

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

ONE MAGAZINE

A Free Will Baptist Magazine

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**Learning Not
to Lean**

PRAISE GOD
FOR LAYMEN

**OVERDRIVE,
OVERLOAD,
OVERWORK**

From Learner
to Leader

•••

Looking for Leaders

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FREE WILL BAPTISTS A
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ROLE IN THE EXTENSION
OF GOD'S KINGDOM.

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FirstGlimpse >>

SHE'S PLAYING MY SONG

“Am I really making a difference?”

Most of us have asked ourselves this question at one time or another, especially when it comes to volunteering at church. After all, cleaning toilets, herding rambunctious children, weeding flowerbeds, making coffee, handing out bulletins, or mowing the church lawn is hardly glamorous. It's just work...hard work. But it is also important work, and small tasks eventually add up to make a big difference.

Just ask Jane Bradley.

Since 1960, her proficient fingers have graced the organ keys at Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church in Ashland City, Tennessee—more than 22,000 songs spread over 5,500 worship services. And she's not done yet! Though “retired,” she continues to contribute her poignant refrains two Sundays each month. She is quick to downplay the importance of her role, however. “Honey, we all just work together to get things done. That's the way it is supposed to be at church.”

She's right. But not everyone sees it that way.

Jane's faithful service has given her opportunities beyond the walls of the church. She has played for 1,155 funeral services (since she started keeping records in 1975), for more than 100 weddings, and for countless other occasions from choir and youth choir practices and performances to community sunrise services, and revivals.

“It's a wonder my fingers haven't gone numb,” she quips.

She's right again. The figures are staggering: 22,000 songs played for worship; 17,325 for funerals; and more than 2,500 at weddings. I had to use a calculator to come up with the total of 41,825 songs...and that's a conservative estimate.

Jane's example provides three important reminders about serving God and the church:

- **Small things matter.** Old Testament prophet Zechariah urged the Hebrew exiles not to “despise the day of small things” when they returned from captivity to face the enormous task of rebuilding their homeland. One step at a time. Good advice for us as well! Embrace small things like working in the church nursery or visiting the homebound. Learn to enjoy the mundane. Like the young lad with five loaves and two fish, offer God the ordinary. He will give the increase, and who knows what difference your small efforts will make in eternity?
- **It takes all kinds.** In Jane's case, it is talented fingers and a musical mind. For you, it may be teaching skills, a strong back, or attention to detail. You can be sure that God has uniquely equipped you to serve the church. Find your niche and get busy. The rest of us are counting on you.
- **Give it time.** Many new church volunteers get discouraged when they don't see immediate results. Don't get bogged down. Take it one song, one class, one brick at a time, and rest in God's promise that His Word will never “return void” (Isaiah 55:11).

Jane Bradley may downplay the importance of her work, but as the music minister who enjoyed her melodies for more than 20 years, I can tell you firsthand, she was *always* playing my song. ☐

ERIC THOMSEN, MANAGING EDITOR

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Letters:

Have something to say? Say it!

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

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

I want to thank Free Will Baptist Family Ministries for taking a stand. Thank you for “Declining the Duck Commander” (April-May 2014, page 34). It does make a difference how the world sees us. We are to love and be a light. But we also have to make a stand, and we do it with our choices. Christians can’t be jellyfish swaying in the tide of culture. Thanks for not being a jellyfish.

—Rebecca Manus, Greenbriar, Arkansas

Enjoy the new design format and the change to “A Free Will Baptist Magazine.” Especially enjoyed Keith Burden’s piece, “Witnessing in Spite of Ourselves” (One to One, April-May 2014). We are blessed to have a leader such as Brother Burden who is so humble and gives us hope that as we witness to others, realizing we are imperfect, God will take up the slack.

—Doug Spillman, Flatwoods, Kentucky

Congratulations on the new and improved content and layout of ONE Magazine. An excellent job! Thanks for your efforts.

—Billy A. Melvin, Englewood, Florida

We goofed! *ONE Magazine* failed to credit photographer Dock Hoilman for his splendid work in the “Hope for Bulgaria” feature section of the April-May issue. Learn more about Dock and his work in Bulgaria at: <http://dock.blogspot.com>.



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Praise God for
LAYMEN
By
Allen
Hall

After combining the definitions in Webster’s dictionary, a layman is essentially “a person who serves in the church but is not a pastor or minister.” Because I answered God’s call at age 16, ministry is all I have ever known. At times I have worked a secular job, but even then, I served in a ministerial capacity. So, honestly, I have never been a layman, but I have known some great ones.

My first pastorate was a small, but growing, country church. From time to time, I recall how loving and forgiving those folks were toward their young preacher. When I go back and read some of the sermons preached during those years, I am thankful for their amazing patience and understanding. One of those dear people was a layman named Dallas. On a number of occasions,

after the service, he would quietly ask, “Preacher, that was a good message, but did you mean to say . . .?” He never did this in an arrogant or hurtful manner, but in a constructive and helpful way. He was my friend, and I knew it.

I think of another layman named Doug with whom I worked in youth ministry. Doug always reminded me of Mr. Whitaker from the *Adventures in Odyssey*

stories for children. Not only did he favor the character “Whit,” but he also possessed the same likeable and caring qualities. Whether teaching a Bible lesson or telling one of the stories he had written, Doug made the characters come alive. It was amazing to see children hang on his every word. He was the one the children trusted. He was their leader.

When the church hired me to be the

youth pastor, I was concerned how Doug would view my role. I will never forget the conversation we had not long after my arrival. As he showed me materials he had used in the past, he simply said, “I want you to know that I am in full support of your being here. I don’t want to be a hindrance. I want to be a help in any way I can.”

I appreciated his humility and willingness to take on a supportive role to a younger, less experienced youth leader. I have never worked with anyone more talented or enjoyable than Doug.

I think of those who always had a kind and encouraging word for me, those who say, “Pastor, I’ll help out in any way I can.” I am grateful to those who get to church before anyone else to unlock the doors and make sure the temperature is just right. I don’t know what we would do without those who usher and count

the offering, regulate the sound for each service, and stand guard during the services to keep everyone safe. I think of teachers, the volunteers who work

get the accolades, credit, and appreciation they deserve. Often, they work quietly behind the scenes, and others are not even aware of the many things they

Although their faces may not be at the forefront, their fingerprints are everywhere.

with children, those who faithfully visit the sick, and those who bring others to church week after week. This list could go on and on, describing these countless “behind the scenes” servants.

I have had the privilege of knowing many great laymen in churches where I ministered over the years. I have heard of many more from other pastors who sang their praises and expressed their thanks for them. I am sure you could recount many faithful laymen you have known.

Many times, faithful workers do not

do to help the church go forward. Although their faces may not be at the forefront, their fingerprints are everywhere. They are the cheerleaders, the encouragers, the “go-to guys,” the handymen, the prayer warriors, the faithful ones, those who have the pastor’s back, and the friends there to help in time of need.

Praise the Lord for laymen and women! Praise Him for those who believe and practice 1 Corinthians 3:9: “For we are laborers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.” **ONE**

About the Writer: Allen and Jenny Hall (and their children Allison and Joshua) moved to York, Pennsylvania, in October 2006, to plant Good News Free Will Baptist Church. Learn more at www.goodnewsfwbchurch.org.

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Meet

One Free Will Baptist couple shares a firsthand account of life and ministry in a mission church.

MIKE

By Mike Sitter



I am one of the founding members of Turning Point Free Will Baptist Church, along with my wife Shane, and children Hunter (age 14) and Caroline (age 10). For a few moments, I would like to share the exciting things happening in our new congregation... from a member's standpoint.

My family has worked closely with Pastor Barry and Turning Point since the church started three years ago. Hunter and I help each week with setup and teardown, and I split audio-visual responsibilities with another member of the church. We are active in community and fundraising events, including the annual Hydrate Kids Camp, which attracts anywhere from 50 to 100 children from local neighborhoods. We also sponsor a "Reverse Trick or Treat" around Halloween, handing out bags (with our church logo) that contain flashlights, glow sticks, and other items to promote children's safety.

During the time Turning Point has been in this community, I have seen the church grow and mature. Barry has worked hard to make the middle school cafeteria look more inviting. We

recently added tall, black drapery to surround the worship area and make the space look smaller. Each Sunday, a different family is responsible for breakfast treats, which brings church members in just a little early to grab something to eat, talk with their neighbors, and feel welcomed by the church.

We have maintained a core group of worshipers, with additional guests and visitors each week. Pastor Barry's sermons are the primary reason we have maintained a solid core. He makes Scripture relevant and personal for each and every member.

Worship music continues to be refined. Barry's son Austin has done a great job with the music service and leads the band in addition to providing lead vocals. He is busy recruiting additional band members from outside the core group. I am impressed at the leadership role Austin has taken at Turning Point.

We average 15-20 guests each week, and I am confident our numbers will grow. We are considering a new meeting place close enough to maintain our current congregation, but to potentially reach new members in different neighborhoods. More important than the number of guests we see, however, is the quality of our time each Sunday and the impact Turning Point has made on my family and our neighborhood. From the outset, Barry made it clear this church should influence our community, and we are succeeding in small but meaningful ways.

I have watched my son Hunter grow from a difficult and stubborn 13-year-old to a young man who accepts responsibility for himself, his academics, and his athletics. I never have to wake him up early on Sunday morning to help me set up for church; he is always ready to go. Barry has been an important mentor to

Hunter, giving him a sounding board and wise counsel to guide him through the transition from adolescence into adulthood.

My daughter Caroline has matured into a young girl who is attentive and always looking for ways to make Barry's sermons real in her own life. She is kind to others, respectful of adults, and diligent in her schoolwork and activities.

I have seen marked changes beyond my family as well. Austin, one of Hunter's classmates, is the youngest of three and a big challenge in terms of behavior. Over the past couple of months, though, I have noticed a change in Austin. He is less rambunctious, says please and thank you more often, and treats Hunter and other classmates with respect. Austin has been coming to our service on Sunday by himself, walking 15 minutes from his house to the middle school to attend worship.

Like most churches in the early stages, we wish we had more regular members. But we are grateful for those we do have, and I deeply appreciate what Barry, Jessica, and the entire Long family have done for our family and neighborhood. **ONE**

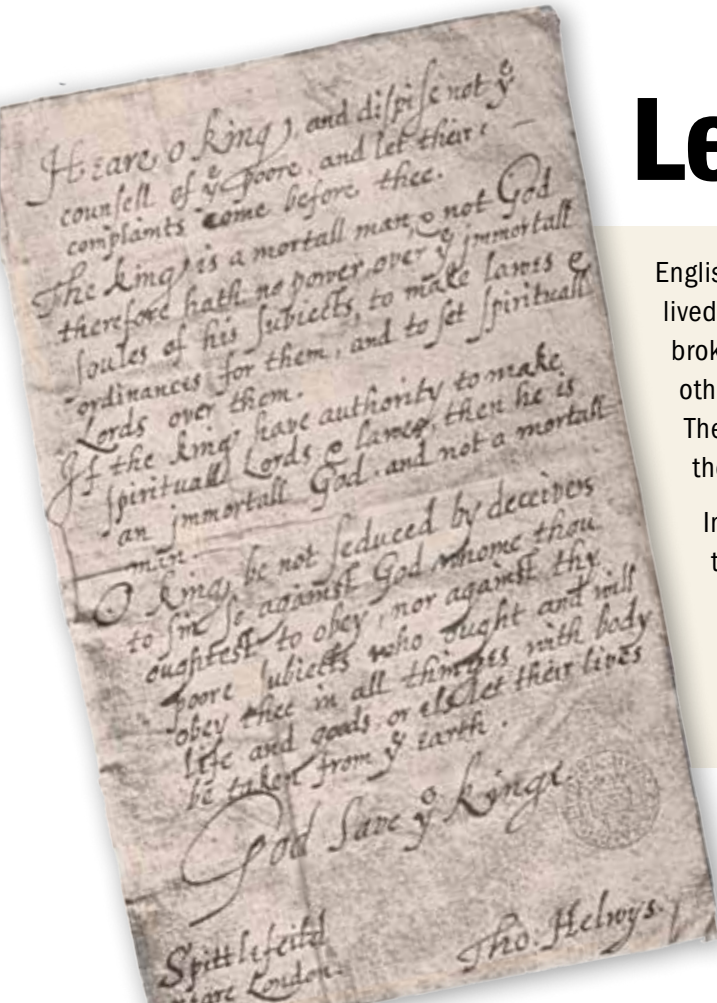
Home Missionaries Barry and Jessica Long are planting Turning Point Free Will Baptist Church in Aurora, Colorado. Learn more at: www.turningpointfwb.com.

Meet Shane

Hi! My name is Shane, and I am Mike's wife. I grew up in a Baptist church but drifted away as an adult. With two children, Mike and I realized the importance of church involvement, but we kept putting it off. Every time my mother called to check on her grandkids and me, she always ended the conversation with, "I sure am praying that y'all find a church."

Three years ago, the Long family moved into a home around the corner from us. They invited us to attend a weekly Bible study in their home. We took the opportunity, and, as a family, got involved again in learning about God and the teachings of Christ. Three years later, we are helping Barry and Jessica grow a church in our community!

As a family, we have grown in our faith, and the kids are learning what it means to live a life in Christ. I recently called Pastor Barry and shared a phone conversation I had with my mom. She told me that after all these years her prayers had finally been answered. The influence of Turning Point Church has helped us grow closer as a family and has helped Mike and me deal with the everyday challenges of raising children in today's world.



Legacy of Courage...

English gentleman, attorney, and theologian **Thomas Helwys (1575-1616)**, lived in Nottingham, England, in the 17th century. When his Separatist church broke away from the Church of England over corruption and theology, he and other church leaders quickly found themselves in hot water with authorities. They fled to Amsterdam in 1608 so they could worship freely. In Amsterdam, they were introduced to Baptist theology and soon formed a Baptist church.

In spite of the danger, Helwys and 12 followers returned to England in 1612 to start the first English Baptist church. He wrote an appeal (pictured) to King James I, urging him to give his subjects "liberty of conscience." As a result, Helwys was arrested and died in prison in 1616 at age 40. But his legacy of courage continues today in many Baptist groups (including Free Will Baptists) that were deeply influenced by his example and theology.

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Looking for (Servant) LEADERS

BY DAVID SEXTON

“I want to get involved. Where can I serve? What can I do to help?”

These are words every pastor and church planter love to hear. One of the greatest needs of every church is to develop Christian leaders. John Piper defines spiritual leadership as “knowing where God wants people to be and taking the initiative to use God’s methods to get them there in reliance on God’s power.”

He went on to write, “Spiritual leadership is aimed, not so much at directing people as it is at changing people. If we would be the kind of leaders we ought to be, we must make it our aim to develop persons rather than dictate plans. You can get people to do what you want, but if they don’t change in their heart, you have not led them spiritually. You have not taken them to where God wants them to be.”

What kind of leaders do we need in our churches?

VISIONARY LEADERS. It is important to build leaders who have a clear vision of what God wants to do. Vision is essential to leadership. How does a person develop vision? In 1 Samuel 17:29, David said, “What have I now done? Is there not a cause?” He understood that God’s command had become his cause.

Vision grows out of a strong passion for the cause that has captured heart and mind. The problem in many churches today is that people do not have a driving passion to do what God wants them

to do—to bring others to know Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Nearly everything a leader does hinges on the type of vision he has. If his vision is small, so will be his results and his followers. Winston Churchill once said, “If you are doing big things, you attract big men. If you are doing little things, you attract little men. Little men usually cause trouble.” Too often people limit their own potential. They think small. They are afraid of taking a risk. Scottish scientist and evangelist Henry Drummond once said, “Unless a man undertakes more than he possibly can do, he will never do all he can do.”



LEADERS WITH CHARACTER.

Character is what you are in the dark when nobody is watching. Today, the Church needs leaders who are trustworthy, who are self-starters and not lazy. A self-starter gets things going in three ways:

Vision – *He sees what needs to be done.*

Enthusiasm – *He wants to do it with passion and conviction.*

Selflessness – *He takes the first step to get it done.*

HUMBLE LEADERS. We also need leaders with true humility that lead not only by example but also by service. The greatest example of servant leadership is the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 20:26-28). A true servant leader looks to give, not to get. Humble leadership is not

“self-serving” but “selfless service.” Humble leaders are motivated by their love for people, not their desire to be great.

How do we build leaders in our churches?

Leaders are made, not born. When developing leaders, we cannot drive them; we must lead them. And we can only lead someone as far as we have gone ourselves.

We must be willing to pay the price of fatigue to build leaders. It takes time, energy, prayer, and hard work to build solid, spiritual leaders. A church can do many things to help build leaders, whether through teaching leadership classes or one-on-one mentorship.

At CrossPointe, we recently implemented the Lay Shepherd Program,

which develops solid, spiritual leaders into “Lay Shepherds.” Each Lay Shepherd helps disciple and mentor several families or individuals. Everyone at CrossPointe, including visitors, is assigned to one of these leaders. The leaders are, in turn, responsible to make sure those families attend church faithfully by calling or visiting them if they miss two Sundays in a row. They keep up with their spiritual and physical needs and partner with them for prayer and accountability.

This ministry will help us to make sure that nobody “falls through the cracks” as long as these leaders fulfill their responsibilities. Remember, for every man or woman who has the ability to lead, there are a thousand men and women waiting to be led. **ONE**

About the Writer: David Sexton is a home missionary planting a church in Suffolk, Virginia. Learn more at <http://crosspointesuffolk.com>.

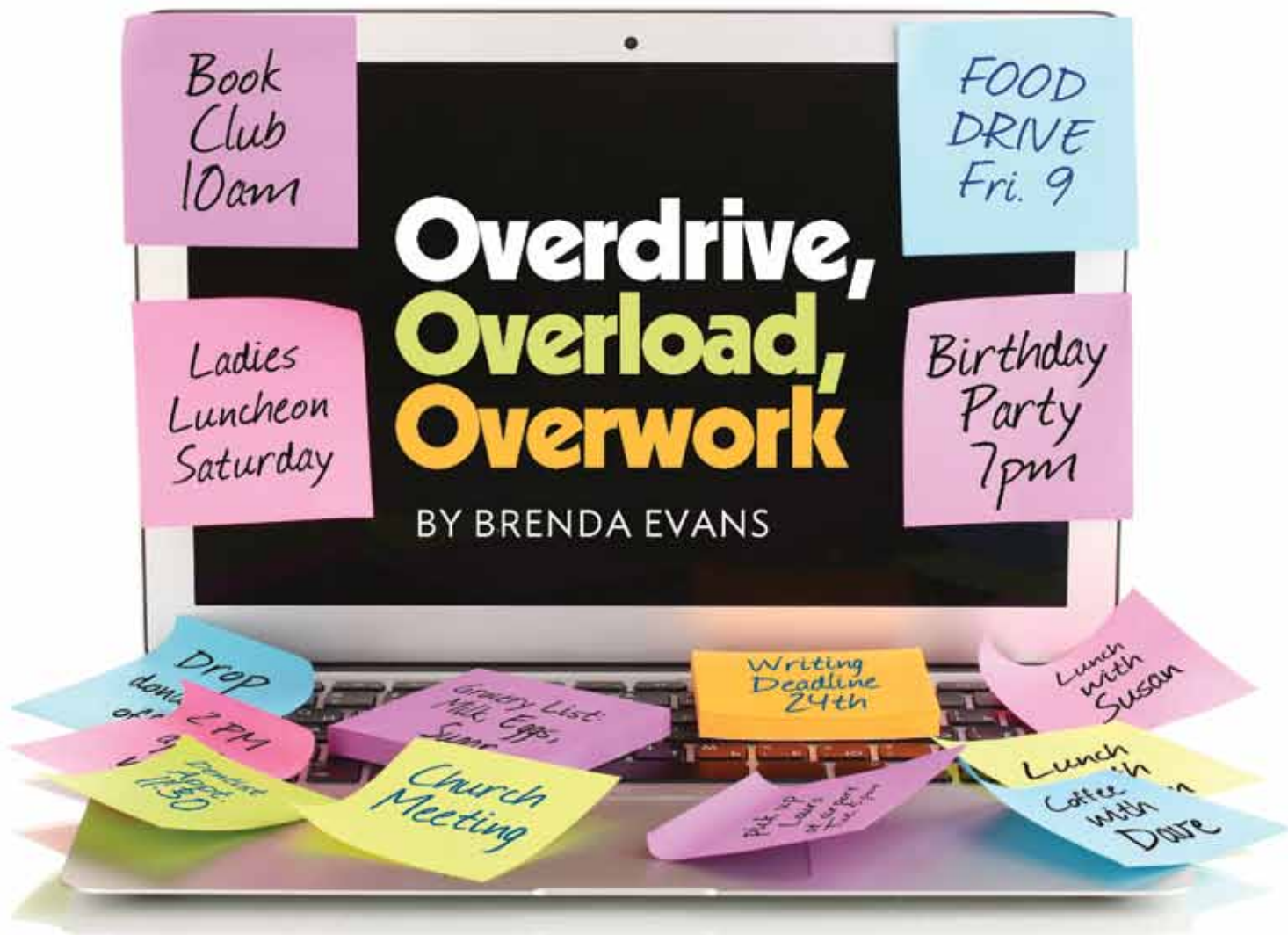
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"ARE YOU OKAY?"

my friend Crystal asked.
"You've looked unhappy
for a couple of weeks.
Is something wrong?"

I avoided the question, of course, said I was fine, hemmed a little about this, hawed a little about that, and finally admitted the truth. "My brain's a muddle, Crystal. Too many things on my agenda," I said.

Agenda. Our elevated word for a plain old to-do list. I use it all the time. A lot of us do. Agenda raises our busyness to importance, I suppose. Then I told Crystal my crazy to-do list for the next three months.

"I've done it to myself," I said, "should have said no to a lot of it." Crystal listened without harping. She knew that I knew the problem—me. I was overworked by choice. Me...a 71-year-old retiree with options! I don't have to work 100 hours a week to ease my company's annual crunch time or juggle overtime to keep my job. I have no company. I have no job. Sometimes, I simply *choose* to overwork. To terribly misquote the pompous Malvolio in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*: "Some

are born overworked, some achieve overwork, and some have overwork thrust upon them.”

I do occasionally have overwork thrust upon me, but, truth is, mostly I achieve overwork because I choose it. According to a poll by Right Management of Milwaukee, so do others. Two-thirds of the 325 in the poll admitted they are putting in much longer hours than they did five years ago. A 2008 Harvard Business School survey of a thousand professionals found that almost half worked in excess of 65 hours a week. Last October, Goldman Sachs issued new guidelines to their junior investment-banking analysts: on average they should not work more than 70 to 75 hours a week.

The question is why do we overwork? Financial columnist James Surowiecki thinks it's because of money since overwork is “a credential of prosperity.” I agree that we do a lot of things for money and overwork is certainly one of them, especially for those who bill by the hour or get extra pay for overtime. But for me, neither money nor necessity is the reason.

A couple of weeks after my conversation with Crystal, another friend sent an email to ask me to take on a new project for a Christian organization where I regularly volunteer. This time, I typed up that same to-do list, asked to be excused from the project, and pressed the send button.

She answered that same day. “No problem,” she said before adding a big verbal pat on the back about how grateful she was for all I already do and how well I do it. She not only let me off the hook, she also stroked my ego. That's why I say overwork is not always about necessity or money. Ego incentivizes us as well.

Now don't think I'm using the word *ego* in the most negative sense of its meaning. I simply mean the self, the I, the person I am, who has worth and value to myself and to others. That “self” wants and needs validation and commendation. Work is often the place we look for that stamp of approval, the credential giving us a pass, acceptance, status, putting us into the organization's inner circle. We want to be inside, awe our boss, be important. These are strong incentives. So, we make work a proving ground, and the test or “proving” is long hours.

According to Anne Vandermeij of *Fortune* magazine, those 75-hour-per-week junior analysts consider Goldman Sachs the

ultimate career destination. Bonus checks don't hurt, they say, but “above all else, it's the opportunity to work with, and count yourself among, an ultra-elite group. Less than 3% of 97,600 applicants for analyst and associate roles won a seat at the firm last year, making it twice as hard to get into as Harvard.” Ambition, attainment, and status win the day for a lot of us.

A desire to be in the “inner ring,” as C. S. Lewis described it, is one of the mainsprings of a person's life and often is about power, money, toughness, superiority, even a cover for personal problems. And so, as Lewis says, we take on extra work to climb inside: we stay late, work long hours, take on more projects (that's me). Anything to be inside rather than outside. The unhappy irony is that our climbing can plunge us pell-mell into

struggles, dissatisfaction, even depression. Lewis compares this desire to an onion. We pierce through one ring and get inside the onion, but we only find another ring, then yet another. Finally, Lewis warns, “Unless you take measures to prevent it, this desire is going to be one of the chief motives of your life, from the first day on which you enter your profession until the day when you are too old to care.”

Why should we avoid overworking regularly? On a practical level, overwork decreases competency and productivity, whether physical or cognitive. Both body and brain tire and work less efficiently, less safely.

Beyond that, overwork shows disproportion in our lives. The current buzz phrase is “keep a work-life balance.” But it's not

balance so much as proportion that keeps me in right relation with the truly important things: God, family, rest, study, reinvigoration. When these are in good proportion, I stay sound and undamaged.

In physics, proportional limit or yield point is the stress level at which a material begins to deform plastically, that is, irreversibly. Before yield point, the material will deform elastically but return to its original shape when stress is removed. Once yield point is passed, however, deformation is permanent.

Staying this side of our proportional limit or yield point means we stay elastic, resilient, and supple. We may get bent, twisted, and folded, but not permanently mutilated. Going beyond the proportional limit—long-term overwork in other words—tends to fracture, even deform us into someone or



win the day for a lot of us.

something that we don't want to be to our family and our Lord.

I do love opportunities. I like to write, speak, teach, lead a committee, join yet another book club or writing group, but I have recently vowed to be more discerning. Maybe I like work too much because I like being inside, being wanted, being a part of things. I must learn to say no, be more guarded, and more wise.

My recent tension and exhaustion brought me back to what the Lord says in Jeremiah 6:16 and, ultimately, brought me to make a vow: "Stand at the crossroads, look, and ask for the everlasting path, the way of the good that leads to good, and walk in it." That's my paraphrase, of course, but these imperatives of the Lord have helped me re-establish my feet on "the way of the good that leads to good" and to a vow not to overwork.

Of course, work itself is not the problem. God has commissioned us to work (Genesis 2:15). It is a privilege, a mandate, and also one of the ways we are made in the Lord's image: He is a doing, making, creating God. Work is also one of the many

MAYBE I LIKE WORK
TOO MUCH BECAUSE

I like being inside, being wanted, being a part of things. I must learn to say no, be more guarded, and more wise.

favors He has conferred on us human beings. Can you imagine a cat's life, lying around most of the day, purring, licking your paws, grooming your fur, scratching away at the threads of your owner's new sofa, and only occasionally catching a mouse?

No, work is not the problem. *Why* I overwork is the problem. My vow is to manage my work under the Lord's imperatives so that my work does not manage me. **ONE**

About the Writer: Brenda Evans is a retired English teacher. She and her husband Bill (former director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation) live in Catlettsburg, Kentucky. They are proud grandparents of seven.

“One of the best gifts to give my family!”

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JOB

a new

for Norman

BY JIM MARTIN



I received the call late on a Saturday evening. “Pastor Jim, this is Norman. I am in the Intensive Care Unit at the hospital. They want to do surgery on me.”

I quickly prepared to go to the hospital, fully intending to stay the night. When I arrived at the hospital, the door was locked, and a receptionist had to open it for me. She gave me directions to where I needed to go.

As I walked down the corridor toward the ICU, I caught myself thinking, “What lies ahead of me?” When I entered the ICU, a nurse greeted me and asked, “May I help you?”

When I told her I was looking for a patient who was about to have surgery, she asked, “And who are you?”

“I am his pastor, Jim Martin.”

“Oh!” she replied, bolting from her seat, “This way, Father.”

Later, after learning the nature of his injuries and surgery schedule, I stood at the foot of my friend’s bed and thought, “What are we going to do now?”

You see, the person lying in the bed is what I call a “go-to” kind of guy. He does so many things in the ministry of Landmark Free Will Baptist Church. When I first met him and learned about his past experiences and what he loved to do, I prayerfully put him in charge of a number of things that needed to be accomplished at the church. It was definitely the right move—a new job for Norman.

Today, Norman has his own business cards that describe his church role as “Event Coordinator.” He has taken ownership of planning church activities, cooking for these events, and buying the food we need. He even recruited his own helpers for the kitchen. What a great blessing to plan an event and have someone take over and get the job done with a happy heart.

Lessons I have learned from Norman (and others like him):

- Everybody is a somebody who can be useful in ministry with guidance.
- Never underestimate the power of prayer and always expect answers.
- Use a person’s strengths and the things they love to enhance church ministries.
- Everyone needs help to move a mountain; choose as many helpers as you need to get the job done.
- Always appreciate and recognize workers...from the smallest to the biggest task.

Ah! A thought just occurred to me. I would never have been able to reach the bedside of this faithful servant without the kindness of the receptionist and the eagerness of the nurse who called me “Father.” Hmmm. They might make good greeters at our church! **ONE**

Intersect >>

No Rest for the Weary...Yet

When shown sights and sounds from the beyond, the Apostle John wrote, “Then I heard a voice from heaven say, ‘Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them’” (Revelation 14:13).

Embedded in these words is the implication that Christian people labor, that we work for God. We look forward to the rest of Heaven, but in the meantime we carry out the deeds of earth.

The Lord designed us for labor. Work is the means by which we accomplish God’s will. He placed Adam and Eve in the Garden to enjoy it, but also to work it. He hallowed hard, hands-on labor when He established Jesus as a carpenter. In a word, God likes work. He worked six days before resting Himself, and He set up that schedule as a pattern for human behavior.

We work not only for ourselves but also for the Lord. He is our ultimate supervisor, our eternal job foreman. This drives us to labor faithfully, to push ourselves to perform duties that sloth might leave undone otherwise. Laziness surely calls to us, but we refuse to answer. We hear a higher voice.

Interestingly, in the midst of our work, difficult though it be, we find peace and contentment. Joseph Caryl said: “Saints have here a rest in their labours; they shall hereafter have rest from their labours.” Resting in our work comes from the knowledge that we serve God, and the labors we perform are for Him.

This disposition of working for God transforms the mundane into the heavenly. Roman philosopher Cicero, when discussing occupations, wrote, “There is nothing noble about a workshop.” The Scriptural examples of the wall-builder, tent-maker, and carpenter argue otherwise. Paul said, “Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you” (1 Thessalonians 4:11). To Ephesian slaves, and through them to all of us, he wrote: “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men” (Ephesians 6:7).



This exposes the error of those who have fallen prey to the idea that work, even for Christians, falls into two categories—the sacred and the secular. They envision the work of plumbers and mechanics as being lower in God’s eyes than the role of preachers and missionaries. God, however, makes no such distinction. His kingdom-plan aims at encompassing the whole of human endeavor, and while one might be a “hand” and another an “eye,” no part of the Christian body is elevated above the other (1 Corinthians 12:14). Whatever we do, we do for God and His glory (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Doing our work for God, whatever it may be, puts everyone into “full-time Christian service.” Martin Luther saw this clearly: “The works of monks and priests, however holy and arduous they may be, do not differ one whit in the sight of God from the works of the rustic laborer in the field or the woman going about her household tasks . . . all works are measured before God by faith alone.”

In *A Treatise of the Vocations or Callings of Men*, the great Cambridge Puritan scholar William Perkins took aim at the same truth. “In a good work are three things required: first, it must be done in obedience; secondly, in faith; thirdly, it must be directed

to the glory of God. . . . And the action of a shepherd in keeping sheep . . . is as good a work before God as is the action of a judge in giving sentence, or of a magistrate in ruling, or a minister in preaching.” In the arena of work, the motive of serving God is the great equalizer.

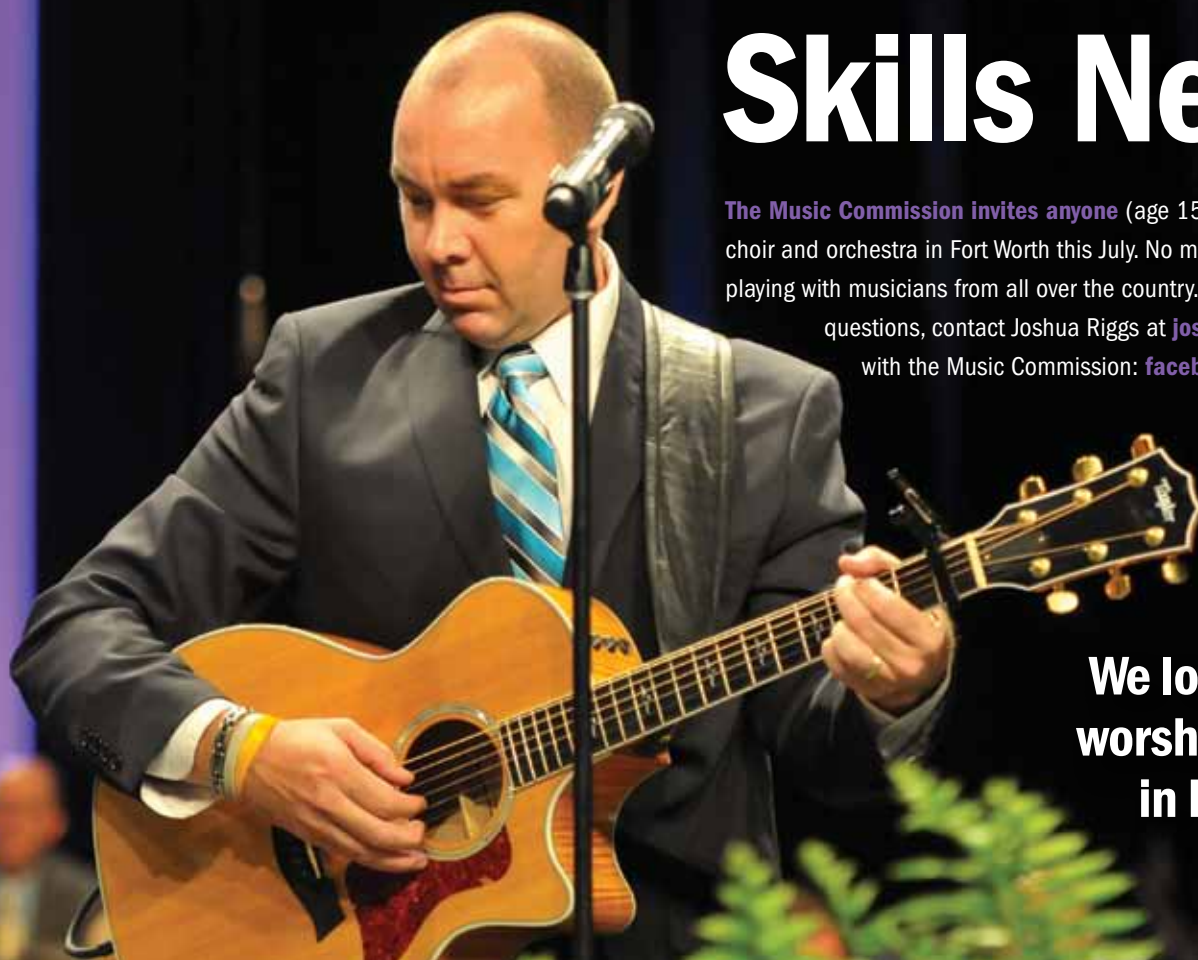
What we do on Monday in the workplace is no less pleasing to God than what we do on Sunday in the worship-place. Each has its place, and each pleases the Lord—the shop and the sanctuary.

So we work, yes, but then there is that final rest, the day when it’s time to lay down our tools and clock out. “Blessed” are those who can say, “It is finished.” On earth, toil may take its toll, but in Heaven, rest will swallow up all weariness.

So labor on, Christian office worker. Work hard, homemaker. Don’t quit, laborer. Rest will come...just not yet. **ONE**

Intersect: where the Bible meets life is a regular column of ONE Magazine.

About the Author: Dr. Paul Harrison pastored Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, from 1991–2013. He served 17 years as adjunct professor at Welch College, teaching church history and Greek.



Skills Needed!

The Music Commission invites anyone (age 15+) to participate in the convention choir and orchestra in Fort Worth this July. No matter your skill level, you will enjoy playing with musicians from all over the country. If you’d like to be involved or have questions, contact Joshua Riggs at joshua@bethanyfwb.com or connect with the Music Commission: facebook.com/fwbmusiccommission

**We look forward to
worshiping with you
in Fort Worth!**

A Theology of Children's CHURCH

Elizabeth Hill

Youth ministry is one of the main areas of focus for the modern Christian Church. Countless programs and resources have been created to reach children and teens for Christ. Every year, students graduate with degrees in youth ministry, ready to evangelize and train the next generation of students.

With so many resources available, the Church has made many reforms in how they teach children and adolescents about Christ and His Word. But are these methods effective? Are we following what Scripture teaches about the instruction of the younger generation? How does this affect the spiritual growth and worship of children and teenagers?

THE NEED

Since the early years of life are crucial in a child's development, children should begin to learn about Christ and the Bible at a young age. Scripture repeatedly advocates for Christ-centered instruction of youth. Passages such as Proverbs 22:6 and Deuteronomy 6 clearly command believers to invest their time in training younger generations. Jesus taught children during His ministry on earth and encouraged them to come to Him.

Because Scripture clearly advocates biblical education of children, the

Church, as the body of Christ, should certainly play a part in that instruction. In fact, many churches implement a children's church model to provide biblical education in a way each age group will understand. From its establishment, however, the concept of children's church has been controversial among evangelical churches.

Proponents emphasize the importance of a child's need for direct, relevant instruction. Children's church provides them with an opportunity to worship and learn among their peers while receiving age-appropriate biblical instruction. Children's church also provides an appropriate place to grow, to learn more about who God is, and to understand how important He is in every aspect of their lives.

THE PROBLEM

With all of these benefits of the children's church model, it would seem

to be the perfect means of theological instruction for children and teenagers.

After looking deeper into the issue, however, critics point out several negative factors regarding children's church. The separation of children and teens from adults sometimes causes young people to become disconnected from both their biological family and the collective church family. Could this disconnect possibly be directly linked to the exodus of young adults from the church after they leave home?

Those who argue against the concept of children's church "believe that the presence of children in worship is necessary for becoming the whole people of God." Although it is vitally important for children and teens to receive biblical instruction among their peers and at their level of understanding, it is also important to be assimilated into the church family as a whole, worshiping with fellow believers of all ages. After all, it is in the church that "children, observing and participating with their parents in worship, learn about trust, discipleship, stewardship, and the gospel of Christ."

While the Bible instructs the church to teach children about Him, it does not necessarily teach that this instruction



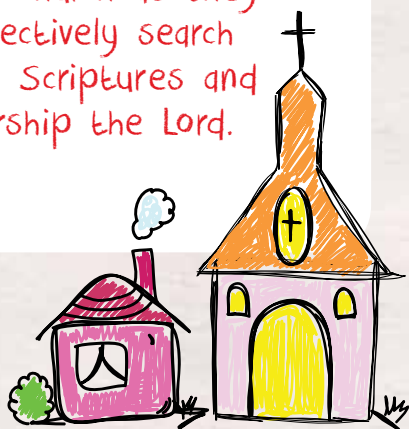
should take place in a setting separated from the rest of God's people.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Though some individuals do not see a need for a separate children's church, they still believe that both children and adults greatly benefit from instruction geared toward their level of understanding. These individuals often view Sunday School as the primary source of age-appropriate instruction. They understand the benefits of learning and growing with others at similar stages of life who encounter familiar struggles and challenges.

These classes also still meet collectively for worship. No one would assume that a certain group of adults or a Sunday School class should worship separately from the rest of the congregation. The same should be true for children. By making Sunday School the time for graded instruction, children can participate in a corporate congregational service rather than separating for children's church.

What children (and parents) learn at home should overflow into the church as they collectively search the Scriptures and worship the Lord.



TEACHING AT HOME

No matter what one believes about children's church, Scripture makes it clear that the largest portion of biblical

instruction should come from the home. God designed the family to be the foundation of the Church. What children (and parents) learn at home should overflow into the church as they collectively search the Scriptures and worship the Lord.

Sadly, in many cases Christian education at home has been neglected. Perhaps this is why so many churches rely heavily upon children and teen services. Young people are not receiving foundational Christian principles in the home. A healthy church will not only emphasize instruction of youth at church but also help parents train their children in the home.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Theologically, the purpose of children's church—to carry out the biblical commands of instructing children—is sound. However, the method by which we carry out this command could be modified. Young people who attend children's church extensively sometimes do not know how to act in a collective church setting, and they feel out of place when they encounter a service not catered to them. Eventually, children must get beyond the milk of the Word and start receiving the meat of the Word.

In contrast to modern church practices, children need to think through the tough questions of faith while in their formative years.

Although the practice of children's church seems to exemplify God's love and intimate care, children's church also presents a conflict between what the church teaches and what it is doing through this practice. The Body of Christ (the Church) is urged to worship in unity, yet they segment themselves in the name of age-appropriate learning.

In modern American church culture, children have been pushed aside to make church and worship services centered upon adults. In too many cases, biblical instruction for children and teens has devolved into entertainment times that

appease the desires of the upcoming generation.

Biblical teaching strongly opposes "church as entertainment," yet we allow children to avoid the preaching of the Word of God to keep them from "bothering" their parents and other adults in the service. These discrepancies are confusing, not only to the child but also to individuals outside of the church family.

Children play an influential role in the work of the Church. Jesus instructed His followers to have faith as a child. If adult believers should model their faith after the simple faith of children, is it not logical to assume that corporate interaction with children is vital to the work and function of the church? Children are not merely the "church of the future." They are the church of today!

A SIMPLE CONCLUSION

Although children's church provides a good opportunity to instruct young children in the faith, it should not take the place of the collective worship service for older children and teens in the church. While beneficial for younger children who are not ready for the structure of a congregational service, older children have much to gain from the examples and instruction in the service. Not only will they benefit from congregational worship themselves, they will bring youth, excitement, and energy to worship—guaranteed to encourage veterans of the faith.

By learning the deeper truths of Scripture and associating with their church family while still young, children and teenagers will not only be more likely to remain faithful to church but also become better equipped to fulfill God's ultimate call on their lives: to love and serve Him with everything they are. **ONE**

About the Writer: Norton, Virginia, native Elizabeth Hill is a junior Elementary Education major at Welch College. Learn more about the college at welch.edu.

At Welch College >>

Pastoral Program Changes Hands



This fall will bring a change to the ministry program at Welch College, according to Dr. Greg Ketteman, provost. After 23 years on the faculty, Terry Forrest will retire as program coordinator for Pastoral Ministry, and will be replaced by Dr. Barry Raper. Raper will shift from his Youth and Family role at the college, although he will continue to teach some courses in that area.

Prior to his Pastoral Ministry role, Forrest served eight years as Dean of Students and, prior to that time, as a Free Will Baptist pastor and church planter. For the past several years, Forrest has served as associate pastor to Dr. Raper, who, in addition to his duties at the college, serves as pastor of Bethel Free Will Baptist Church, a large, growing congregation in the greater Nashville area.

President Matt Pinson said, "I can't say enough good about the ministry of Terry Forrest at this college. He has been a rock-solid leader and mentor to scores of young pastors going out from Welch College. He will be greatly missed on this campus, and we're hoping he will still teach some courses for us on a part-time basis."

Before coming to teach at Welch College

in 2006, Dr. Raper served as associate pastor and then pastor of Red Bay Free Will Baptist Church in Red Bay, Alabama. He is a graduate of Welch College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and recently received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Southern Seminary. He continues to serve as senior pastor of Bethel Free Will Baptist Church.

Dr. Ketteman said, "Dr. Barry Raper is a man of great integrity and deep, passionate commitment to living out God's Word. He is uniquely gifted as a teacher who thoughtfully prepares then skillfully teaches each class and preaches each sermon for maximum impact. He is a powerful and challenging example for every pastor and youth minister, both in the classroom, and in his broader Christian ministry."

President Pinson added, "Dr. Raper is a godly man with a remarkable commitment to personal holiness who has a reputation among Welch students for modeling the spiritual disciplines. Yet he combines with these personal qualities a vibrant, gospel-centered pastoral ministry at Bethel. We are so excited to have him step into this role. He's tailor-made for it."

Under the leadership of Mr. Forrest and Dr. Raper, ministry education at Welch College has become more academically integrated, with all students in the Pastoral program and the newly formed Youth and Family Ministry program taking the same "Christian Ministry" core, consisting of pastoral ministry, preaching, pastoral counseling, biblical languages, and other courses. In addition, students study a concentration of either Pastoral Ministry or Youth and Family Ministry. ■

Welch College Adds Faculty

Welch College will add two new junior faculty members to its teaching roster this fall, according to Provost Greg Ketteman. Chris Talbot will teach Youth and Family Ministry and Frank Thornsby will teach English.



Chris Talbot



Frank Thornsby

"Welch College has a rich history of employing fine young Christian adults who spend their lives in diligent service to God in this ministry," Dr. Ketteman said. "God uses the freshness and strength of these willing servants to revitalize and refresh the work of Welch College. After observing these young men as students and leaders, we look forward to working with new junior faculty members

Chris Talbot and Frank Thornsbury as they bring willing hearts, the strength of youth, and sharpened, God-given intellects into the ministry of Welch College.”

Chris Talbot, minister of students at Unity Free Will Baptist Church in Greenville, North Carolina, will begin teaching in the Youth and Family program. Originally from Michigan, Talbot is a 2012 Welch College graduate, completing the Bachelor of Science degree in Pastoral Ministry, and completed his master’s degree in Christian Ministry from Grace Theological Seminary in May with plans to pursue a doctorate.

Talbot has served in his current youth role since 2012. Before that he served as an associate pastor in Alabama. He also served three years (two full-time, one part-time) as recruitment/enrollment counselor at Welch, representing the college across the denomination in camps, youth retreats, and other venues.

Named to “Who’s Who Among American College and University Students,” Talbot has an impressive ministry of writing and speaking. He blogs at TheHSF.com and has blogged for FWB21.com. He is also a contributor to the interdenominational youth ministry website Rootedministry.com. He is married to Rebekah (Ayers), a Welch graduate and music teacher who was elected “Most Outstanding Student” by the Welch faculty her senior year.

Eastern Kentucky native Frank Thornsbury will become an instructor in the English program. He is a recent Welch College history graduate who will complete his master’s degree in English at Valparaiso University this summer. Twice elected student body president at Welch, he was named “Best All Around Boy” by his peers his senior year.

Thornsbury jump-started the college’s involvement in the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature. Peers from more than 80 colleges and universities across Tennessee elected him Best Student Senator, and he also received the Carlisle Award, the organization’s top honor. He served as a campaign manager and staffer in a number of Kentucky state political campaigns.

With interests in linguistics, hermeneutics, and the great literature of Western Civilization, Thornsbury will serve as a strong addition to the humanities faculty at Welch. He also has plans to obtain his doctorate.

“I’m excited about these new, young faculty members,” said Welch President Matt Pinson. “Chris Talbot and Frank Thornsbury are just the sort of teachers we need at Welch College. They’re both energetic and zealous about the gospel, and they wed that zeal to a commitment to the discipleship of the mind. What’s more, they’re dyed-in-the-wool Free Will Baptists who will appeal to the broad spectrum of students in our denomination.” ■

Commission Seeks Theological Papers

The Commission for Theological Integrity is currently receiving proposals for papers to be prepared for the 2014 Theological Symposium, to be held October 27-28 on the campus of Welch College. The theme of this year’s symposium is “Evangelism in the Post-Christian West.” The symposium will include its usual slate of papers, but will also include a panel discussion on this theme.

Featured guest panelist is Dr. Mark Coppenger, who directs the Nashville campus of Southern Seminary and has taught widely on the subject of apologetics, evangelism, and ethics.

Paper proposals related to the symposium theme are preferred, but proposals on any theological subject will be considered. Direct ideas and questions to fwbtheology@gmail.com. ■

Leigh Ann Smith Joins Welch College Staff



Leigh Ann Smith has been hired to a full-time position in the Welch College Business Office, according to Craig Mahler, vice president for financial affairs. After working several months in a temporary role, Mrs. Smith was named staff accountant, effective March 1, 2014.

Mahler said, “Mrs. Leigh Ann Smith believes in the mission of the college and brings expertise and experience to her new role. She is skilled in the specific office and accounting procedures we need, and we are grateful to have her onboard.”

Mrs. Smith holds degrees from Lipscomb University in both Elementary Education and Business Administration with an Accounting emphasis. She and her husband Greg have two sons, Archie and Andy.

Mrs. Smith said, “In the few short months that I have been here as a temporary employee, I have been made to feel so welcome by everyone that I have come in contact with. I am truly excited to be a part of the staff here at Welch College. It is great to work at a place where God is at the forefront of all that is done.”

President Matt Pinson said, “Leigh Ann Smith brings to our campus a proven record of excellence in her field, a wonderful, kind spirit, and a solid commitment to our Christian mission. What a great combination for Welch College!” ■

Teaching for Transformation:

Tips for Teaching Adult Learners

BY RONDA STURGILL

Have you ever stopped to think about the number of Christian resources available today? Too many to count, wouldn't you say? With so much information, the question begs to be asked, "Why do we see so little transformation?"

Simply imparting information will not lead to a transformation. Transformational learning is characterized by inviting learners to examine critically, interact with, and immediately apply material to their individual lives.

In this context, transformation is changing old ways of thinking, knowing, and doing into new ways of thinking, knowing, and doing. True transformation is demonstrated by a change in thoughts, attitudes, and actions in the hearts and minds of

learners. This is the ultimate goal of transformational teaching and learning, and should be the goal of every person who teaches Christian education.

Teaching adults requires a radically different approach than teaching children. In today's postmodern world, transformational teaching demands that the church offer the same gospel message of grace, salvation, redemption, and hope in new, fresh, and creative ways. Christian education can no longer take an au-



thoritarian role where knowledge is imposed upon passive learners, prescribing what they are to learn, how they are to think, and how they are to behave.

Every learner must be valued and respected as a child of God, capable of growth and change through the work of the Holy Spirit. Christian educators must offer opportunities for the Holy Spirit to do His work in the lives of their learners. This can happen anywhere at anytime, but it happens most often when teachers accommodate the learning characteristics of adult learners.

Characteristics of Adult Learners

Every adult enters the classroom with a vast amount of prior knowledge and experience. For deep learning to occur, it's important for learners to have the opportunity to make connections between what they already know and the material being presented. Their prior knowledge and past experience becomes the starting point for new learning. Without the opportunity to make this connection, adults struggle to make sense of the new information.

Adults like to participate in the learning process. They learn by doing and are quite capable of reaching their own conclusions when presented with the opportunity to brainstorm, solve problems, and think critically.

Adults also enjoy learning from their peers. Since everyone comes from different backgrounds and has different experiences and perspectives, learners often minister to one another in ways the teacher cannot. Adults learn best when they perceive the relevance of the subject as it pertains to their individual lives. Learning must be meaningful to be transformational. Most adults are especially motivated to learn when they encounter disharmony between their experience and their perception of God.

Just as adult learners have their own characteristics, so do effective adult educators. The role of “teacher as a teller” is diminished, while the role of the teacher as a guide, coach, or facilitator increases. Humility is one the most important characteristics for an effective adult educator. “None but the humble become good teachers of adults.”¹ The focus is on the learners and what they are learning, not on what the teacher knows. This is learner-centered teaching.

In contrast, the teacher does all the talking in a teacher-centered approach. When the teacher is talking, the learners are not learning! Instead of being the sage on the stage, an adult educator must take on an entirely different

role. He or she becomes a guide on the side who leads and directs learners through well-thought-out learning activities that call for active participation. The goal of the teacher is to create opportunities for critical thinking, not to transmit information. For some teachers, this is a difficult adjustment. However, with a little instruction and training, most teachers can learn how to offer more interactive and engaging lessons.

A good place to start is to intentionally plan learning activities that require learners to do something.

Here are just a few statements that lead to such activities:

- 1 Trace the development of..
- 2 In your own words, summarize...
- 3 Compare and contrast...
- 4 Differentiate between...
- 5 Compose a poem.
- 6 Make a collage.
- 7 Solve this real-life situation.
- 8 Examine what you already know about...

These are not questions. The teacher is challenging learners to do something. Suddenly, learners become producers of information, not simply consumers of information. For transformational learning to occur, learners must be able to take the information they learn and produce it again in relevant situations. Teachers who provide opportunities to do this are effective teachers.

The activities my learners most enjoy are those that allow them to be creative. They love to make collages that represent what they've learned. They like to write poems, short stories, role-play, or solve a problem using biblical principles from the lesson. Through interactive learning activities, more happens than just the transfer of information. Classroom relationships are built and strengthened as adults learn from their teacher and their peers. Interactive activities often foster mentoring relationships.

I confess. I used to be the sage on the stage, but I found becoming a guide on the side is a more effective (and fun) way to teach. It was a hard step at first, but once I saw the interest of my learners come to life, and discovered that I could learn as much from them as they did from me, I was hooked! Teaching for transformation transformed me as much as it has my students. **ONE**

About the Writer: Ronda Sturgill is an author and much-sought-after motivational speaker. She is the wife of Free Will Baptist chaplain (LT COL) Tim Sturgill.

¹ Lindeman, E.C. (1945). The Sociology of Adult Education. *Journal of Educational Sociology*, 19(1), 4-13

EDUCATION ALONE

Cannot Save Us

BY GREGORY K. HOLLIFIELD



Americans are an optimistic lot. Given enough time and resources, we believe there is nothing we can't accomplish.

Looking out across the globe today, we clearly see a world broken—nations at war, economies in freefall, and despair rampant. Evils, both natural and moral, abound. We fear time is running out for the planet, that we can't continue this downward spiral. Love for self and neighbor urges us to do something, to confront and fix the problem. Popular thought promotes the promise of education as the greatest hope.

As a young man, Plato shared this optimism for education's ability to cure the world's ills. In early dialogues, he referred to evil as a consequence of ignorance that might be eliminated through education. By midlife, after perceiving the irrationality of evil, he concluded that no amount of education would dissuade certain people from harming themselves or their world.

The Bible shares this respect for education and makes it clear that education alone is not a panacea.

During his final years, Plato declared evil to be a revolt against the conditions of man's creation, an affront that spreads rapidly through society with its flawed cultural standards. He believed the final solution rested beyond education in a reordering of society's standards—restoration through legislation.

Aristotle accepted evil as an intrinsic part of human nature, an unfortunate pathology. He envisioned every person on a continuum of evil. He prescribed moderation for those who hadn't fallen prey to corruption, urging them to manage this darker side of human nature.

Despite their differences, both philosophers respected the role of education in society. They agreed that radical human change after childhood is unlikely, making early childhood education essential. On the whole, neither man held a particularly optimistic view of humanity or the prospects of repairing our broken world.

The Bible shares this respect for education and makes it clear that education alone is not a panacea. Like the mature Plato perceived, the Bible portrays humanity in full rebellion against the conditions of their creation. Like Aristotle, Scripture recognizes inherent depravity and a twisted inclination towards self-destruction.

In order to regulate the world, and to keep us from indulging baser desires, God ordained three institutions with three distinct and vital purposes:

Marriage and the home. Children should come to understand themselves, learn self-discipline, and acquire respect for authority in the home. Today's broken and failing homes cannot help but breed generations of undisciplined adults groping blindly to find their place in the world. In a word...lost.

Government. God established humanity as the governors of creation. Without proper governance, things naturally devolve into disorder. (Keep an eye on the vacant house in your neighborhood for a vivid example.) What is true in nature is also true in society. The antediluvian world devolved into moral chaos. God sent the Great Flood in response.

After Noah's family left the ark, God laid out terms for capital punishment, teaching that societies must be governed lest chaos once again prevail. In other words, the primary job of government is to guard against disorder, termed lawlessness in Scripture.

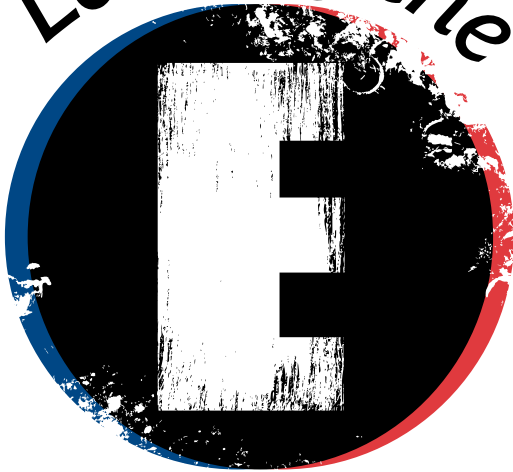
God intended government to be neither enemy nor savior but to enforce just standards. Human government becomes problematic when it enforces unjust standards or, in a democratic society, oversteps its authority by enforcing standards without consent of the governed. Government was never designed to replace the home but to enforce the standards taught there.

The Church. God intended the Church to be a messenger and model of the life God wants in society. She is supposed to function as a picture of the world to come and a prophet to the world that is. The Church maintains that mankind's greatest need isn't education or government regulation but personal transformation—change from the inside out. As government was not ordained to replace the home, the church was not ordained to control the government. Each has its own sphere of authority and responsibility.

Those who believe—like young Plato—that mankind's problems are intellectual and can be eliminated through education overlook examples like the late Chuck Colson, a highly educated man situated in the nation's highest political office. Imprisoned for his role in the Watergate scandal, he came to understand that man's real problem isn't ignorance or forgetfulness. The real culprit lies in his own sinfulness, from which no amount of education can save him. Thankfully, Colson ultimately found salvation in Jesus Christ.

I joined him in April of 1980 when I also accepted Christ as my Savior. Thirty-three years later, as a professional educator (and proponent of education), I still believe He is the world's only true hope. Education alone cannot save us. **ONE**

Leading the



E-TEAM

WAY

By Courtney Lindsey

E-TEAM... Being part of this organization changed my life, first as a student myself and later as a leader watching the lives of others changed.



Even though I answered the call to missions at church camp in 2006, I was reluctant to participate in E-TEAM. A young woman in my church convinced me to apply, and I am so glad I did! As a student, I participated in E-TEAM trips to Brazil in 2007 and Japan in 2008.

Coincidentally, one week before my 2006 decision, my future husband Matt also answered the call to missions during E-TEAM training in Nashville, Tennessee. Matt traveled to France in 2006 and Panama in 2007. Although Matt and I are both from Oklahoma, grew up attending the same church camp, and were both E-TEAM students in 2007, we didn't meet until 2009 when we were accepted as members of the College Missions Program (CMP) to France.

Soon after we returned, Matt and I began dating. When we started talking about marriage, we also talked about serving as E-TEAM leaders. We married in July 2011 and quickly applied to be leaders for the following summer. While we hoped and prayed we would be accepted, we didn't really expect to be. We knew our youth and recent



Want to be an E-TEAM leader?

Visit our website (www.fwbgo.com/go) and complete the online application or contact eteam@fwbgo.com if you:

- + Are a married couple
- + Are in good health
- + Are able to commit to the entire 3.5 week E-TEAM experience
- + Desire to disciple and mentor youth
- + Are a member of a Free Will Baptist church



marriage would probably be negatives. Much to our surprise and excitement, our prayers were answered, and we prepared to lead E-TEAM Spain 2012.

In December 2011, Matt graduated from East Central University in his hometown of Ada, Oklahoma. Armed with a B.S. in Biology with a concentration in teaching, he planned to teach high school sciences. But graduating in December meant applying for jobs in the spring of 2012 for the upcoming school year. We were nervous. Most schools hire in June during the weeks we would be leading an E-TEAM. But we knew it was God's plan for us to lead, so we trusted Him to provide Matt with a job.

God worked in many ways during this trip. In Spain, Matt had the unique opportunity to reconnect with Jonathon, a young man from the family who hosted him while a student on E-TEAM France. It is amazing to see the lifelong friendships created through the bond of Christ.

Our time with E-TEAM—both in training and in Spain—made it clear it was time to start the classes International Missions requires of missionary applicants. Our team prayed diligently about Matt's job, and God answered.

Thirty minutes after our plane landed in the States, Matt received a phone call from a school in Oklahoma City. They wanted him to interview as soon as possible. The morning after we returned to Oklahoma, Matt interviewed and was hired on the spot. In January 2013, I returned to Hillsdale to begin completing the classes I need to apply for missions work, and we applied to be E-TEAM leaders again.

We served as team leaders for E-TEAM Chicago 2013. Working in Chicago was a great experience and reminded us we can go right across the street, city, state, and country to find people who need Christ just as much as people across the world. We have since started a youth mission team with students in the youth group of our local church, and we are pursuing missions opportunities in our own community.

As team leaders, we feel it is important to develop relationships with our students before training begins. We communicate with the students beforehand so we can get to know them. We stay in contact with our students after we return, and see our students when we get an opportunity. Even though we are only with them a few weeks, we truly become like family and claim

them as our own.

Matt uses the team-building exercises and relationship skills he learned at E-TEAM in his classroom. This has given him the opportunity to invest more into the lives of his students. His school is 43% Hispanic, 27% African-American, 23% Caucasian, and 7% Native-American and Asian. He incorporates the knowledge gained from experiencing various cultures to expand his students' worldview, develop their understanding of culture and society, and teach them to appreciate one another. He is attending Hillsdale online, pursuing the classes he needs to apply

to IM. We hope, within the next couple of years, to be approved as missionaries. We aren't sure where God wants us to go, but we are willing to go anywhere. We hope, wherever God calls us, one day we can work with E-TEAMS and continue the ministry of this amazing organization.

Last fall, we applied as team leaders once again, and we can hardly wait to lead E-TEAM Uruguay this summer. Who knows what God will do in the lives of our students as well as our own. He is still leading...the E-TEAM way. **ONE**



Established in 1992, E-TEAM is a life changing, short-term summer missions experience for students who have completed grades 10-12. The program provides a week of intensive training and two weeks of hands-on, cross-cultural experience where students learn from and serve with Free Will Baptist missionaries. The experience wraps up with a time of debriefing and closing ceremonies.

In 2014, 20 leaders will guide 98 students through ministry in Limeira, Brazil; Jaboticabal, Brazil; Chicago, Illinois; Cuba; France; Hokkaido, Japan; Tokyo, Japan; Panama; Spain; and Uruguay.

Apply for E-TEAM 2015 by completing the online application: www.fwbgo.com/go

Around the World >>

Villalba Church Dedicates Building...Finally

Spain—After years of paperwork and waiting, a grateful group of believers dedicated the Villalba church building on Sunday, March 30. Testimonies detailed the 25-year quest to build and occupy the first Protestant church on that side of Madrid.



The Villalba work began in 1984 in a small apartment. As the work grew, a storefront building was rented. The group purchased property in 1989 and permission was granted for the church to build. Construction began in 1992, but was mysteriously stopped by local authorities. After two years' work with local politicians, church leaders eventually hired a lawyer. Still, some local politicians privately vowed to block the construction of the first Protestant church in their municipality.

After 15 years of court battles, the church erected a worship facility. The building process also took several years. Once it was finally complete, local city officials delayed granting all the necessary permits several more years. Today, the church has all the legal permits, li-

censes, and paperwork necessary to function in this city—an accomplishment for which local believers are extremely grateful.

“Please join the Villalba congregation in giving God thanks,” requests Jeff Turnbough, church founder and former missionary to Spain. “Pray for the Villalba congregation, its leaders, and Pastor Jhon as they continue to reach out to the community.”

More than 7,000 of Spain's 8,117 towns have no evangelical church...even in a storefront. ■

Youth Lead Service



Spain—On Sunday, March 16, 2014, 26 children participated in a youth day service with at least 76 people present. The young people, ages four to 13, read Scripture, prayed, shared lessons from their classes, played instruments, and sang. Musical instruments featured included

violin, recorder flute, piano, saxophone, guitars, and drums.

Alejandro, son of missionaries Tim and Kristi Johnson, preached the message. Their daughter Anna led some of the music, and Marc and Emily, children of missionaries Anthony and Lea Edgmon, played instruments.

Kristi Johnson said, “The service was a great reminder that God has given children a special role in not only praising Him, but also in reaching others for Him. Because of this service, we had at least 12 guests. We are thankful for the children of the Alpedrete Church who courageously shared the Truth.” This is the first Protestant church in Alpedrete’s history. ■

Rare Arminian Presentation in France

France—On Thursday, March 13, Steve Riggs spoke to the Biblical Doctrines class of the Nogent Bible Institute in Paris, France. The college, one of three evangelical institutes in France, boasts about 40 students. Steve said he “emphasized the Arminian perspective on Universal Atonement—that Christ died for the sins of the world, thus all men can be saved if they will receive His offer of grace.”

The students—trained as Calvinists—proved curious and asked intelligent questions. Steve surmised: “Obviously, there are some points on which Calvinists and Arminians will never agree. But certainly we agree that the gospel must be preached to all nations! So...let’s get out the Message!”

Less than 1% of France is evangelical Christian. ■



New Life Women’s Outreach

Bulgaria—Women, both believers and unbelieving guests, gathered for a Women’s Day party at the New Life FWB Church in Svishtov on March 8. Six

ladies who do not regularly attend church, and most likely do not know the gospel, attended. The ladies from the church welcomed their guests and bonded through laughter during a game time.

Snapshots Around the World



Uruguay—Molly Barker returned to Uruguay April 21 to say goodbye to her Uruguayan family, help transition the ministry, and tie up loose ends. Miss Molly retired on January 1, 2014, with almost 50 years of service. She has been stateside for close to a year dealing with various health issues, including two knee replacements.



Cuba—Regional Director Kenneth Eagleton witnessed the ocean baptism of three people from the Guanabo FWB Church in Cuba on Sunday, March 2. Guanabo is a coastal town about 30 minutes east of Havana.

Brazil—Pastor Nilvio baptized 16 new converts March 16 at São José FWB Church in Campinas. At least 30 people have been baptized this year in this local congregation. ■



Japan—Pastor Ishii and Doug Bishop are translating and contextualizing an English book about how to study the Bible. It should better equip Japanese believers to not only study the Bible, but also to share the gospel.



India—Almost 10,000 people converged on the Sonapur compound, March 13-16, for India Free Will Baptists’ national convention. Carlisle Hanna, with more than 60 years invested in ministry in India, wept as he viewed the throngs of people worshipping the Savior.



Lydia Awtrey shared a devotion emphasizing the hope found only in Christ. The timely message encouraged many women in the group who face various trials in their daily lives. Amy Postlewaite stated, “We pray God will use the love of His people and the powerful message of the Hope He has to offer to draw these six ladies and others to Him, in spite of tough spiritual and cultural opposition.”

The majority of Bulgarians have never even heard the name of Jesus. ■

A Passion for *Global Evangelism*

*An Interview of Robert Posner by Mark Price,
Director, World Missions Offering*

William Carey once asked a question of the Church that still demands an answer: “Is not the commission of our Lord still binding upon us? Can we not do more than now we are doing?”



It is not only a convicting question. It is an indicting question.

This is why Free Will Baptist International Missions continues to send missionary families to the ends of the earth. We believe the Lord of the Harvest continues to call, and we are determined to respond to that call.

The Mission has weathered some economically challenging years. And, while we know we serve a God who is much greater than our circumstances, it is still easy for discouragement and frustration to bruise us a bit. So when individuals respond to Carey’s question in an extraordinary way, we are encouraged.

Robert Posner is one such individual. Recently, I had the opportunity to chat with Robert, who pastors Collin Creek Free Will Baptist Church in Plano, Texas. Robert has served as the International Missions liaison to Texas for the annual WMO for the past two years. As we talked, I asked him about his interest in global evangelism.

.....

Mark: *Robert, tell me about your passion for missions and when it began.*

Robert: When I was in college at Southeastern FWB College, former missionary to France Joe Haas challenged each of us to consider prayerfully what role we would play in missions...in reaching the world with the gospel. Then, during a missions retreat, Clint Morgan asked us how missions related to us. Different professors challenged us to pray about where we fit in reaching the world with the gospel. I developed this desire to support missions—here locally, as well as around the world. God opened a door for me to serve on the Texas Mission Board. As a result, I am blessed to be part of many mission works, not just one.

Mark: *How, exactly, have you integrated your passion into pastoral ministry and the manner in which you lead your church?*

Robert: Our folks are great. Many of them have taken mission trips. As a church, we regularly take trips to places like Mexico and Spain—even Cuba. As a pastor, I have a “two-handed approach” to doing missions. We

participate in our local community and abroad. I tell our folks they each have a responsibility either to go or to send someone else.

We use missionary prayer cards extensively. I regularly pass out the cards during a service, and ask members of the congregation to pray for that particular missionary during prayer time. I challenge them to take the card home with them and continue praying for that missionary.

Mark: *Can you share a little about how Collin Creek does the World Missions Offering?*

Robert: I promote the WMO...I like the resources and use them. This year, because of the way Easter fell on the calendar, we started promoting the offering three weeks before Easter.

On the IM website, you can download stories about children on particular mission fields. One of our young people dressed like and portrayed a child from the stories, telling the story in first person to children's church. Our kids colored the black and white coin banks and then filled them up.

I used WMO videos in our adult services then passed out the WMO offering envelopes and asked our folks to take them home and pray over them,

asking God what He would have them give above their normal giving. We took a break on Easter Sunday, but came back with the WMO emphasis the following week on WMO Sunday.

Mark: *Do you have a yearly emphasis or challenge that your church utilizes to encourage and keep momentum and the passion growing?*

Robert: Last year, during pre-Easter Passion Week, we hosted a different missionary from Wednesday through Saturday night. Each spoke about missions but brought a message about the resurrection as well. It was good for the church, and the focus was intense.

Normally, we spread out missionary visits throughout the year with a visit every couple of months or so. I get a lot of calls from missionaries who want to come. Since we have been blessed to have them so often, I now work hard to get them into churches that have not had visits in a while.

Mark: *I can't help but notice your state of Texas has become very involved in the WMO. As the state liaison for Texas, what has been the catalyst for such a high level of participation among your churches?*

Robert: Much of the success is due to the fact that the leadership in our state is committed to missions. The structure or network that already exists is helpful, too. We have guys around our state who provide much encouragement at the local level. Pastors call other pastors and encourage them to participate, and that resonates more than a state leader like me calling all the time.

Mark: *In a nutshell, what advice do you have for other pastors regarding the local church and global evangelism?*

Robert: First of all, don't underestimate your people. It doesn't matter whether your church has 30 members or 500. One pastor told me, "If they are not able to give, they won't give; but if they are, they will." Another pastor was concerned about participating because the church he pastored was small, and might not be able to do much. I encouraged him to give his congregation an opportunity: "Don't steal from them the opportunity to give."

So, he agreed to give the church the opportunity to decide whether or not to participate. Later, he called me, ecstatic! His church of 30 folks received a World Missions Offering of over \$500!

I am thankful for Robert and each person who shares his or her passion for global evangelism. April is International Missions Emphasis Month—the month for the annual World Missions Offering. God has blessed International Missions the last couple of years with amazing offerings. He has done it corporately through local church WMO campaigns and through personal gifts. In 2012, the WMO exceeded one million dollars, and in 2013 it reached \$825,000.

The WMO is an important part of the International Missions budget, and we want to see every Free Will Baptist church participate. At the same time, however, the WMO will never provide the funding to underwrite the cost of operating a denominational missionary sending agency. The offering represents 12-15% of the total budget. The remaining 85-88% of the necessary funds must come through regular, monthly support.

We should all consider what we can give on a regular monthly basis so men and women, boys and girls of other languages, tribes, and tongues, will have someone to tell them the good news about Jesus. As theologian Carl F.H. Henry said, "The gospel is only good news if it gets there on time." ONE

About the Writer: Mark Price is moderator of the Ohio State Association and pastors Porter FWB Church in Wheelersburg, Ohio. He is a member of the Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions.

Learning
Not To

LEAN

By Ken Akers

Just how far can a Christian go without sinning?

That question has probably been asked more times than any other. Where should we draw the line on our behavior?

In Genesis 13, we read the story of Abraham and Lot (Abraham's nephew) on their journey to the new land God had promised. Abraham was a man of God, who served Him faithfully and consequently received His blessings. Surely Lot saw his example and had the opportunity to learn from him.

Yet, when the two families arrived at their destination in Canaan, problems arose. Abraham and Lot's herdsmen had a heated dispute. The region did not have enough grazing land for all their flocks to live together, so Abraham and his nephew agreed to separate into two regions. Abraham gave Lot first choice.

LEANING

Lot leaned toward Sodom. He had a choice to take the high ground, literally, or settle in the lowlands. He chose to "pitch his tent toward Sodom" in the comfort of the lowlands. This happens to many Christians today. They begin leaning toward the world and its comfort and attractions. They let down their guard against sin, and they allow the influence of the culture to infiltrate their homes and lives.

LIVING

Before long, Lot began living in Sodom. The city came under siege, and Lot—along with everyone else—was taken captive. It is a good reminder that when we start leaning toward something, it's easy to find ourselves living there. And being surrounded by sin is always a dangerous place to live. We may find ourselves held captive by the world and



its devices. Had Lot not been living in Sodom, he would not have been taken captive in the aftermath of the battle. Thankfully, Abraham, with God's help, came to his rescue. What an encouraging reminder! Even when we put ourselves into dangerous or compromising situations, God is ready and willing to help us.

Lot's brush with captivity did not deter him from living in Sodom. When visiting angels enter the city in chapter 19, Lot is seated at the gate. The preceding chapters recount God's deal with Abraham to spare Sodom for the sake of 10 righteous men, but it was not to be. Rampant evil saturated the city where Lot lived (as illustrated by the sexual assault upon the visiting angels). What reason did Lot, a man of God, have for living in such an evil place? None! By settling in the sin of Sodom, he endangered himself, his wife, his daughters, and their families.

LINGERING

Even when the visiting angels told him to leave, warning that the city would be utterly destroyed, Lot lingered. He did not want to give up the comfort of his life in the city of sin. He wanted to hang on as long as possible. We see this happen to Christians time and again today. People fall away from God and into worldly pleasures. While they know their actions are wrong, they cling to them tightly, lingering in the clutches of ungodly behavior.

LOSING

As the story of Lot illustrates, lingering in sin leads to losing. He discovered that he no longer had any influence on his daughters and their husbands. In God's mercy, the angels dragged Lot and his family—kicking and screaming, I believe—away from Sodom before the

fire and brimstone fell from Heaven and destroyed the city. Lot's wife looked back toward the city in defiance of God's clear warning. As a result, she lost her life, and was turned into a salt formation. Later, when Lot took refuge in a cave, his daughters got him drunk and committed incest with him.

The sordid story makes it clear that Lot was not the spiritual influence he should have been, and it cost him everything—his family, wealth, and reputation. And it all began by leaning toward the world.

I don't know Lot's eternal destiny when his days on earth were over. But I am confident he would have been better off if he had stayed close to God, and learned not to lean toward the world. **ONE**

About the Writer: Ken Akers is director of Free Will Baptist Master's Men.

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More Than Fun & Funds

By Ken Akers, Master's Men Director

For many years, Master's Men has sponsored annual golf and softball tournaments. These events are great for fellowship and provide a little extra income for the department. Most people have no idea how much work goes into planning and carrying out a major athletic tournament. Although it is a lot of work, it's worth it from both a social and financial viewpoint.

Over the years, a number of people have remarked that these activities hold little spiritual or eternal significance. "How can God get glory from hitting a ball or a catching a line drive," they ask.

In most cases, not much! But every now and then, something special happens that makes the "fun and funds" seem unimportant by comparison. In 2013, we had not only one, but two cases where sports fellowships had an eternal outcome.

Salvation in the Deep South

Early in 2013, Master's Men hosted the Deep South Golf Tournament in Albany, Georgia. While the weather didn't cooperate, God still used the event for His glory. One of the golfers invited a guy from his church to be his partner who was not a believer. As they traveled from their home to South Georgia, they had plenty of time to talk about his relationship with Christ.

In addition to the long ride, these men shared a room during the tournament, and the conversation continued. On the second night of the tournament, this gentleman asked Jesus into his heart. We spread the word and rejoiced together—not over record low scores on the course, but over the miracle that happened in the hotel room. This man became "whole in One!"

An Eternal Grand Slam

The second event happened not long after the National Softball Tournament in August. Many teams bring players who are members of the team and attend church, but who are not part of the body of Christ. In fact, many churches use sports fellowship to reach the lost.

This year was no exception. One young player from Florida was not a believer. He was a great athlete, but he had a real attitude problem. Don't get me wrong. We have encountered bad attitudes from those claiming to be Christians as well, but this young man was not a believer...at least not during the tournament.

A few days later, I received a call from the pastor of his church. He wanted me to know the young man had accepted Christ as Savior the following Wednesday night at church. I believe the influence and character of those Christians around him played a key role in his salvation. For him, it was a grand slam for eternity.

I could recount many other stories like these, but I simply want to encourage churches to be aware that many people are not saved during an invitational hymn. They are saved because of the relationships they develop with believers, from work to home to the ball field. And that is why sports ministry is more than fun and funds! **ONE**



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Brown on Green >>

Have Your Cake and Eat It Too


As retirement approaches, many people realize they have not saved enough. They try to compensate in the last few years by making large “catch-up contributions” to their retirement plan. Sometimes, however, we may not be able to contribute as much as we would like because of federally imposed limits. We need other ways to boost retirement income.

Others want to make a major gift to a Free Will Baptist ministry but are concerned the gift might not leave enough assets for retirement. Consider a 62-year-old couple with a \$500,000 estate. They are still healthy and want to retire at 72. They like the idea of tithing on their estate and want to find a way to leave a \$50,000 gift for ministry as well.

Free Will Baptist Foundation offers a solution that may allow them to do all three. A deferred payment gift annuity can guarantee income for retirement and become a significant gift for ministry when they go home to be with the Lord. They could set up a deferred payment gift annuity when they are both 62 and put the \$50,000 tithe into the arrangement with a 10-year deferral.

They will receive a tax deduction of almost \$17,000, which generates a tax savings of over \$4,000. The income they receive, starting ten years later when they are 72, will be over \$270 a month (or \$3,250 a year), a guaranteed return of 6.5% for the rest of their lives. More than half of this income will be tax free, boosting the effective rate of return to 7.67%. This is a significant boost for their retirement income.

For them, the best part comes in knowing that—although they have received a nice income from their \$50,000 tithe while living—the ministry they selected will receive a significant gift after their deaths.

Many refer to this type of arrangement as “having your cake and eating it too.” They receive the benefit of significant income from their assets, mostly tax-free and guaranteed for both their lives. At the same time, they also make a gift to ministry when they die. Contact the Free Will Baptist Foundation today to learn more about this or other planned gift ideas. 

About the Writer: David Brown, CPA, became director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation in 2007. Send your questions to David at david@nafwb.org. To learn how the Foundation can help you become a more effective giver, call 877-336-7575.



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Is the MIDDLE CLASS *Ready* to Retire?

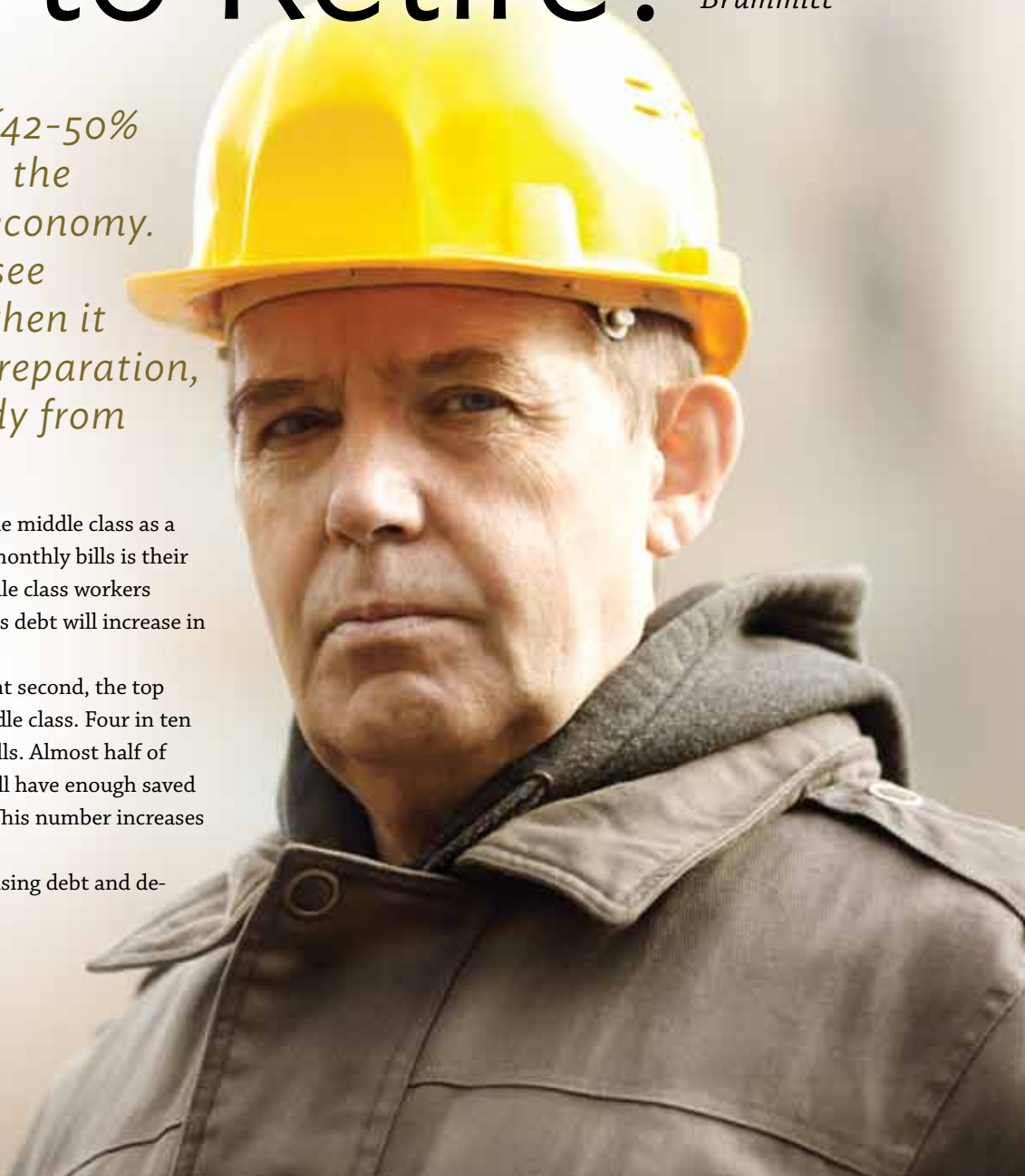
By
John
Brummitt

Middle class workers (42-50% of the population) are the backbone of the U.S. economy. So, it is interesting to see how they “stack up” when it comes to retirement preparation, based on a recent study from Wells Fargo.

Consider the number one priority of the middle class as a whole: 59% percent indicate that paying monthly bills is their top financial concern. Nearly 60% of middle class workers struggle with debt, and trends suggest this debt will increase in coming years.

Saving for retirement comes in a distant second, the top financial concern for only 13% of the middle class. Four in ten workers say they can't save and pay the bills. Almost half of middle class workers do not think they will have enough saved to retire and plan to work into their 80s. This number increases every year.

It is somewhat depressing to see increasing debt and de-



creasing savings for the middle class, but all is not lost. Twenty-nine percent of middle class workers are confident they will have enough to retire. What makes this 29% different from the rest? They have a written plan to help them stay on track in paying off debt and saving for retirement. Those with a written plan save three times more than those with no written plan. Sounds like it is important to have a written plan!

You might be thinking, “Yeah, but that 29% is the older population in the middle class getting ready for retirement.” You would be wrong. According to the survey, workers in their 30s are the ones who have really grasped this concept and are using it to their advantage. These 30-somethings have the most realistic outlook about retirement. They estimate that median retirement savings should

be \$500,000 to retire successfully, almost \$300,000 more than what people in their 40s and older estimate they will need.

If you are in your 30s, don’t start patting yourself on the back just yet. While the largest number of written-plan savers is from the Generation-X demographic, around 14% have also withdrawn these funds early for nonretirement purposes, according to a study by the Insured Retirement Institute. It is not enough to have a written plan. You must follow it and understand the importance of letting retirement funds grow over time. This is crucial for a successful retirement.

Sure, paying the bills should be your first priority, but retirement savings should be a close second, since this is how you will pay your bills in the future. Even with advances in medicine, working

into your 80s may not be a viable option, so follow these simple steps to savings:

- **Develop a plan for saving early in your working career.**
- **Set funds aside in a retirement account from every paycheck.**
- **Leave the money there until you retire.**

This simple formula for successful saving is one of the hardest things to follow, especially when “life happens” and you need money for an immediate crisis. Start today, and make sure that you are ready to retire when the time comes. **ONE**

About the Writer: John Brummitt graduated in 2011 with an MBA from Tennessee Tech University. A 2004 graduate of Welch College, he has been with the Board of Retirement since the spring of 2006.

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STRUCTURE:

Blessing or Curse?

BY NORMA JACKSON GOLDMAN

Can you recall a time in your life when your daily routine—the ordinary structure of your days—was turned upside down? Sometimes it happens during serious illness, a major move, the loss of someone dear, or even a change of jobs. In such times, rebuilding structure is critical to recovery, to adapt to the changes of life that are common to all people.



Without structure, some have a hard time even getting up. “What’s the point?” they wonder. Mealtimes are neglected or omitted altogether. Sleep does not come easily, and when it does, there is no real rest. Frequently, time with the Lord in prayer, Bible reading, and fellowship diminishes to the point that spiritual strength is depleted, making a bad situation worse. What follows is an unhealthy focus on self...our loss, disappointment, or personal pain.

Rebuilding structure is a matter of choosing to put self under the authority of God’s Word, which is filled with positive ways to build a new, healthy daily structure. How wonderful that God

This process takes time, and the blessings of success do not come overnight. Changes, however gradual, lead surely to improvements that become increasingly apparent to others. With the change comes a renewed sense of purpose, self-worth, and obedience to God’s plans.

When our focus turns away from personal loss, a changed environment, illness, or pain and toward God, His people, and their needs, something quite extraordinary happens. The opportunity for change allows freedom to make an even better plan for daily activities, priorities, and goals than the one previously turned upside down.


REBUILDING STRUCTURE IS A MATTER OF CHOOSING TO PUT SELF UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF GOD’S WORD, WHICH IS FILLED WITH POSITIVE WAYS TO BUILD A NEW, HEALTHY DAILY STRUCTURE.

knows us so well that He anticipates our needs before they arise and that He offers exactly what we need at just the right moment. Both Psalms and Proverbs are exceptionally practical when creating and maintaining a healthy, balanced daily structure.

The basics—healthy eating, restful sleep, intentionality in our thought life and service—often precede progress on the spiritual front, but one usually feeds the other. Here’s how it works on a practical level. After the loss of her husband of many years, Janice determined to make changes in the structure of her life to bring her back to health physically, spiritually, and relationally. She determined to make new friendships among singles. She began attending a new Bible study class and offered to help with planning fellowship meals. She deliberately involved herself in worship, personal Bible study, and prayer even when she really didn’t feel like it. In other words, she set out on an intentional path to restore balance and harmony in her life through a structured, biblical approach.

God never intended for His people to be slavish about structure—quite the contrary. The great majority of the Bible’s heroes found themselves in new environments, new cultures, new situations, and new places of service often confronted with new challenges.

To be enslaved to a daily routine is to miss opportunities God plants squarely in your path. No matter what your schedule demands, try to remain open to God’s leadership. It might be a great deal more important to minister to someone hurting than to finish the To Do list. The article I planned to write might not be nearly as critical as spending an extra hour or two with my daughter, my grieving friend, or a discouraged co-worker.

Creating positive structure allows us not only the freedom to set new priorities, but to partner with God in His kingdom purposes. We are charged to be “salt and light,” revealing Him, bringing healing to every person that falls within our sphere of influence. In other words...a blessing. 

About the Writer: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman enjoys a successful freelance career in her retirement. The award-winning writer lives near Houston, Texas. Learn more about retirement options at www.boardofretirement.com.

THANK YOU

James Beasley (Turbeville, South Carolina) and the Oklahoma Women Active for Christ for the donation to the Labor of Love Campaign.

Learn more at www.boardofretirement.com.

WNAC Online >>



Streamlined, simple, clean, easy-to-use...these were the goals determined by Women Nationally Active for Christ staffers during a recent revision of www.wnac.org. They hit their target, producing a beautiful yet simple website that offers Free Will Baptist women a powerful resource to help them “fulfill the Great Commission through God-designed roles in the home, church, community, and world.” Enjoy a quick tour of the site’s key features and improvements.

Navigation

Locate content quickly and easily with a simplified drop-down menu and search feature. A feature slider draws attention to important news and content. Upcoming dates and events are located on the right sidebar of the Home Page, and a full Calendar Page offers a comprehensive slate of activities. Contact information is available on every page of the site.

About

Explore the history of Free Will Baptist women’s work, from 1841 to the present. Find the basics of today’s organization and activities: mission, FAQs, membership information, office and staff, and more.

Ministries

Find the latest information on WNAC

ministries: needs for the Provision Closet, latest details of the annual convention, scholarships, promotional resources, publications, and more. You may be interested to learn the details of these longstanding ministries—how they started and evolved over the decades.

Treasure

Discover the rich history of *Treasure*, the quarterly Bible study guide that began as *CoLaborer* magazine in 1961. Subscribe or update subscriptions and download extra magazine content to spice up WNAC meetings, worship services, and projects.

Resources

Explore a treasure trove of ministry resources, from the digital *WNAC Manual* to PowerPoint™ presentations and free record-keeping resources. Browse Bible studies designed for younger women or download WNAC logos and wallpaper. Order the annual *Program and Plan Book* and peruse featured ministry resources posted by Executive Director Elizabeth Hodges and the WNAC staff.

Social Media

Take a shortcut to the WNAC Facebook page or follow the organization on Twitter to gain easy access to the latest news, events, and photos from the organization.

How Did We Do?

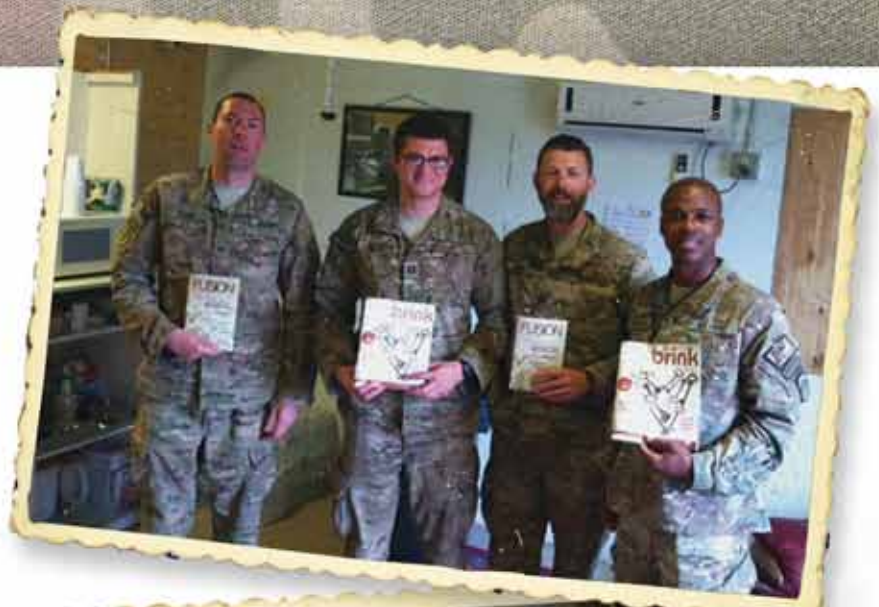
As you explore the new site, perhaps you have a suggestion for something we overlooked. Take advantage of the Submit Question form to let us know how we can continue to improve to serve you better.

CHAPLAINS

on The Brink

Since the origins of our nation, colonists volunteered as a militia to defend our homes, families, and freedoms. From the French and Indian War to the Revolutionary War and forward, the United States methodically rose to become the world's leading superpower through military strength and moral leadership.

Through these wars and conflicts, the nation learned how to care for the soldiers who fight to make freedom possible. The chaplaincy is an important process of this care. Each branch of the military provides clergy members to minister to troops during both peacetime and war.



Faced with unimaginable situations, troops seek answers and counsel from chaplains.

Chaplains serve in various roles, from pastoral positions in chapels on military installations to training. Whatever the immediate responsibilities, their most important role is shaping the morals of the troops. Teaching ethics, counseling, and advising commanders all serve to share the gospel message and shape the spiritual lives of men and women in uniform.





Faced with unimaginable situations, troops seek answers and counsel from chaplains. These men have requested the use of D6 Curriculum for the troops under their care. Randall House provides complimentary curriculum, devotional magazines, and Bible studies. When people buy D6 Curriculum, they help provide curriculum to men and women in uniform and assist our chaplains in their ministry to military families.

D6 Curriculum has accompanied troops to Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and Jordan as well as bases across North America. We are thankful to the Free Will Baptist chaplains—Terry Austin, John Carey, Lee Frye, Tracy Kerr, Steve Simpson, Timothy Sturgill, Kevin Trimble, and David Trogdon—as well as those chaplains who serve in the Reserve and National Guard like Brad Hanna and others. These pictures show troops using D6 Curriculum around the world during their deployments. **ONE**

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Is D6 for You?

My wife and I attended the **D6 Conference** to learn how our church could better disciple families, but we came away with so much more. As new parents, this conference instilled a deeper conviction to teach our faith at home. The principles taught are not just for those in church leadership; they are for every believer interested in passing our faith to coming generations.

Corey Minter, Pastor,
New Hope Free Will Baptist Church

The **D6 Conference** was a great encouraging and motivating experience for me. It improved my ministry by showing me new ways to help parents continue the children's Bible story throughout the week with their child. I would highly recommend this conference to anyone who is involved with children's or family ministries.

Melissa Taylor, Children's Director,
The Vertical Church

My wife and I attended the **D6 Conference**, and it supplied me with ministry ideas for working with families, which is always helpful, but it was also a challenge to me as a husband.

I left the conference with a few more tools in my ministry toolbox, but more importantly I left with a resolve to be the best husband I could be. It was well worth the time and investment.

Randy Corn, Pastor,
Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church

I thought I understood Deuteronomy 6.

I have taught the passage and preached sermons from it. I laughed and shed a few tears during the conference, but even more importantly, a very important passage of Scripture was solidly exegeted, explained, and practically applied. **Deuteronomy 6 came alive to me in a profound manner.** I came away with a clear concept of how to better lead the families in my church. I am already signed up for 2014. I hope to see you there!

David Potete, Pastor,
Northwest Free Will Baptist Church



WORLD'S
GREATEST
DAD

••• By Eric K. Thomsen •••

It all started with the T-shirt my wife and daughter gave me for Father's Day. The shirt was Superman blue, with bright red letters sprawled across the chest, "World's Greatest Dad." I wore it proudly! But one day, the inevitable happened. As I rounded the corner of the automotive aisle of the local Walmart, I came face to face with someone wearing my shirt.

When he glanced down at my chest, his eyes narrowed then rose slowly to meet my own steely gaze. For a moment, I felt like Gary Cooper in *High Noon*. My hands clinched, and I took a deep breath. Only one man could be the world's greatest dad!

The moment passed as reality struck home. Our claim to fame was, after all, just a T-shirt—mass produced somewhere across the globe and sold by the thousands if not hundreds of thousands. We grinned sheepishly at one another, and I mumbled "nice shirt" as I squeezed by and headed for the oil filters.

Still, this encounter in the automotive aisle set the wheels of thought in motion. What characteristics do make a great dad? The ability to toss a perfect spiral? The patience to fix squeaky brakes? The energy to keep pace with a hyperactive three-year-old? Are these all part of the formula, or does being a great dad require something more? The following list contains a few paternal principles that will make any dad a top pop.

A great dad has a BIG mouth! He knows when to speak up. He is not afraid to say, "I love you," "I'm sorry," or even, "What do you think about this?" Great dads take time to encourage their kids, to ask questions about their day, and to ask their opinion about big decisions. Most important, a great dad prays earnestly and consistently for his family.

A great dad loves sports. From playing catch to ring-around-the-rosie, a great dad really gets into sports, at least the really

important ones. He recognizes the value of a fast-paced game of hide-and-go-seek or a final game of ping-pong. As his children get older, a great dad becomes their number one fan, attending ballgames and cheering wildly. To be blunt, a great dad understands that spending time with his children is far more important than watching the latest headlines on *SportsCenter*, playing a round of golf, or even watching the big game with the guys.

A great dad spends a lot of time in his favorite recliner.

After all, it is a great place to play “horsie,” to read or tell favorite stories, to snuggle under a blanket while watching a favorite cartoon. (Word of caution: this doesn’t always work so well with teenagers.) The recliner is also a great place to review spelling words, to talk about dating and sex (yes sex...God’s way), and to listen when children voice their frustrations about school, friends, and life in general.

A great dad takes time to work on his “six-pack.”

No, I don’t mean the abdominal muscles everyone is raving about these days. I’m talking about the six guidelines for living and thinking found in Philippians 4:8. A great dad must focus on things that are true, honorable, just (or right), pure, lovely, and of good reputation. He avoids traps of hypocrisy, deception, prejudice, sexual impropriety, base humor, or anything else that might tarnish his character. He must remember that building spiritual muscles takes just as much discipline, patience, and determination as toning the physical body. It takes time and effort for any dad to sculpt a life his family can

respect and admire!

A great dad has an eye for the ladies.

Not just any ladies, mind you, but the ladies God has placed in his care—his wife and daughters. His kids never doubt that dad loves mom because he demonstrates love and respect...treatment she deserves! He disciplines his daughters with love and teaches them to be real ladies. He teaches his sons to treat women with courtesy and deference. A great dad doesn’t flirt with, comment on, or ogle other women. He holds women in the highest esteem, and his attitude and actions impact every member of his family!

A great dad collects stamps.

He patiently and carefully stamps out the influence of a godless culture in his home. He monitors the television programs his children watch. He browses the magazines left on the breakfast table, and from time to time, he talks to his kids about the latest fads and fashions and how Christians should respond to them. A great dad also stamps out Satan’s attacks on his home by maintaining a daily family devotional and prayer time. Finally, he stamps out any hint of prejudice, malice, or hate that attempts to slip in the back door of his home. The quality of a dad’s “stamp” collection is directly related to the spiritual and emotional health of his family.

A great dad gets wrapped up in a good book.

And not just any book. Great dads love the Word of God. Hours before the rest of the world hit the snooze button, my own Dad sought the face of the Savior within the pages of

his well-worn Bible. While typical dads snored and sputtered, he memorized entire books—Proverbs, Acts, Romans, and Revelation—no small task by anyone’s standards. And you should hear him preach! I once heard him quote 31 verses without once referring to his notes. I know. I counted. Am I bragging on my dad? You bet I am! By his example, Dad taught me to love and respect the precious principles and promises of the Word of God. A great dad—my great dad—loves the Word of God.

A great dad wants to be “King of the Hill.”

Oops, I left out two important words! Great dads want to be like the real “King of the Hill.” They follow Christ’s example of service. Just as the Savior knelt before his disciples and gently washed their dirty feet, a great dad lays his life before his family and says with every word, action, and expression, “How can I serve you?” Great dads follow Christ’s example of humility. Things don’t always have to go their way. They don’t have to be right all the time. Their egos don’t make unrealistic demands on wife and children. They model strength under control and follow Christ’s example of sacrifice. The needs of their families, both spiritual and physical, come before their own comfort and pleasure. You might say that great dads follow Christ’s example all the way to the foot of the cross, where they leave their own burdens and frustrations, finding comfort and strength in the arms of a loving Savior. Yes, great dads know and imitate the “King of the Hill.”

After a tough year of service, my “World’s Greatest Dad” T-shirt is wearing thin. A small, ragged hole has appeared in the right shoulder seam, and the fabric is soft and stained...but it is still my favorite shirt! I wear it as a reminder that I hold an important position, one I can never take for granted. I am the world’s greatest dad, at least to my daughter, and I never want to give her any reason to change her mind! **ONE**

Leader Profile >>

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.

Paul Bryant

Paul grew up with incredible role models—his parents Randy and Diana Bryant.

Their Christian faith, love, hospitality, and service continue to influence him today.

On Paul's first birthday, his father accepted the pastorate of Ryanwood Fellowship in Vero Beach, Florida, where he and Diana continue to minister to this day. Paul began pastoring in Mississippi six years ago at Cross Creek Free Will Baptist Church. Prior to his pastorate, Paul earned the Master of Divinity at Beason Divinity School at Samford University, and served for three years as minister of music and youth at Madison Free Will Baptist Church (Alabama) under Pastor Richard Hendrix.

Paul accepted the call to ministry at youth camp when he was 15. Since then, God has surrounded him with mentors who encouraged him and allowed him opportunities to develop his talents. Paul and Beth have two children, ages five and one. Their family has experienced some serious health challenges over the last two years, which brought Paul and Beth even closer together in their marriage and ministry. These experiences, coupled with Paul's desire for continued growth, bring wisdom, patience, and insight to ministry.

When asked why Paul has chosen Free Will Baptists, he said, "I believe in Free Will Baptist doctrine, I love the people, and I agree with our church government structure." Paul is a focused leader and student of the Word. He summed up his purpose with a simple statement: "My heart is to serve God and the people of His church."

Paul, you are a great leader! **ONE**



What does your quiet time look like?

Before anyone else rises, I methodically study a book, chapter, or paragraph from Scripture. I find walks provide uninterrupted time to pray for family, the events of the day, families within the church, and other items.

What are the names, ages, and one-word descriptors for your children?

Lily—age 5, enthusiastic Daisy—age 1, pleasant

Favorite author? Calvin Miller

Top three books of all time (other than the Bible)?
Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness by Eugene Peterson

Finish Strong: Going the Distance for Your Family by Steve Farrar

Brothers, We Are Not Professionals: A Plea to Pastors for Radical Ministry by John Piper

Describe an ideal date for you and Beth.

With two small children, it's an uninterrupted nap. But when we go out, it is typically for dinner and a movie or a walk through the park.

Paper or Plastic Questions

Mountains or Ocean? Mountains (grew up on the Ocean)

Music or Talk Radio? Talk Radio

Coke or Pepsi? Coke Zero

Facebook, Email, twitter, or texting? Email...it leaves a better paper trail

Mac or PC? PC

Socks or house shoes? Bare feet

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NYC News >>

authentic

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

PSALM 19:14

Fort Worth • July 27-30, 2014

SPEAKERS:



TUESDAY NIGHT EVENT @ 9PM / \$10
SHANE & SHANE



SUNDAY AM
Neil Gilliland



SUNDAY PM
Eddie Moody



MONDAY PM
Angie Outlaw



TUESDAY PM
Richard Ross

buçk a week PROJECTS

Remember to continue your support of our missionary projects for 2014:

- Creative Access Projects with International Missions
- The Wright Family in McKinney, TX

NYC CONFERENCE FEES:

Students (Grades 1-12):
\$25 until June 1st
\$35 onsite

Adults (for access to competition and NYC worship services):
\$15

NYC Seminars & Panel Discussions
Don't miss these exciting opportunities for growth and learning.

Children's Ministry Panel: Monday at 4PM
Student Ministry Panel: Tuesday at 4PM

ENGAGE
leadership network
Panel Discussion (formerly fwb21)
New Life: A Discussion on Church Revitalization

Check out the **NEW**
vertical three website:
www.verticalthree.com

REACH THAT GUY
SERVING CHRIST BY SERVING OTHERS



SOWING & REAPING

78th National Association of Free Will Baptists // Fort Worth, Texas // July 27-30, 2014

Saturday, July 26

Impact Fort Worth
Various Locations
9:00 am

Registration Open
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
FWCC North Concourse

Sunday, July 27

Registration (Open Daily)
8:00 am - 7:00 pm
FWCC North Concourse

Sunday School*
10:00 am - 10:45 am
FWCC Arena

Morning Worship*
11:00 am - 12:00 Noon
FWCC Arena

Evening Worship*
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
FWCC Arena

NYC Judges Reception
9:00 pm
FWCC

Monday, July 28

General Board Meeting
8:00 am - 2:00 pm
FWCC Hall CD

Reach That Guy Service Projects
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Various Locations

NYC Competitive Activities
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
FWCC Various Locations

Convention Seminars
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
FWCC Various Locations

Theological Trends Seminar
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
FWCC Hall CD

WNAC Seminar
3:00 pm
FWCC Room 108

Exhibit Hall Open
3:00 pm - 10:00 pm
FWCC Hall EF

Children's Ministry Panel
4:00 pm
FWCC

Mission: North America
Appreciation Dinner
5:15 pm - 6:30 pm
FWCC Room 121

Evening Worship
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
FWCC Arena

WNAC Laughter & Latté Reception
8:30 pm
FWCC Room 121

National Youth Evangelistic Team
(Y.E.T.) Program
9:00 pm
FWCC Ballroom

ENGAGE Panel (formerly FWB21)
9:00 pm
FWCC

Tuesday, July 29

NYC Competitive Activities
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
FWCC Various Locations

WNAC Business Session
8:30 am
FWCC Hall CD

Convention Seminars
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
FWCC Various Locations

WNAC Missionary Service
9:45 am
FWCC Hall CD

Preaching Conference
10:00 am - 11:30 am
FWCC Arena

Exhibit Hall Open
10:00 am - 10:00 pm
FWCC Hall EF

WNAC Missionary Mingle Luncheon
11:30 am
FWCC Room 121

WNAC Seminar
1:00 pm
FWCC Room 108

Convention Business Session
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm
FWCC Arena

Student Ministry Panel
4:00 pm
FWCC

Evening Worship
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
FWCC Arena

Shane & Shane Concert
9:00 pm
FWCC Ballroom

Wednesday, July 30

NYC Competition Finals
8:00 am - 11:00 am
FWCC Various Locations

Convention Business Session
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
FWCC Arena

Exhibit Hall Open
10:00 am - 9:30 pm
FWCC Hall EF

Welch College Alumni
and Friends Luncheon
12:00 noon - 1:15 pm
FWCC Room 121

Evening Worship
6:45 pm - 8:30 pm
FWCC Arena

NYC Awards Ceremony
9:00 pm - 11:00 pm
FWCC Arena

*Teen services will be held in the
FWCC Ballroom



Marcus Brewer
(Texas)
Sunday School



Danny Gasperson
(North Carolina)
Sunday Morning



Randy Corn
(Tennessee)
Sunday Evening



Todd Smith
(South Carolina)
Monday Evening



Will Harmon
(Arkansas)
Tuesday Night

Convention Speakers

The National Association of Free Will Baptists will return to Fort Worth, Texas, in July for its 78th annual session. Convention Manager Ryan Lewis expects more than 5,000 delegates and visitors from across the nation to converge on Fort Worth for the convention's fourth meeting in the city.

Keynote speakers Marcus Brewer (TX), Danny Gasperson (NC), Randy Corn (TN), Todd Smith (SC), Howard Bass (TX), Keith Woody (TX), Will Harmon (AR), and Heath Ferguson (TX) will address the 2014 convention theme, *Principles of Sowing and Reaping*.

Convention delegates are expected to approve denominational budgets of nearly \$25 million. Over the course of the meeting, Moderator Tim York will guide delegates through the election of board members, general officers, and commission appointees. In addition, all national agencies and commissions will submit annual reports during convention business sessions.

The 47th annual National Youth Conference and the 79th meeting of Women Nationally Active for Christ will meet simultaneously with the National Association.

National Youth Conference

The National Youth Conference (NYC), which expects more than 2,000 registrants, includes national competitive finals in Bible and fine arts, seminars, and services especially for youth. Speakers Neil Gililand (TN), Eddie Moody (NC), Angie



Heath Ferguson
(Texas)
Wednesday Night



Howard Bass
(Texas)
Tuesday Preaching
Conference



Keith Woody
(Texas)
Tuesday Preaching
Conference

Outlaw (TN), and Richard Ross (TX) will address the NYC theme *Authentic* based on Psalm 19:14 while Shane and Shane, Texas-based duo known for acoustic praise music, will lead a worship concert on Tuesday night.

Throughout the week, high school students from across the nation will participate in *Reach That Guy* projects throughout the week, serving the citizens of Fort Worth through acts of kindness. The program originated during the previous NYC visit to Fort Worth in 1996. On the final evening of the conference, students join the adults for a combined worship experience in the Arena at Fort Worth Convention Center. Learn more at www.fwbny.com.

WNAC Convention

Women Nationally Active for Christ (an auxiliary organization of the National Association of Free Will Baptists) will meet July 29 for their 79th annual business session. The meeting will conclude with a Tuesday luncheon featuring missionary mom Ruth McDonald and her daughters Katie (Speer) and Amy McDonald, all missionaries to Japan.

In addition to a one-day business session, WNAC will host *Laughter and Latté* (an inspirational social event) and present a number of seminars and workshops. For more information, visit www.wnac.org. **ONE**

Convention Services to Be Streamed Live

Thanks to a gift from the Free Will Baptist Foundation, 2014 convention services will once again stream live on www.nafwb.org, according to Media Commission Chairman, Travis Penn.

In addition to live streaming the worship services, the Media Commission has also created an online archive of previous convention services dating to 2011. The files are available for download at www.nafwb.org. This free archive replaces onsite CD and DVD sales at the convention.

The number of online convention viewers has grown steadily since 2010, when 1,703 watched services in Oklahoma City. By 2013, when the convention met in Tampa, Florida, the number had increased to 6,479.

Ryan Lewis, convention manager, expects the growth to continue. "Streaming has become an important part of our convention because it allows Free Will Baptists across the world to take part, even when distance and calendar conflicts don't allow them to attend in person. I am thankful to the Foundation and the Media Commission for making live streaming a reality again this year."




Access the online archive: NAFWB.org

Make an Eternal Impact!

Convention attendees are encouraged to arrive a day early to participate in Impact Fort Worth, a one-day campaign of kindness. Volunteers will join First FWB Church of Weatherford and Friendship FWB Church in Altom City to give back to the communities where the churches are located through community picnics and more.

Convention Musicians Needed

The 2014 Convention Orchestra sponsored by the Music Commission needs vocalists and instrumentalists (age 15+) to participate in the convention choir and orchestra. The ensemble will accompany congregational and choir selections each night of the convention.

Anyone wishing to participate can contact Joshua Riggs at joshua@bethanyfwb.com or connect with the Music Commission: [facebook.com/fwbmusiccommission](https://www.facebook.com/fwbmusiccommission). 



Pre-Registration

2014 National Association of Free Will Baptists

WNAC | NYC | Ft. Worth, Texas | July 27-30, 2014

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)

Non-Voting:

- Licensed Minister
- Attendee (includes infants and toddlers)

Tickets:

Welch College Alumni & Friends Luncheon Qty _____ x \$30 = _____
 Wednesday, July 30, 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:

Shane & Shane Concert..... Qty _____ x \$10 = _____
 Tuesday, July 29, 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 Latté Qty _____ x \$15 = _____
 Monday, July 28, 8:30 p.m.
 WNAC Missionary Mingle Luncheon Qty _____ x \$25 = _____
 Tuesday, July 29 11:30 a.m.

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

**Register April 1 – June 27, 2014 (postmarked)
 No Refunds After June 27**

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

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

Convention Housing

2014 National Association of Free Will Baptists

Omni Fort Worth Hotel (HQ)*

1300 Houston Street
 Fort Worth, TX 76102
 1-800-THE-OMNI (843-6664)
 Rate: \$151
 Valet Parking: \$15
 Self Parking: \$15 (no in & out privileges)
 Mention 2014 NAFWB for group rate.
 Limit of 3 reservations* per individual.



Sheraton Fort Worth Hotel & Spa

1701 Commerce Street
 Fort Worth, TX 76102
 888-627-8556
 Rate: \$146
 Group Code: NAFWB7
 Valet Parking: \$18
 Self-Parking: \$10
 Limit of 9 reservations* per individual.



Historic Hilton Fort Worth

815 Main Street
 Fort Worth, TX 76102
 Rate: \$129
 Group Code: FWB
 Reservations: 1-800-HILTONS
 (445-8667)
 Valet Parking Only: \$15
 Limit of 9 reservations* per individual.



Courtyard by Marriott Downtown

601 Main Street
 Fort Worth, TX 76102
 1-800-321-2211
 Rate: \$129
 Group Code: FREFREA (one bed) or
 FREFREB (double beds)
 Valet Parking Only: \$20.00
 Limit of 9 reservations* per individual.



- + Reservations can be made by telephone or Internet.
- + Room rates do not include applicable taxes (15%).
- + Cancellations will be charged one night's room and tax per reservation.

1. Prepare Personal Information

You will need the following:

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

2. Contact Your Hotel of Choice

(See details above.)

Reservations will open at 9 am, CT, 10 am, ET, Monday, May 5, 2014.

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

+ Cut-off date: Friday, June 27, 2014.

3. Receive Your Confirmation

On Monday, May 5, links to hotel reservations will be available at:

www.nafwb.org.

*Groups making reservations that exceed the hotel limit policy may contact the Executive Office for more information: 877-767-7659.

FAITHFUL *through* the SEASONS

79th WNAC Convention // July 29

This year, join Women Nationally Active for Christ as they celebrate God's faithfulness through the generations. During the convention, enter the lives and ministries of missionary mom Ruth McDonald and her daughters Katie (Speer) and Amy as they recount stories of God's faithfulness through their years on the field at the Tuesday morning missionary service.

Missionaries Susan Burke (Colorado), Alicia Crowe (Japan), Danielle McCraney (Colorado), and Cristina Price (France) will share their insight on finding moments of solace in a fast-paced world.



Clockwise: Ruth McDonald (Japan); Katie Speer (Japan); Alicia Crowe (Japan); Cristina Price (France); Danielle McCraney (Colorado); Susan Burke (Colorado).

WNAC President Diana Bryant (Florida) will provide helpful tips for thriving as a pastor's wife, and Executive Committee members Jonda Patton (Kentucky) and Janie Campbell (Arkansas) will offer encouragement and advice for caregivers. During the business session, delegates will make crucial and historic decisions, as delegates explore the possibilities of joining the National Association as a department rather than an auxiliary organization.

Special Events

The 2014 convention will feature two special events. On Monday evening, take a break from the hectic convention schedule to join women from across the nation for Laughter & Latté. The \$15 ticketed event will give women an opportunity to connect (or reconnect) over *hors d'oeuvres* and tea. On Tuesday, make time for an old-fashioned box lunch social at the "Missionary Mingle," where you will have an opportunity to meet and fellowship with Free Will Baptist missionary wives from around the world. The luncheon, which costs \$25, includes a sandwich, chips, pasta salad, cookie, fruit, and a bottle of water. **ONE**

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 27

3:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, July 28

1:30 pm Seminar: Creative Writers
(Sarah Sargent and Pam Hackett)

3:00 pm Seminar: Caregiving
(Jonda Patton and Janie Campbell)

5:30 pm Texas State Officers' dinner
(by invitation only)

8:30 pm Laughter & Latté

Tuesday, July 29

8:30 am Business Session
(Diana Bryant, Presiding)

9:45 am Missionary Service
Ruth McDonald, Katie Speer, Amy McDonald

11:30 am "Missionary Mingle" Luncheon

1:00 pm Seminar: Quiet Time in a Crazy World
(missionary speakers)

Wednesday, July 30

8:00 am State Presidents/Field Representatives
Fellowship (coffee shop)

11:00 am Seminar: Pastors' Wives (Diana Bryant)

Photo: Mark Cowart



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

ONE to ONE >>

13.1

It was late October 2013. I received an email from my daughter Katie. She asked if I would consider running the half marathon with her in Nashville on April 26, 2014. I was impaled on the horns of dilemma. I did not want to disappoint my daughter, but at the same time I did not want to make a promise I could not keep.

A few days later she asked my wife, “Is dad ignoring my emails?”

I was. Guilt-ridden, I gave in and called her.

“Katie,” I said, “I’m about to turn 60 years old. I’m out of shape and overweight. I’m not sure I can do it.”

Finally, like any dad who wants to please his kids, I gave in and consented to run with her. Training began November 1. That first morning I ran three minutes without stopping and thought I was going to die. My heart was racing. My lungs were burning. My legs felt like spaghetti. What was I thinking?

Two things immediately became apparent:

- (1) I had to lose some weight and get into shape;
- (2) I needed a plan.

Coming up with the plan was simple. A number of websites provide great training tips and schedules. The one I selected had specific instructions and incremental goals spread over a 12-week period.



Losing weight and getting into shape wasn’t as easy. I knew I had to change my eating habits to shed unwanted pounds. For me, the battle started in my brain. I had to make up my mind, roll up my sleeves, and make better food choices.

Exercise was equally challenging. I’m a morning person, so I opted to get up earlier to do the required training. Crawling out of bed at 4:30 a.m. and running alone in the dark (especially when it was windy and cold) required discipline. I rediscovered the truth of the old adage—“No pain, no gain.”

Throughout the experience I thought a lot about the truths of Hebrews 12:1.

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

Encouragement: The support I received from my “cloud of witnesses” (family and friends) was invaluable. We all need an occasional pat on the back.

Encumbrances: Laying aside “every weight” (in my case 37 pounds) was necessary. What do you need discard to run well? Perhaps some lifestyle changes are in order.

Endurance: Running “with patience” (logging 190 training miles in three months) was key to finishing the race. When doing hard things in life, there is no substitute for patience and commitment. Just keep going.

Running 13.1 miles is not a sprint. Neither is the Christian life.

Stay in the race.

Advice for prospective marathoners? Do it before you turn 60. **ONE**

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

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