## ADAPT

In Philippians 4:11, Paul instructed us to be content in whatever situation we find ourselves. Two verses later, he reassured us that, in Christ, we can endure anything. Don’t misunderstand. Adapting doesn’t mean compromising. It means adjusting and moving forward.

After the earthquake in Haiti, I watched in amazement as the Haitians adapted to their situation, and life went on. Do we adapt when confronted with difficult circumstances? Do

we make adjustments and keep pressing forward? This is a question we must ask ourselves constantly.

Perhaps we have gotten stuck, trapped by circumstances, tradition, or routine. It may be time for a change. Clear direction about change comes through constant prayer, the counsel of Scripture, and the wisdom of godly friends and advisors. Too much change can threaten our contentment. But if we place too much stock in the status quo, we will be devastated when life throws us a curve ball. Remember what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:19, “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.” Improvise, adapt, and...

## OVERCOME

First John 5:4, 5, reminds us that if we are born of God and believe in Jesus, we will overcome this world. In John 16:33, Jesus told us to have peace and be happy because He overcame the world. Romans 12:21 instructs us not to be overcome with evil but to overcome evil with good. With so much encouragement, what should keep us from enjoying life in Christ? Nothing. Let life do its worst. In Christ, we can claim the victory.

On a side note, I have a personal connection to *Heartbreak Ridge*. As the first scenes open, viewers see actual footage from past military action. If you watch closely, you can see my older brother in one of the clips. He was serving a tour of duty in the Vietnam War. While most of us will never serve in active military combat, we can learn from those who do. As we fight battles in our Christian lives, we can improvise, adapt, and—because of what Christ did—we will overcome. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Ken Akers is the general director of Master’s Men, the men’s ministry of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Visit [www.fwbmastersmen.org](http://www.fwbmastersmen.org) to learn more about the organization.



*It's time for a dose of "decently and in order..."*

## ORGANIZED FOR LIFE By Joshua Burba

### IMAGINE GOING TO MCDONALD'S FOR A BURGER AND FRIES ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT NO LINES EXIST.

While waiting your turn, you're shoved aside, and others jump ahead of you. If you don't shove back, you may not eat. Imagine encountering the same confusion at official government buildings.

Seem ridiculous? It did to me, too, until I experienced it. Though I came to love much of Romanian culture during my 15-month missions assignment there, the lack of organization in the country shocked and frustrated me.

Have you ever wondered if there is anything biblical about organization? Should a Christian be organized? The answers may surprise you, so let's examine how organization benefits us.

#### BENEFITS OF ORGANIZATION

**Find balance.** Organization balances the Christian. Time becomes manageable, and you balance work and family, spouse and children, parents and friends.

**Avoid extremes.** Without organization, the Christian wanders toward extremes, often leading to sin, burnout, apathy, and over-indulgence. For example, you read the Bible daily but neglect your physical health. Or you exercise but never socialize. Organization helps avoid these extremes. (Be wary, however. Organization itself can be taken to the extreme. Utilize it, but don't let it control you.)

**Discover empowerment.** Organization empowers us to accomplish more for God in our brief lives. It forces us to be better stewards of the time God grants.

#### ORGANIZATION IN THE SECULAR WORLD

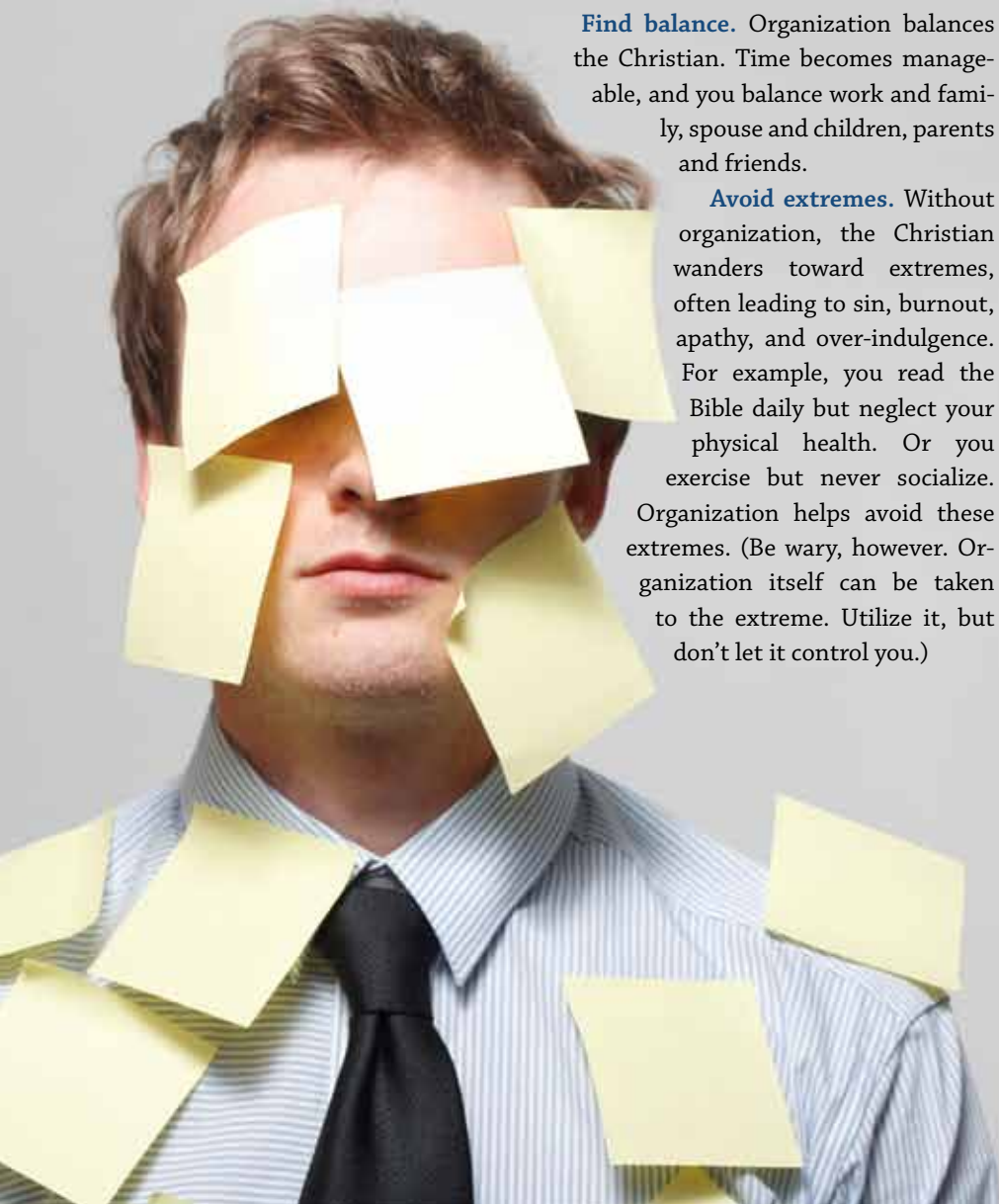
Contemplate the role of organization in business. How well would Walmart function without organization? Imagine milk and socks together or computers with diapers. Instead of checkout lines, everyone pays where he pleases.

Or take war. Remember the 1991 invasion of Kuwait during Desert Storm? Imagine if General Schwarzkopf refused to make hard decisions, or the foot soldiers disobeyed orders. Perhaps you recall the utter chaos among the Iraqi forces when the Allies eliminated their communications capabilities.

Even normal routines would be chaotic without organization. Imagine driving to work or school tomorrow without speed limits, painted lanes, and stoplights. Nobody wants a post office where employees only show up when they feel like it. Organization is vital to normal daily activities, and a look at Scripture reveals the place of organization in the biblical world as well.

#### ORGANIZATION IN THE BIBLICAL WORLD

Consider David's vast preparations so Solomon could build the Temple, including all aspects of temple worship, such as musicians,



singers, military leaders, and more. Check out 1 Chronicles 22-28 for a great example of organization in action.

Or think about Paul's missionary journeys. Two aspects of Paul's organization stand out. He clearly had a plan about where to go, often using main Roman roads and stopping in major cities along the way. On his way home, he often revisited those same locations. Also, Paul regularly went first to the synagogues and preached the Good News, reaching out to Gentiles only when the Jews rejected his message (Acts 13-14).

Creation itself testifies to God's incredible sense of order and organization (Psalm 19:1-6). From enormous galaxies and planets the size of Jupiter to the tiniest cell, organization abounds in creation. Think about your own body.

When you cut yourself, a wonderfully organized body shop gets to work making repairs. When you burn yourself, neurons fire signals from your body to your brain and back again, all in a split second—much quicker than the internet! And ponder how, from conception to birth, a single cell multiplies into billions and billions of cells to form a human being with eyes, ears, nose, organs, a brain, heart, and thousands of other amazing parts. No doubt about it, we are fearfully and wonderfully made!

Unfortunately, simple acknowledgment of organization in the biblical world is insufficient. It must make a difference in our lives.

## WHAT NOW?

Applying the concept of organization to all areas of life will take—you guessed it—organization to accomplish. How can you do this?

**Start small.** If you struggle with organization, begin slowly. Try orga-

nizing one portion of one day and see what happens. Make a plan tonight, either with a pen and agenda, or a Blackberry,<sup>TM</sup> if you prefer, and plan tomorrow from the time you wake up until lunch.

**Decide when to set the alarm and wake up.** Set priorities. Do you read the Bible and pray first, or make coffee, take a shower, or eat? Make good use of your time until lunch then evaluate the results. Did you accomplish more than usual? Less? Any difference? Remember to maintain the right attitude as James 4:13-17 instructs.

**Group into categories.** Consider organizing your life by categories. For example, under the heading "spiritual," you may organize your Bible reading and prayer time. I usually plan our family's Bible reading and prayer plan two weeks ahead, leaving room for changes. Regarding other Christian materials, consider reading books from several categories at the same time, such as discipleship, poetry, fiction, area of interest, and evangelism. Or, you may read only one book a few pages at a time. I am currently reading through the works of Josephus, averaging two pages a day, five days a week. I'm on track to finish all his writings in 20 months.

This principle applies to other areas as well, such as organizing your work area. If you face a mountain of papers, try taming a few folders a day, organizing and filing them, and after so many days everything will be cleared out. The point is to tackle a small part of your goal each day, and eventually you will succeed. By the way, that is how I approached this article. I aimed for 30 minutes a day and eventually finished it. As one pastor said, "Take time for your head . . . take time for your health . . . take time for your home . . . [and]

take time for God."<sup>1</sup>

**Learn from organized people.** Probe the lives of organized people and discover their secrets. Ask them how they structure a typical day, week, or month. Think of someone specific right now, reach out to him or her, and pick that brain.

**Set goals.** Contemplate setting yearly family goals that everyone can work toward together. Remember the saying, "If you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time." To avoid hitting nothing, my wife and I look over the past year's goals in late December, see how we did, and set new goals for the upcoming year.

We focus on five categories: physical, spiritual, emotional, social, and financial. We write our goals on index cards. I tape mine to the front of my agenda and review them at the beginning of each month, not only to measure progress, but also to refresh them in my mind and see where my efforts are lacking.

## THE NEXT STEP

People make time for what is important to them. If you determine that living an organized, balanced Christian life is important, you will find time to organize each area of life in a way that pleases and glorifies the Lord.

We can choose to be organized, or we can choose not to be. While we do not need to become efficiency experts, we do want to redeem the time (Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5) and serve our Lord to the best of our ability. We want to do things decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40) in every area of life.

So how about it? Do you want to be better organized? You can, and I encourage you to start today. It's never too late to begin. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Joshua Burba is a May 2010 Christian Education graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

<sup>1</sup> Marvin A. McMickle, "Take Time to be Holy," *Preaching: The Professional Journal for Preachers* Volume 19, Number 6 (May/June, 2004): 68-70.

# VICTORY OVER STRESS

Learn to live with a quiet heart...  
BY ELIZABETH HODGES



## STRESS. PRESSURE. FRUSTRATION. ANGER. DESPERATION.

All are part of the human experience in this sin-cursed world. If we do not guard our lives carefully, we can find ourselves on an endless roller coaster, a series of emotional ups and downs that ultimately lead to defeat. As believers, however, God has called us to rise above the chaos, to conquer the stress that would ruin our lives. In John 15:11, Jesus told his followers, “These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.”

Psalm 23 reminds us that God the Shepherd is always there to meet our needs in good times and bad, leading and guiding through difficulty and darkness. In Matthew 28:19, 20, Jesus promised to be with us always. Second Corinthians 12:9, 10, make it clear that God’s grace is sufficient, and His strength is perfected by our weakness. The Apostle Paul went on to declare, “For when I am weak, then am I strong.” God wants us to find victory over stress by depending on Him, His Word, and His strength.

In light of these truths, consider the following acronym.

### **S** SIT AT JESUS' FEET

Psalm 46:10 says, “Be still and know that I am God.” Do you find this difficult, at times seemingly impossible? Yet God commands us to be still, and we can be confident He wants us to obey.

When my three children were young, finding time for Bible study was an ongoing challenge. Samuel has always been an early riser (which now serves him well in the Marine Corps). When my feet hit the floor in the morning, he was awake and ready for the day. Then came Stephen and Sarah close behind. The three children refused to take naps at the same time, no matter how diligently I coordinated my efforts. So, I gave them notebooks, Bibles, pens, and highlighters like

mine, and we all “studied” together at the kitchen table.

I always chuckle to read about Susanna Wesley, mother of 17 children, including famous sons John and Charles. She would throw her apron over her head when she needed time with the Lord. The active children learned quickly not to disturb their mother at those moments.

Setting aside daily time before God is crucial—even when it is inconvenient. When Jesus visited sisters Mary and Martha (Luke 10), Mary sat quietly at His feet and listened, while Martha bustled around the house as a good hostess. Eventually, Jesus rebuked Martha for being “cumbered about with much serving.” How many of us ignore God because we are cumbered about with His work, His ministry? A friend once



told me, “If I must be a Martha, give me a Mary’s heart.”

That is my prayer as well. I too am busy like Martha. I want to learn when to be quiet, to sit at my Savior’s feet, to know Him so I can be

molded into His image. As the old hymn says, it takes time to be holy. We cannot know God if we have a “drive-thru mentality.” Spiritual food is not fast food.

Even Jesus drew apart to spend time with His Father during His earthly ministry. If He, being God, needed to be refreshed, how much more do we?

Thomas Manton, Puritan preacher and writer in the 1600s, once said, “What is the reason there is so much preaching and so little practice? For want of meditation.” Meditation is to our souls what digestion is to our physical bodies.

## T TRUST IN THE LORD

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path” (Proverbs 3:5, 6). “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee” (Isaiah 26:3). “In quietness and confidence [He] shall be your strength” (Isaiah 30:15c).

Have you heard the old saying, “Sometimes the Lord calms the storm; sometimes He lets the storm rage and calms His child”? How true! As John 16:33 reminds us, we will always have stress in our lives because we live on this earth; but we also know the One in charge. We should be like the bird tucked comfortably into her nest while a raging waterfall crashes around her. Do we rest in His care?

Often, we come boldly to the throne of God (Hebrews 4:16) with our problems only to pick them up and take them with us when we walk away. If God cares about the lilies, feeds the birds, and numbers every hair on our heads, is He not more concerned about these things that trouble us? He only asks that we seek Him and His will, and He will take care of the rest (Matthew 6:33).

## R REST, RELAX, AND RECREATE

Sleep is a gift from God. But how often do we thank Him for this priceless gift? Sleep does for our bodies what nothing else can do. It refreshes. It heals. It renews.

But when we allow stress to rule our lives, we often fret more than we sleep. We toss and tumble as our restless minds review the problems of the previous day and rehearse our plans for the next. We must learn to leave our cares on the nightstand, or even better, in God’s capable hands. Amy Carmichael once said, “In acceptance lieth peace.”

Learn to relax. What brings you relief, enjoyment, and pleasure? From arts and crafts to painting, reading, golfing, or hiking, find a physical activity that reduces the effects of stress on your body. Recreation gives you time to “re-create” and change your routine. It doesn’t have to be expensive as long as it provides time to refocus priorities. The possibilities are endless: retreats, walks in the woods, visits with family or friends, traditions, sports or sporting events, sunrise or sunset from the porch, calling a friend.

The key is balance. Work hard when it is time to work, and then walk away. Don’t become a victim of false guilt because something remains undone. We will never get it all done, or we will be out of a job. We simply need to do our best.

## E ENCOURAGE

In Philemon 7, Paul praised Philemon for refreshing the saints—including Paul. In turn, Paul’s letters ministered to believers for the rest of human history. Can anyone say that you have refreshed his or her spirit?

Second Samuel 9 records David’s kindness to Jonathan’s crippled son Mephibosheth. Hebrews 10:24 challenges readers to “consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works.” Romans 16:1, 2, commends Phoebe as a sister, servant, and helper.

Do others consider us helpful? Do we encourage them in tangible ways? Contrary to public opinion, it is always more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). Our own problems pale as we focus on the concerns of others.

## S STRENGTHEN

Philippians 4:8 challenges us, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

How much of our thought life do we invest in these categories? Refocusing our attention on the list above will provide us needed strength instead of worry and frustration.

After all, worry rarely changes anything.

We must rest, knowing God is in control and does all things well. Deuteronomy 33:27 says, "The eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms." No matter how heavy our load, we can always find strength in the everlasting arms of God.

Lamentations 3:22-23 phrases it beautifully. "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning. Great is thy faithfulness."

## SHARE

Share what God is teaching you with others. Like a lake without an outlet, knowledge grows stagnant when hoarded.

Make yourself available to others. Be approachable, vulnerable, confidential, and sacrificial. Be available, even when it is inconvenient. Learn to listen without forming a reply until the other person

has finished talking. Focus on being a good friend.

At the same time, seek a friend. Find someone who will hold you accountable and allow you to share anything without fear of rejection or broken confidence. When you find such a friend, express your gratefulness—both to God and to that person. True friendship is rare, a treasure to be cultivate.

As you encounter stressful events in your life, be encouraged by God's promise in Isaiah 40:31: "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." With confidence in His words, pursue and develop a quiet heart and find victory over the stress in your life. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Elizabeth Hodges is executive director of Women Nationally Active for Christ. She and her husband Eddie live in Hendersonville, Tennessee, where he pastors Hendersonville FWB Church.



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TIME FOR A TECH FAST...

# REJECT INFOBESITY

BY CHUCK COLSON

## RECENTLY, I WAS AT A DINNER

having a fascinating conversation with some very influential people, but one of the dinner guests had his head down the whole time. I thought he was falling asleep. He's almost my age, and sometimes that happens! But, lo and behold, after dinner I discovered he had actually been reading his Blackberry.™

Now, I'm not wagging a finger at him, because I have been guilty of over-indulging in technology myself. I like to call it multitasking, but my wife Patty has another name for it. Recently, we were able to get away from our normally hectic lives to celebrate her birthday for a few days. Do you know what she wanted for her present? A promise that I would put my iPhone away for the whole time.

Susan Maushart, author of the new book, *The Winter of Our Disconnect*, describes this kind of addiction to media with the marvelous term infobesity. Just as Americans have a growing reputation—if you'll pardon the pun—for physical obesity, we also have an expanding

commitment to staying connected through social media such as Facebook and devices such as smart phones.

Just as too much good food can be unhealthy for us, so also can too much social and electronic networking. And I mean that literally! In January, security cameras in Reading, Pennsylvania, recorded a shopper who was so busy texting while walking through a mall that she didn't see a fountain in front of her and fell into a pool. The video went viral, and millions had a laugh at the poor woman's expense.

Far less humorous is the fact that each day more than a million Americans send text messages or use their cell phones while driving. No wonder distracted driving fatalities are on the rise.

In her new book, *Alone Together*, MIT professor Sherry Turkle writes that technology—despite its many obvious benefits—also threatens to increase our isolation and make us less human. Experts say email, online games, social networking, and blogs are addicting in part because they are portable, provide instant gratification, and allow us

an easy escape from relationships that may be difficult and require more work.

Sharon Gilcrest O'Neill, a marriage and family therapist in New York, suggests that "Technology should be on the list of the top reasons why people divorce—along with money, sex, and parenting."

Of course, technology can also be a blessing. Many people rightly point out that Facebook, rather than forcing them into isolation, has helped them find old friends and neighbors. Droids, iPhones, and other technological marvels can be seen as expressions of God-given creative potential. Rather than dismissing them as evil, maybe we Christians should begin to think in terms of what's prudent. How can we use technology for God's glory, rather than let it use us?

How do we know whether we are suffering from infobesity? Why not try a tech-fast for a day, or even a week. Don't use your iPhone, don't sign in to Facebook—whatever your tech weakness is—just withdraw for a while, and see what happens.

If that seems too radical or impossible to attempt, then I'm afraid you probably do have an advanced case of infobesity. And, please, watch out for those mall fountains. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Chuck Colson is founder of the non-profit organization Prison Fellowship, which works to provide spiritual and emotional support as well as minister to those in prison. He is host of the nationally syndicated radio broadcast, BreakPoint. He has authored numerous books and magazine articles.

From *BreakPoint*, February 15, 2011, reprinted with permission of Prison Fellowship, [www.breakpoint.org](http://www.breakpoint.org).



## NEWS WNAC and MM

### SHINE 75! Assists Bible Institutes



**ANTIOCH, TN**—WNAC invites church groups and individuals to join in lighting the way for a new day of ministry among Spanish speakers. *Shine 75!* WNAC's current national project provides much needed funding for three Free

Will Baptist Bible institutes: The Seminary of the Cross in northern Mexico, IBLAC (Altamira Bible Institute) in southern Mexico, and the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute in Inman, South Carolina. Named to honor WNAC's rich 75-year history, *Shine 75!* focuses on future Free Will Baptist ministry efforts among this growing segment of the world's population.

With 329 million native speakers, Spanish ranks as the world's second most prolific language. Hispanics now comprise the largest minority group in the U. S. (16% of the total population). Analysts predict this figure will swell to almost 30% by 2050, when nearly one in every three Americans will claim Hispanic origin. This population rise, coupled with a growing number of Hispanics abandoning tradition and embracing relational Christianity, creates a vast need for discipleship and leadership training. All three institutions targeted in *Shine 75!* offer ministry programs for Spanish-speaking men and women from countries throughout the western hemisphere.

Women seek to raise \$75,000 in this cooperative effort with Free Will Baptist Home Missions. All monies received for *Shine 75!* will be equally divided among the three schools. Learn more at [www.wnac.org](http://www.wnac.org), or contact WNAC at [office@wnac.org](mailto:office@wnac.org) or 877-767-7662. ■

### WNAC Launches New Theme, New Format



**ANTIOCH, TN**—The focus is on fitness as WNAC announces its 2011-2012 theme. "Body Builders" encourages and challenges women to improve spiritual and physical health, strengthening each other

in Christ. Throughout the next year, Bible studies, group meetings, and women's events will take on a fitness twist as women exercise spiritual gifts, strengthen core values, stretch themselves in ministry opportunities, and develop endurance as followers of Christ.

"Body Builders" also serves as the theme for this year's WNAC convention. The one-day event, Tuesday, July 19, with speakers Carolyn Dwyer and Steve and Judy Lytle meets in the Charlotte Convention Center in conjunction with the National Association of Free Will Baptists and the National Youth Conference.

In years past, women often had to choose between attending WNAC meetings or seeing children compete in NYC activities. This new consolidated format seeks to alleviate these conflicts. The day will include four stand-alone sessions. Scheduled breaks between each segment will allow women to come and go as needed. Close proximity between WNAC and NYC events will also make getting to and from locations easier.

This fall, readers will see changes in WNAC's publications. WNAC will produce a study guide rather than a magazine. This smaller, more compact quarterly publication will continue to carry WNAC's signature Bible studies, interest items, and other women's ministry helps. WNAC will offer its yearly *Program and Plan Book* free to every WAC member group (quantity prorated according to group size). WNAC continues to increase online offerings and activities for its growing web audience. ■

## WNAC Welcomes Myanmar Women Active for Christ.



Roger Than Maung and wife Grace Eht Lowm lead WNAC in Myanmar.

**ANTIOCH, TN**—WNAC Executive Director Elizabeth Hodges officially welcomed Myanmar Women Active for Christ as an international affiliate, March 1, 2011. In a letter to Brother Roger Than Maung, National Director of Myanmar WNAC and President of the Myanmar Free Will Baptists Association, Mrs. Hodges expressed her great excitement and expectation in working together with this growing group of women. Currently, the organization includes 487 women from 26 chapters within two states and one division of the Myanmar Free Will Baptists Association. Mrs. Grace Eht Lowm, Brother Roger's wife, serves as national coordinator.

WNAC networks women's groups in 21 U.S. states, the Atlantic Canada region and the U.S. Virgin Islands. WNAC also recognizes organized Free Will Baptist women's groups in Côte d'Ivoire, Panama, Cuba, and Mexico as international affiliates. ■



## CMI Conference in Mississippi

**BOONEVILLE, MS**—Over 60 men gathered at the Martin Hill Free Will Baptist Church February 18-19, for a CMI (Count Me In) conference sponsored by Free Will Baptist Master's Men. CMI conferences are designed to encourage and equip men to become spiritual leaders and mentors to other men. Master's Men Director Kenneth Akers, Tennessee Pastor Cliff Donoho, and National Moderator Tim York spoke to attendees about men mentoring other men. They also addressed issues that men deal with in today's world.

In addition to challenging services and workshops, the men were treated to great food and better fellowship. Host Pastor Rodney Brazil and the men of his church did a great job hosting the event.

The next CMI conference will be held in October at California Christian College in Fresno. ■

## Halls Repeat as Deep South Winners

**DOTHAN, AL**—Jerry and Joseph Hall held off all challengers to defend their title at the 2011 Master's Men Deep South Golf Tournament. After a five-year absence, the tournament returned to Dothan National Golf Course and Hotel in Dothan, Alabama. Golfers enjoyed perfect weather, with temperatures in the upper 70s and low 80s with a slight breeze. The conditions were right for low scores and great fellowship.

In addition to golf and fellowship, attendees enjoyed great food, including a treat of steak and baked potatoes followed by peach cobbler and ice cream Thursday night. Georgia Promotional Director William Smith delivered the devotional message Wednesday night.

Other trophy recipients included the teams of Gladson/Pilgrim (second place), Baumgarten/Dease (third place) and Thompson/Judah (fourth place). Winners of the first flight were Breiby/Franks followed by Pugh/Hendrix. Nottoson/Dillashaw took first place in the second flight followed closely by Burns/Burleson.

All golfers enjoyed the tournament, and we anticipate more golfers to participate next year. ■



# BROWN on green

## What Do You Know About Free Will Baptist Foundation?

### PEOPLE OFTEN ASK, “WHAT DOES THE FOUNDATION DO?”

income to one or two individuals, and they receive a partial charitable tax deduction. In addition, the income they receive is either tax-advantaged or sometimes tax-free. It is possible in some cases to avoid capital gains taxes on highly appreciated assets. When the individual(s) die, the principal portion of their gift is passed to the Free Will Baptist ministry of their choice.

*The Foundation also manages endowment gifts.* Endowments are perpetual gifts where the principal is untouched, and only the earnings are harvested every six months to produce income for ministries. Currently, over \$7 million is under management, producing around \$350,000 a year for ministries. Using an endowment is a good way to make your annual gift continue till Jesus returns. For example, someone who makes a \$1,000 gift to a Free Will Baptist ministry every year could make that gift perpetual by es-

### THE FOUNDATION

serves the denomination in four areas. *We manage and solicit planned gifts.* Planned gifts offer a lifetime

establishing an endowment of \$20,000.

*Money management trusts (MMT) are another way that we serve Free Will Baptists.* Many individuals and churches use MMTs to place excess funds or emergency funds in a safe account. MMTs pay a variable rate (2.75% through June 30, 2011) and operate like money market accounts in that you can add to or take away funds any time. Withdrawals of up to \$50,000 can be made on a seven-day notice. The funds are conservatively invested primarily in U.S. government-backed instruments.

*The last area in which the Foundation is involved is wills.* We offer Wills Guides and information to help every Free Will Baptist have a will. Everyone should have a will for a variety of reasons, but one of the most important is that we should all consider a bequest to ministries. Tithing on your income is a well-established principal in Scripture; but, we should also consider tithing on our estate. Leaving 10% of our estate to Free Will Baptist ministries will help them continue to do important work for the kingdom.

Please call, email, or write if you would like more information about any of these areas of ministry. **ONE**

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



## BUCK A WEEK

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# Crossing the MISSIONS BORDER

BY SHIRLEY DYKES

**I GREW UP IN A HOME WHERE** missionaries often visited and shared their work, so I learned early in life to love and support missions. As the wife of a pastor with a passion for missions,

church filled from front to back (certainly unusual in American churches), and they prayed for a half-hour before the service began. They stood and enthusiastically sang hymns of praise for more than an hour. We were able to sing along to many of the songs that were familiar to us. That wonderful spirit-filled service prepared us for the days and work ahead.

We visited a small, poor village where we encountered wonderful people hungry to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. When we gathered for services each evening, the little, open-air church

Even though we could not speak the language, we quickly realized that the Holy Spirit has no language barriers. We simply prayed while those who could speak the language shared the gospel and the Holy Spirit did the work in their hearts. It was such a blessing to be there and to be part of the work. It was refreshing to see people anxious to hear and receive the gospel.

That experience in a poor village in Mexico left me with an image I do not think will ever grow dim. God strongly reaffirmed the importance of the Great Commission in my heart. Each day, when I pray for our missionaries, a vivid picture of that little village and those precious people springs to mind, and I thank God for allowing me this time on the mission field.

As a result of my experience, I see more clearly the need to train young men who can preach the gospel effectively without language barriers and cultural differences. Our denomination is blessed to have the Gwen Hendrix Free Will Baptist Institute to train young men and women to reach not only the

**AS A RESULT OF MY EXPERIENCE, I SEE MORE CLEARLY THE NEED TO TRAIN YOUNG MEN WHO CAN PREACH THE GOSPEL EFFECTIVELY WITHOUT LANGUAGE BARRIERS AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES.**



it has been a wonderful privilege to meet many missionaries and host them in our home. I found a role in the work by praying for missionaries and supporting them financially, but I will never forget the time a few years ago when missions became very real in my life.

My husband and I were blessed to accompany Home Missions Hispanic Director Rick Bowling on a mission trip to Mexico. The experience changed how I both perceive and pray for missions. We began our time in Mexico by worshipping with an established church. The

filled with people who came to hear the preaching of the Word. The Holy Spirit spoke to hearts, and the altar filled with people who accepted Christ as Savior. Tears flowed from their eyes and praise flowed from their lips.

During the days, we went house-to-house to share the gospel and pray for the sick in the village and surrounding area. The warmth of these dear people deeply affected us as they opened their homes to us and begged us to come in. Their graciousness and hospitality were inspiring.

Hispanics in the United States, but also those in their homelands as well.

I am thankful for leaders such as Rick Bowling, and I understand and appreciate the endless hours he puts in—not for the praise of men—but because of a burden for the souls of the Hispanic people. I am thankful for Free Will Baptists in my state and beyond who help support this ministry of reaching the Spanish-speaking world for Christ. May we always remember the Great Commission and never tire of getting the gospel to the lost. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Shirley Dykes and her husband currently minister in Mississippi.

## NEWS across the nation

### Home Missions Welcomes New Missionaries



Brian and Melissa Lewis are moving to North Dallas, Texas, to join Randall and Collette Wright in planting a Free Will Baptist church. Brian graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1999 with a degree in Pastoral Ministry. He earned a degree in Elementary Education in 2005. Melissa graduated in 1997 with a degree in Business Administration. The couple has served for the past eight years at Oaklawn FWB Church in Chapmansboro, Tennessee. Brian and Melissa have two children: Camden (age 7) and Rory (age 4).

The North Dallas/Fort Worth population has grown approximately 1.3 million since 2000. It is the largest metropolitan area in Texas, the largest in the South, and the fourth largest in the nation. Please pray for this family as they begin the work of reaching the lost for Christ in North Texas.

**Side note:** Melissa was recently diagnosed with ovarian cancer and is undergoing treatment. Please pray for the Lewis family during this difficult time. ■

### Updates

#### **GEORGE LEMELIN, OGEMA, MINNESOTA.**

Narrow Path Christian Academy is doing well, with a total of 10 students. Your prayers and support are making this school a reality.

**JEFF CATES, CANYON, TEXAS.** God is blessing the work. A young couple who recently moved from Oklahoma has agreed to work with the teen program. The church has started a preschool class, which means more rooms are needed for children.

**TIM OSBORN, OAKLAND, TENNESSEE.** The past few months have been extremely challenging for the Osborn family. Tim was diagnosed with stage-three colon cancer and continues to undergo therapy. Please pray for the Osborn family during this time. Also, remember their church in Oakland.

**CHAPLAIN (MAJ) DAVID SPEARS, FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA.** Chaplain Spears was recently diagnosed with brain cancer and is undergoing treatment. Please pray for his family and his ministry during this time.

#### **TIM HODGES, YORK, PENNSYLVANIA.**

Tim and Jessica Hodges have relocated to York, Pennsylvania, to work with home missionaries Allen and Jenny Hall. They enjoyed a tremendous time during their work in Colorado and are following the Lord's leading to York. They thank the Lord for allowing them to be part of yet another great ministry.

## Missionary Boot Camp 2011

**ANTIOCH, TN**—Six newly approved home missionaries descended upon the Home Missions office for Missionary Boot Camp, a training session for all new Free Will Baptist church planters. The missionaries had been raising support for individual projects and were anxious to get started with the basics of finding a place to meet and beginning outreach in their chosen areas. Although going through the church-planting process is the only way to fully understand the logistics involved, boot camp prepares missionaries for what they will face when they begin their work.



**FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** David Crowe, Richard Atwood, Mark McCraney, Daryl Gaimes, Randall Wright, Timothy York, Heath Webb, Darin Alvis, Larry A. Powell



The groups spent time discussing tools and methods for evangelism, how to organize and conduct worship services, and general leadership strategies for their new churches. Lead missionaries—those going out alone or leading a team—were asked to submit a strategy for their first year along with a first-year budget.

Six men attended the boot camp: Daryl Grimes, Erie, Pennsylvania (lead missionary); Heath Webb, Boise, Idaho (lead missionary); Darin Alvis, Buffalo, NY (team missionary); Mark McCraney, Castle Rock, Colorado (team missionary), Randall Wright, Dallas, Texas (lead missionary); and Tim York, Buffalo, NY (team missionary).

Current home missionaries David Sexton and Marc Nepl (Suffolk, VA), Tim Riggs (Mobile, AL), and Jeff Goodman and Josh Bennett (Marana, AZ) spoke to the new missionaries via webcam. It is helpful for new missionaries to interact with those already on the field and at various stages in their church plants. The session led to a lengthy exchange of questions and answers.

The team-missionary concept has proven extremely helpful in planting churches. It provides someone to help shoulder the responsibility in many areas, provide Christian fellowship, and help with the tremendous amount of leg work. It helps to prevent the missionary from feeling alone and readily provides those who can help with the music and teaching.

Lay workers also provide great assistance in church planting. There are home missionaries who have been joined by families moving to the area, getting jobs, and will be working in the church plant.

If you could spend time with these missionaries, you would see men who have a real burden to see people saved and to start new Free Will Baptist churches. Be on the lookout for these men as they travel and tell others about their new ministry. They may be coming to an area near you for services. ■



Considering Taking Social Security Benefits Early?

# Use the **CALCULATOR** BY D. RAY LEWIS

**ONE OF THE BIGGEST DECISIONS FACING RETIREES TODAY IS WHETHER** they should start drawing their Social Security benefits prior to reaching full retirement age. According to the Social Security Administration, “retirement age” is a sliding scale based on the year in which you were born, ranging from age 65 to 67.

**WHILE YOU ARE PERMITTED** to begin Social Security benefits at age 62, you will receive a lesser amount than if you wait until your full retirement age. For example, if your retirement age is 65 and you start drawing benefits at 62, you face a monthly reduction of 20% in your check. If, on the other hand, your retirement age is 67 and you began benefits at 62, your monthly check from Social Security would be reduced by 30%.

As a side note, no matter when you begin receiving your Social Security retirement check, Medicare benefits are

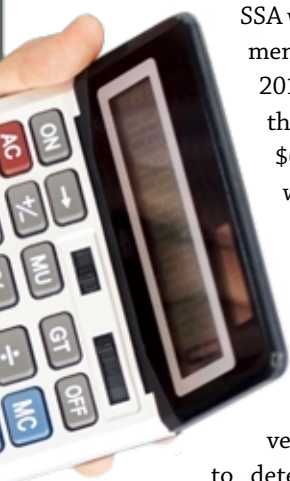
only available after your 65th birthday.

The question remains as to whether or not a person should consider taking Social Security benefits early. The simple answer to the question is—it depends! The potential retiree must first make some immediate financial decisions. Can you survive on the reduced Social Security amount? By drawing benefits early, the amount a “retiree” can earn will be limited. If you are under full retirement age for the entire year, Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefit payments for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit. For

2011, that limit is \$14,160. So by drawing benefits early, you limit the amount that you can earn.

On their website, [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov), the Social Security Administration (SSA) gives the following example of a 62-year-old filing for Social Security benefits in January 2011, with a payment of \$600 per month (\$7,200 for the year). During 2011, this person plans to work and earn \$20,480 (\$6,320 above the \$14,160 limit). The SSA would withhold \$3,160 of the Social Security benefits (\$1 for every \$2 you earn over the limit). To do this, the





SSA would withhold all benefit payments from January 2011 to June 2011. Beginning in July 2011, this person would receive their \$600 benefit, and this amount would be paid each month for the remainder of the year. In 2012, the SSA would pay you the additional \$440 they withheld in June 2011.

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company has developed a three-question test to determine whether you should start collecting Social Security early. This tool, which can be found at, [www.metlife.com/individual/financial-tools/social-security-tool/index.html](http://www.metlife.com/individual/financial-tools/social-security-tool/index.html),

is a quick way to determine your breakeven point. The Met Life calculator points out that the potential retiree should consider the long-term impact of reducing his or her monthly payments by 20-30%.

Again, the decision is not easy. While the Board of Retirement has no crystal ball to tell you what is best for you, generally we suggest that you not start drawing your Social Security benefits until you reach full retirement age if you are still working. Taking reduced benefits and potentially having those benefits reduced further because of the earnings limit is not worth it financially. However, if you truly retire prior to your Social Security retirement age, it may

be better to take your reduced Social Security benefits than to go into debt at this stage of your life or make large withdrawals from your tax-deferred retirement accounts, such as your account with the Board of Retirement.

Just as with any decision concerning retirement, your decision to take Social Security benefits early should be bathed in prayer. To learn more about your Social Security benefits, please visit the SSA and Met Life websites above. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** D. Ray Lewis joined the Board of Retirement in 1983. He became director in 2005 after serving for several years as assistant director.



## Operation Saturation BY KEN AKERS

Long, long ago in a far off land dwelled a family of small people.

This family had moved to this new land to share the good news to the people of the land. But, with so many people in the land and so few of the small people, what could they do? One day, one of the big people said, "Let us go to the far away land to help the small people. We will ask many friends to go with us." And so they did.

Actually, the first Operation Saturation was held in Cranberry Township, a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. On October 9, 1999, then Master's Men Director Tom Dooley, along with nearly 50 people, spent the day distributing information about the new Free Will Baptist church that would be started in the area. Home missionaries Tom and Pam Jones (if you've ever met them, you will understand the small people comparison), along with their three daughters, had recently moved to the area to start Three Rivers Free Will Baptist Church.

Since that time many hours have been spent going door-to-door helping home missionaries reach local neighborhoods with news about mission works. In addition to the foot time, however, volunteers spent hours

and hours of "knee time." Prayer has always been a vital part of Operation Saturation.

Since the first trip to Pennsylvania, the Master's Men Department has partnered with Home Missions North America to visit mission works in Wisconsin, Michigan, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia, and even returned to Pennsylvania to help the Jones family begin a second work in Greensburg. In addition to the work in the States, we have traveled to Puerto Rico and St. Croix in the US Virgin Islands.

While many people have traveled great distances at their own expense, the blessings they have received have far overshadowed the time and cost invested.

In 2011, Master's Men, along with Home Missions, will travel to Buffalo, New York, to help Brian and Emily Williams, Darin and Joy Alvis, and Timothy and Amanda York prepare for the launch service at NorthPoint Free Will Baptist Church. This will be a unique, new work as the Yorks reach out to the deaf population in the area.

Won't you make plans now to join us as we labor together to help home missionaries spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. For more information, visit [www.fwb-mastersmen.org](http://www.fwb-mastersmen.org) or call 877-767-8039. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Ken Akers has been the director of Master's Men since 2002.



**IF  
SOMEONE  
GIVES  
YOU A**

# **CHICKEN...**

**+BY CLINT MORGAN**

**IN MARCH 2011, I WAS APPOINTED TO THE POSITION OF INTERIM GENERAL DIRECTOR OF FREE WILL BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS.**

Each day, I go to the Scriptures and seek direction for the tasks ahead of me. I especially love the book of Proverbs. The wisdom oozes off the pages as succinct insights and practical principles guide us in daily living.

My wife Lynette and I spent more than 25 years in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, working among the Lobi people. One thing I really enjoyed about life among the Lobis was their use of proverbs. Quite often, as I study the Bible, an African proverb pops into my head, and I find myself seeing how it fits my new ministry.

***Six Lobi proverbs seem particularly appropriate:***

**“IF THE HEAD IS AROUND, DON'T PUT YOUR HAT ON YOUR KNEE.”**

We all have someone in authority over us, and it is unwise to usurp the authority (hat) of a superior (the head). This is fairly easy to acknowledge, but not always easy to implement. I work for the International Missions Board, and they answer to the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Ultimately, we all answer to God. That alone pushes me to say I better leave “the hat on the Head.”

**“WHEREVER A SNAIL GOES, HE TAKES HIS SHELL WITH HIM.”**

As I come to this new task, I come as I am. I cannot shed myself of the reality of me. Certainly, we all make cultural adaptations—no matter where we are or what role we are playing. We all should strive to ensure that our “shell” is formed by the leadership of God's Spirit and will resist the attacks of the evil one.

**“DON'T POINT AT YOUR HOME WITH YOUR LEFT HAND.”**

In Africa, the left hand is considered dirty. In the village, you never hand someone an object with your left hand. It is like a curse of sorts. To point at your home with your left hand is tantamount to putting a curse on your ancestry, your place of birth, and your family.

International Missions has a warm, rich heritage. Each general director has left a remarkable legacy. As I endeavor to lead the Mission forward, I must do so without blasting the past. We must appreciate all that has been done and build upon it. I will not be guilty of pointing at my home (my International Missions heritage) with my left hand.

**“IF SOMEONE GIVES YOU A CHICKEN, DON’T ASK HOW MUCH IT WEIGHS.”**

Often, we are given a task (a chicken) without really knowing its demands or future value (its weight). We should take what is given to us by God and wait on Him to tell us how to use it for the expansion of His Kingdom and, ultimately, for His glory. I really have no idea what the demands or future value of my new role will be. I will take it and not ask God how much it weighs.

**“A BEE DOESN’T START ITS HIVE WITH HONEY.”**

If IM is to flourish, we must have the support of the people in the pews, pastors, state leaders, and other denominational leaders. We might be tempted to think that because we are about world evangelism (the honey) people will eagerly and willingly provide the resources for our efforts. However, we know if we do not have good relationships with our people (the hive), they will not readily support our efforts.

One of my primary objectives as interim general director is to build strong relationships with our Free Will Baptist constituency.

**“YOU CAN’T SPIT AND SWALLOW AT THE SAME TIME.”**

We all know there are moments when humans simply do not agree. When we disagree, emotions sometimes control our words (spit). When tempers flare, the ability to exchange ideas or receive counsel (swallow) is greatly diminished or even non-existent. It is my prayer that I will not spit, and that I will be willing to swallow, for I do know I cannot do both at the same time.

**Biblical proverbs address many of these same thoughts and issues. My use of these African proverbs does not in any way imply they are superior to the biblical proverbs. But they are a part of my shell, and God is using them to help me as I lead the Mission through this transition. ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Clint Morgan began serving as interim general director on February 10, 2011. He and his wife Lynette have worked in Africa, Central Asia, and France.

## NEWS around the world

### Griffin Granted Two-Month Leave

**ANTIOCH, TN**—Debbie Griffin, missionary to Japan, was granted a two-month leave-of-absence from her Mission responsibilities by a unanimous vote of the board. Griffin requested the leave to care for her mother. “My mom has been ill, and I feel a need to take care of her,” stated Debbie. “Yet, I still feel my call to missionary service in Japan. Please pray with me as I use the next two months to determine where God wants me to be.”

Debbie returned to her home in Georgia toward the end of January at the request of family members. Using personal vacation time, she spent February caring for her mother. The board has granted a leave-of-absence through April to allow her to seek God’s guidance for her future.

“Debbie is a vital member of our missionary family in Japan. Her love for the Lord, many gifts and talents, love for Japanese people, grasp of the Japanese language and culture all blend together to make her a beloved fellow worker in the Lord’s harvest field of Japan,” affirmed Regional Director Dale Bishop. “We are praying for her, standing with her, and looking forward to seeing how God is going to continue to use her in His work.”

Debbie Griffin was appointed to missionary service in April 1985. ■



**Japan**—Seichi graduated from seminary on March 15, 2011. He will pastor Taihei Chapel FWB Church in Sapporo. ■



**France**—Gilles Roger was installed as pastor of the St. Sebastien FWB Church on March 6, 2011. Gilles is pursuing Bible institute studies via the internet, works a full-time job, and serves the St. Sebastien community. ■

## Missionaries Assist in Japan Relief Efforts



**JAPAN**—Tokyo missionaries Dale and Sandra Bishop and Donnie and Ruth McDonald immediately responded to volunteer opportunities with C.R.A.S.H.—a Christian relief agency headquartered in Tokyo, Japan—following the March 11 earthquake. Often working 12-hour days to help handle logistical issues and coordinate other volunteers, they have lent invaluable support to the agency. “This is mind-bending, detail-oriented labor,” said Dale. “At times, we have been mentally and emotionally exhausted. Yet, we know our efforts make it possible for relief workers in the distressed zones to provide the right supplies for the current needs.”

Ruth McDonald returned to the States on March 21 with her daughters Amy (16) and Caroline (10). The departure was designed to alleviate some of the trauma and stress the girls were experiencing as they dealt with the almost 24-hour coverage of the devastation and hundreds of aftershocks. Ruth has used the time stateside to speak to ladies groups and churches, sharing updates and the opportunities to respond to the crisis.



In mid-March, Nathan Snow led a group of 27 pastors and other volunteers from Hokkaido to devastated areas. They helped clean large debris from neighborhoods and houses filled with mud. “Many homes looked like barn stalls with several inches of thick muck and mire,” Nathan observed. The Hokkaido team “served hot meals to hundreds who hadn’t had a hot meal since the earthquake.” They listened to stories from people whose relatives were washed away right in front of them and prayed with many of these hurting people. They distributed water, flashlights, batteries, heaters, camp stoves, warm clothes, infant care needs (diapers and formula), and personal hygiene supplies. “Meeting physical needs in Christ’s name during a crisis is the right thing to do,” stated Nathan, “but many of these people have never even heard the name of Christ. What a wonderful opportunity to introduce them!”



Free Will Baptist International Missions is partnering with The Hanna Project, Master’s Men, and C.R.A.S.H. to aid victims of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. “Funneling funds through these agencies will allow our workers in Japan to participate in meeting the physical needs of hurting people,” Clint Morgan stated. “At the same time, they will be available to share the gospel with those whose hearts may be open because of the disaster.”

Donations earmarked “Japan Relief” will be channeled to The Hanna Project and will allow missionaries to meet physical and eternal needs. Donations may be made on the Mission’s website ([www.fwbgo.com](http://www.fwbgo.com)) or by mailing checks to FWBIM, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN, 37011-5002. ■

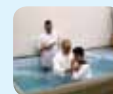
## Power Struggle in Côte d’Ivoire Ends

**ABIDJAN, CÔTE D’IVOIRE**—On April 11, 2011, a five-month power struggle between former President Laurent Gbagbo and President-elect Alassane Ouattara ended. Gbagbo had retreated to the bunker in the presidential residence as Ouattara’s troops entered Abidjan. Days of intensive assault and negotiations ended on April 11 as Ouattara’s forces broke through the bunker’s defenses.

April’s events stem from presidential elections held in November 2010. Election officials, the United Nations, and most world leaders recognize Alassane Ouattara as the winner of the election. Sitting President Laurent Gbagbo alleged election fraud and refused to give up his position to Ouattara. Months of political posturing, threats, economic upheaval, and skirmishes between the opposing factions have culminated in Ouattara’s gradual, but effective taking of strategic cities throughout the country. ■



**Brazil**—Five young people accepted Christ as Savior, Saturday, March 5, while attending a youth camp held during Carnival celebrations. ■



**Brazil**—Pastors Lucas and Osmir baptized eight people on March 27 at the First FWB Church in Campinas. A couple, five teens, and a boy made public professions of faith. Pastor Lucas also conducted a baby dedication for a baby who had been born prematurely. ■



**Panama**—The Chame Seminary began a new year of classes on Monday, March 14. Eleven students are enrolled—five first-year, two second-year, and four third-year students. Panamanian leaders, a Cuban couple, and missionaries share teaching responsibilities. ■



**Uruguay**—Uruguayan leadership and missionaries are seeking new areas in which to plant churches. Pastors Gerardo and Julio made a survey trip to Tacuarembó and led someone to Christ while there. Jaimie and Tammy Lancaster are investigating the possibility of working in Salto, Uruguay's second largest city. ■

## LEADERPROFILE by Ron Hunter Jr.

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

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




### CASEY CARIKER

Churches are resilient to most anything except major transition. Transitions occur during such things as relocation, a move to multiple services, and changing pastors. Rejoice Free Will Baptist Church in Owasso, Oklahoma, has faced all of the above in the last three years with grace, anticipation, and expectancy. Rejoice is a multi-location church with live preaching at each site. They operate a 700-student Christian school and average around 900 in worship each week. Casey and his wife Andrea know this is where God wants them to be.

Casey is the new lead pastor of Rejoice. He recently swapped roles with Leonard Pirtle. Leonard had been lead pastor of Rejoice for 38 years, and Casey was the associate pastor. Leonard's work and foresight prepared the church for this transition several years before it was time. God was preparing Casey for the handoff as he began his ministry at Rejoice as the youth pastor and gradually earned more responsibility. Such a shift takes balanced and intentional leadership.

Casey served at Rejoice Church for 12 ½ years before receiving the baton. Following a pastor with tenure is tough enough, but certainly more so when his pastorate lasted 38 years. This speaks volumes about the church and leadership team. Casey's approach aligns with the goal of Rejoice to be traditionally progressive. They recognize who they were yesterday while asking God what He wants them to be tomorrow.

Casey quickly added, "Rejoice Church is a group of joyful people who take God's Word seriously, but do not take themselves too seriously." Casey and Andrea complement one another in ministry and love spending time with their kids, Candry, Lilah, and Chloe. **Casey Cariker you are a great leader!** 

#### What are you reading right now?

*Jesus and the Gospels*  
by Craig L. Bloomberg  
*Church Planting*  
by Darrin Patrick  
*Radical Faith*  
by David Platt  
*Long Night's Journey*  
by James E. White

#### Biggest Failure:

When I fail to remove distractions in order to focus on my family.

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

*Spiritual Leadership*  
by Oswald Sanders  
*Total Truth* by Nancy Piercy  
*A Hole in Our Gospel*  
by Richard Stearns

#### A statement that caught my attention while interviewing Casey:

"We are trying to teach our people that God's call is first to Jesus then secondly for Jesus."

# New Releases

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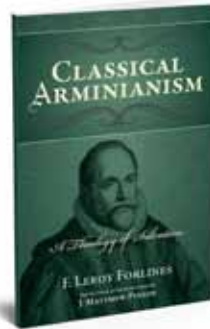
## Classical Arminianism *The Theology of Salvation*

By F. Leroy Forlines

13-ISBN: 9780892656073 Price: \$27.99

In light of the current growth of traditional Calvinism, Arminians of all denominations are seeking resources written from an Arminian perspective. Leroy Forlines and Matt Pinson have collaborated to provide such a resource in *Classical Arminianism*.

Pinson extracted salvation-related content from Forlines' previous work, *The Quest for Truth*, arranging the material in a reader-friendly, logical fashion. The result is a streamlined, topic-specific book that will find an entirely new audience among Arminians seeking to defend their theological position against the New Calvinism. ■



## Back From Captivity *Rebuilding Your Identity in Christ*

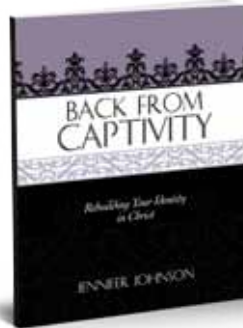
By Jennifer Johnson

13-ISBN: 9780892656202

Price: \$10.99

As a teacher and mentor, Jennifer Johnson has worked with many young people who feel they have destroyed any hope of a relationship with God. Her experiences led Jennifer to write *Back From Captivity*, a study to help prodigals return to God and then maintain the relationship for a lifetime.

Using two biblical examples (the returning captives in the Old Testament and the parable of the lost son in the New), the study defines the struggles that create separation from God, paints a realistic picture of the constant battle every Christian must fight to maintain a healthy relationship with God, and provides hope for the future for those who strive to follow Christ. This six-week study is ideal for someone walking a prodigal through recovery or for those experiencing recovery themselves. ■



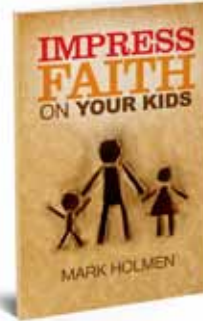
## Impress Faith on Your Kids

By Mark Holmen

13-ISBN: 9780892656127 Price: \$11.99

Parents want to be involved in the spiritual development of their kids, but where do they begin? Going beyond the *why* of passing faith to the next generation, the author provides practical tools for parents to use when sharing faith

with their children. Through this book, parents will gain a better understanding of God's plan for passing faith to the next generation and learn practical ways to make it happen. ■



## Choosing to Run

*Jonah's Encounter  
With God's Grace*

By Jennifer Devlin

13-ISBN: 9780892656196

Price: \$11.99

In *Choosing to Run*, Jennifer Devlin reaches out to those desperate for a second chance at life, encouraging them to leave their past behind. She reminds her readers that God wants to give everyone a life without regrets, rebellion, or captivity to sin. He is the God of grace, and He's ready to give us a second chance today.

Through the unforgettable story of Jonah, readers will discover the unending love of God. Jonah's story is more than a tale of man and whale. It is a picture of the grace and mercy of God. Devlin compares Jonah's experience to other stories from Scripture to reveal how our lives and situations can be altered when we live by the principles of the Bible. ■



# NYCNEWS



## fwb21

The 2011 FWB21 Panel  
Insight for Free Will Baptist  
Twentysomething Leaders

### Reach That Guy MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE.

**REACH THAT GUY** Charlotte, NC, is the birthplace of **Reach That Guy**.

This service project ministry seeks to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the community during the National Youth Conference. This year the youth and youth workers attending the National Youth Conference will volunteer over 3,000 hours of community service in the Charlotte area through local non-profit agencies. You can be involved in changing someone's world.

Here is a partial list of the opportunities you will have to serve others:

- Red Cross Blood Drive
- Nexus Church
- Kidney Foundation
- Goodwill
- Charlotte Rescue Mission
- The Harvest Center
- Cup Ministry
- Samaritan's Feet
- Crisis Assistance Ministries
- Jackson Park Ministries
- Hoskins Park Ministry
- United Cerebral Palsy
- Urban Ministry Center
- Cooperative Christian Ministry
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Hope Cancer Ministries

Sign up at [www.reachthatguy.com](http://www.reachthatguy.com) or at the RTG booth at the youth conference.



**NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE**  
July 17-20 – Charlotte, NC

**What does it take to change the world?** Maybe you think that is not possible. Then what about changing your state? Your city? Your school? Your church? Still too much? Then what about changing you?

**If you could change one thing about what you do or think, what would it be?** What would your world look like if that one thing were different? What steps are within your power to start moving that way?

That is what it takes to change the world—imagining it being different, then taking steps to make it happen. It's up to you. Fortunately, you are not dependent on your own power. God provides the power through faith in Jesus Christ. It's time for Christians to wake up and do something to change the world.

## NYCSCHEDULE:

- SUNDAY** 10:00 – 10:45 Bible Study  
11:00 – Noon Morning Worship  
4:00 Reach That Guy Service Project Orientation  
7:00 – 8:30 Evening Worship  
9:00 – 10:00 NYC Judges Reception

- MONDAY** 8:00 – 9:00 Reach That Guy Service Project Orientation  
8:00 – 5:00 Reach That Guy Service Projects  
8:30 – 4:00 NYC Competitive Activities  
9:00 – 11:00 Administration of Youth Ministry\*  
1:00 – 1:45 First Aid for Parents of Children With Emotional Disorders  
7:00 – 8:30 Evening Worship  
9:00 – 10:00 YET Program  
9:00 – 10:30 FWB 21 Panel  
9:00 – 11:00 E-TEAM Reunion

- TUESDAY** 8:00 – 9:30 Family Ministry in the Free Will Baptist Church – An Ancient Strategy Revisited  
8:30 – 4:00 NYC Competitive Activities  
8:00 – 5:00 Reach That Guy Service Projects  
11:00 – 11:45 First Aid for Parents of Children Entangled in Addictive Behavior  
1:00 – 1:45 First Aid for Parents of Children With Learning Problems  
7:00 – 8:30 Evening Worship  
9:30 – 10:30 NYC Showcase

- WEDNESDAY** 8:00 – 11:00 Bible Competition Finals  
8:00 – 5:00 Reach That Guy Service Projects  
10:00 – 4:00 Reach That Guy Blood Drive  
1:00 – 1:45 Truth & Peace Alumni Meeting  
1:00 – 4:00 GPS-X - Cross-Cultural Experience [not confirmed]  
6:45 – 8:45 Combined Worship  
9:00 – 11:00 NYC Awards Ceremony

\*Administration of Youth Ministry is a series of sessions led by Allen Pointer that addresses a wide range of practical issues related to youth ministry.



The **FWB21** panel is a discussion among leading Free Will Baptists on topics that young Free Will Baptist leaders need to hear.



The topic for this first **FWB21** panel is "Denominational Identity + Kingdom Mindedness." The panelists will be discussing the tension between being a Free Will Baptist and a member of the kingdom as a whole.



On Monday at 9PM, July 18, during the 2011 National Convention of Free Will Baptists in Charlotte, NC.



Charlotte Convention Center, room 208, Charlotte, NC



The panelists are: Curt Gwartney, Charles Cook, Matthew Pinson, David Potete, Archie Ratliff, and Karl Sexton



The panel is completely free. In fact, choice of a free book goes to the first 50 people who show up.

FWB21 is an initiative by the Vertical Three division of Randall House to build Free Will Baptist Twentysomething leaders.

Visit [fwb21.com/panel](http://fwb21.com/panel) to submit your questions.

# HONORING OUR HERITAGE

2011 NATIONAL CONVENTION | CHARLOTTE, NC | JULY 17-20



## CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

When Free Will Baptists gather in Charlotte, North Carolina, this July, they will celebrate the 75th year of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. In light of this important milestone, the Executive Committee named the convention theme “Honoring Our Heritage.” Convention speakers (below) will delve into historic doctrines that set Free Will Baptists apart from other groups, and on Wednesday evening, Executive Secretary Keith Burden will look into the future and the promises and challenges it holds for Free Will Baptists.

Two important commemorative items will be released at the convention. *Honoring Our Heritage* is a stunning video documentary that takes viewers on a revealing trip through Free Will Baptist history, from our English General Baptist forerunners in the 1600s to the highlights of the 20th Century.

A segment of the DVD will be shown before each evening service, and the full-length documentary will be available for purchase at the convention.

*Convention Sermons* is a beautiful, hardbound book with more than a thousand pages of sermons collected from 75 years of conventions. Timeless messages from men like LaVerne Miley, L.C. Johnson, and Robert Picirilli will encourage, challenge, and inspire you, and give you a glimpse into Free Will Baptist life for three-quarters of a century.

Both book and DVD can be purchased at the Executive Office exhibit.

Each day, *The Convention News* will publish a commemorative edition on traditional newspaper imprints from the past. Each paper will include short vignettes about that particular publication and how it shaped Free Will Baptist thought and history.

Make plans now to join the 75th celebration in Charlotte, as we honor our heritage. To learn more about the city, to pre-register for the convention, or to arrange housing for your stay, visit [www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org). **ONE**

**About the Writer:** Eric K. Thomsen is managing editor of **ONE Magazine**. To learn more about the National Association of Free Will Baptists, visit [www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org).

Reserve your copies of *Convention Sermons* and *Honoring Our Heritage* today: 877-767-7659 | [editor@nafwb.org](mailto:editor@nafwb.org)



**Rodney Holloman**  
(North Carolina)  
Sunday School



**Jim Walker**  
(Arkansas)  
Sunday Morning



**Robert E. Picirilli**  
(Tennessee)  
Sunday Evening



**Billy Hanna**  
(Georgia)  
Monday Evening



**Jeff Jones**  
(North Carolina)  
Tuesday Night



**Keith Burden**  
(Tennessee)  
Wednesday Night



# 2011 Preliminary Convention Schedule\*

## Saturday, July 16

IMPACT Charlotte  
Various Locations  
10:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Registration Opens  
3:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
A Concourse

Theological Trends Seminar  
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm  
Hall A

NYC Seminars  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Various Locations

Exhibits Open  
3:00 pm – 10:30 pm  
Hall C2

Pastors/Laymen Conference  
10:00 am – 11:45 am  
Hall A

NYC Seminars  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Various Locations

Exhibits Open  
10:00 am – 10:30 pm  
Hall C2

Convention Business Session  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Hall A

NYC Seminars  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Various Locations

Exhibits Open  
10:00 am – 9:30 pm  
Hall C2

## Sunday, July 17

Registration (Open Daily)  
8:00 am – 7:00 pm  
A Concourse

Sunday School\*  
10:00 am – 10:45 am  
Hall A

Morning Worship\*  
11:00 am – Noon  
Hall A

Evening Worship\*  
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
Hall A

Mission: North America  
Appreciation Dinner  
5:15 pm – 6:30 pm  
Ballroom A

Evening Worship  
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
Hall A

Builders in Session (WNAC)  
10:45 am – 11:45 am  
Room 207

Builders in Fellowship (WNAC)  
Noon – 1:30 pm  
Ballroom AB

Builders in Sharing (WNAC)  
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm  
Room 207

FWBBC Alumni and Friends  
Luncheon  
Noon – 1:30 pm  
Ballroom A

Evening Worship  
6:45 pm – 8:45 pm  
Hall A

NYC Awards Ceremony  
9:00 pm – 11:00 pm  
Hall A

## Monday, July 18

General Board Meeting  
8:00 am – 2:30 pm  
Room 207

NYC Competitive Activities  
8:30 am – 4:30 pm  
Various Locations

## Tuesday, July 19

Builders in Progress (WNAC)  
8:00 am – 9:00 am  
Room 207

Randall House Workshop  
8:00 am – 9:30 am  
Room 211-212

NYC Competitive Activities  
8:30 am – 4:30 pm  
Various Locations

Builders in Worship (WNAC)  
9:15 am – 10:30 am  
Room 207

Convention Business Session  
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm  
Hall A

Evening Worship  
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
Hall A

## Wednesday, July 20

NYC Competition Finals  
8:00 am – 11:00 am  
Ballroom CD

\* All Convention events will be held in Charlotte Convention Center. Teen services will be held in Ballroom C/D.

### Pre-Registration Alert

If you pre-registered for the convention and have not received a letter of confirmation, then you are not officially registered. Call the Executive Office for more information: **877-767-7659**.



**Scott Coghill**  
(North Carolina)  
Tuesday Preaching  
Conference



**Rusty Russell**  
(North Carolina)  
Tuesday Preaching  
Conference

## Orchestra Seeks Members

**Kinston, NC**—The 2011 Convention Orchestra needs instrumentalists to sign up as soon as possible, according to Convention Music Coordinator Chris Truett. “We invite anyone from ninth grade up to participate, although we like to have as many adults as possible.”

The ensemble will accompany congregational and choir selections each night of the convention, and practice Sunday through Wednesday, both at 4:00 p.m. and immediately following each evening service on the main stage in Hall A of the Charlotte Convention Center. Anyone wishing to join the ensemble should send name, address, phone number, and church name to Bethel FWB Church (Attention Chris Truett): 1936 Banks School Road, Kinston, NC 28504.



2011 WNAC CONVENTION | CHARLOTTE, NC | JULY 19

# Body Builders

*We care.* We listened to women’s concerns about conflicts between WNAC meetings and NYC competitive activities. We studied possible solutions together with NYC and NAFWB convention leaders.

*We rearranged our convention schedule* to better fit your needs. We eliminated meetings on Monday, the premier day for NYC competition. We consolidated Tuesday events and scheduled breaks between each of our four sessions to allow you to come and go as needed.

## Convention Schedule, July 19

### 8:00 Builders in Progress

Puzzled about WNAC and how you fit in the body? This interactive seminar is for you.

9:00 Break

### 9:15 Builders in Worship

WNAC attendees come together for songs, prayers, and a message from God’s Word with Steve and Judy Lytle, missionaries to Panama.

10:30 Break

### 10:45 Builders in Session

Leaders call the body to order for the 76th session of the Women Nationally Active for Christ Convention.

11:45 Break

### 12:00 Builders in Fellowship

WNAC’s annual fellowship luncheon provides food for body and soul as pastor’s wife and women’s ministry leader Carolyn Dwyer speaks from her heart.

### 1:30 Builders in Sharing

(Bonus afternoon session)  
Two simultaneous brainstorming sessions address issues pertinent to the WNAC body:

- Our Channel of Giving (for treasurers and interested persons)
- Plans and Ideas (for writers, program coordinators and all creatives)

Find more information at [www.wnac.org](http://www.wnac.org).



**Carolyn Dwyer** serves alongside her husband Danny, senior pastor of North Carolina’s Cramerton Free Will Baptist Church. She works as church secretary and fills various other ministry roles. Carolyn spent 14 years at Southeastern FWB College, including a four-year stint as Dean of Women.

**Steve and Judy Lytle** have been Free Will Baptist international missionaries since 1975. They currently work in Chame, Panama, training students at the FWB seminary. Steve served as director of field operations for the Mission from 2000-2008.



# Pre-Registration

## National Association of Free Will Baptists

WNAC | NYC | Charlotte, North Carolina | July 17-20, 2011

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

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Country (Missionary Only) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Church You Attend \_\_\_\_\_ Church City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

### National Association

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

#### Voting Delegates:

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

#### Non-Voting:

- Licensed Minister
- Attendee (includes infants and toddlers)

#### Tickets:

FWBBC Alumni and Friends Luncheon ...Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday, July 20, 12:00 noon

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

### National Youth Conference

#### Select One:

#### Preschool

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

#### Students

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

\* On-site registration \$35

#### College Age / Adults:

- Adult Attendee (College age and older) \$10  
(No students or children)

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

### Women Nationally Active for Christ

#### Voting Delegates:

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

#### Non-Voting:

- Missionary
- Attendee

#### Tickets:

WNAC Luncheon.....Qty \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday, July 19, 12:00 noon

**WNAC Information: [www.wnac.org](http://www.wnac.org)**

### Register May 9–June 17, 2011 (postmarked) No Refunds After June 17

#### PAYMENT OPTIONS:

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

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

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

#### Return Form and Payment to:

#### Convention Registration

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

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

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

# NEWS

about the denomination

## Free Will Baptists Provide Disaster Relief Across the South



**ANTIOCH, TN**—The Master's Men Department continues to coordinate disaster relief after a wave of deadly storms ripped through the southern states of Mississippi, Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia on Wednesday, April 27. Hail, wind, and torrential rains left behind widespread damage, including severe flooding in many affected areas. Cleanup efforts will be ongoing for months.

Free Will Baptists have been active in relief efforts. The Mississippi Disaster Response Team continues to provide support to the hard hit area of Smithville through volunteer work and donations of household cleaning items. Free Will Baptist volunteers have traveled from as far away as Illinois to assist in the efforts. Visit [www.msfbw.org](http://www.msfbw.org) for more information.

Oklahoma-based Arms of Compassion Ministry traveled to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to provide generators for use in relief efforts. Master's Men used donations from Free Will Baptists across the nation to purchase and deliver plastic totes, large tarps, and personal hygiene items for cleanup efforts.

In Tennessee, the campus of Free Will Baptist Family Ministries and the grounds of Camp Creek Elementary School have become the official site for disaster relief efforts in the devastated Camp Creek community near Greeneville. The ministry has partnered with emergency responders, volunteers, and supporters to provide shelter, food, water, and relief to those in need. Visit [www.fwbfbm.com](http://www.fwbfbm.com) for more information.



Master's Men continues to seek volunteers for these ongoing relief efforts. For more information, contact the office at 877-767-8039 or email [masters@nafwb.org](mailto:masters@nafwb.org). You may also send donations to help purchase relief supplies. Donate online at [www.fwbmastersmen.org](http://www.fwbmastersmen.org), or send donations marked Disaster Relief to:

Free Will Baptist Executive Office  
PO Box 5002  
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

For current news about relief efforts, visit [www.fwbmastersmen.org](http://www.fwbmastersmen.org). ■

## Convention Deadline Approaches

**ANTIOCH, TN**—June 17 will mark the final day to pre-register for the 2011 Free Will Baptist convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, according to Convention Registration Coordinator Dari Goodfellow. It will also signal an end to reduced convention rates available at six downtown hotels. To take advantage of these opportunities, visit the convention website: [www.nafwb.org/2011conv](http://www.nafwb.org/2011conv). ■

## National Offices Building Damaged by Storm



**ANTIOCH, TN**—The Free Will Baptist National Offices Building sustained minor damage during a storm Thursday, February 24. Although weather officials have yet to verify the presence of a tornado, a severe storm with high winds and intense lightning passed through the South Nashville suburbs at 10:30 p.m., leaving behind a widespread trail of debris.

At the National Offices Building, high winds blew in heavy loading-dock doors, damaging the building's wiring and triggering the security alarm. In addition, drop ceilings collapsed in both the men and women's restrooms on the first floor, and a security light was ripped from the exterior of the building.

"I'm just thankful," said Building Manager Steve Pate. "When you look around at all the other damage in the area, things could have been a lot worse. This morning, I found a small yard sign like the ones realtors use sticking straight out of the side of our building, almost like it had been placed there. Strange things happen in a storm like this!"

The line of heavy storms damaged homes and businesses throughout Antioch and severely damaged two nearby churches. ■



## Free Will Baptist Publications Honored by Evangelical Press Association

**NASHVILLE, TN**—*ONE Magazine* and Randall House Publications were honored at the Evangelical Press Association (EPA) convention in Chicago, May 4-6. Randall House received Awards of Excellence for *Fusion* devotional magazine for adults and *Explorer's Guide*, a devotional magazine for children and young teens.

Randall House was also honored with two higher goals awards: First place in the magazine design category for *The Brink*, a magazine for college-age adults, and fifth place in the general article short category for "Killers," by Matt Crain (IL) published in *Fusion* devotional magazine.

*ONE Magazine* received awards in three categories: First place in the standing column category, for "First Glimpse," written by Managing Editor Eric Thomsen; second place in the article series category for "The Christian's Call to Healthy Living," by John Brummitt; and fifth place in the single theme section category for "Home Works: Building a Family of Faith," published in the August-September 2010 issue of the magazine.

The EPA contest honors the best work done by member publications during the preceding calendar year. Winners included entries from a wide variety of Christian publishers, including familiar names such as *Focus on the Family*, *Christianity Today*, *Leadership Journal*, and many others.

Randall House Senior Editor Jonathan Yandell commented, "While I was pleased to win two awards of excellence, which is quite an accomplishment, I was even more pleased that judges indicated our magazines are fulfilling their stated purpose with a high level of excellence. I am grateful to our team for their great work. ■

## Free Will Baptist Yearbook Available

**ANTIOCH, TN**—The 2011 *Free Will Baptist Yearbook* came off the press in March. The yearbooks have been mailed to district association clerks for distribution of complimentary copies to local churches.

If you wish to purchase a copy for personal use, call Randall House Publications at 800-877-7030, or visit [www.Randall-House.com](http://www.Randall-House.com). ■

# ONETOONE

## Details



### IT WAS LONG BEFORE I OWNED A GPS OR

knew how to use MapQuest. I was a freshman in college and received an invitation to preach at a church in a small community in Arkansas. Speaking opportunities were rare in those days; I jumped at the chance.

As I recall, the trip to this preaching assignment was rather lengthy. I decided to drive to my parent's house on Saturday since it was on the way and would put me three hours closer to my destination. I pulled out my trusty Rand McNally road atlas and calculated the best route and approximate travel time.

When I arrived home late Saturday afternoon my mom and dad said they would like to accompany me on my trip. I figured the more the merrier. We left on Sunday morning allowing time, based on my rough calculations, to arrive at the church for Sunday School. Unfortunately, I had not factored in the extra time needed to navigate the narrow, curvy roads or stop for breakfast (at my parent's request).

At 9:45 a.m., we were nowhere close to our destination. I started getting nervous. As I drove, I managed to convince myself that missing Sunday School was no big deal considering the circumstances.

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



Photo: Mark Cowart

As we entered the city limits I came to a horrifying realization. I did not have directions to the church. Somehow, in my excitement over the opportunity to preach, I failed to get the church's address.

As eleven o'clock rapidly approached, I was on the verge of panic. Frantically, I pulled in to a service station and asked the attendant for directions to the Free Will Baptist church. "Which one," he asked. "There are three Free Will Baptist churches in this town." My heart sank.

Regaining my composure I asked, "Which one is closest?" I hurriedly jotted down directions and sped off in hopes this was the correct location. As we drove into the church parking lot, I breathed a sigh of relief. I grabbed my Bible and rushed inside the church just in time to hear the final verse of the last congregational hymn.

I was greeted at the front door by an older gentleman. He introduced himself and asked if I was the young preacher they were expecting as their guest speaker. I nodded and said, "Yes, sir! That's me." I followed him down the aisle, and after a brief introduction, delivered the morning message.

So what did I take away from that experience? I discovered that Robert F. Mager was right. "If you're not sure where you are going, you're liable to end up someplace else." Thankfully, in spite of my poor planning and failure to give attention to details, I managed to fulfill my responsibility.

Tragically, too many people live their lives like that. They fly by the seat of their pants and hope somehow God will bail them out when they get into a jam. Many times, those situations have a bad outcome and God, unfortunately, gets the blame.

Living by faith and careful planning need not be mutually exclusive. We should plan as though everything depends on us and pray as though everything depends on God. Remember—God, not the devil, is in the details. **ONE**



**Edward Kimball was a 19th-century layman** who quietly left behind a legacy to the world. Little is known about him, except that he was a faithful Sunday School teacher with a heart for reaching his students for Christ. Kimball led one such student to Christ in the back room of the shoe store where the young man worked. His name was D. L. Moody, and he went on to lead thousands to Christ.

**Today, layman continue to impact our world** for Christ through Master's Men. You too can have a legacy that lasts beyond this life by endowing a gift to Master's Men.

Call the Foundation for more information: [www.FWBGifts.org](http://www.FWBGifts.org) | 877-336-7575



# EVERY AGE ON THE SAME PAGE

*D6 curriculum connects church to home and families to one another.*

D6 Curriculum implements family-focused spiritual formation, integrating all generations as described in Deuteronomy 6:5-7. The relevance and ease of D6 allows each generation to receive the appropriate Bible-based perspective and teacher-created tools that lead to transformation. D6 Curriculum helps parents be proactive in driving discipleship within the home. *Splink* and *Home Connection* online resources extend those same themes and lessons. D6 Curriculum is the smart choice and proven strategy for church and home.



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or call 800-877-7030

# Building the Body of Christ through WNAC



W

**We're women together building the body of Christ around the world through service, prayer, evangelism and fellowship centered on the Word. With over 500 local church women's groups in 21 U.S. states, the Virgin Islands and Canada, and international affiliates on four continents, we seek to encourage one another and promote God's kingdom work.**

**WOMEN NATIONALLY ACTIVE FOR CHRIST**

[www.wnac.org](http://www.wnac.org) [office@wnac.org](mailto:office@wnac.org) 877-767-7662