

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

ONE

MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

JUNE-JULY 2013

www.onemag.org

God's HANDS

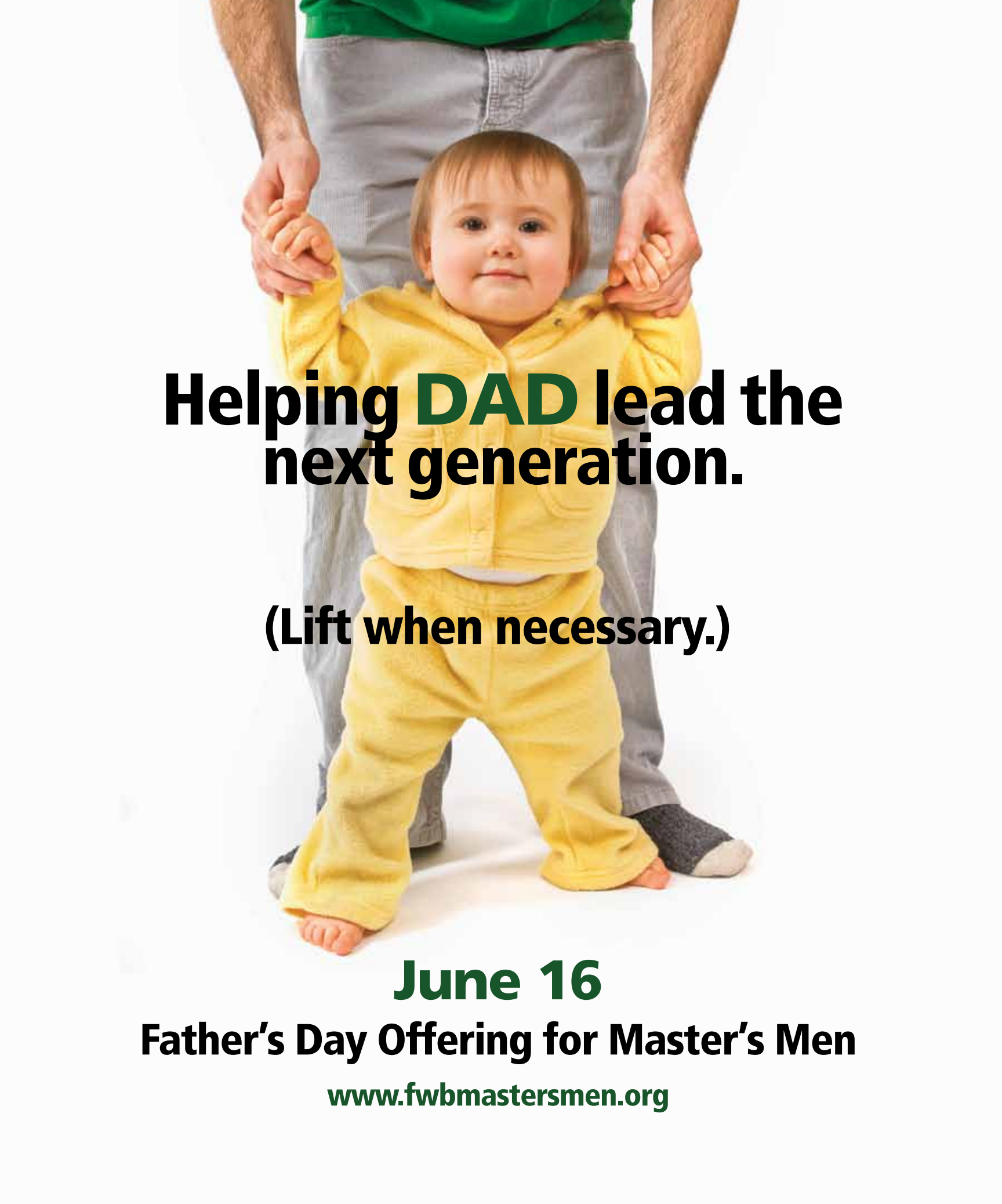
Extending God's Love
to the Homeless

ORGANIC
CHURCH

WHO
Can Do It?

EXTREME
FAITH



A photograph of a man from the waist down, wearing a green t-shirt and grey cargo pants, holding a baby. The baby is wearing a bright yellow hooded jacket and matching pants. The man's hands are on the baby's shoulders, holding them up. The background is plain white.

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next generation.**

(Lift when necessary.)

June 16

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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.

ONE MAGAZINE
ISSN 1554-3323
VOLUME 9
ISSUE 4



Published bi-monthly by the
National Association of
Free Will Baptists, Inc.,
5233 Mt. View Road,
Antioch, TN 37013-2306.

Non-profit periodical postage rate
paid at Antioch, TN 37011 and
additional offices.

POSTMASTER,
SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
ONE Magazine
PO Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002.



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First Glimpse >>>>

Storms

I will never forget my first big storm as a youth pastor. Along with my young wife and 12 teens, I found myself three miles into an East Tennessee hike when it struck full force. Wind howled, lightning struck nearby, and thunder shook the ground. Being the brave man I am, I dashed off down the wet, rocky trail along the base of a cliff, leaving my wife and youth group trailing behind.

As we rounded a sharp bend in the trail, I found a narrow cleft in the rock wall. With nowhere else to turn, I squeezed into the opening. To my surprise, I found a large, cave-like room cut into the face of the cliff. Within moments, I ushered everyone safely inside. We began to laugh at our dripping clothes as we gasped for air and celebrated our safety. For an hour, while the storm raged, we sang favorite songs and swapped tall-tales, safe in the shelter of the rock.

This treasured memory always comes back when I read Psalm 61. I am reminded David also faced storms in his life—not only physical but spiritual as well:

As a shepherd boy, he faced a bear and a lion...alone.

As a young man, he stood alone before a giant with the fate of the nation in his hand.

For years, jealous King Saul chased him from hiding place to hiding place until an exhausted David sought refuge among the Philistines, dreaded enemies of Israel.

As king, he endured decades of bloody warfare that left him unfit in God's eyes to build a holy temple.

He lost the battle with lust, slept with the beautiful Bathsheba, and tried to cover his tracks by murdering her husband. As a result, his newborn son died, and God told David the sword would never leave his household, that his sin would echo through the generations.

Storms. How did David handle them, according to this passage?

He prayed in the storm (verses 1-2), a gut-wrenching, desperate plea for help. He recognized that God could hear him from the depths of despair, and he made his case honestly, holding nothing back.

He took shelter from the storm (verses 3-4), asking God to lead him to “the rock that is higher than I.” He acknowledged God's sufficiency with firsthand experience. God was with him when he faced lion and bear. God stood with him before Goliath. God traveled with him through the mountains and caves a step in front of Saul and his men. God forgave quickly when he repented of his sin with Bathsheba. He had experienced God's sufficiency, and he sought shelter again in the face of a new storm.

He left an example for others in the storm (verses 5-6). David expressed supreme confidence that God would keep him and preserve his heritage, his kingdom. We are living proof! David lived to see his kingdom passed to Solomon, and ultimately Jesus fulfilled David's kingdom as a blessing to the whole world.

He praised God in the storm (verse 8). David's cries of desperation gave way to shouts of praise. When we encounter a storm, and God answers our prayers in an unmistakable way, it is only natural to react with spontaneous praise. I can't help but think of the words of the popular song:

I'll praise You in this storm, and I will lift my hands,

For You are who You are, no matter where I am,

And every tear I've cried, You hold in Your hand.

You never left my side, and though my heart is torn

I will praise You in this storm. ONE

ERIC THOMSEN, MANAGING EDITOR

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Keith Burden MANAGING EDITOR: Eric Thomsen ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Ken Akers, David Brown, Danny Conn, Elizabeth Hodges, Ida Lewis, Ray Lewis, Deborah St. Lawrence, Sara Poston, Stephen Nelson, Jack Williams LAYOUT & DESIGN: Randall House Publications DESIGN MANAGER: Andrea Young DESIGN TEAM: Sondra Blackburn PRINTING: Randall House Publications

While *ONE Magazine* is provided to the reader free of charge, tax-deductible donations are both accepted and appreciated. To make a donation, simply send check or money order to *ONE Magazine*, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

PHOTO CREDIT: Sean Warren, Mark Cowart, Eric Thomsen, Shutterstock.com, Istockphoto.com, Stockxpert.com, Designpics.com.



Letters: Have something to say?

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

I ENJOYED YOUR ARTICLE "THE FRENCH CONNECTION" IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF ONE MAGAZINE VERY MUCH. I found it informative and encouraging. I think you did an outstanding job showing the needs that exist in France and the sacrifices our missionaries have to make. Keep up the good work.

—Paul Keener, Ohio

I APPRECIATE EVERY COPY OF ONE MAGAZINE THAT COMES TO MY HOME. "One Lord, One Voice, One Vision" denotes true Christian endeavor. It is, I believe, a defining purpose of the saved in Christ Jesus, an exhortation for the redeemed of the Lord to labor in one accord: to bring others to a saving knowledge of Him. Thank you for serving God so faithfully through the printed word. God bless you and all those connected with and involved in this very important work.

—Noel Thomas "Tommy" Manning, San Antonio, Texas

BROTHERS IN CHRIST, IT WOULD DO US WELL TO USE ONLY ONE VERSION OF THE BIBLE IN ALL OUR PRINTED LITERATURE AND YOUTH BIBLE COMPETITION. Our denomination was founded on the King James Version of the Bible. I suggest we stay with this Bible.

—David Borders, via email

CORRECTION:

The February-March issue of *ONE Magazine* printed incorrect dates for the 2013 Theological Symposium. The two-day conference will be held on the campus of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, October 28-29. To learn more, contact Matt Pinson: president@welch.edu.

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Extending God's Hand to the

HOMELESS

ALL OF US HAVE SEEN THEM. An ill-kempt man holding a sign on the street corner. The woman dressed in unseasonable layers, pushing a shopping cart loaded with treasures. But what about the family living at a local campground? Or the young person with a backpack sleeping on a bench at a local park? The *2012 State of Homelessness in America* report numbers our nation's homeless population at 636,017. Although most Americans typically associate homelessness with large urban areas, rural homelessness is on the rise. In large cities and in small towns, homelessness presents a challenge and an opportunity for sharing God's love.

Nearly every community provides some avenue of care for its homeless, and over 60% of homeless individuals find temporary shelter. Yet "nearly four in ten remain unsheltered, living on the streets or in cars, abandoned

buildings or other places not intended for human habitation."¹

How do we follow Scripture's admonition to feed the hungry and bring the homeless poor into our homes, when these individuals seem unwilling or

even resistant to seek shelter? Three Free Will Baptist Women Active for Christ groups are currently reaching out, extending God's Mighty Hand to the unsheltered homeless in three distinct ways.

¹ Source: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/the-state-of-homelessness-in-america-2012>



Satisfy the AFFLICTED SOUL

By Tracy
Payne

*West Tulsa Women Active for
Christ / Greater Tulsa District
Women Active for Christ,
Tulsa, Oklahoma*

*This cannot be true.
How can this be true?
This is true.*

My thoughts exploded as I listened to statistics in a presentation by Tom, a Veteran's Administration LCSW (licensed clinical social worker).

Homeless veterans. In my mind, these two words should never go together, but sadly, they often do. In his presentation, Tom described contacts with veterans in day centers, soup kitchens, shelters, parks, and under bridges.

Our city alone claims over 200 documented homeless U.S. military veterans. At least that many more undocumented veterans remain on the streets each night. How did this happen?

During the Great World Wars, military men and women came home to families and homes supportive of them and "their war." America lauded heroes with ticker tape parades and provided them low-interest housing and car loans, job offers, and the GI Bill to finance college educations. Although many of these veterans suffered from what was then referred to as "shell shock," most of them plodded through. They went to work, took care of their families and homes, often hiding great fear when they closed their

eyes each night. Most did not seek any kind of counseling, nor were they referred for any kind of post-combat treatment. Things are different now.

Many of today's combat veterans return home, bringing with them PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) and traumatic brain injury. They may hold down a job or carry on a meaningful relationship for a while, but often begin to bounce, never able to settle back into civilian life. The rapid pace and urgency of combat remains ever in the forefront of their psyche and affects every aspect of their lives, from their own personal health to their relationships. Domestic violence, divorce, drugs, job loss, homelessness, or suicide may result as fallout in these fragile lives. Many do not know where to turn for help or fail to realize help and counseling are available.

With this ugly truth in front of us, how would we respond? Yes, something was wrong, and we needed to help. Such a huge problem seemed far out of our realm of making a differ-

HOMELESS VETERAN STATS IN TULSA

- + 200 veterans on any given night
- + 94% are males.
- + Average age is 49. This continues to drop as more soldiers return home.
- + 61% have a history of alcohol abuse; 48% have a history of drug abuse.
- + 96% have been diagnosed with a serious psychiatric disorder.
- + Nationwide over 250,000 veterans suffer from varying degrees of traumatic brain injury.

ence...yet we could do something.

Tom shared one concrete way we could help: hygiene bags—one-gallon zipper-lock bags filled with goodies. This idea seemed a relief to us, know-

ing we could actually do something above and beyond our prayers.

The information we received that night deeply affected Jo Ann, a prayer warrior in our group. She asked the pastor for some of his pulpit time to share her burden. Claiming Isaiah 58:10, "And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday," she placed a challenge before the church for at least 50 hygiene bags. By the next Sunday morning, church people had brought in nearly 100 bags. The Greater Tulsa District WAC, as well as a local home school group, joined the effort. Together, the groups donated 500 bags.

Each bag contained socks, gloves, washcloth, soap (inside a snack-size bag), hand sanitizer, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, and comb. Some bags also included a stocking cap or scarf, along with candy or nuts and a phone card. All bags contained a Scripture card and "help phone numbers."

The Isaiah passage became real in the following days and weeks as Tom distributed the hygiene bags the group had made and reported his experience. "Who gave this to me?" "Why did they do this?" "You mean someone that I don't know did this for me?" These are the phrases he heard from veterans as he handed out the bags. As Tom relayed this to us, I could imagine these individuals asking the same questions about Jesus concerning His sacrifice and gift of life to us.

A few dollar store items in a zipper-lock bag might seem a small thing. But these token gifts prove well worth the effort if they cause "the darkness to be as the noonday," reflecting God's love and bringing someone closer to Jesus.

Find more information at http://www.va.gov/homeless/for_the_community.asp

SEWING WITH A SERVANT'S HEART

*Women Active for Christ
First Free Will Baptist Church,
Richmond, Virginia*

Eight years ago, Donna MacBride retired and moved from New Jersey to Virginia, near her son and his family. She found a home in Glen Allen and a church home at First FWB Church in Richmond. Once settled, she began looking for something to do. Knowing her need and her heart, Donna's sister Kathleen shared information about My Brother's Keeper, a national organization that provides homeless individuals with sleeping bags and tote bags filled with personal items. She even sent Donna sewing patterns and instructions. "This is easy," Donna thought.

Not long after that, her pastor spoke one Sunday on having the heart of a servant. He shared his burden for the homeless in Richmond. With the downturn in the economy, this ministry seemed urgent and vital. After much prayer and pondering, Donna decided to take the next step. She presented her WAC a plan for making sleeping bags and tote bags.

Women started collecting needed items. Many church members brought clean, used blankets, sheets, bedspreads and towels for filler in the bags. Donna sewed for days, using every scrap of material she could get her hands on to make those first bags. God guided, and Servant's Heart ministry grew.

As many as eight women now meet weekly at the church to share, sew, and



enjoy lunch together. For some, it's time away from a lonely house; for others the meeting provides opportunity to pray together for church and family needs. Women often invite friends. Over the past five years, Servant's Heart has sewn more than 300 sleeping bags and 400 totes.

Volunteers secure donations from friends and other sources and gather travel-size shampoos and soaps for filling the totes. Women take the completed items to the Salvation Army and another local church for distribution

Donna says, "I have never felt the call to go to the mission field, but have found a mission right here in Virginia. A servant's heart has led me this far, and I love serving my Lord. He said, 'if you do it unto the least of these, my brethren, you have done it unto me.' I sometimes try to think that Jesus is sleeping in one of these sleeping bags."

HANDS-ON HANDOUTS

*Union Grove Women
Active for Christ,
Atkins, Arkansas*

Women Active for Christ at Union Grove FWB Church in Atkins, Arkansas, takes a personal, hands-on approach in reaching out to the homeless. Women periodically meet together to pack food bags. These clear, gallon-size zipper-lock bags contain bottled water, protein bars, crackers, and pieces of fresh fruit. Sometimes, women also include small toiletry items along with the food and drink or attach Scripture verse cards to water bottle labels.

The group divides the finished bags among women in their congregation, encouraging each person to keep a supply of the bags in her vehicle. Whenever she encounters a homeless individual, or sees someone needing food, she can offer the person one of these already-prepared bags.

WAC president Betty Hambricht credits Kortlind Baker, a college student who attends Union Grove, for this practical idea and ongoing project. Not only do women have something on hand to share, the bags also serve as a hands-on object lesson for children, allowing whole families to become an extension of God's Mighty Hand.

ONE

ABOUT THE WRITERS: Tracy Payne is president of Oklahoma Women Active for Christ. A pastor's daughter now a pastor's wife, she serves alongside her husband Russell in the church her father once pastored. Thanks also to Donna MacBride, Brenda McPeak, Betty Hambricht, and Lisa Bowden who contributed information.

Follow the (LAY) LEADER

BY KEN AKERS

Since I have been the director of Master's Men, I have always been clear that I support, admire, and respect the pastors of our denomination.

At the same time, however, I have stressed the importance and need for laymen in leadership roles. As I have addressed this need in retreats and conferences, through Bible studies and seminars, I have returned time and again to three specific areas where Christian laymen should be leaders.



First, men need to be leaders in their homes. Men need to be the spiritual leaders of their homes. As the man goes, so goes the family. He must be holy and committed to keeping God first...in his home, but more importantly, in his own life. He must set the right example for his wife and children. As Joshua said in Old Testament days, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). We are to love and train our children. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us to train children in the right way, and Ephesians 6:4 commands us to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Men should also be emotional leaders in the home.

Ephesians 5:25 challenges men to love their wives. Not just to love them—to love them like Christ loved the church. It's amazing how much we take our spouses for granted. Don't let the most important person in the world be the one who is ignored and neglected the most.

They should also lead their families physically.

First Timothy 5:8 makes it clear we should provide for the physical needs and protection of our families.

Men are to be leaders in the church.

When Joshua became the leader of Israel after the death of Moses, the men of Israel promised to follow his lead (Joshua 1:16-18). We should follow this example and support the men of God who lead us. Support the programs of the church, and—this may seem rather blunt—if you can't support the church, you need to find another one you can. We should be steadfast according to Hebrews 3:14, committed, faithful, and careful.

Romans 12:3-8 reminds us we have talents.

Let's use them. Many believe if they are not in the spotlight, their actions do not matter. To God, it all matters. Dedicate yourself to grow spiritually (2 Peter 3:18) until we reach maturity (2 Timothy 3:14-17). Be good stewards of what God has given you. This includes treasures, time, talents, and your testimony. God wants us to use what we have.

Men are to be leaders in the world.

Our lives are our greatest testimony. In 1 Timothy 4:12, Paul challenged readers to be examples in everything we do, what we say, how we act, and even our attitude. We should guard our name (Proverbs 22:1). It holds our reputation, character, and authority. And last, but not least, is our love. First John 3:16-18 tells us to love with actions. John 13:34-35 encourages us to let the world know we are Christians by the love reflected in our lives. It's not up to the preacher to reach the world. We all share the responsibility. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Ken Akers is director of Free Will Baptist Master's Men. Learn more: www.fwbmastersmen.org

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A once-familiar word has experienced resurgence.

It is the decade’s biggest culinary buzzword and a platform talking point for the “go green” subculture. It is the word *organic*. Organic food really became mainstream in 2002 when the USDA released standards defining what would constitute organic food. Over the next seven years, it exploded to a global sales total of \$54 billion.

The concept of “organic food” is simple. Eat uncontaminated food “the way nature intended.” This culinary phenomenon serves as a great illustration of how God intended for the church to minister to one another and to the outside world. The church world today is full of strategists who endorse their model of lay ministry within the church. Unfortunately, many plans lack the most basic element—the organic desire to do it.

Peter reminded readers that, “Every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another” (1 Peter 4:10). Before church strategists and think-tanks came along, the church survived century after century by simply living out her faith in small communities of people who cared about God, each other, and the fallen world around them. This biblical model of ministry (including lay ministry) seems almost too simple, but isn’t that how God typically works (Matthew 18:3; 1 Corinthians 3:19)?

In Acts 2, where it all began, a short but effective glimpse into the thoughts and actions of the first-generation church is given. We understand that these individuals heard the Word being preached by Peter and responded in faith. However, verses 42-47 catalog the actions of these infant believers as they lived in daily communion with each other and with God.

Now, I’m not suggesting we all buy land and start Free Will Baptist “communes,” but it does seem that the lives of the members of the Early Church were much more intertwined than today’s average American congregation. In fact, Barna Research Group states, “Twenty-three percent of adults with church experience say that church feels like a group of people sharing the same space in a public event but who are not connected in a real way.”

No wonder the Lord is not adding to our church daily. We are missing the most “organic” pieces of the puzzle. In Matthew 5:46, Jesus taught us to love our enemy because even the lowest members of society love those who love them in return. What is the implication when we, as the church, cannot connect with our enemies, because we cannot even connect with those with whom we worship?

All of this became very real to me a few months ago. For the past year, our church has focused on small group ministry. We strive to generate a true, biblical community. As is typical, life became extremely difficult for one member of our community, and he abandoned the church and ignored

What is the implication when we, as the church, cannot connect with our enemies, because we cannot even connect with those with whom we worship?

our invitations to return. However, we witnessed a handful of infant believers as they did what they could to bring the missing member back to our community.

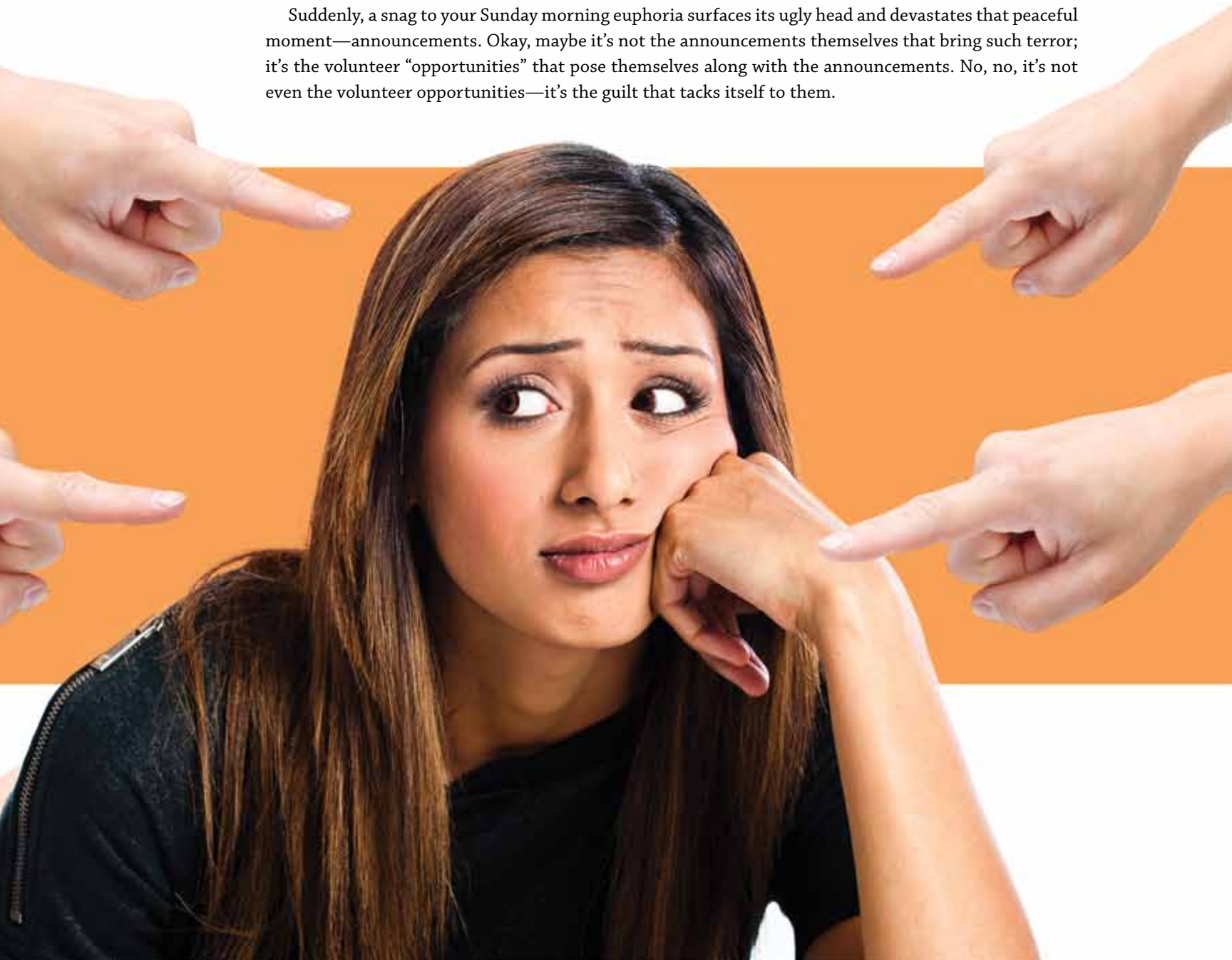
Organic ministry. Without even knowing the biblical expectations, these infant believers began ministering to each other because that is what a true community does. Organic ministry, “The way God intended it.” **ONE**

Guilty Service

BY EMILY FRADY

Ah, that blissful moment. The service was worshipful, the message spiritual and informative, and the Spirit moved during the altar call. Your mind now drifts happily to the waiting Sunday afternoon meal.

Suddenly, a snag to your Sunday morning euphoria surfaces its ugly head and devastates that peaceful moment—announcements. Okay, maybe it's not the announcements themselves that bring such terror; it's the volunteer "opportunities" that pose themselves along with the announcements. No, no, it's not even the volunteer opportunities—it's the guilt that tacks itself to them.



You know what I am talking about. The moment service is dismissed, “that lady” who plans everything in church is about to bolt toward you proclaiming, “The Lord really needs you to do this for Him. He told me that we cannot do this without your talents.”

Perhaps verbal guilt is not the key player in torment here. Visions of the last church dinner flash through your mind, when you were struggling to carry in the sodas you barely had time to pick up, and Susie Homemaker breezed past you, single-handedly carrying five casseroles, a basket of homemade bread, and a cake decorated with edible flowers from the island of Bora Bora.

Augh! Pleasant Sunday dinner thoughts suddenly get pushed aside by moments of anxious planning and worries over how you will fit a new task into your already busy week.

Service driven by guilt. Should it be a key motivator in our own servitude? Should it be our tool to enlist others to volunteer? It certainly seems effective in getting it done. When we see others bustling around, completing all the tasks around us, we tend to think we are really doing something worthy of merit for the Lord. There’s simply one enormous problem: to God, giving is a matter of the heart, not of the deed.

Modern-day servitude in the church, (I shudder at this comparison) is reminiscent of the half-hearted offerings given to the Lord in the days of Malachi. People slipped away from giving the best they had been given. After all, their best animals could be used for food or to bring in monetary gain for a family. They were sure the Lord would let it slide if they gave Him something of lesser value. Their hearts were more focused on their own needs—only to give the Lord a hollow offering that was really no sacrifice at all. Their offering gave an appearance of service, but only served to silence the guilt in their own hearts.

I shamefully lift my hand to acknowledge. Yes, I am more apt to serve with an attitude similar to those in Malachi’s day than the “cheerful giving” attitude in 2 Corinthians 9:7. I dare say many of us, on more than one occasion, have owned or promoted this hollow attitude of servitude. We cannot (and should not want to) fully control the actions and attitudes of others, but we can change our attitude of servitude and encourage a right attitude for others instead of promoting the wrong one at the starting line.

In the story of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42), a

passage commonly used in connection with this subject, I tend to think Jesus was not so concerned that Martha was working away. Service is certainly important; things must be done. Rather, I think Jesus was trying to show Martha that her attitude about service “stunk.” She wanted to do these “things” for Jesus, but her heart was not in the right place. Perhaps Martha had not “sat at the feet of Jesus,” and her heart was not prepared to bring glory to God’s name through her service.

Our heart needs the same preparation. Spend time in reading and meditation before taking on a task. Make this your daily practice and encourage (don’t guilt) those in your group to do the same. Being in tune with God allows us to see tasks as opportunities to serve. And His sweet words tend to annihilate a rotten attitude toward these opportunities.

Here’s a “but wait, there’s more” pitch if I have failed to sell you on the guilt-free service and recruitment process: not only do we offer praise to Him with a cheerful heart, but He also uses our worshipful service as a witnessing tool. After all, bringing others to Christ offers the ultimate glory to God. Who will want to simply trudge through the mundane, when they see in you that God offers supernatural joy in the everyday? I love how Paul puts it: “Not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they might be saved” (1 Corinthians 10:33).

What can you do in your area of impact to eliminate guilt-driven service? How can you replace it with whole-hearted worship so we can truly advance the kingdom of God? Pray before volunteering and encourage your potential recruits to do the same; try to give your recruits plenty of time to pray about how their talents can be used. Meditate and read to drive away a nasty attitude; replace it with the joy God offers in our service.

And remember, sometimes picking up a few two-liters of soda is all a schedule can handle. Thankfully, they are not just a tool for silencing guilt in service, but a tool for bringing glory to the name of the Lord.

Now, if you will excuse me, I have some attitude adjustments to make as I prance to the kitchen cheerfully to wash those Sunday dinner dishes. **ONE**

Pray before
volunteering
and
encourage
potential
recruits to do
the same.

Confessions of a Closet

CONTROL FREAK

BY SCOTT WARREN



My name is Scott, and I am a control freak.

It feels good to get that off my chest! I never thought I was a control freak until I planted a church. It didn't take me long to discover that my need for control was severely limiting the growth of the church and the spiritual growth of the people our family had poured so much into over the past few years.

I think the issue of control is a struggle for most church planters. By necessity, the church planter serves in many roles during the early stages of launching a church. At any given time, he serves as janitor, public relations specialist, vision caster, maintenance technician, teacher, counselor, musician, singer, secretary, treasurer, communications specialist, and real estate searcher, just to name a few. That doesn't include set-up and tear down in mobile church settings.

All these roles are in addition to the primary roles that led us to our field of service—preaching the gospel, making disciples, and prayer. It's not an easy

job at all. In fact, it's the toughest thing I've ever done. At some point, you get accustomed to “doing everything.” While this may be necessary to get the church started, once people begin to plug into the new church, the challenge is to release those roles and equip others to serve.

Growth through Service

Most people have heard the 80/20 Rule—also known as the Pareto principle after Italian economist Vilfredo Pareto: 80% of the work in the church is done by 20% of the people. This pretty well describes most churches, and I think it is part of the reason for stunted

growth, both in terms of church attendance, and more critically, in the maturation process of individual believers. We all know that every church, large or small, needs people to serve in order to be successful. What may not be as apparent is that serving is a key component in the spiritual development and maturity of the follower of Christ.

If we are truly made in the image of God, we were created to serve. Mark 10:45 tells us that Jesus, the image of the invisible God, did not come to be served, but to serve. Ephesians 2:10 reminds believers we were created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Nothing crushes the sinful strongholds of pride

and selfishness like serving others. The more we serve, the more we become like Jesus. We need to serve.

By keeping all those roles to myself, I denied people the opportunity to grow in Christlikeness. Something had to change.

My Path to “Losing Control”

I began by making a list of every task in the operation of our church and our outreach to the community. With that list in hand, we planned a ministry fair. Our church has been blessed with quite a bit of growth recently, and many regular attenders had no idea how they could plug in. The ministry fair gave them the opportunity to find out, and to sign up for ministries in which they were interested.

We chose the theme “Get in the

Game, Join a Ministry Team,” promoted the fair for several weeks, and printed business card sized, take-home descriptions of the various ministry teams for which we needed volunteers. We decorated and set up tables in the lobby, and offered refreshments. The fair was held immediately following a Sunday service. The response was better than we ever imagined!

We now enjoy our own version of the 80/20 Rule at our church. About 80% of the people who regularly attend have committed to be part of one or more of our ministry teams. Leaders are emerging. Fringe attenders are becoming more faithful and contributing. People who didn’t really know each other beyond the Sunday morning surface level now serve the church family and the community shoulder-to-shoulder.

Deep friendships are forming. As they serve alongside each other, they talk about life and faith, and encourage and help each other in their walk with Christ. In all honesty, our ministries are much more effective now. When one person—or even a few—tries to do everything, nothing really gets done well.

As I see my church family growing more like Jesus through serving, I see another added benefit that makes me happy...excitement! People in our church are excited about their role in the church. They love their church more; they’re growing in their love for Jesus, and they are more eager to invite others to join them. These results make “losing control” something I actually enjoy. ☑

ABOUT THE WRITER: Scott and Staci Warren are planting Crosspoint FWB Church in Salt Lake City, Utah. Learn more about their church at www.crosspointslc.org.

Got people but need a steeple?

God has been good to Home Missions. Through His leadership and blessings, new churches continue to be established across the United States, Mexico, Canada, and the U.S. Territories. The burden of new churches, in many cases, is obtaining funds for building and expansion.

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FEEL INADEQUATE?

BY RICHARD
ATWOOD

During a recent conversation with a home missionary, he mentioned how often he felt inadequate and thought about quitting.

This guy is doing a good job, but I could certainly identify. During 20 years as a pastor, I thought about quitting almost every week. Every Sunday night, I mentally reviewed the mistakes of the day. When you speak three or four times a day and have a couple of hundred conversations, you probably will say something dumb. Even if it was a great day, I thought about the family that wasn't there, or the person who got upset with me. I often told myself, "Surely, someone else could do a better job than this."

It is not just church planters and pastors who feel inadequate. From what I have observed and read, many people deal with negative self-talk. This leads to never starting or quitting early. Look at the great leader Moses became, but even he started out thinking he wasn't good enough.

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS THAT HAVE HELPED ME OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM:

Remember that you really are inadequate. What do I mean? You should not even attempt to do God's work without a daily walk with Him, depending on His strength. When I was a pastor, I had two Sunday morning rituals. The first was to sing the old song, "I Need Thee Every Hour," out loud in my office before church:

I need thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like thine can peace afford.
I need thee, O, I need thee
Every hour I need thee;
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to thee.

Remember that your work is important. The other ritual was to ask myself the question about my

preaching, "Do you have to say something, or do you have something to say?" In other words, are you just going through the motions in your ministry, or is this something important for people and the Kingdom?

Hang around encouraging people. We tell our kids not to hang around bad influences, but some of your own acquaintances may be a bad influence on you. If they are always negative, critical, and discouraging, maybe you need to pull back from them. (This also includes influences like books and television shows.) Instead, find those who encourage you and spend time with them. Just

for the record, I don't know where I'd be if I didn't have an encouraging wife!

Hone your skills. One of the best ways to feel better about work is to do better work.

Remember the harvest takes time. Consider the words of Chik-fil-A™ founder S. Truett Cathy: "I believe God wants us to be successful and yet success is not always obvious. The Chinese bamboo tree does absolutely nothing—or so it seems—for the first four years. Then suddenly, sometime during the fifth year, it shoots up 90 feet in 60 days. Would you say the bamboo tree grew in six weeks or five years? I think our lives are akin to the Chinese bamboo tree. Some-

times, we put forth effort, put forth effort, put forth effort... and nothing seems to happen. But, if you do the right things long enough, you'll receive the rewards of your efforts."

Don't compare to others. When you compare your work or the results of your work to others, you end up either feeling proud or discouraged.

Think of others. If I am on a raft, and someone in the lake is struggling to swim, I don't say I can't do anything because I'm not a lifeguard or don't swim as well as someone else. I maneuver the raft closer or hold out something for them to grab. I do what I can to help. People all around us need the gospel. They need the truth and love we have.

I close with this quote from H.B. London: *"In the twenty-first century, the issue of apathy may be our number one problem. Possibilities are clouded when a pastor feels overwhelmed by the massive and compelling spiritual needs he sees around him everywhere. As a result, sin and secularism are devastatingly oppressive to him. But, consider the presuppositions of ministry again. Doesn't a call to ministry mean that God may send a pastor to wretched situations He wants to redeem and to people He wants to save? Doesn't ministry mean that God sends us, inadequate though we are, next door to Hell to make the setting more like Heaven? He has to have someone there as His agent of reconciliation."* **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Richard Atwood is director of missionary assistance for Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Learn more at www.homemissions.net.

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Let's face it...no one wants to think about death. But death is an inevitable part of life. Have you prepared your estate in such a way that it will benefit your children and the ministries you love?

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GIANT LEAP OF FAITH

BY LEE FRYE

“As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings: taketh them, beareth them on her wings” (Deuteronomy 32:11).

It was the night before jump week at Fort Benning, Georgia. As I prepared myself mentally for the impending jump from a C-130 the next day, several thoughts raced through my mind. The aircraft would be moving at a high rate of speed (approximately 150 MPH), and I would jump from an altitude of 12,500 feet. This gripped my heart with fear, and it was one of the longest nights of my life. Still, I knew it must happen, because God had called me to be a pastor to soldiers, and jumping from planes is what soldiers do.

That night, I found great comfort in God’s Word. Scriptures such as Deuteronomy 32:11; Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 46; and 1 Thessalonians 5:24 reminded me that God will make this happen, for “He who calls you is faithful.” In the seclusion of my room, I felt God cover my heart with His wings of refuge and strength. He reminded me that *not only* was He there with me, but He was also faithful to what He had called me to do.

The very next morning at zero dark thirty, I found myself cruising through the air aboard a C-130 with a T-11 parachute strapped to my back and a reserve parachute strapped to my front. Following the commands of the jumpmaster,

I stood, hooked up, shuffled to the door, and jumped out shouting, “Airborne!”

What an amazing feeling to fall through the air, feeling the heat and force of the jet engine, all while my canopy deployed above me. Suddenly, I experienced serenity and sights I had never experienced. It was short lived, however, because the ground approached rapidly. It was at this point that the words of Deuteronomy 32:11 came to mind. I prayed, “Dear Lord, please catch me.” After making a proper Parachute Landing Fall (PLF) my fear subsided, and I praised the Lord from a heart of newfound confidence.

I read a story from my wife’s devotional book titled “Walking in Total God Confidence.” While awaiting the arrival of her babies, the mother eagle prepares the nest with layer upon layer of soft feathers, making it as comfortable as possible. When the babies finally hatch, they find the nest warm and cozy. That’s when the mother eagle starts to make the nest uncomfortable.

She does this by removing a few feathers each day, until finally, the nest becomes unbearable. Her babies are forced to venture over to the edge of the nest and look down at the



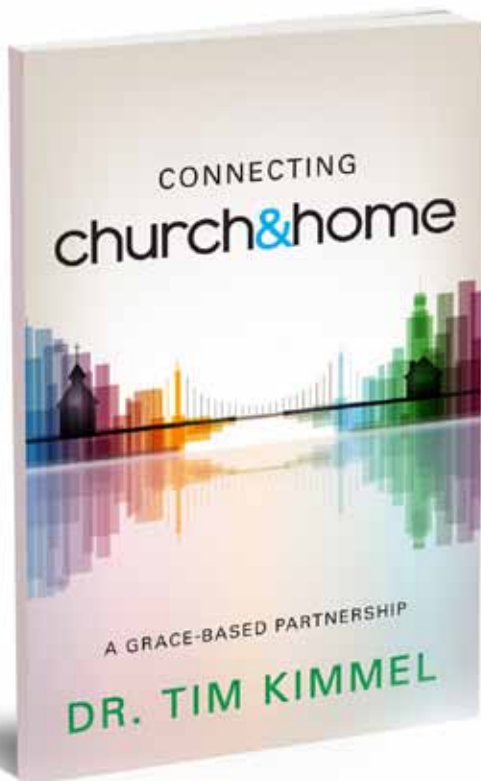
great abyss. Though their hearts are gripped with fear, they find the courage to take a leap of faith from the nest. Falling through the air and heading ever so quickly towards the earth, the two-month-old eaglets realize they don't know how to fly yet.

Just before all hope is lost, the mother swoops down and carries them off on her wings. For the first time, the eaglets experience what they were born to do. They soar. From that moment forward, they are free from fear and confident to take a giant leap of faith.

Maybe you relate to my story or the story of the mother eagle and her eaglets. You need to take a giant leap of faith. Maybe God has been making you increasingly uncomfortable in your present state. Maybe He is intentionally pushing you beyond the boundaries of your warm and cozy life.

Maybe, just maybe, He wants us to take a giant leap of faith towards what He has called us to do. It will not be easy, and we might even have to experience falling for a while before the Lord sweeps us up. But, it is definitely better than missing out on God's best for our lives. The Lord wants to deepen our dependence and confidence in Him and in ourselves. He wants us to realize that, like a mother eagle that protects her young, He is the ever-encircling protector. It is He alone who leads us. Let us trust in Him and welcome that next giant leap of faith. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Captain Lee Frye, Jr., is serving in Fort Gordon, Georgia, as the 442D Signal Battalion Chaplain.



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WHO?

Every pastor who wants his church to minister the gospel effectively to every age group asks this question. Lay ministry is the backbone of the church. Laymen and laywomen are instruments of God for any church organization and are vital for church growth.

When our family moved to Harrisonburg, Virginia, to start a Home Missions church, we had no one outside of our family to help us. My wife and my daughter Rachel, who was 11 years old at the time, were the only laypeople for our first “Get Acquainted Services.”

Patty taught a children's class for Sunday School and children's church during worship. Rachel watched her little brother Josh and another baby in the nursery. She read a Bible story and sang songs with them during the worship services. Thankfully, as families came to the Lord and were trained, they became the next generation of lay workers needed to grow our church.

The names Cindy, Ken, Adam, LaDawna, Bill, Carolyn, Mary, Hannah, Rachel, Josh, Patty, Joy Beth, Erica, Brooke, Brett, Larry, Kendall, Linda, Charles, Rita, Sam, Jim, Lisa, Clayton, and many others may not mean anything to you, but as a pastor, they are wonderful to me! They are among the people I depend on every week as the teaching and worship ministry impacts a lost and dying world.

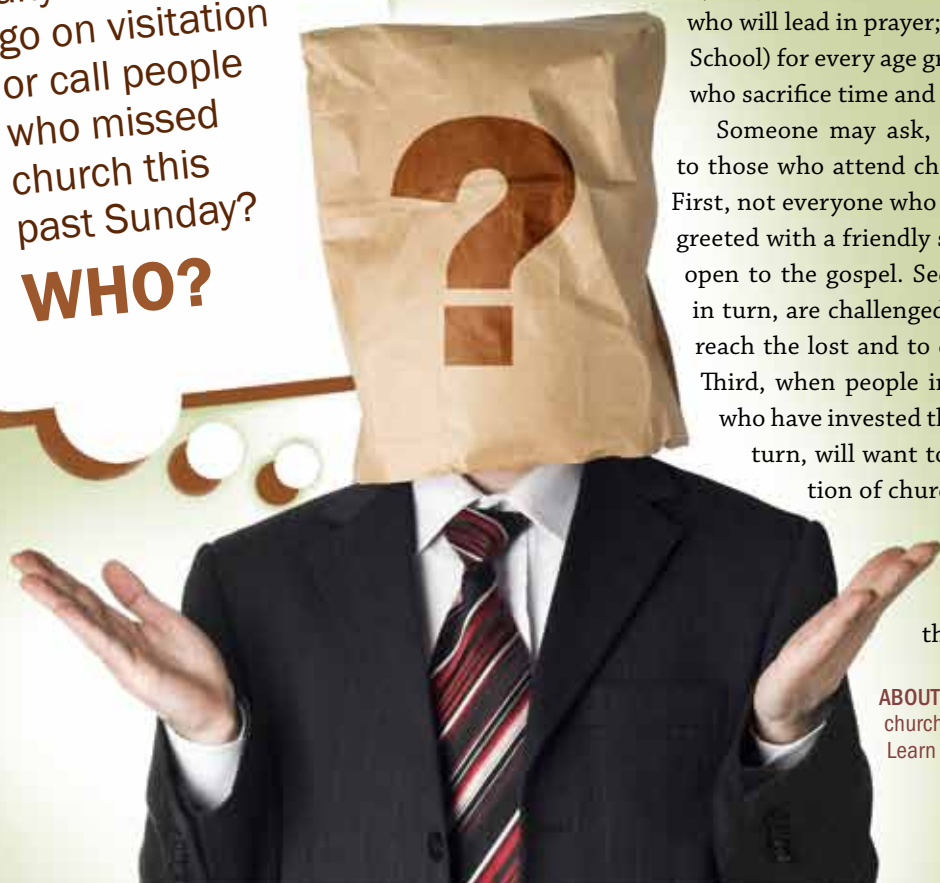
On any given Sunday, we have a praise team, staff for children's church, nursery staff, sound booth operator, and someone else to record services for video. At every service, we have a couple that greets people at the door when they arrive and when they leave. Ushers do far more than receive offering. They offer support as secondary greeters for first-time visitors.

They help those who need assistance. We need musicians and people who will lead in prayer; teachers for our Bible in Life studies (Sunday School) for every age group from toddlers to the adults; lay ministers who sacrifice time and talents to minister the gospel to a lost world.

Someone may ask, how can you reach the lost by ministering to those who attend church and most likely are already Christians? First, not everyone who attends church is a Christian. When they are greeted with a friendly smile and a handshake or hug, they are more open to the gospel. Second, when we minister to Christians, they, in turn, are challenged to go out into the “highways and hedges to reach the lost and to compel them to come” and worship with us. Third, when people in general are blessed by God through those who have invested their time and talents for the ministry, they, in turn, will want to get involved in ministry—the next generation of church lay ministers.

Who can do it? You can! Tell the Lord you want to be an instrument of blessing to your church. It is never too late to become the *Who* in “Who can do it?” **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Paul Collins pastors a home mission church, Harrisonburg FWB Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Learn more at: www.harrisonburgfwbc.com



Cinderella WOMAN

BY BILL AND BRENDA EVANS



MUSIC CRITIC WILL FRIEDWALD RECENTLY SAID, “WHEN IT COMES TO TRANSFORMATIONS, RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN WROTE THE BOOK.”¹

I don’t know about other things Friedwald writes—here he is talking about the musical *Cinderella*—but on this thing, he is wrong. R & H didn’t write the book on transformations. God did.

Ask Janie Aldridge. She has lived a once-upon-a-time story with real-life transformations. The way she tells it is that the glass slipper fit, and God gave her Prince Jimmy. She dreamed of faraway continents, and God took her to Africa, Europe, Asia, and South America. She imagined being a Great Commission nurse, and God sent her to remote villages in Côte d’Ivoire, West Africa, as His ambassador and healer.

A conversation with Janie is a conversation about the God-transformations in her life. He didn’t use pumpkins, wicked stepsisters, or fairy godmothers but amazing people. As a young child, Janie met Trula Cronk, missionary to India, who corresponded with her family about missionary life in Bihar, North India. Janie’s heart turned Godward and toward other continents. “I realized that my life was not my own. In eighth grade, I wrote in one of my school

papers that I wanted to be a missionary nurse,” she said. Then in the mid-1950s, Janie mused over the murders of five missionaries in the jungles of Ecuador. She felt a transforming, danger-filled call. By 1958, she was at Welch College where she met “Prince Jimmy.” Within five years they had married, she had finished her nursing degrees, he had completed post-grad work at Columbia International University, and they were in French language school in Lausanne, Switzerland, preparing for village ministry in Côte d’Ivoire, West Africa.

What are the most defining influences God has used to do His transforming work in Janie’s life? Godly people, first of all, she says. Not only Trula Cronk, but Mrs. Phillips, childhood Bible teacher, and two churchmen who saw to it that she went to a League Convention for young people. Much later, two strangers “as if out of nowhere,” a man and woman who spoke English and at midnight offered to find her and Jimmy a bed as they left a train in a foreign country that spoke a language she and Jimmy did not understand. Then there is her colleague and medical guide, Dr. Laverne Miley who provided medicines and counsel for her dispen-

¹ Friedwald, Will. “That Flexible Fairy Tale.” *The Wall Street Journal*, February 27, 2013.

sary in a Côte d'Ivoire village. And many others, Janie says. God uses people to transform and equip us.

God's humbling but empowering hand is another strategic influence. "Jimmy and I nailed down some things before we began life's adventure together," Janie says. "God would be our priority. We would allow Him to order and direct our steps. We would trust and delight in Him. We would live for Him, not for ourselves. What a mystery that is: when I give my life away, I find it. When I hold on to it, I lose it. I was certain that if I gave my life to Him, He would give me the desires of my heart, and He has."

PUT YOUR LIFE ON THE LINE AND YOUR FOOT IN THE GLASS SLIPPER. BE A REAL-LIFE CINDERELLA

In Côte d'Ivoire, Janie gave herself to medicine, teaching, prayer, and became "the white miracle maker with powerful medicine." Villagers hand-built a simple medical building—concrete floor, tin roof, and a porch waiting room—and provided a helper named Mark. She began each treatment day with Scripture thoughts and prayer. Once, villagers came with an 11-year-old boy that Janie heard struggling for breath 100 yards away. She had recently been to Doropo for medical supplies from Dr. Miley, among them an asthma medicine. She did an IV stick and slowly injected the precious fluid. The boy's breathing eased. Within days, many others came asking for the mysterious healing medicine.

Among her 30 or 40 basic drugs were several antibiotics, including miracle-working penicillin. When a common disease called yaws infected a villager, nodules formed on the skin, turned crusty, and finally advanced into deep, open painful ulcers. Penicillin worked wonders. Janie was living her missionary-nurse dream.

Another transforming influence in Janie's life has been her willingness to live on the edge, not only the edge of a jungle, but of life itself. "Critters," as she calls tropical animals and insects, kept them on the alert inside the house and out and were always a physical threat, especially deadly snakes and scorpions. So Jimmy learned the art of snake handling, she says.

At times, even the weather pushed them to the edge. Aboard a cargo vessel off the west coast of Africa, they pitched, rolled, and spun wildly during a three-day tropi-

cal storm. The captain feared the hull would break apart. Janie and Jimmy wondered about the old, rusty lifeboats stowed along the decks, remembered Jonah, prayed, and made evacuation plans. On the fourth day, "we rode out from behind the Canary Islands onto a glassy sea, calm and still beyond belief," Janie says. "That's when we learned a huge oil tanker had recently gone down right where we had been, but God had taken care of us."

Living on the physical edge is daunting, but the social and religious edge is even more challenging. To be on the fringe is to be an outsider, far away from the center, away from the mainstream, even the mainstream Christian life. Spiritual skirmishes abound on these extremities and battles that bring life-and-death sharpness. All are reminders, Janie says, of God's promises: "Don't be afraid. I am with you. My strength is made perfect in your weakness. My grace is sufficient."

Living on the edge brings a smile to Janie's face: "You get it all. It is everything you can imagine: exciting, scary, interesting, confusing, exhilarating, frustrating." When she and Jimmy returned to stateside ministry after 22 years in Côte d'Ivoire, a very old woman gave them her 300-year-old, hand-carved Ashanti stool. Ashanti society is matrilineal: the family line passes through a woman and a woman's stool is the seat of her soul. At a man's command, she sits on the stool to signal she will marry him. When she dies, the stool is deposited with others into a special room cared for by an elderly woman in the family who is charged, not only with the stool's care, but also with remembering the name and family history of each owner. This "keeper of the stools" is an important religious figure who oversees hundreds of stools representing souls of ancestors watching over their family lineage.

The Ashanti stool reminds Janie what it means to be a Christian woman responsible for the souls of others. "A man wants a battle to fight, an adventure to live, a beauty to rescue. A woman has many of those same desires," she says. "I challenge women not to not be afraid to follow their hearts. Take a risk under God's eye, be brave, and meet the challenge. Dare to step out and realize those dreams. Life with God is an adventure, and at times it will seem like a fairy tale."

In the end, Janie always returns to Psalm 37: "Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart." Go ahead, she says. Put your life on the line and your foot in the glass slipper. Be a real-life Cinderella. **ONE**

Diversity and Partnership

Adapted from a blog post by Werner Mischke



Two startling facts emerged from The Brookings Institute's report, *America's Diverse Future: Initial Glimpses at the U.S. Child Population from the 2010 Census*, based on the 2010 U.S. Census:

- New minorities—Hispanics, Asians, and other groups apart from whites, blacks, and American Indians—account for all growth among the nation's child population.
- Ten states and 35 large metro areas now have minority white child populations.

Why is this important? What does it mean for your local church? Let's explore a few of the 14 ramifications presented by Mr. Mischke:

Prioritize youth and children. Training youth and children's ministry leaders in Christ-centered Cultural Intelligence (CQ) will enable them to seize the opportunity to serve children and youth from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Pursue cross-cultural friendships with other leaders. Leaders who are bilingual and/or comfortable in another culture will have advantages over those who are not.

Equip laity in CQ. Christ-centered Cultural Intelligence (CQ) training is typically for professional career missionaries. These demographic changes suggest basic training for everyone—for ordinary believers—become a normal part of Christian discipleship

Anticipate shock...and joy. Culture shock may no longer be limited to those participating in mission trips. Believers trained in building authentic cross-cultural relationships will find even more joy in following Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all peoples and nations.

Seek out the sage. Seasoned missionaries and ministries with years of experience serving or partnering cross-culturally are ideally suited to train believers in local churches to build healthy cross-cultural relationships.

Remember unreached peoples across the ocean. The increasing ethnic diversity of our own communities, especially in urban settings, may tempt some Christian leaders to think reaching people within their own community is satisfactory obedience to Scripture. But Jesus said, "make disciple of all nations" (Matt. 28:19) and "be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8). The temptation to focus on local ministry alone, regardless of how ethnically diverse it may be, should be avoided. All churches need a balanced approach that is local, regional, and global.

Expect great blessings from God. Expect cross-cultural ministries and partnerships—locally and globally—to become more fruitful, more exciting, more dynamic. Obedience to Jesus Christ combined with cross-cultural understanding and training will result in a great harvest of transformed lives—for the glory of God. **ONE**

Mr. Mischke's full post can be found at <http://wernermischke.org/?s=census>

ABOUT THE WRITER: Werner Mischke, director of training ministries for Mission ONE, is passionate about developing excellent training resources and communications for mission mobilization. Mission ONE, a partner organization of FWBIM, is focused primarily on planting churches among unreached peoples, those who have little or no access to the gospel of Christ.

International Missions has partnered with Mission ONE to provide insightful tools to the local church.

The Beauty of Partnership is a six-week small group study designed to produce godly character, cultural intelligence, and organizational competence. Groups completing this study will have a better understanding of how to effectively partner with believers in other countries.

Visit both organizations at the national convention and attend seminars to learn more.



Extreme

FAITH

BY
JOEL
TEAGUE

I met Cyprien more than 12 years ago through downhill mountain biking, and we quickly became good friends. We played sports and music together. We watched movies, “hung out,” and talked about life.

I tried to share the gospel with him in various ways, but Cyprien always seemed to find a way to avoid or get out of that conversation. He just didn't seem interested.

He left school and began working as an equipment operator. He also competed in BMX competitions. Cyprien characterizes this period of his life as unstable. He says, “I indulged in sin. My desire to prove I was better than others often motivated my behavior.” Friends and family frequently worried about him, and were even scared by the risks he took. Cyprien acknowledges, “I didn't realize the harmful impact that not respecting my own life had on other people's lives.”

God Moves

In 2010, Cyprien went through a hard time, and I prayed God would use this to touch his heart. Meanwhile, my wife Lydie and I searched for a small house to live in while studying to apply to Free Will Baptist International Missions for missionary service. God opened doors, and we located a house right across the street from Cyprien's. He spent lots of time with us. We shared meals; we talked. For Cyprien, seeing two people with Masters degrees and good jobs quit their careers to study the Bible was totally irrational. However, it led him to start thinking that maybe there was more to Christianity than he could grasp.

Cyprien was 29 when he began thinking seriously about the existence of God. He had lots of questions, everything from "If there is a God, why would He allow so much suffering on earth?" to "Why would I trust the Bible?" Lydie and I entered into long discussions with him, trying to help him understand God's heart, His love and mercy.

Cyprien watched as we packed and prepared to come to the United States for a year or so of awareness building and fundraising. Two weeks before we moved out of our home, in March 2012, Cyprien went to his house and decided to open the Bible we had given him. He read the first five chapters of Matthew but didn't understand it.

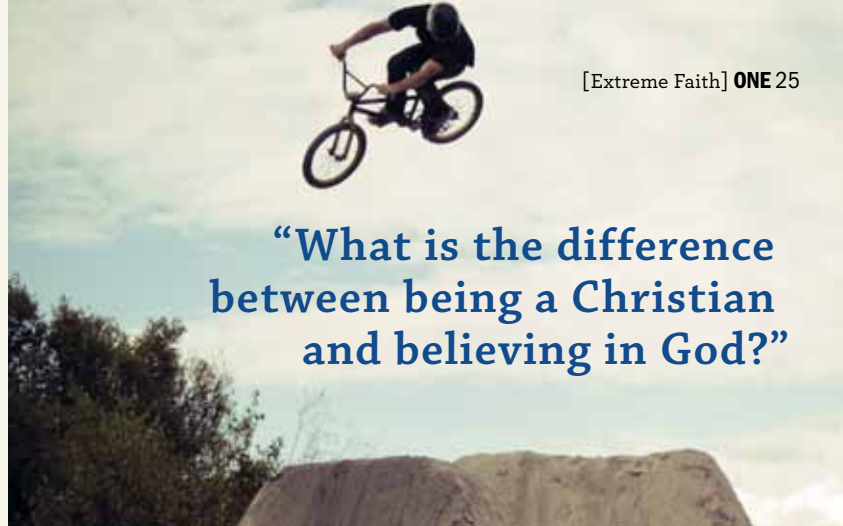
So, he knocked on our door, and we started a long conversation. In the course of this, Cyprien asked an extremely important question: "What is the difference between being a Christian and believing in God?" He had heard the gospel before, but the sacrifice of Jesus Christ didn't make sense to him.

That day, he understood for the first time that God loved him so much that He sent His Son to the cross so he could have a relationship with Him and have eternal life. Cyprien started crying. He was moved by the love of God for him even though he was a sinner.

The next day, while he worked, the sins he had done throughout his life began coming back to his mind. He was overwhelmed by his sinfulness. He told God, "I'm sorry for all I've done." He thanked Jesus for His sacrifice and committed to follow Him.

Cyprien was changed. He was a new creature, and we could see it. When he came home from work, he said, "You're going to think I'm crazy, but I feel like God is inside of me!"

Lydie and I responded, "Yes! That is the Holy Spirit." Neither Lydie nor I have ever witnessed someone changed as much as Cyprien!



“What is the difference between being a Christian and believing in God?”

180-Degree Turn

Cyprien has been a Christian for a year now and is a committed, faithful member of the Free Will Baptist Church of Saint Sebastien, France. He participates in Bible studies with men of the church and is involved in the worship team, playing drums on Sunday morning.

The first thing he said after being saved was, "I've got to tell everybody about Jesus Christ." Almost no one in his extended family or among his friends is a believer, and Cyprien is trying to share the gospel with them. He has invited them to church and often shares his faith. He knows how tough it is to share the gospel in such a secular country, but he is very motivated!

As a professional BMX stunt rider, Cyprien is paid to do demonstrations. Young people in the skate parks know him and look up to him. He uses these demonstrations as an opportunity to be a light and share the gospel in the skate parks.

In 2012, he was interviewed by one of the biggest BMX magazines in France. As a new Christian, he wanted people to know about his changed life and stated that he is a fan of Jesus Christ and people should check Him out. Later he regretted he hadn't said more, but what an amazing turnaround for my friend.

Cyprien has a huge burden for lost souls around him and in the world. One of Cyprien's dreams is to be a part of our young adult ministry. He would do BMX demonstrations, followed by time to share his testimony.

Lydie and I are so excited to go back to France and work with Cyprien. Several years ago, we would say to one another, "Can you imagine, if Cyprien became a Christian, the impact he could have on so many young people in France?" God has made our dream come true, and we are sure He has an incredible plan for this young man's life. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Joel and Lydie Teague are missionaries to Nantes, France, where they work with JCrois youth conference. They hope to establish a full-time center to reach French youth.

News Around the World

IM to Present Seminars, Hold Reception in Tampa

ANTIOCH, TN—International Missions will present several informative and challenging seminars at the National Association in Tampa, Florida, over the course of the convention.

“What God’s Doing in China Through Education,” offered twice (Monday at 3:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.) will highlight the work of teaching English overseas and feature opportunities IM board and staff members witnessed during a May visit to China.

Many churches and individuals continue to explore ways to interact with internationals both overseas and in the States. “So You Want to Be Involved Overseas? Building Successful Cross-cultural Partnerships” will draw from the expertise of IM personnel and IM partner, Mission ONE, to provide clear-cut principles for fruitful cross-cultural relationships and healthy cross-cultural partnerships. The seminar will be offered three times (Monday at 2:30 p.m., Tuesday at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday

at 4:00 p.m.) to allow everyone an opportunity to attend.

Most participants in the 2013 World Missions Offering (WMO) have concluded their efforts. Some churches wanted to participate, but just didn’t “get started.” Others may want to do better. And some churches are just wondering what all the fuss is about. If you want to learn more about the WMO or get a jumpstart on preparing for 2014, “Stories From the World Missions Offering: Ideas for a Successful WMO” is for you. Join participants on Monday at 4:30 p.m. or Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

On Tuesday evening, following the worship service (9:00 p.m.), the Mission will host a “WMO Thank You Reception” at the Marriott for anyone who gave to the 2013 WMO. The reception, with light refreshments, is the Mission’s way of thanking individuals for their support. Missionaries and IM leadership will be on hand to personally thank attendees. ■

Turnboughs, McPeak Speak in Cuba

ANTIOCH, TN—February 14-25, 2013, Mark McPeak, Lannah Thatcher Agreda (wife of Pastor Jhon Fredy Agreda of Villalba, Spain), and Jeff and Susan Turnbough visited Cuba to lead a retreat for Cuban youth workers. For three days, the foursome presented “Relationships Matter” a module of the Leadership Matters Course at a weekend retreat with 57 youth leaders from most of the local FWB churches across Cuba.

The second weekend, the Turnboughs and McPeak participated in the annual National Convention of Free Will Baptists on the campus of the Cedars of Lebanon Seminary in Pinar del Rio. They discussed with the “directiva,” the elected national executive committee, how Cuban and North American Free Will Baptists can continue to work together effectively to reach Cuba and to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Full article at fwbgo.com. ■

Outlaws Transition to New Role

ANTIOCH, TN—General Director Clint Morgan recently announced that David and Angie Outlaw, veterans of field missionary service in Central Asia, will take on a newly created role. David will serve as an international education specialist in conjunction with Free Will Baptist training institutions around the world.



“After more than 75 years of missions activity, we are in an interesting and exciting place,” explains Clint Morgan. “Our role in the work has shifted.”

The IM leadership team is developing partnerships with our Free Will Baptist national leaders around the world. “When we ask what they need from us, many request help in training pastors and even preparing their missionaries. David’s skills will be optimized in this arena,” explains Jeff Turnbough, director of field operations.

When not traveling, David will spend time preparing his course work; working with the management team of the Global Training Resources (GTR, www.globaltrainingresources.net) initiative to facilitate the networking and spread of training resources that can be shared between leaders around the world; and raising support among our churches.

Full article at fwbgo.com. ■





Panama—Cirilo Mendoza was ordained February 24, 2013, in Chitré, Panama. Cirilo and his wife Katia graduated from the Chame seminary in January. ■



Brazil—On Sunday, April 14, 2013, at the First FWB Church of Araras, São Paulo, Brazil, Pastor Elizeu and Assistant Pastor Jeferson baptized nine people (two men, five women, and two young girls). ■



Panama—On Easter, March 31, 2013, Pastor Julio baptized three new believers (Manuel pictured) at the mission work in Santiago, Panama. ■



Uruguay—The Santa Teresa congregation dedicated their new building on April 14. The church, located in Rivera, Uruguay, has been under construction for several years. A standing-room-only crowd filled the sanctuary as the group rejoiced over the building's completion and opportunities to better connect with the community. ■



France—A young Christian in the St. Sebastien youth group (whose mother is Muslim and objects to his conversion) recently led two other young men to the Lord. ■



France—The La Boissiere Church in Nantes witnessed the baptism of Louise on April 8, 2013. Louise's family, practicing Catholics, began attending the church several years ago and several family members have come to Christ throughout the last few years. ■

Former General Director Rolla D. Smith Dies

ANTIOCH, TN—Reverend Rolla D. Smith, former general director of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions, entered Heaven's gates around 1:45 a.m., March 15, 2013.



The 92-year-old was hospitalized and diagnosed with pneumonia earlier this month. Brother Smith was transferred to West Meade Place, a rehab facility, where he continued to decline and died.

Smith had the unique responsibility of serving as general director two times. He was first asked to serve in 1959 and continued until 1962. Following his resignation as general director, the Missouri native was elected to the mission board where he served faithfully from August 1962 until July 1975. During those years, he also pastored churches in Missouri, Georgia, and Tennessee. The board asked him to serve a second stint as general director and Smith spent another 11 years at the helm (1975-1986) of the foreign missions department. "Uncle Rolla," as missionary kids worldwide called him, loved missionary families and was passionate about getting the gospel to the regions beyond.

Rolla Smith's funeral was held Sunday, March 17. His first wife, Agnes (Scott) died shortly after his retirement. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Helen Ketteman Smith; daughter, Beth (Vernon) Whaley; grandchildren, Laurie (Jeremy) Whaley Roe and Jeremy (Kenya) Whaley; great-grandchildren, Carter, Luca, and Noah; sister, Genelle Scott; step-children, Greg (Jill) Ketteman, Carol (Garnett) Reid, and Joy (Randy) Corn; 11 step-grandchildren and 5 step-great-grandchildren. ■



Osvaldo Ortega
IBL de Penonomé, Penonomé



Raúl & Damaris Sanes
IBL de Penonomé, Penonomé



Lázaro & Ariadna Riesgo
IBL La Paz, Chame



Uriel & Marilyn Velásquez
IBL La Paz, Chame



Gabriel & Valentina Pérez
Templo Bíblico Sion, Colón



Lino Pascasio
Cucurucha, Cucurucha
Templo Evangélico Jerusalén
& Flor de Laguna, Cañitas



Carlos & Elva Urbina
IBL de Tolé, Tolé



Julio & Cinthya Barahona
IBL Piedra Viva, Santiago

PARTNERING in Panama



Carlos & Clara Bernal
Iglesia Misionera en la
Preseca de Dios, Los Castil-
los & El Jengibre, Parita



Cirilo & Kathia Mendoza
IBL Buenas Nuevas &
Misión IBL El Capurí, Chitré



**Benjamín & Stephany
Acevedo**
Iglesia Luz de Esperanza
y Vida, Los Sauces



Efraín & Carmen González
El Pedregoso, Las Tablas



Tomás & Adelaida Mendoza
*IBL de San Vicente,
Panama City*



Euribiades V. & Xenia González
*Templo Manantial
de Vida de San Miguelito &
Santa Librada, Panama City*



Arsenio V. & Leticia González
*Nueva Esperanza en Cristo
& Nuevo Tocumen,
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& Templo Esperanza de
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+Intersect >>>>

Oh Say, Can You See?

A Look at Spiritual Blindness, Part Two

“Mr. Reid, you have a detached retina.”

Wow! I hadn't expected that! After my ophthalmologist removed cataracts from both my eyes, a retinal surgeon now explained the reason for that shadow at the top of my left eye vision.

He recommended immediate surgical repair, and he got no argument from me! The alternative was doing nothing and losing my vision totally. The surgery worked, and I am grateful for restored sight.

Vision Impaired

A different kind of vision loss—spiritual blindness—is a very real possibility for God's people. We noted in the previous column that Isaiah warned his generation about the danger of not seeing clearly when it comes to spiritual matters. He reminded all of us that this blindness to truth darkens the hearts and minds of those who refuse to see what God reveals to them through His word.

This blindness:

may affect people in a covenant relationship with God; is self-induced at first, but becomes a judgment from God; comes upon God's people who are able to see, but refuse to make the commitment to see; plagues believers who, while not able to see, refuse to learn to see.

False Faith

We should also observe that Isaiah's look at this condition continues with two other factors involved. Notice what God says through His prophet in the first part of Isaiah 29:13, following his rebuke of their blindness in verse 12: “This people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me.”

When we reject the truth, we must pretend as if we see in order to keep up appearances; so we find ourselves living in a habitat of deception and fakery. Blind Christians become Pharisees, in essence, who “nullify” the law of God by their self-deception (Matthew 15:8). “You hypocrites,” Jesus charges. “Well did Isaiah prophecy of you!” Thus Isaiah alleges that spiritual blindness often results in a shallow, hypocritical relationship with God.



“Taught by Men”

Read on and finish Isaiah 29:13, though: “And their fear of me is a commandment taught by men.” When we do not feed our hearts, minds, and spirits on the words of the living God, our blindness will lead us to depend on what is convenient, what looks safe, but is, after all, only human. Spiritual blindness, therefore, is often symptomatic of a human-driven, legalistic view of faith. It claims to honor God with the lips—the external—but is actually soulless, heartless, and passionless.

Diagnosis and Treatment

So before we explore a solution to our blindness, let’s diagnose: what are the symptoms of spiritual blindness? Peter, in the New Testament, provides this profile in 2 Peter 1:3-9. Follow his train of thought. In verse nine, he concludes that, “whoever lacks these qualities is blind.” So read the list of qualities in the previous verses. If these virtues are missing, their absence likely signals spiritual blindness!

Virtue - We let our concern for holy living slide.

Knowledge - We are not loving God and His Word with all our mind.

Self-control - We have become careless in areas we used to control.

Godliness - We have shoved God to the fringes of our life.

Brotherly affection - We do not invest in loving others, only ourselves.

Love - We are missing that one trait through which the world may see Christ in us.

To whatever degree these are missing in us, we are blind.

Yet spiritual blindness finds its cure only in the gracious intervention of our compassionate God as we submit our wills to His. We must come to grips with our condition and pray for sight. Ask God that, “the eyes of our heart would be enlightened” (Ephesians 1:18). He opens blinded eyes (Isaiah 29:19). Pray for God to see us: “Look down from heaven and see” (Isaiah 63:15). “Please look, Lord,” (Isaiah 64:9), so that we may see. **ONE**

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

A Legacy of Persistence...

When Cleo Pursell was elected executive secretary-treasurer of WNAC in 1963, the organization faced significant challenges. She once wrote, “Who gives gifts to WNAC? Nobody!” But Cleo didn’t let the challenges stop her. She began the Creative Writing Contest (later expanded to include fine arts). She held the first national retreat for women in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, and began the National Student Scholarship for international Free Will Baptist students. Was Cleo up to the challenge of leadership? Absolutely! She left behind a legacy of persistence that continues today.

What is your legacy? With an endowment through Free Will Baptist Foundation, you can help Women Nationally Active for Christ continue their ministry around the globe. **Contact the Foundation to request a free Wills Guide today:**



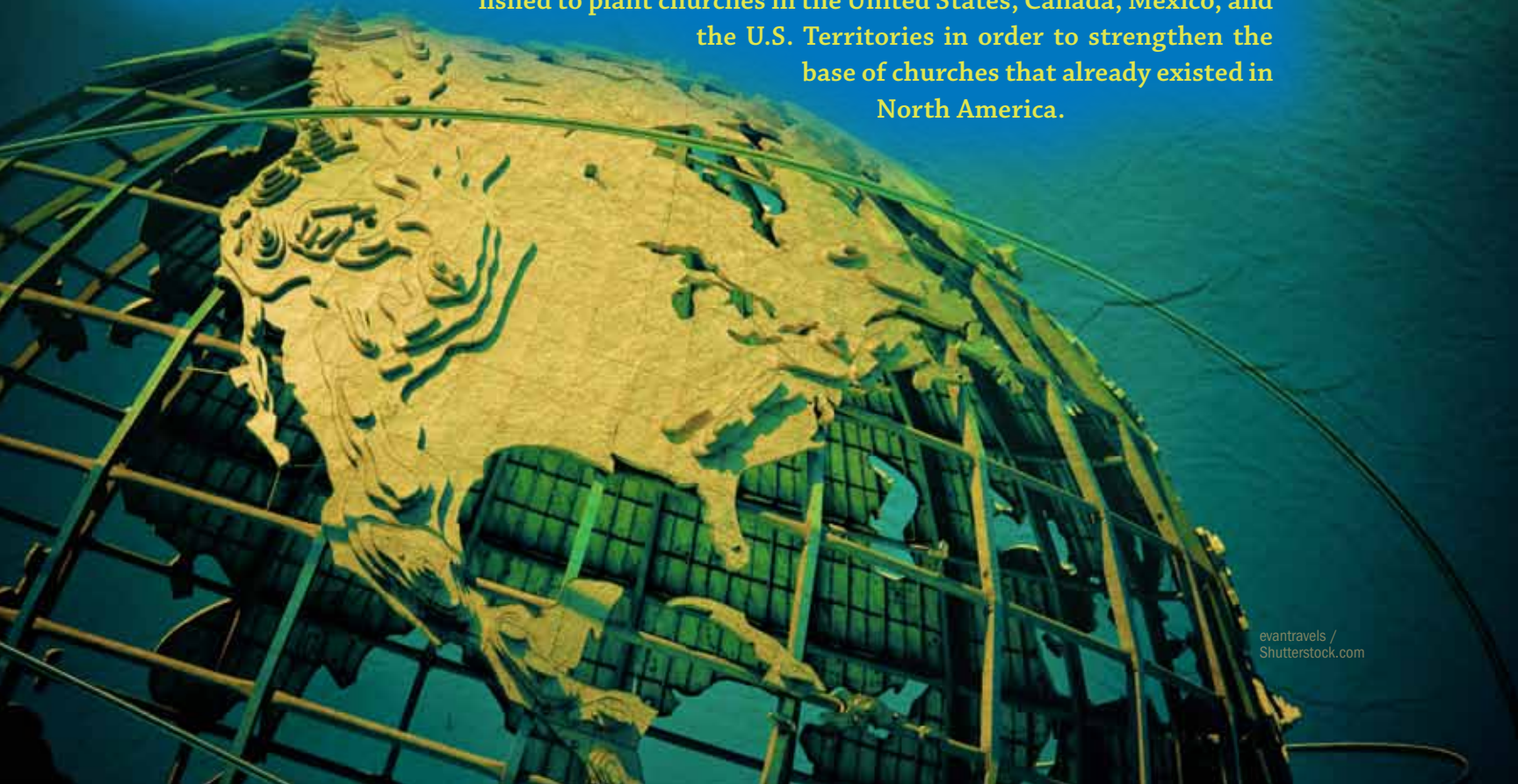
Free Will Baptist Foundation

www.fwbgifts.org | 877-336-7575 (now on Facebook)

75 years of HOME MISSIONS

BY DAVID CROWE

This year (2013), the Home Missions Department celebrates 75 years of organized history. In 1938, just three short years after the National Association was formed, the young denomination voted the department into existence. The Foreign Missions Department had already been established to be the evangelistic arm of Free Will Baptists around the world. Those early leaders understood that in order to fulfill the Great Commission, Free Will Baptists needed a strong and solid foundation in North America from which to send missionaries to the ends of the earth. The National Home Mission Board was established to plant churches in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. Territories in order to strengthen the base of churches that already existed in North America.



Founded on the Past

Today, Home Missions is solidly founded on the past. We have a rich history of church planting and soul winning over the past 75 years. We don't live in the past, but we understand that we exist today as a result of the lives, ministries, and sacrifices of many men and women God called into home missions. Some of the greatest soul winners and church planters among us have served as general directors of the department, men like Harry Staires, Damon Dodd, Homer Willis, Bob Shockey, Roy Thomas, Trymon Messer, and Larry Powell. Many of the finest families in the denomination have served as church planters, and hundreds of Free Will Baptist churches have been started across North America over the last 75 years.

Today, the primary task of Home Missions is to plant churches by winning people to Christ and preaching the gospel message. We stand on a foundation formed by the dedication, commitment, hard work, and determination of those who have gone before us. We understand that who and what we are today has been shaped by these accomplishments.

We don't worship the past, but we can honor the past and the people who are a part of that history. If we fail to understand where we have been as a department or as a denomination, we will fail to understand where we need to go in the future.

Faithful to the Present

At Home Missions, while we love our past and learn from our past, we must not live in the past. We face challenges in this world and nation that we have never faced before. The culture around us is changing on a daily basis. People have more baggage in their lives and deal with more issues today than at any other time in modern history.

While Home Missions continues to operate today on the same philosophy of church planting and soul winning, we realize we must find new ways to connect with people from all walks of life. We must be faithful to learn to reach people of all races, cultures, and even languages now represented in North America.

We must learn from the mistakes of the past as well as the successes. We must do a better job of training mission families to reach people who are "different." Our missionaries encounter people who look different, sound different, act different, and think different than they do. This is our mis-

sion field today! As certainly as we are founded on our past, we understand that we must always strive to be faithful to the present.

Focused on Progressing for the Future

As much as I love our history, and as much as I enjoy ministering for Home Missions in the present, I have a tremendous desire and burden to understand where we go from here. We must plant more churches and win more souls for Christ and the kingdom. Local churches must be challenged to parent churches in addition to supporting mission works established by mission departments. We must have more coordinated cooperation between district and state associations in partnership with National and International Missions.

We must continue to promote the "team" concept in church planting, so churches can be planted and become self-supporting in shorter periods of time. This will allow team members to start other churches in surrounding areas. That way, we are not planting a single church to struggle on its own, but planting associations of churches that can support one another. We must allow missionaries the freedom to use the gifts, abilities, and personalities God has given them to plant a church, win souls, and see that church become a local, autonomous, self-supporting Free Will Baptist church.

As Home Missions celebrates 75 years of church planting and soul winning, we understand we are here because of the foundation of our past. We are sincerely doing our best—with God's help—to be faithful to the present, and as we look ahead, we are focusing on how God would allow us to progress into the future!

To conclude this article, I want to leave you with a quote. I wish I could tell you this quote was from a spiritual source, but I must be honest. I heard this while watching a movie with my two grandsons. The movie was "Kung-Fu Panda." (I know what you're thinking, but you do a lot of things with your grandchildren that you never thought you would do.) In the movie, a wise, old turtle said, "The past is history; the future is a mystery; the present is a gift, and that's why it is called the 'present.'" We can't change the past, and we don't know the future, but God has given us the gift of the present. Let us be faithful to that gift. **ONE**

Part three in a three-part series

AMERICAN IDOL? The Christian and Sports

BY GREG KETTEMAN

Blame It on Darwin?

Sports in popular culture may actually do more to promote practical expressions of Darwinism than much-maligned college professors. Sport is often an extremely effective promoter of survival of the fittest. Athletes with “killer instinct” or the desire to “finish off” opponents are often glorified while the “nice guy” or “good sport” is ridiculed since nice guys do not always win. American Christians happily join secular counterparts in “putting on a game face” and celebrating hard-nosed, show-no-mercy aggression. Can these prevailing attitudes about sports be reconciled with biblical, Christian virtues?

Today’s athletes often earn a pass on morality, excused for celebrating hedonism and moral indulgence outside the athletic arena. Evangelical Christians overlook a multitude of sins because an athlete mentions his “Lord and Savior” during a nationally televised interview. Never mind the reality of his lifestyle.

This is not to say there are no positive

role models in sports, nor does it imply there are no true Christians in sports. However, as with everything in our lives, being the best at *anything* requires single-minded dedication to that pursuit. The pursuit of excellence in sport is inspiring, but what should the Christian pursue in this manner?

Worth the Cost?

While we may admire those who dedicate themselves to being the best in any chosen field, we must ask, “What price is exacted for this achievement?” The Bible clearly warns, “What good is it if a man gains the whole world, but loses his eternal soul.” How many of us aspire to reach that same level of excellence in Bible knowledge, Christian disciplines, or in serving hurting and needy people? How many of us encourage our children to aspire to this rather than sport achievements?

In our culture, answering questions about the Christian’s involvement in sports requires wisdom and courage—

refusing to engage mindlessly in what the dominant culture dictates, and instead thoughtfully pursuing single-minded obedience to God’s claim on our lives. When we perceive that bowing to cultural expectations is wrong, we must be prepared to take a courageous (and unpopular) stand.

Honest answers to questions about Christians in sports will, no doubt, create discomfort, guilt, and uncertainty. This is because genuine and purposeful engagement of Christians with culture is always spiritual warfare. Still, the questions and related Scripture passages that follow are intended as food for thoughtful Christians regarding their involvement in sports. They are intended to be literal and straightforward to allow for honest consideration. As the reader will see in these questions, moving “toward a Christian view of sport” is not easy, but those who apply Christian principles to their involvement in sports will be rewarded in kind.

1 Does physical exercise acknowledge and properly value the body as “the temple of the Holy Ghost?” Is sports competition a way to “glorify God in your body?” *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost . . .”* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

2 Does sports participation qualify as, “doing whatever we do to the glory of God?” Can we really participate in sports “heartily as unto the Lord,” “in His name,” and not “as unto men?” *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God”* (1 Corinthians 10:31).

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus . . .” (Colossians 3:17, 23).

3 Can one truly “love the Lord his God with all his heart, soul, and might” and be totally abandoned to the pursuit of anything other than that? If so, does that include sports?” *“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment”* (Matthew 22:37-38).

4 Is the exhortation to do with might whatever our hand findeth to do speaking of sports? If so, how do we express this in sports? *“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might . . .”* (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

5 Is the command to “let the mind of Jesus be in us” compatible with a winning sports ethos? *“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. . . .”* (Philippians 2:3-8).

6 Can we “let our moderation be known to all men” in our commitment to sports? *“Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand”* (Philippians 4:5).

7 Who are we serving when we devote ourselves to sports? Are we “seeking first His kingdom?” *“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon”* (Matthew 6:24).

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God . . .” (Matthew 6:33).

8 What does our involvement with sports prove about our affections? Is our spending for sports proof of our allegiance to God and to His kingdom? *“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on earth”* (Colossians 3:1-2).

9 Is our involvement in sports part of “walking circumspectly?” Are we “redeeming the time” in evil days as we devote time, energy, and resources to sports? *“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time . . .”* (Ephesians 5:15-19).

10 Does our participation in sports sow to the flesh or to the Spirit? *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap . . .”* (Galatians 6:7-8).

11 Can inordinate involvement in sports be classified as “youthful lusts?” *“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart”* (2 Timothy 2:22).

12 In our devotion to sports, are we “minding earthly things” or is our “conversation in heaven” as we “look for our Savior?” *“For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things. . . .”* (Philippians 3:18-21).

BEING THE BEST AT ANYTHING REQUIRES SINGLE-MINDED DEDICATION TO THAT PURSUIT

13 In sports, do we “bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ?” If so, how? If not, how would this look for the Christian? *“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ”* (2 Corinthians 10:3-5).

14 In sports, are we “lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God?” Do sports lead us to a “form of godliness, denying the power thereof?” *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves . . .”* (2 Timothy 3:1-7).

15 Do we participate in sports because we are not content with godliness? How do sports promote “following after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness?” *“But godliness with contentment is great gain . . .”* (1 Timothy 6:6-12).

16 As we participate in sports, are we focusing our minds on “things that are true, honest, just, pure, of good report, virtuous, and praiseworthy?” *“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8).*

Former Indianapolis Colts’ Head Coach Tony Dungy wrote in the epilogue of his book, *Quiet Strength*, about his faith and sports in his own life: *I love coaching football, and winning a Super Bowl was a goal I’ve had for a long time. But it has never been my purpose in life. My purpose in life is simply to glorify God. We have to be careful that we don’t let the pursuit of our life’s goals, no matter how important they seem, cause us to lose sight of our purpose.*

There are obviously some serious problems with the place sport occupies in our culture with the apparent tacit approval of the Church. Christian leaders must acknowledge that sports has become the new opiate of the people and the new American civil religion, and we must set about to bring the principles of Scripture to bear on this problem. We must urge believers to live wise and courageous lives, guided by biblical truth and consciously taking captive every thought to the obedience of Jesus Christ.

While it is clear that the Bible does not explicitly condemn sports or involvement in sports, the biblical principles posed are helpful as individuals consider how to submit to an obedient and loving relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Greg Ketteman is provost at Welch College in Nashville, Tennessee. To read his work on sports in its entirety, order *Integrity: A Theological Journal*, published by the Commission for Theological Integrity: 877-763-9222 or president@welch.edu.



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HOW TO STAY MARRIED 50 years

BY JACK WILLIAMS

01 Marry the right girl and stay married to her.

02 Remind her every day she's beautiful, and you love her; keep her car gassed and arrange for her to visit a hair stylist regularly.

03 Keep God first in your life and your wife second.



04 Never forget her birthday or anniversary. Make your own memories as a couple, and enjoy them.

05

Take her to the Free Will Baptist national convention every July. It's like a big family reunion filled with music, worship, handshakes, and the Lord's business. Janis and I have now attended 42 consecutive conventions from California to Florida, Atlanta to Detroit.

06

If you have children, let them live their own lives and make their own decisions.

07

Sit with her in church when possible.

Do the heavy lifting at the grocery store.



08

Help her learn to appreciate cowboy movies, especially *The Searchers*, starring John Wayne.

09

Introduce her to Louis L'Amour books beginning with *The Last of the Breed*.

10

Remember that her job as wife and mother never ends. She is *always* on a tight schedule.

11

Encourage her to drink McDonald's coffee and cook blackened catfish. Pick up the tree limbs in the yard so she won't have to do it.

12

Write her frequent notes.

13

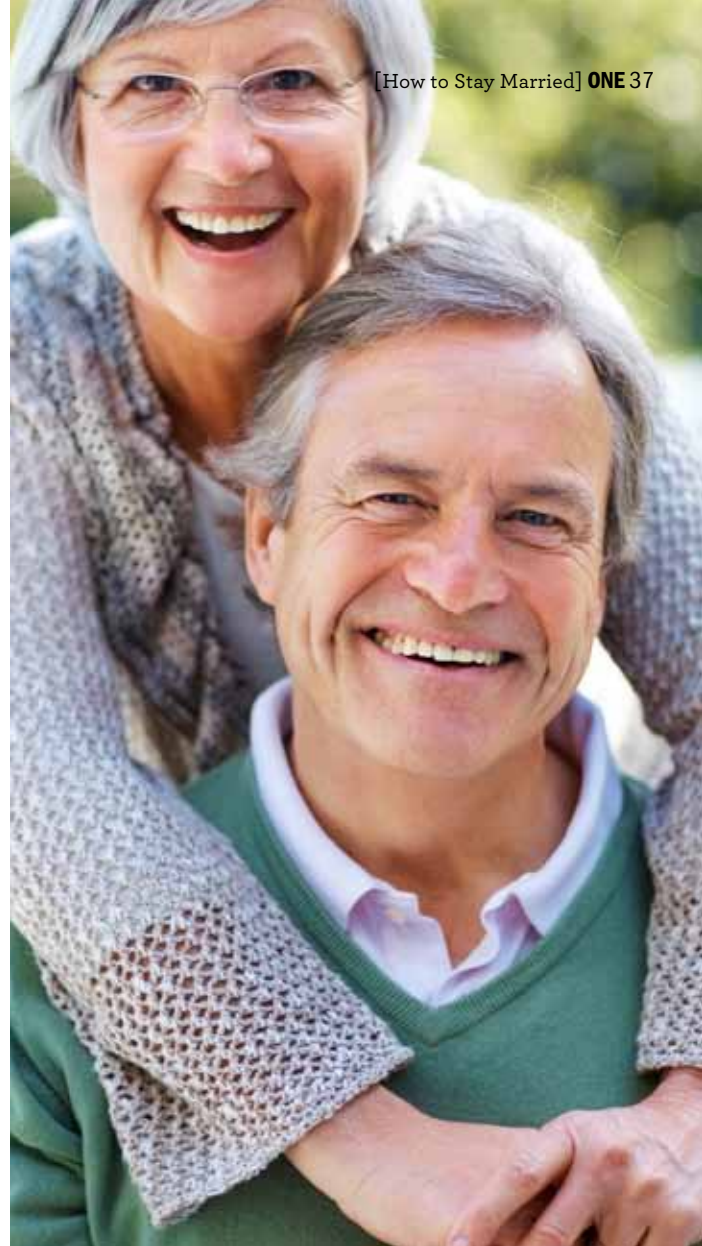
Surprise her with unexpected cash when possible.

14

Find her favorite restaurant and take her there at least once a month.

15

Keep your promises to her.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Jack and Janis Williams have been married 51 years. They have two children and four grandchildren. Daughter Dr. Rebecca Deel chairs the Business Department at Welch College. Son Brad works with the Metro Nashville Police Department. Janis is retired. Jack is director of communications at Welch College. Oldest grandson Austin Deel is a junior Teacher Education student at Welch College. Granddaughter Kristen Williams will enroll at U.T. Knoxville this fall.

News at Welch College

FORUM13 and Bible Conference Inspire Students

Welch College hosted the annual FORUM event and Bible Conference March 3-5. The event, themed “Culture and the Kingdom,” featured six speakers, according to President Matt Pinson. These speakers refreshed and inspired students and visitors alike as they tackled the daunting challenge of engaging the surrounding culture with the gospel.

This year’s speakers included Dr. Timothy Tennent, Ken Myers, Jose Rodriguez, Matthew McAfee, Matt Pinson, and Barry Raper.

Dr. Timothy Tennent, president of Asbury Theological Seminary, is a highly regarded preacher, professor, missiologist, and author. Before his inauguration in November 2009, Dr. Tennent held teaching positions at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Toccoa Falls College. He has also taught and ministered in Eastern Europe and Asia. He and his wife Julie have two children.

Ken Myers, founder and president of Mars Hill Audio, has worked in radio since the age of nineteen. He began working for National Public Radio after completing his B.A. degree in communications, with an emphasis in film theory. He received a Master of Arts degree in Religion from Westminster Theological Seminary in 1979. He is a champion for Christian journalism’s role in engaging the secular worldviews that permeate contemporary society.

Jose Rodriguez pastors Ebenezer Free Will Baptist Church (Miami, Florida). The veteran church-planter and pastor has preached nearly 20 years in the Miami area. He graduated from Welch College in 1994 and later received a Master of Arts de-

gree in Biblical Studies from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and pursued graduate work at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Pastor Rodriguez serves as the primary Spanish interpreter at the Free Will Baptist National Convention.

The slate of speakers also included three Welch College faculty members: Mr. Matthew McAfee, Dr. Barry Raper, and President Matt Pinson, who brought a campus perspective to the conference and FORUM event. Mr. McAfee serves as Welch College’s Campus Pastor as well as program coordinator of Theological Studies. Dr. Raper is the program coordinator for the Youth and Family Ministry program. President Pinson has served as the college’s president since 2002. He also teaches select theology and Free Will Baptist history courses.

President Matt Pinson said, “This year’s conference offered a unique opportunity for those involved in Christian ministry to grapple with the nature of the relationship between the Church and its unique kingdom culture and the culture of contemporary America. This was a time of challenging biblical preaching and stimulating discussion about some of the most important ministry challenges of our day.”

The FORUM13/Bible Conference schedule included a number of workshops and breakout sessions covering a variety of subjects and featured the music of the Welch College Music Department. The Classes of 1963 (50 years), 1988 (25 years), and 2003 (10 years) were honored at an alumni dinner on Tuesday evening, March 5. ■

Read more about the conference: www.welch.edu

Spring College Choir Tour a Success

The Welch College Choir gave nine performances March 6-12, during a weeklong, 1,700-mile tour of the Southeast, with stops in Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Kentucky. “It was a great tour,” said chaperone Dr. Garnett Reid. “We had good services, and I was impressed with the quality and dedication of choir members. We enjoyed worshipping together every night.”

To schedule a music or drama group for your church or ministry, contact the college at: www.welch.edu/schedule-a-ministry-team

Tour stops included:

March 6	Hardin Valley FWB Church	Knoxville, TN
March 7	Unity FWB Church	Greenville, NC
March 8	Bethel Christian Academy	Kinston, NC
March 8	First FWB Church	Washington, NC
March 9	Lebanon FWB Church	Effingham, SC
March 10	Horse Branch FWB	Turbeville, SC
March 10	Temple FWB	Darlington, SC
March 11	First FWB Church	Bristol, VA
March 12	Trinity FWB Church	Bowling Green, KY

Welch College Hosts 32 High School Seniors for Record-breaking Senior Days

Thirty-two high school seniors, accompanied by parents and sponsors from 12 states, traveled to Nashville for Welch College's spring semester Senior Days, according to Debbie Mouser, director of enrollment services. The Senior Days event, which takes place twice yearly, was held January 31 – February 1, and afforded students the opportunity to experience student life on campus. At 32 visiting students, this marks the highest attended Senior Days in the event's history.

The 32 seniors represented Tennessee (8), North Carolina (6), Alabama (3), Arkansas (3), Oklahoma (3), Illinois (2), Mississippi (2), Louisiana (1), Michigan (1), Missouri (1), Ohio (1), and Texas (1).

Registration began at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 31, and the closing reception ended at 4:00 p.m. the next day. The 24 hours between were filled with events and sessions designed to give the visiting students a brief but informative look into life as a Welch College student. The schedule was brimming with classes, campus tours, breakfast with President Matt Pinson,

and informative sessions addressing campus life, academics, and financial aid.

Visiting seniors were asked to complete a survey highlighting their Senior Days experience. The scores given for all categories were up at this event, according to enrollment staff, with highest marks given to faculty/staff and student hospitality (4.94/5 and 4.83/5, respectively). Several seniors commented, "It was a fun and informative experience," and, "This was a great visit. I'm looking forward to attending Welch College this fall."

Mrs. Mouser said, "It was exciting to have so many quality seniors on campus with us. We are looking forward to having many of them return in August as Welch students. I especially enjoyed getting to interact with parents as they help with the decision-making process. It's a privilege to share the unique qualities of Welch College with these students and parents."

Welch College hosted its Spring Welcome Days April 18-20. Contact enrollment management at recruit@welch.edu for more information. ■

Jeff Bennett, Welch College Comptroller, Resigns



Jeff Bennett, Welch College business office associate since August 2011, and comptroller since January 2012, resigned effective Friday, April 19, according to Craig Mahler, vice president for financial affairs. He has accepted a position working in the Finance and Operations department of the Cheatham County Board of Education.

Mr. Bennett is an active member of Ashland City Free Will Baptist Church where he serves as youth minister. He also works as design editor and publisher for *The Messenger*, quarterly publication of the West Virginia State Association of Free Will Baptists, and administrator for the state association website.

Mr. Bennett said, "I consider it a great honor to have served Welch College as comptroller. My time here has given me many positive experiences and great memories that I will cherish for years to come. I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the college's mission, vision, and unwavering service to the Lord."

Mr. Craig Mahler, Welch College vice president for financial affairs, said, "Jeff Bennett has been a valuable asset during his tenure with Welch College. His positive attitude and professionalism have made him a vital member of the Welch College family and a joy to work with. Jeff will be sorely missed; however, our prayers go with him as he undergoes this transition, and we are confident that he will excel as he continues to follow the Lord's leading." ■

RISK MANAGEMENT for CHURCHES

BY JOHN BRUMMITT

When you hear the term *risk* what do you picture? If you think of the stock market, you might picture red in the earnings column. If you are young and adventurous, you might think of skydiving, bungee jumping, or some other extreme sporting event. Few of us think of our church when considering risk.

Risk and risk management are business terms that deal with protecting assets from probable losses. Insurance policies protect companies from losses in the business world. But before you stop reading this article because you think this is a sales pitch, let me assure you, it's not. Insurance is only one small step toward protecting assets. Unfortunately, for many churches, that is the only step toward risk management. Why is it important to minimize risk for your church? In today's world the church and other religious organizations are no longer held in high regard. In this antagonistic environment, it is vital to identify your church's risk level and prepare for the worst.



The United States is home to over 400,000 churches or places of worship, and over 140 million Americans have some type of connection to those churches. Of those churches and congregations, only 1,200 of them have congregations of 2,000 or more. We often refer to these as “mega-churches.” In contrast to these mammoth churches, however, the average church only has about 75 active attendees and one staff member, usually the pastor. In most cases, pastors are trained in biblical studies—not business, insurance, or risk management. So, to whom does the risk management of your church fall? You guessed it, the members! So how do church members protect their church from risk?

Prepare for Property Loss

Start with the obvious: property loss. Minimize the risk by carrying sufficient insurance to replace the building or buildings in which you meet. You don’t want the ministry disrupted because your building is destroyed or unusable. Remember that replacement insurance often goes above the appraisal value of your building, taking into account the latest building codes and disability requirements.

Limit Liability

Next, consider liability risks. Liability for churches comes in many different forms, but for the sake of this brief overview, we will touch on a handful of common liability risks a church faces. For example: negligent operation of a vehicle (think church bus ministry), defamation, fraud, copyright infringement, and wrongful termination of employees.

Today churches are most likely to be sued over property disputes, sexual misconduct involving a child, employment-related disputes, zoning issues, and personal injuries at church functions or on church property. Based on a study of all churches in the United States, lawsuits against your church, whether won or lost, have devastating effects on the ministry. Churches can be sued, even if they don’t know they have caused something to happen. Failure to react to the lawsuit in a timely fashion can result in a default judgment against the church.

Liability insurance and church in-

corporation help protect church members, but churches should also be diligent in areas like screening volunteers who work with children, undergoing regular financial audits, developing “safe church” policies, and following proper hiring practices for employees. These steps will help guard the church from lawsuits over negligence.

Based on a study of all churches in the United States, lawsuits against your church, whether won or lost, have devastating effects on the ministry.

Value Volunteers

Churches face a unique problem. They rely heavily on volunteers. As stated earlier, the average church has one staff member, so when faithful servants of the church leave because of a job change, to move closer to family, or because their feelings have been hurt, they leave a huge hole in the church workforce. It is often very difficult to replace these valuable members of a volunteer team. Protecting the church from this type of loss is daunting, but two practical steps can help minimize the damage caused by lost volunteers. First, churches should involve multiple

members at every volunteer position so the ministry of the church does not screech to a grinding halt when someone leaves the congregation. Second, communicate clearly to your volunteers the importance of their service. Make it clear they are a treasured part of the ministry team.

Evaluate Economics

One last area of risk for the church involves external economic forces. Churches have just endured one of the worst recessions in U.S. history, and many economists believe we haven’t fully recovered. As the economy drops, so does the weekly income at church. It is crucial to implement a strategic plan for managing financial challenges. This plan will differ for every church. From relying more heavily on volunteer staff to creating awareness about financial needs in the congregations and community, every church should have a plan of action for enduring challenging economic situations.

While this short article only identifies a few of the risks to which churches are exposed, hopefully it will help your church begin thinking about steps it can take to manage risk. Major losses—from property and personnel to finances and reputation—seriously affect the effectiveness of your church. As church members, we must work together to become effective risk managers, not only for the church’s building, but also the church’s ministry. **ONE**

Brown on Green >>>>

How to LOSE MONEY

Investing for the long term requires you to be prepared to lose money. All long-term investors have a negative year at some point. How you react to negative returns will severely impact your overall return over a long period of time. Many people panic at the first sign their portfolios are losing money and revert to cash until it is “safe” to go back into stocks. Numerous studies have shown that these “market timers” who constantly try to predict the right time to enter and exit the market have much lower returns than those who just hold on and ride out the ups and downs.

It is important, however, to have a portfolio diversified across industries, types of investments, and even geographic locations. No particular type of investment is always positive. No industry is always at the top. A diversified portfolio allows you to have some of your money in each industry, investment type, and region of the world so when one investment falters, another will be doing well and will stabilize the portfolio.

It is important to determine your investment goals and risk tolerance. Portfolios can be designed to meet short, medium, or long-range goals. Adjustments in the investments can be made to reflect your risk tolerance. However, someone with a low risk tolerance must understand they will not achieve the highest returns. Any investment that involves the stock market will lose money from time to time, even those with a low tolerance for risk.

During a complete market meltdown like the one that occurred in 2008, there is no place to hide as all types of investments declined. Still, over its history, the S&P 500 has had 13 negative years and 42 positive years. This averages a down year every four years. Every investor will experience years when money is lost on investments. However, studies make it clear that the best option is a well-diversified portfolio that meets your risk tolerance and rides out the storm. A careful look at the history of the S&P 500 reveals that most of the time, when the index had a negative year it recovered within two years. At press date, the S&P 500 is nearing an all-time high. It's easy to know what to do when you are making money. The hard part is learning how to lose money and still come out ahead. **ONE**

UP? or DOWN?

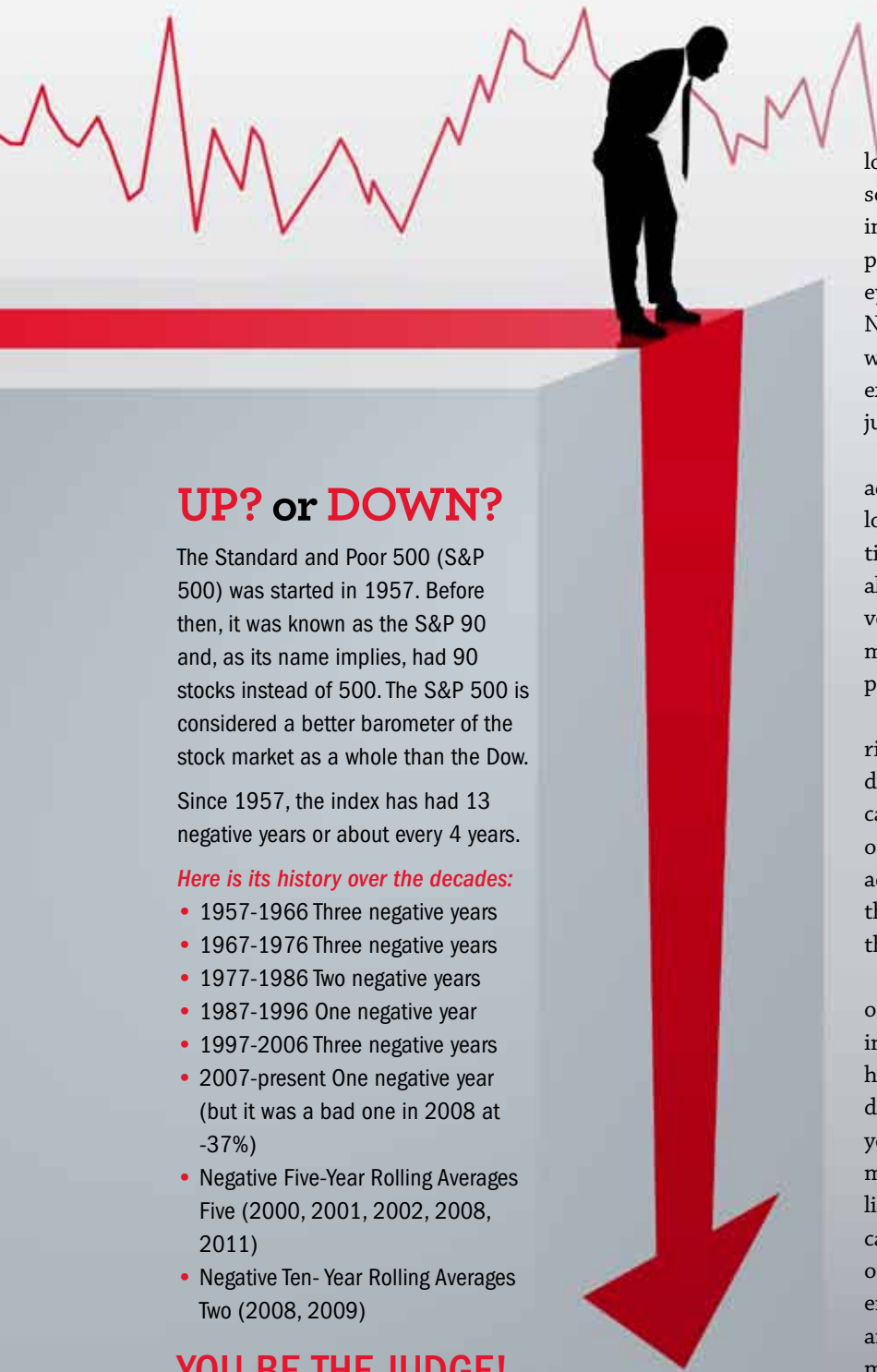
The Standard and Poor 500 (S&P 500) was started in 1957. Before then, it was known as the S&P 90 and, as its name implies, had 90 stocks instead of 500. The S&P 500 is considered a better barometer of the stock market as a whole than the Dow.

Since 1957, the index has had 13 negative years or about every 4 years.

Here is its history over the decades:

- 1957-1966 Three negative years
- 1967-1976 Three negative years
- 1977-1986 Two negative years
- 1987-1996 One negative year
- 1997-2006 Three negative years
- 2007-present One negative year (but it was a bad one in 2008 at -37%)
- Negative Five-Year Rolling Averages Five (2000, 2001, 2002, 2008, 2011)
- Negative Ten-Year Rolling Averages Two (2008, 2009)

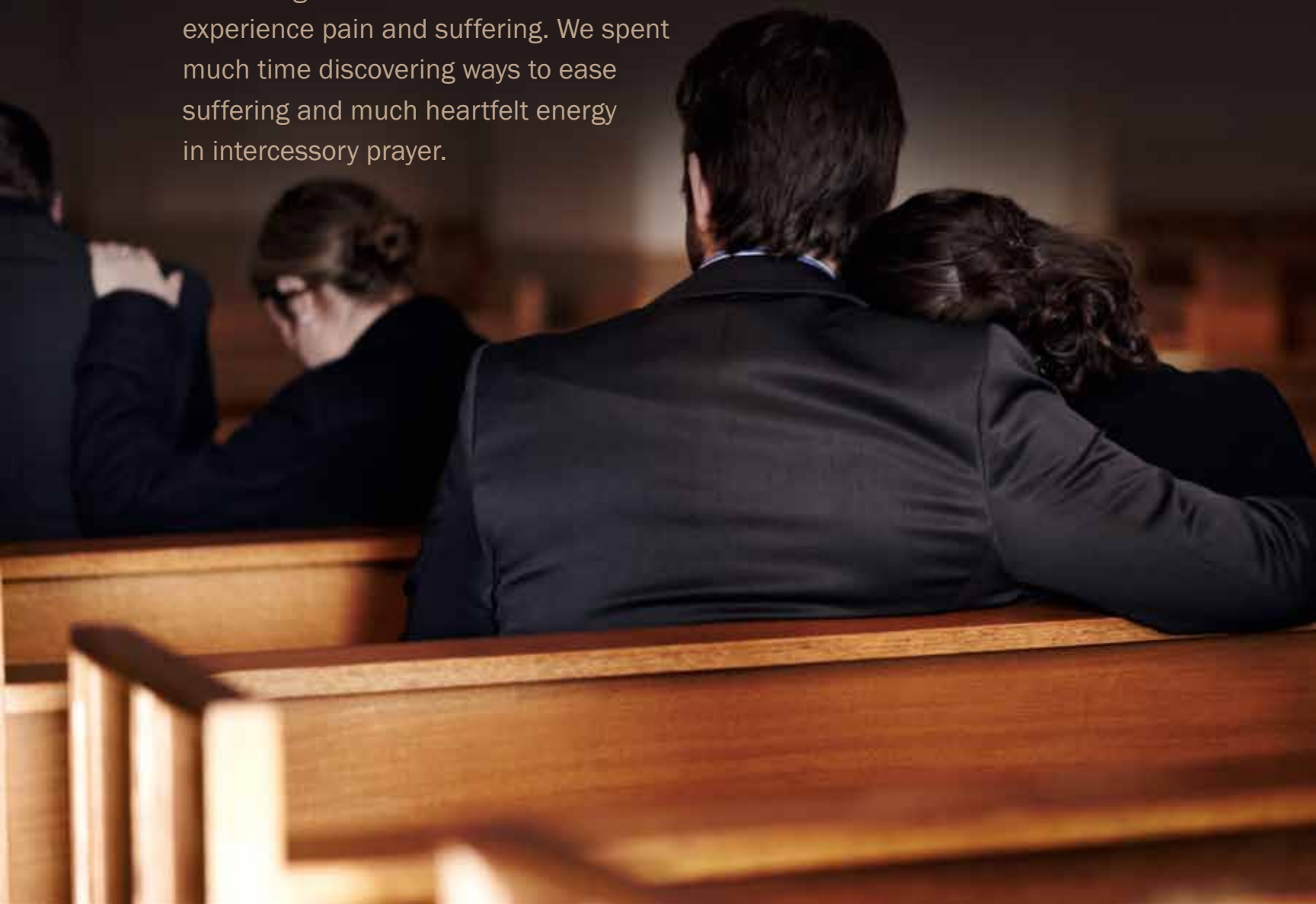
YOU BE THE JUDGE!




Dealing With LOSS

By Norma Jackson Goldman

As I write these words, I am wrestling with the reality of the death of someone very dear to me. In a single year, three people in my Bible study group were diagnosed with cancer; each died within a year. It was gut wrenching for our little flock to watch friends experience pain and suffering. We spent much time discovering ways to ease suffering and much heartfelt energy in intercessory prayer.





**While we cannot
always see or understand
God's purposes, we trust
Him, believing He is at work
on our behalf.**

As a lay leader, I struggled to keep the focus on the important work we had committed to, all the while paying careful attention to those with serious illnesses. Now, we face yet another serious diagnosis. At best, life is brief; the Psalmist tells us the number of our days is known only to God (Psalm 139:16).

Just this week, a pastor friend and I discussed the challenge of loss, and he told of performing services for three much-loved members of his church family, all young people, seemingly taken in the prime of life. He then made what might seem a curious statement to many. "It's been distracting," he said.

I knew instantly what he was experiencing. His is a vibrant church, bursting at the seams and experiencing the challenges of growth. Deeply committed to sharing the Good News of Jesus in a fast-growing suburb of a major city, his

team is reaching out to hundreds of unchurched families. Yet, he is compelled to carve out time to experience the pain of loss—his own, and that of his members. This is a critical function of the body of Christ and of a pastor who loves his people.

Jesus modeled this pain for us, and the first story that comes to mind is usually the death of His close friend Lazarus. We are amazed at His sorrow upon learning of Lazarus' death—deep, discernible mourning. Jesus didn't arrive in Bethany until Lazarus had been dead four days, as the Lord had been carrying out His own calling, teaching and preaching with an urgency only He understood.

Just as Jesus guided Mary and Martha through grief and loss, my pastor friend will guide his church family through the same process. He will

pause to grieve with them. He will encourage them to acknowledge the contributions of those who died; he will stand with them as they view life as the gift of God it truly is. He will acknowledge God's sovereignty in the giving and taking of life.

While we cannot always see or understand God's purposes, we trust Him, believing He is at work on our behalf. My friend will encourage his church to be strong in their faith as never before and to resume their lives with purpose and intentionality, knowing the harvest is plenteous, the laborers few, and time for work is short.

Following Christ's example, we pause to grieve and experience fully the pain of our losses. Strengthened by His comfort and the exercise of our faith, we then take up our work with renewed energy for there is much to do. We share the urgency that Jesus expressed as He said, "I must work the works of Him that sent me while it is day; the night cometh when no man can work" (John 9:4). God did not leave us without hope. Even in loss and grief we have the hope of Heaven, the hope of a time when there will be no pain, no loss and no grief.

Pause with me to pray that wise pastors, church leaders, and counselors will encourage all under their care to bear the burdens of loss with grace and return to the work at hand with renewed faith, trusting in the Lord of the harvest. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman enjoys a successful freelance writing career in her retirement. Learn more about the Board of Retirement at www.boardofretirement.com.

Thanks

to the *Oklahoma Women Active for Christ*, the *Missouri Woman Active for Christ*, and *James Beasley, Turbeville, SC*, for the donation to the Labor of Love Campaign. Learn more at www.boardofretirement.com.

WHY I'M GOING TO D6[®]

BY MARK PRICE

As I looked around the crowded ballroom, I saw men and women from different age groups, cultures, and countries. The event was nearly filled to capacity, and the energy was amazing! I quickly gathered that this group was diverse in respect to doctrinal statements and worship practices. But I also realized our commonalities far outshined our differences. Our presence together testified of our mission to reach men and women, boys and girls for the cause of Jesus Christ.

To be honest, I felt proud—not that I had anything at all to do with it—proud that Free Will Baptists were leading the way for quality events of this nature for family ministry. Of course, I am talking about the annual D6 Conference. I have attended two of these conferences and benefitted greatly from them as a pastor, husband, and dad. You should consider attending this year's conference for several reasons.

Unforgettable Experience

The dynamic of attending a conference of this nature is unparalleled. Church leaders and parents from every walk of life gather for one purpose—generational discipleship. This conference is founded on the biblical directive found in the *Shema* (Deuteronomy 6:4-7). This has always been God's plan for families.

The resources you will have available to you; from speakers who are experts in their respective fields, to books, DVDs, materials, and curriculum (all second, at best, to our own D6 curriculum) are abundant and affordable. Last year, I enjoyed the privilege of having lunch and discussing ministry with pastor and author Steve Stroop. With nearly 60 speakers, you will have opportunity to interact personally with some of them.

Renewal and Fellowship

As you hear about how the local church is the hope of the family, you realize all over again the significance of your place, and how you can make a generational difference for eternity. If there were opportunity to answer the call to ministry a second time, it would look like this.


The fellowship is uplifting. I don't know about you, but I find that ministry can become lonely at times. Being part

of a conference like this reminds you that you are not in the battle alone. You have opportunity to create new friendships and nurture existing ones.

Affordability and Location

Honestly, there are not many beneficial events that present themselves for such a modest price, and the location could not be better. In addition to a one-day event in Dallas, Texas, D6 will also be hosted in Louisville, Kentucky, this year (this will be the full-scale event). Louisville is within a reasonable drive for most of you.

I encourage you to stop "thinking about it" and register for D6. Today. Take some dads and moms who are volunteer leaders with you. You will be glad you did. Your church will be glad you did. And the families who are yet to be reached will be glad you did.

It is time the church gets back to helping and equipping dads and moms, and grandparents so they are able to disciple their children, grandchildren, and the generations that are coming after us. They need to hear about Jesus too. Dads and moms are counting on us to provide what they need to stand in the gap in their homes. Our churches will benefit greatly from whatever investment we make in family ministry. I hope to see you in Louisville! 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mark Price is pastor of Porter Free Will Baptist Church in Portsmouth, Ohio, and serves as moderator for the Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists.

LeaderProfile >>>>

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

Author's Note: One purpose of the Leader Profile column is to highlight leaders not normally recognized. Until now, I have never written about anyone currently employed by any national agency and do not plan on making it a habit, although many agency leaders meet the definition of a servant leader and would be worthy profiles.

People can lead without titles or positions. Often, leaders emerge from a series of life events. In Brandon's case, it started with a strong spiritual foundation as a pastor's kid in East Tennessee and Kentucky.

While at Welch College, Dr. Darrell Holley convinced Brandon to pursue a major in education and English. A benign question from Dr. Holley proved prophetic when he asked Brandon, "Do you ever see yourself in administration, helping other teachers and leaders?" That question never left Brandon's mind.

After graduation, Brandon went on to teach English, Bible, speech, creative writing, and coach both basketball and baseball for five and a half years at Pleasant View Christian School. During this time, Brandon completed his Masters in Educational Leadership. All these events, combined with a window of opportunity he was not seeking, landed him as director of events at Randall House, a newly-formed position.

God gave Brandon a passion for education and prepared him to be used in the education and spiritual formation of believers. He thinks "big picture" while analyzing small details. When asked what he hopes to bring to this position Brandon replied, "I want to help Randall House be a source of education and encouragement for ministry leaders and laymen by providing resources for personal growth as well as discipleship resources for churches and other ministry organizations."

In his role, Brandon will direct all events, including the National Youth Conference where over 4,000 people come together each July for worship, training, and service projects. Brandon will also help lead the D6 Conference, now located in both Dallas and Louisville. Brandon's educational background and leadership intersect well in a role designed for leading in generational discipleship.

Brandon, You are a great leader! ONE



Brandon Roysden

What's the ideal date for you and Beth? Beth and I share friendship as a foundation for our marriage. We enjoy dinner and exploring places where we can share moments interacting. Recently we visited Antique Archeology, the shop run by American Pickers here in Nashville.

What are you reading right now?
The Five Dysfunctions of the Team - Patrick Lencioni

Who is your favorite author? Robert Herrick (a poet)

How would others describe your leadership style?
They see me with high expectations of myself, and as someone who pushes and expects a lot from others, but works very hard alongside everyone else.

Why are you Free Will Baptist? I was born Free Will Baptist but grew to love our dedication, biblical scholarship, missional commitment, and emphasis on discipleship. We have the opportunity to display an example of God working through us collectively in more powerful ways than we can do individually.

Tell me your kids' names and a one-word descriptor for each.
Ethan (age 3 1/2) - Energetic/Kate (9 months) - Observant

What is your one indulgence? Dr. Pepper

Paper or Plastic Questions

- >> *Mountains or Ocean?* Mountains
- >> *Music or Talk Radio?* Talk Radio
- >> *Coke or Pepsi?* Dr. Pepper
- >> *Email or Texting?* Email
- >> *Mac or PC?* After a long explanation and trying to please his boss - Mac
- >> *Socks or house shoes?* Socks



DALLAS ONE DAY | SEPTEMBER 26, 2013
LOUISVILLE | OCTOBER 16-18, 2013

D6conference.com





TAMPA NYC OPPORTUNITIES

MINISTRY EXPO

Bible
Music
Creative Arts
Drama

REACH THAT GUY OPPORTUNITIES

Blood Drive
Painting
Landscaping
and many more . . .

WORKSHOPS

Hear from Eddie Moody, Tim Campbell, Tim York, Allen Pointer, Steve Greenwood, Garnett Reid, Tim Kimmel and others.

WORSHIP EXPERIENCES

Preschool
Children (grades 1-3)
456 (grades 4-6)
Teen

FWB21 PANEL DISCUSSION

“Homosexuality and the Church”

FUN

The Skit Guys
Networking
Exhibits
Kid's Crafts

HOW IN THE **WORLD** SHOULD WE **LIVE?**

77th National Association of Free Will Baptists | Tampa, Florida | July 21–24, 2013

The 2013 National Association will tackle the difficult question, "How should a Christian live in today's world?" The four-day event will feature worship services, business sessions, competitive activities, and seminars—all held in the Tampa Convention Center (TCC) situated along beautiful Tampa Bay, Florida. Enjoy fellowship with thousands of Free Will Baptists from across the nation and around the world as we conduct the business of the denomination.

2013 Preliminary Schedule

Saturday, July 20

IMPACT Tampa
TCC
8:00 am
Registration Opens
3:00 pm – 6:00 pm
TCC East Registration

Sunday, July 21

Registration (Open Daily)
8:00 am – 7:00 pm
TCC East Registration
Sunday School*
10:00 am – 10:45 am
TCC East Hall
Morning Worship*
11:00 am – Noon
TCC East Hall
Evening Worship*
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
TCC East Hall
WNAC Executive Committee Meeting
3:00 pm
Marriott Hotel
NYC Judges Reception
9:00 pm
Embassy Suites
*See NYC Program for Youth

Monday, July 22

General Board Meeting
8:00 am
Marriott Hotel
Grand Ballroom A–E

Reach That Guy Service Projects

Monday-Wednesday
8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Various Locations

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

Convention Seminars
9:00 pm – 4:00 pm
TCC Various Locations

Theological Trends Seminar
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm
Marriott Hotel
Grand Ballroom A–E

Exhibits Open
3:00 pm – 10:00 pm
TCC Central Hall

Mission: North America
Appreciation Dinner
5:15 pm – 6:30 pm
Embassy Suites

Evening Worship
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
TCC East Hall

FWB21 Panel
9:00 pm
TCC 10-12

Youth Evangelistic Team Program
9:00 pm
TCC Ballrooms BCD

Tuesday, July 23

WNAC Business Session
8:00 am
Marriott Hotel
Grand Ballroom A–E

NYC Competitive Activities

8:30 am – 4:30 pm
TCC Various Locations

Convention Seminars
9:00 pm – 4:00 pm
TCC Various Locations

WNAC Worship Service
9:45 am
Marriott Hotel
Grand Ballroom A–E

Preaching Conference
10:00 am – 11:45 am
TCC East Hall

Exhibits Open
10:00 am – 10:00 pm
TCC Central Hall

WNAC Seminars
11:15 am
Marriott Hotel

WNAC Luncheon
12:30 pm
Marriott Hotel
Grand Ballroom F–J

WNAC Seminars
2:15 pm
Marriott Hotel

Convention Business Session
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
TCC East Hall

Evening Worship
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
TCC East Hall

The Skit Guys
9:00 pm
TCC Ballrooms BCD

Wednesday, July 24

NYC Competition Finals
8:00 am – 12:00 pm
TCC Various Locations

Convention Business Session
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
TCC East Hall

Convention Seminars
9:00 pm – 4:00 pm
TCC Various Locations

RTG/Red Cross Blood Drive
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
TCC 18-19

Exhibits Open
10:00 am – 9:30 pm
TCC Central Hall

Welch College Alumni
& Friends Luncheon
Noon – 1:30 pm
Marriott Hotel
Grand Ballroom F–J

Evening Worship
6:45 pm – 8:45 pm
TCC East Hall

NYC Awards Ceremony
9:00 pm – 11:00 pm
TCC East Hall

Convention Speakers



Tim Owen
(Florida)
Sunday School



Randy Riggs
(Tennessee)
Sunday Morning



Donnie Miles
(South Carolina)
Sunday Evening



Will Beauchamp
(Florida)
Monday Evening



Larry Clyatt
(Florida)
Tuesday Night



Larry Powell
(Tennessee)
Wednesday Night



Oral McAfee
(Canada)
Tuesday Preaching
Conference



Tim Stout
(Ohio)
Tuesday Preaching
Conference

Theme: "How in the World Should We Live?"

Theme Verse: "Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lust, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:12).

Sunday Morning: "How in the World Should We Live?—Peaceably" (Romans 12:17-21).

Sunday Evening: "How in the World Should We Live?—In the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-25).

Monday Evening: "How in the World Should We Live?—Godly" (Titus 2:11-14).

Tuesday Evening: "How in the World Should We Live?—By Every Word of God" (Luke 4:1-4).

Wednesday Evening: "How in the World Should We Live?—By Faith" (Romans 1:16-18).

Arrive Early

Convention-goers are encouraged to arrive at the convention a day early to participate in Impact Tampa on Saturday, July 20. The annual, one-day campaign gives back to the convention city through kindness evangelism. Sign up for Impact at www.fwbmastersmen.org by June 17 to receive an Impact T-shirt. Learn more about this year of Impact on page 50. **ONE**



Convention Music Update

The 2013 Convention Orchestra needs instrumentalists to sign up as soon as possible, according to the Music Commission. "We invite anyone (age 13+) to participate in the orchestra in Tampa this July." 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 the evening service on the main stage of the Tampa Convention Center Main Hall. Anyone who wishes to join the convention orchestra should contact the commission at music@nafwb.org or on Facebook: [facebook.com/fwbmusiccommission](https://www.facebook.com/fwbmusiccommission).



Brace for Impact!

Impact Tampa | July 20, 2013 | Tampa, Florida

Over the seven-year history of the program, nearly 2,500 Free Will Baptists have participated in the one-day outreach program called Impact.

Held on the Saturday preceding the national convention, the program gives convention-goers an opportunity to serve the host city through door-to-door evangelism, service projects, community outreach events, and more.

This year, Impact turns its focus to sunny Tampa, Florida, where three sites have been chosen:

The first is nearby Camp Eagle, where several important projects await volunteers:

- Two above ground pools must be disassembled for off-season storage.
- Playground equipment needs painting along with other general maintenance.
- The basketball court will be painted and striped in a covered area.
- A privacy fence will be constructed around the camp dumpster.
- Broken window blinds will be replaced.

Volunteers can also donate their time at Greater Vision Free Will Baptist Church in Haines City, Florida, where they will paint walls and baseboards following recent water damage to the facility. Others will canvass the neighborhoods around the church to distribute information about the church and share the gospel as opportunities arise.

The third opportunity is information distribution at Christian Home FWB Church in Bartow, Florida. Participants will canvass the area, distributing information about the church in an effort to reach more people in the area.

Please visit www.fwbmastersmen.org for more information and to register for the location you choose. Everyone who registers before June 17 will receive a free Impact Tampa t-shirt. (There is a registration form to sign up church groups as well as individuals, making this year's registration process much less difficult.)

Volunteers will meet on the front steps of Tampa Convention Center at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, July 20. They will receive instructions, be included in a group picture, and travel in busses provided by First Free Will Baptist Church of Seffner, Florida.

Teams should arrive at the various Impact Tampa locations by 9:30 a.m., where they will work for three hours with lunch provided by the local church and camp. After lunch and cleanup, the busses will return to the convention center by 3:00 p.m.

Addresses are available at www.fwbmastersmen.org for those who wish to meet the groups onsite.

What is Impact?

Eight Years

Eight Cities

- 2006 - Birmingham, AL
- 2007 - Little Rock, AR
- 2008 - Charleston, WV
- 2009 - Cincinnati, OH
- 2010 - Oklahoma City, OK
- 2011 - Charlotte, NC
- 2012 - Memphis, TN
- 2013 - Tampa, FL

2,425 Volunteers

Thousands of lives affected

Many salvation decisions



Do **YOU** want to make an **Impact?**

Pre-Registration

National Association of Free Will Baptists

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

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

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

National Association

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

Voting Delegates:

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

Non-Voting:

- Licensed Minister
- Attendee (includes infants and toddlers)

Tickets:

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

National Association Information: www.nafwb.org

National Youth Conference

Preschool:

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

Students: \$25

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

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

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

College Age / Adults: \$15

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

- Adult Attendee (No students or children)

Tickets:

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

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

Women Nationally Active for Christ

Voting Delegates:

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

Non-Voting:

- Missionary
- Attendee

Tickets:

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

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

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

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

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

Card # _____
 Card Holder _____ Exp ____/____

RETURN TO:

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

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

He Knows My Name

Throughout His time on earth, Jesus interacted with women.

MOTHERS. DAUGHTERS. SISTERS. FRIENDS.

He knew them. He valued them. He called them by name.

He still values women today. He knows my name.

Join hundreds of women, Tuesday, July 23, in Tampa, Florida, for the 2013 WNAC Convention. The day will include a morning worship service, a variety of breakout sessions, a luncheon presentation, as well as WNAC's annual business meeting. Scheduled breaks between each segment allow women (often involved in NYC activities) freedom to attend individual sessions as they are able. The schedule also includes a Monday evening bonus event. Laughter and Latte offers women plenty of chocolate, coffee and conversation. Targeted for women of all ages, this year's convention includes a slate of multigenerational speakers.



Lydie Teague (morning worship) is a native of France. Saved under the ministry of FWBIM missionary Jerry Gibbs, she met and married MK Joel Teague. God led this talented couple (a lawyer and a computer programmer) to quit their secular jobs and work with FWBIM, focusing on French discipleship ministries. Lydie currently juggles home and ministry roles as the mother of a toddler and a newborn.



Lynette Morgan (luncheon) grew up in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, where her parents, Dr. and Mrs. LaVerne Miley, served as FWB missionaries. Later, she and her husband Clint returned to CI as FWBIM missionaries, serving there for over 26 years. God broadened their ministry borders and allowed them to develop and work in creative access ministries and The Hanna Project. Clint now serves as General Director of FWBIM. Lynette's roles include mother, grandmother, nurse, writer, and speaker, but she is best known to many as an intercessor, a listener, and a trusted friend.



Lorene Miley, (luncheon) a native of Illinois, attended Bible School in Tennessee where she married her classmate sweetheart from Missouri, LaVerne D. Miley. He became a doctor and they ministered in Africa for many years. Mrs. Miley has been involved in WAC all her adult life, either as an officer, writer, or editor. She resides in Nashville, Tennessee, and enjoys her three children, 11 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. Lorene has always enjoyed quilting, but now she does it for Jesus.

Other session leaders include Ashley Bennett, Lea Edgmon, Heather Goodman, Sarah Malone, and Sarah Sargent, as well as WNAC staff and executive committee members.

The Tampa Marriott Waterside serves as host site for the one-day event.

The convention is free and sessions are open to all women.

Voting delegates pay a \$10 fee at registration. Meal functions are ticketed events.

Purchase tickets online through nafwb.org or by calling 1-877-767-7662.

Laughter and Latte (\$15) WNAC Luncheon (\$30).

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 8:00 **My Name is Accountable**
WNAC's annual business session
- 9:15 Break
- 9:45 **My Name is Disciple**
Worship service with missionary speaker Lydie Teague of France
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 Morning Breakout Sessions
- My Name is More**
Lea Edgmon (Spain), Heather Goodman and Ashley Bennett (Marana Project, Arizona) share ways women can help missionaries beyond just dollars and cents.
- My Name is Solo**
Sarah Sargent (Ohio) and Sarah Malone (Asia) explore life challenges and unique ministry opportunities for women as single adults.
- My Name is Possibility**
Elizabeth Hodges presides in this WAC leaders' roundtable discussion of future WNAC opportunities.
- 12:15 Break
- 12:30 **My Name is Blessed**
WNAC Luncheon features mother-daughter duo, Lorene Miley and Lynette Morgan, as they present, "We Will Remember." Tickets: \$30.
- 2:15 Afternoon Breakout Sessions
- My Name is More** (repeated)
- My Name is Solo** (repeated)
- My Name is Image**
How does a WAC group consistently support missions-related causes without being labeled a perpetual fundraising organization? Bring your thoughts and ideas to this interactive session led by Sarah Fletcher.
- 3:30 **My Name is Reflection**
State presidents and field workers join with the WNAC Executive Committee to reflect upon and evaluate the annual convention.

The 2013 Convention theme introduces the upcoming year's focus for WNAC literature and programming. "He Knows My Name," a year-long series of biblical character studies, will highlight Christ's interaction with individual women and explore similar ways He values women today.

News About the Denomination

Hillsdale Graduation Rate Third Highest in Oklahoma

Moore, OK—The graduation rate of 62.2% at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College is one of the top rates of any college or university in Oklahoma, as verified by the White House College Scorecard: www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/higher-education/college-score-card

Hillsdale President, Dr. Timothy Eaton, notes the graduation rate is remarkable because many students who enroll at Hillsdale are the first in their families to attend college. “I think it proves the power of a campus whose students are valued and engaged.”

Thirteen Oklahoma public universities averaged 34.1% graduation rates, and 11 private colleges and universities averaged 42.7%. The top five include: University of Tulsa (67.8%), University of Oklahoma (66.9%), Hillsdale (62.2%), Oklahoma State University (61.8%), and Oklahoma City University (60.1%).

Learn more about the college’s institutional profile at: <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>. Type the word *Hillsdale* in the space titled Name of School and click on Hillsdale in Moore, Oklahoma. The link will open a detailed profile for the college. ■

Foundation Offers Estate Planning Seminars

Antioch, TN—The Free Will Baptist Foundation has partnered with Cornerstone Estate Planning to offer seminars to help Free Will Baptists put their estates in order. The one-hour seminars are available to churches upon request. They offer much more than information, with local attorneys ready to help attendees formulate all necessary documents. To learn more, contact the Foundation at 877-336-7575 or visit www.FWBGifts.org. ■

Free Will Baptist Publications Honored by EPA

NASHVILLE, TN—Both *ONE Magazine* and Randall House Publications were honored at the 2013 Evangelical Press Association (EPA) convention in Nashville, Tennessee, May 1-3.

Several publications from Randall House received Awards of Excellence. *Adventure Guide* won the Award of Excellence in the Youth category, along with Awards of Merit for *Direction* and *Explorer’s Guide*. *The Brink* and *Fusion* magazines also received Awards of Merit in the Devotional Magazine category.

In the Higher Goals division, *Explorer’s Guide* won third place in Publication Design, and *Forward* magazine, a devotional publication for high school teens, won fourth place in Fiction for “The Choice,” an article by Marilyn J. Chase.

ONE Magazine won awards in three categories: second place in

Biblical Exposition, for the article “Paulitics” by Eric K. Thomsen; Fourth Place in Editorial for First Glimpse; and third place in the Devotional Article category for, “Unexpected Treasure.”

The contest honors the best work by EPA publications during the 2012 calendar year and includes a wide variety of Christian publishers, from Compassion International to Focus on the Family, *Christianity Today*, and various LifeWay publications among many others.

Eric Thomsen, managing editor of *ONE Magazine*, notes, “It was encouraging to see Free Will Baptist publications receive high scores across the board. Peers in the publishing industry recognized the hard work and dedication of writers and editors, designers and production staff.” ■

Foundation Sets Rates

Antioch, TN—The Free Will Baptist Foundation recently announced that interest rates on their Money Management Trusts will continue at 2.75% through December 2013, in spite of recent market volatility.

Director David Brown explains, “The Federal Reserve continues to hold interest rates near 0%, and this impacts the rates we can offer. We expect the Foundation’s current rate to continue for per-

haps another year until the Fed begins to raise rates again. We are pleased to offer rates that are competitive, if not higher than most similar investment opportunities.”

Money Management Trusts are easily accessible, and do not require a set investment period, with earnings based on an average daily balance. To learn more, contact the Foundation at 877-336-7575 or visit www.FWBGifts.org. ■

Photo: Mark Cowart



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

One to ONE >>>>

A Salute to a Good Soldier

I was ordained to the ministry on Sunday evening, January 12, 1975. The five members of my ordaining council were men who had a profound impact on my life. My father-in-law was the chairman of the council and delivered the charge to preach. My pastor of 17 years preached the ordination message. I still remember his text—2 Corinthians 10:12-18.

The third signature on my certificate of ordination was that of my father. He was an ordained Free Will Baptist deacon. The fourth

council member was the president of the Christian college I was attending at the time. The fifth member of this select group led in the prayer of ordination and the “laying on of hands.”

Although this happened more than 38 years ago I still have vivid memories of that night when I was set apart to the gospel ministry. Since that time, four members of my ordaining council have gone home to be with the Lord. Only one remains, Rev. Ray Gwartney (age 91).

Brother Ray gave me my first full-time ministry opportunity when I served as his youth and music minister. Though I only served on his staff for a couple of years, I gained invaluable experience while ministering alongside him. He taught me through his example how to love God and love people. He was conscientious, a man of integrity and high moral character. He and his wife Billye were more than mentors for my wife and me. They remain some of our dearest friends to this day.

Earlier this year I became aware of an event to honor this special man. He, along with 84 other veterans, was honored for military service. A “send off” rally was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, April 16, 2013. These American heroes were introduced individually and recognized for their service to our country. It stirred the emotions and spirit of patriotism in those of us who attended.

The following day, these former soldiers were flown to the nation’s capital to visit various memorials in the Washington, D.C. area. It was a well deserved “honors flight” for those who fought valiantly for our freedom. They truly represent the greatest generation.

Corporal Gwartney faithfully served as a soldier in the United States Army and received the applause of family and friends on April 16th. However, that experience will pale in comparison to the commendation he will receive one day when he stands before our divine Commander-in-Chief. Thank you, Brother Ray, for your willingness to “endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Timothy 2:3). **ONE**



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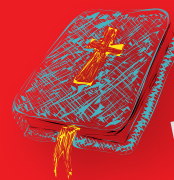
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