

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

ONE

MAGAZINE

A Free Will Baptist Magazine

**CONTENTMENT
BREEDS GENEROSITY**

HIDDEN HEROES

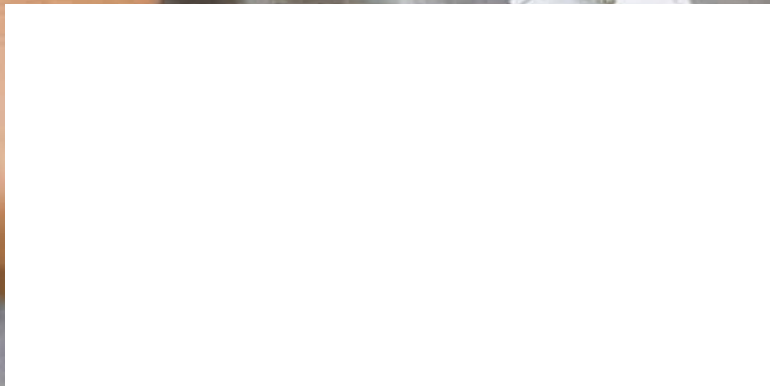
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UNIFYING VISION OF OUR
ROLE IN THE EXTENSION
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First Glimpse >>

THE NOTE

It had been one of those Mondays—looming deadlines, computer trouble, and a short stack of letters from folks who didn't agree with my latest article (to put it mildly). After taking a few handwritten body blows, I couldn't help but view the final letter with suspicion. I didn't recognize the return address, and it simply said, "To the Editor." Not a good sign.

After a few moments, I picked up the envelope with a deep sigh and gingerly slid the letter opener along the crease. I eased out a beautiful card, swallowed hard, opened it, and began reading. Immediately, phrases jumped from the page...not the criticism I expected, however. *I'm proud of you; you are doing a good job; and I prayed for you this morning.* Suddenly, the day seemed a little brighter, and I sat up straighter as I finished the note. *Keep up the good work! You are an important part in what God is doing.*

The amazing power of words: to build up, tear down, heal or destroy.

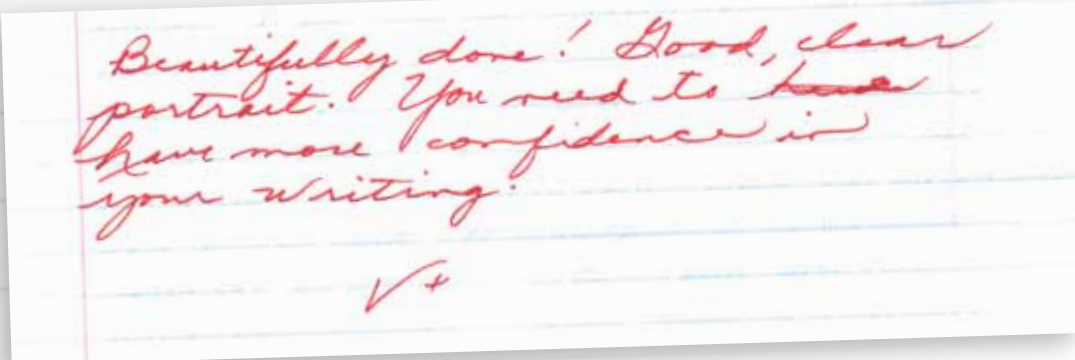
In the third chapter of his practical book, James reminded readers that words reflect the inner man, an accurate barometer of our walk with Christ. Consider three simple suggestions from his teaching. We must...

Recognize our inability to control our words (verse 8) and surrender to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Communicate to others like we communicate to God (verse 9). Wouldn't this solve some problems!

Be consistent in our words: blessing, not cursing (verses 9-10); sweet, not bitter (verses 11-12); and fulfilling the fruit of the Spirit rather than the flesh (verses 12-17).

James shared three common illustrations to prove his point: a bit, a rudder, and a fire. All three have something in common. They all require a third party. The horse doesn't put a bit in its



own mouth. The ship doesn't turn its own rudder, and a fire doesn't start without a source. What was James trying to tell us? It is only when we surrender to the control of the Holy Spirit that our words are brought into submission to His will.

And words hold such power. I will never forget the simple lines expressed by my high school English teacher. After grading the first essay of my junior year, he wrote simply: "Beautifully done! Good clean portrait. You need to have more confidence in your writing."

Those words changed my life.

The question is: whose life can you change today? I challenge you to take time to write to someone today. Ask God to bring a particular person to mind. It may be a note of appreciation, a letter of encouragement, an email to reconnect with an old friend, or—as much as I hate to admit it—a letter to the editor to let him know he has wandered into "left field." You never know who needs to hear from you. **ONE**

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

Just a short note. I wanted to let you know how very much I enjoyed Brad Ransom's article, "Seven Lessons From Skydiving." Also, appreciated the pictures. I can only imagine the feeling of flying so high in the sky. May God continue to bless each of you.—Jane Curry, Ada, Oklahoma

FROM THE EDITOR

It is with great sadness that the ONE Magazine editorial team marks the passing of our colleague Jack Williams.

Jack had been an integral part of denominational publishing efforts since 1977, when he accepted a role as editor of *Contact* magazine, a position he held through 2004.

As a founding member of the Free Will Baptist Press Association, Jack was instrumental in the push for a unified Free Will Baptist publication, which eventually resulted in *ONE Magazine*. A

prolific editor and writer, his fingerprints can be found on many of the significant denominational publications of the last 40 years.

While influential, it is not Jack's professional career we remember most but his encouragement. Jack had the unique ability to make every person feel like his best friend. His uplifting words and consistent example influenced a generation of Free Will Baptist writers and editors, including me. I will be forever grateful, and I will miss him deeply.—Eric Thomsen, managing editor, *ONE Magazine*

Read more about Jack on page 49 of this issue, as well as comments from Executive Secretary Keith Burden in the One to One column on page 54.

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“I Think I’m About READY to Go On.”

BY GREG
KETTEMAN



Our mother, **Helen Johnson Kettelman Smith**, was 90 years old when she went to Heaven last year. She was frail, her back was crooked, and her voice was faded, but she was still the best mother any children could ask for.

Why Daddy Caught Mother

Little boys are known for saying, “My daddy can beat up your daddy,” but we didn’t go around saying, “My mother is prettier than your mother.” Too bad! Daddy may not have been able to beat up all of my friend’s daddies, but it would have been true that my mother was prettier than their mothers. I didn’t fully understand how beautiful my mother was until I was an adult.

I don’t know if the phrase in Proverbs 31, “Her children will rise up and call her blessed” means that they will speak about her appearance; I know the passage is speaking about Christian character, poise, integrity, and diligence. These things were true of my mother. But in the spirit of that passage, I want to acknowledge that my mother was a beautiful woman.


With that said, I’m not sure how Daddy snagged Mother . . . part of it was that Mother absolutely loved down-to-earth, everyday wit and humor, and she had a deep love of God’s Word. This beautiful, graceful South Carolina coed grew up in the warmth of her parent’s cultivation, and she willingly internalized their deep reverence for the Bible and Christian virtue. By the time she met Paul Kettelman, she had grown to love witty sayings and homespun humor. Daddy came from a long line of everyday wit and humor, and he wanted to preach the Word. I think this is how the country boy snagged a woman who was obviously a major-league beauty.

Mother’s Parenting Skills

Carol, Joy, and I still talk about Mother’s somewhat unconventional and subtle ways of training her children. When we were little, Mother put us into bed at night then went to the piano to play hymns, often singing as she played: “When They Ring Those Golden Bells,” “Lead Me Gently Home,” “Jesus Is Ascended,” and many others. These were our lullabies. We knew the tunes to hundreds of hymns by the time we were six years old. Mother taught us to sing, and we memorized Christian songs and hymns, often singing them together in the house, in the car, or at church. She taught us to memorize Scripture.

When we were sick or anxious, nothing worked like Mother’s touch. One caress of her fingers across our eyes or cheeks would work magic, instantly relieving whatever hurt we were experiencing. She had a very gentle, delicate touch, but it was powerful.

Mother had a deep understanding of Proverbs 22:6 that played out every day as she raised children then dealt with them later as adults. “*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*” The passage literally speaks about “training up a child according to his bent” and Mother was really an expert on our “bent.” You couldn’t fool her. Yes, she was quiet and unassuming—seeming to be blissfully unaware of the character of other people. After all, you have to be unaware if you treat everyone with the gentle kindness and respect that Mother demonstrated. But believe me, she could



**EVEN
AT THIS
TIME IN
MOTHER'S
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TEACHING ME:
teaching me to slow down and enjoy our
relationship, inviting me to talk to her,
listening and understanding.**



size you up in a heartbeat. She knew what you were about. That's what made her gentle kindness so amazing. She overlooked what she sensed and reached out with genuine interest and love.

I want to first publicly apologize to my sisters Carol and Joy. All of us know the truth. I was Mother's favorite. Ask Carol and Joy. They will tell you it's true. But I believe that this phenomenon was born out of her recognition that little boys, who would later become men, were born with the need to be admired. Mother knew her girls' greatest need

was her authentic love that would later develop into a close mentoring relationship. She delivered this to them in an unparalleled fashion.

Now, my most ardent, lifelong admirer is gone. But what a gift she gave me: a belief that God had gifted me to be equal to any task. From earliest childhood, I believed her when she told me I could do anything I set my mind to, and when she bragged on me for my accomplishments. I believe Carol and Joy caught on to this before I did, although they've allowed me to believe it was simply favoritism. The day before Mother died, I thanked her for expressing pride in me and for instilling in me a great desire to make her proud. I miss her powerful encouragement.

Mother's Courage and Character

Mother was a brave woman. She was absolutely loyal to Daddy and followed him to pastorates that must have seemed far from home. When we moved in 1962 from Columbus, Mississippi, to Nashville, Tennessee, for Daddy to become public relations director at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Mother lived in the big city for the first time in her life. Not only was she far from family, she often held sole responsibility for three young children for weeks at a time while Daddy traveled. If she was ever afraid, I never knew it. If she was ever bitter, I never knew it. She handled most everything with the same poise and dignity that was her public persona. Who she was at home was exactly who she was in public. And I'm so thankful that God, in His providence, used this time to build a Christian foundation that would

serve as my anchor for the rest of my life.

Mother's courage and poise played out in all of her roles at church, as a pastor's wife, with Daddy at countless churches and association meetings, with her family, and in her work at the College. I know Mother had class preparations and grading to do for the business classes she taught at Welch College, but I never saw it interfere with home life. She saw to it that we had wonderful, home-cooked meals every day, often when Daddy had invited someone to the house rather unexpectedly.

For years, I thought Daddy was the people person and Mother more reserved. Daddy lived large, gregariously engaging people and obviously being energized by them. In these last years I've learned that while Mother was more reserved, she was no less a people person. Just like Daddy, she drew strength from relationships with many people.

Last Years

I may have learned the most from Mother in her last years. She accepted the providence of God in her second godly husband, Rolla Smith, and continued as a helpmeet for him for almost 25 years. In my daily afternoon phone conversations with Mother, she listened while I shared about my activities, my children, my frustrations, and my aspirations, big and small. One afternoon Mother called me. This was unusual because I normally made the call. We talked for ten or 15 minutes about this and that, nothing special. Then she asked if I might be coming over to the house later. "I hadn't planned on it, Momma. Do you need something?"

"Well, I was wondering if you could help me with something."

"Yes. What is it?"

"Well, I'm stuck."

"Stuck! What do you mean 'stuck'?"

"Well I'm stuck between the bed and the night stand."

"Oh. Wait. What are you saying?"

"Well, I fell while I was changing the sheets, and Rolla just can't get me up."

When I arrived, sure enough, Mother was wedged just as she described. I don't know how long she'd been there. Getting her up was tricky. After I was certain that she wasn't seriously hurt, we had a good laugh. When I recalled this event to her later, it prompted her trademark grin. It illustrated the lengths to which she would go to let me live my life, not to burden or to demand my time.

Each time I visited with her at River Planation, Belmont Village, or Christian Care Center, she started the conversation with "Hey, Greg" or "Hey, Darling." My daily, early morning visits to Belmont Village consisted of Scripture reading, administration of a few medications, and sometimes a very slow breakfast. (*Mother chewed her food down to the last molecule, probably her secret to keeping a healthy weight; you eat that slowly and there's only 24 hours in the day...well, you see what I mean.*) I'm so thankful

God gave Carol, Joy, and me the indescribable privilege of caring for our Mother during her last years on earth. It has yielded some of the sweetest memories in my life and I'm sure Carol and Joy will say the same.

As I read the Psalms, Proverbs, Isaiah, Ecclesiastes, Matthew, or Romans to her at Christian Care Center she would often comment saying, "That's rich" or "Read that again, Greg." She loved the Scriptures and took great comfort from them. Even at this time in her life she was teaching me: teaching me to slow down and enjoy our relationship, inviting me to talk to her, listening and understanding.

On the first sunny, warm Sunday afternoon this past spring, Mother and I went onto the porch after her lunch to enjoy the sunshine. After we sat and chatted for some time she said, "I think I'm about ready to go on."

"You mean back to the room, Momma?"

"No. Heaven."

The comment took me totally by surprise. I hesitated for a minute, trying to make sure I didn't cheapen Mother's statement with a silly response. Finally I said, "Well, no one is rushing you, but we are all so glad we know where you're going."

I kept a brave face for Mother that afternoon, but I cried

when I left her that evening. Mother never spoke idly about Heaven, and I knew this subtle hint was meant to prepare me for what she knew was coming soon.

Carol, Joy, and I were so thankful God arranged for us to be with her as she went to Heaven. He allowed her to leave with the same gentle poise and grace that characterized her life.

One of Mother's favorite passages was in Romans chapter 8. I can still hear her quoting this passage to us:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (verses 35-39)

Helen Louise Johnson Ketteman Smith (November 29, 1924-April 21, 2015) ONE

About the Writer: Greg Ketteman is provost at Welch College, where his father served many years as director of public relations: www.Welch.edu.

SEXUALITY, GENDER, AND THE CHURCH

A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE IN THE NEW CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

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THE WORLD'S FASTEST USHER

BY GARY WEAVER

Shortly after my discharge from the Air Force in early 1975, my brother Russ and his wife invited me to stay with them for a month or two while I found work and a place of my own. I knew from talking with them that they were devoted Christians, so I was on guard. I knew they would try their best to convince me I needed Jesus in my life.

No way! I was young, single, and fresh out of the service, and I had a world yet to conquer. I told them so. I had no need for a boring, rigid, rule-filled life. After all, I had just gotten out of the military. I agreed to stay with them under one non-negotiable condition. "Don't preach to me!"

I told them. "I'm fine just the way I am."

As it turns out, they had one non-negotiable condition for me as well. I had to attend at least one church service a week with them. "Call it rent," they said. I figured I was safe so I agreed.

They kept their word and never preached to me. But I noticed their lives were far different from anyone else I had ever known. They seemed to have a purpose and a passion for something I didn't understand. They seemed happy and fulfilled.

After a few weeks, I began to ask questions, and they patiently answered, never adding more than I asked. But my questions continued until the Easter Sunday

when finally they said they wanted to ask me a question. I figured it would be something harmless, so I agreed. "Why don't you just trust Jesus, ask Him to forgive you, and give your heart to Him?"

I was stunned. Not because it was such a difficult question, but because I didn't have an answer. I surrendered my heart to the Lord Jesus Christ during the service that evening. I have been a Christian now for 41 years, all because they let God's love show through their lives, and their passion for Him affected all they did.

I have watched other people throughout the years living out their love for their Lord, often greatly impacting lives along the way. Like Sister Lily. She was always

there, “second row, piano side,” always with an encouraging word or smile. Or when, near the end of her life, she was concerned about the comfort of the group of teenagers I took to the hospital to cheer her up. She touched these young lives in a way no one else could.

Then there was Brother Ed, fastest usher on two feet. Always first to greet a person, meet someone at his or her car with an umbrella on a rainy day, or help a family get to the nursery or a Sunday School class. But there was a certain boldness in Ed that was second to none. He would stand in the back of the church and pray for each family, especially for visitors. Time and again, I watched him walk up to a visitor during the invitation, gently place a hand on his shoulder, and offer to go to the altar and pray with him. I can't imagine the courage it took to do that, but I also can't count the number of people

Peter and John were bold, powerful, and effective because they “had been with Jesus.”

who accepted the Lord because of Ed's actions.

In Acts 4, Peter and John stood before the religious court, on trial for preaching a sermon about Jesus and for healing a lame man in His name. Sitting in judgment were Annas, Caiaphas, rulers, elders, and scribes. Annas and Caiaphas were the ringleaders in the persecution of Christians. Then, in verse 13 we find the following words: *“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled, and they took knowledge then, that they had been with Jesus.”*

Peter and John were bold, powerful, and effective—not because of their educa-

tion or training, not because of social, economic, or political standing, and not because of local notoriety—but because they “had been with Jesus.” They knew Him personally. They had experienced His love firsthand in their lives. They had seen His compassion and forgiveness, and they had witnessed His miracles.

My brother Russ, sister Lily, and brother Ed may have appeared “unschooled and ordinary,” but they had been with Jesus, and they were bold. Ministering to others should not be left solely to those we choose as pastors or missionaries; it must be something that each of us allows to flow through us. Because we, too, have “been with Jesus.” **ONE**

About the Writer: Gary Weaver is a vocational educator, ordained deacon, and member of the Elevate Church in Moore, Oklahoma.

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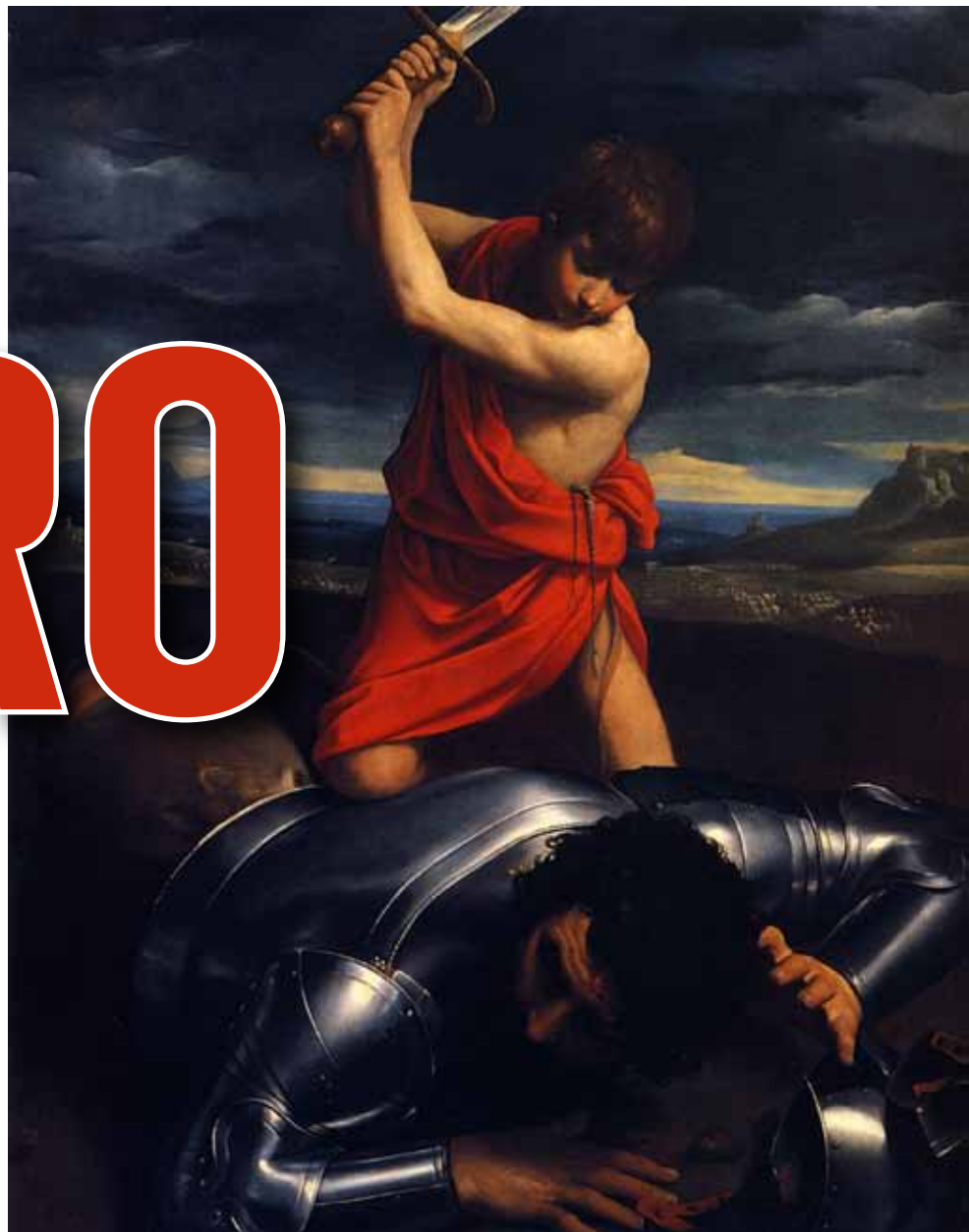
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BE A SUNDAY SCHOOL

HERO

BY BILLY BROWN

We find a strange omission in 1 Samuel 17. The armies of Israel and the Philistines had met at Shochoh to do battle. The result of the battle would determine the freedom or servitude of God's people. The armies positioned themselves on either side of the valley, the Philistines sent out their champion, and Israel sent out theirs... and that's where we find something missing.



Israel had no champion, no one on whom to call. Saul had been the champion, but at this time he had become the king. The man who stood head and shoulders over the other Israelites didn't want to risk his lifestyle (or even death) against a giant.

What about Saul's mighty warriors? Sure, they would fight regular soldiers, no problem. But a giant? That was a different story. They didn't like the odds. Saul offered riches, royalty, and relief from taxes. But no one was willing to become the champion. If Saul wouldn't do it and the mighty men of Israel refused even to try, surely a common soldier didn't stand a chance. So, the battlefield remained empty except for that giant of a man—Goliath.

Life goes far beyond the physical, mental, financial, and emotional. It is also spiritual. David knew this when he volunteered to become the champion of Israel. David faced Goliath with the most powerful weapons ever created—courage, confidence, character, and the power of God. These were his weapons rather than sling and stones. With these weapons, he became a hero. And so can you.

BUD REESE'S INVITATION

I have my own personal hero. You would find nothing special about this man's appearance, ability, talent, or intellect. But he is my hero for one reason. He showed enough interest in me to invite me to Sunday School. Until that time in my life, I seldom went to church, and I don't ever remember attending Sunday School. To me, church was a strange and unusual place.

I still remember Bud Reese inviting me to attend the Sunday School class he taught. I thought it would be great, so I told him I would ask my dad if I could go. Sunday morning came, and I was nervous. I'd never been to Sunday School. Mom laid out my best clothes, and I dressed for the big event.

TURNING BACK ON SUNDAY

It was a beautiful day as I walked the half block to church, the sun shining warm and the birds singing. But as I approached the building, I could hear the piano and organ playing. I stopped and thought to myself, "They've already started. If I go in now, everyone will turn and look at me." So I turned and fled for home. No Sunday School that day.

The next week, Mr. Reese asked, "I looked for you Sunday; why didn't you come?" I told him what happened, and he said,

"It's okay; they hadn't started yet. They were only practicing, and no one's going to turn and look at you."

So, when the next Sunday rolled around, I got dressed and headed for Sunday School the second time. I reached the same spot, heard the same piano and organ, felt the same fear, and made the same flight back home. Sunday School had eluded me again.

WALKING WITH MY HERO

Mr. Reese didn't give up. He wanted to know why I hadn't come. Again, I told him. Again, he invited me to Sunday School, and I agreed to go. But on this third attempt, there was a slight difference. Mr. Reese came to my house and walked me to Sunday School. More than 50 years later, I'm still faithfully attending.

Mr. Reese showed initiative, courage, determination, and resolve. Because he cared enough to invite me to Sunday School and to see that I came, I was eventually saved and answered the call to preach. In my eyes, Bud Reese is a Sunday School hero.

You, too, can be a Sunday School hero. Millions of young people just like me have never been to Sunday School and will never go unless you go to their homes and bring them. And someday, in their eyes, you will be a Sunday School hero. **ONE**

About the Writer: Billy Brown pastors Faith FWB Church in Columbia, Tennessee, and works as a psychotherapist for Centerstone, a mental health services facility.

Throughout his life, businessman Howard R. Price displayed an incredible spirit of service and generosity. He was involved in Helping Hands Church Builders and Bridge Builders for the Cross. He served on a number of ministry boards, and was actively involved in missions with trips to Africa, Cuba, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan.

His long-term success in business only fueled his generous spirit. Not only did he give generously during his lifetime, he worked with Free Will Baptist Foundation to make sure that he continued to support the ministries he loved after death.

Why not create your own legacy of generosity with an endowment to support the ongoing work of Free Will Baptist Master's Men?

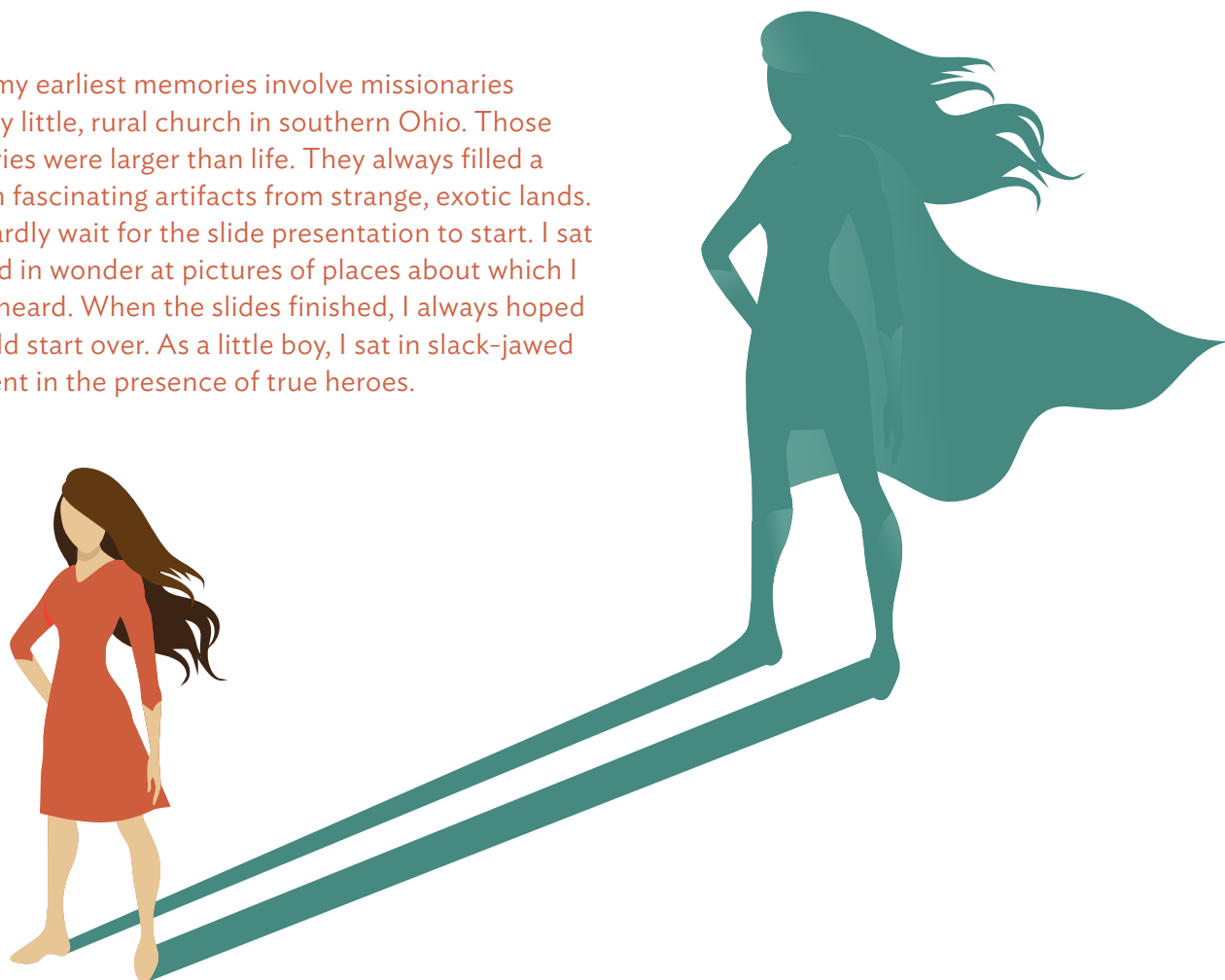


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Legacy of generosity.

Some of my earliest memories involve missionaries visiting my little, rural church in southern Ohio. Those missionaries were larger than life. They always filled a table with fascinating artifacts from strange, exotic lands. I could hardly wait for the slide presentation to start. I sat and stared in wonder at pictures of places about which I had only heard. When the slides finished, I always hoped they would start over. As a little boy, I sat in slack-jawed amazement in the presence of true heroes.



HIDDEN HEROES

BY NEIL GILLILAND

After church, I would rush home and head straight to our set of World Book Encyclopedia to read about and see more pictures from these strange lands and people. Never, in my imagination, did I believe a boy from Slocum Station, Ohio, would one day visit many of those places. Certainly, I never thought he would live in two of them. Missionaries have long since packed away their slide projectors and slides. I no longer run to the encyclopedia, but I assure you, the hero status of those men and women has not changed for me. Each of those visiting missionaries etched life-long, indelible marks deep in my soul, inspiring me to reach to the ends of the earth with the Good News of a risen Savior.

THE HIDDEN HEROES

As a wide-eyed boy, I didn't realize others were also engaged in reaching the world. To be sure, I knew there was a director of the organization that sent missionaries and that some other men worked for it, because they, too, visited from time to time. For a little boy, in all honesty, their visits to our church were not as exciting... no tables or slides. As I grew older, and eventually enrolled as a student at Welch College, I had a part-time job working for what was then called Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions. It was then I discovered the Hidden Heroes of IM. Their pictures are not on our map or even in the directory.

However, if you call or visit International Missions (IM) today, these hidden heroes are typically the first people you see or hear. They are most likely the ones who answer your questions. You may not recognize their names, but you could probably identify their voices. Most of them have either not traveled internationally or, if so, only minimally. Yet, their impact on the Kingdom and the ministry of IM cannot be overstated. Without these heroes, the ministry of IM would be significantly hampered around the world. They epitomize the IM mission statement: *we exist to labor with the Body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission.*

I call them hidden because they simply do their jobs as servants of the Most High God without fanfare or notoriety. They labor tirelessly to fill their role in the Great Commission as part of the IM

team. One of IM's core values is interdependence—that is, we work together to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. This group of hidden heroes epitomize this concept of interdependence...they are a vital part of the team. We work together, and without them fulfilling their roles, those who are engaged in "frontline" ministry would be severely wounded.

So, just who are these heroes? Let's take a walk through the IM office, and I'll introduce you. I'll share a bit about who they are and what they do so, when you pray for the ministry of IM, one of these heroes will come to mind and you can pray for them, as well.



As you walk through the door, you meet **Jen Thomsen**. Since she sits by the door, she is the unofficial official greeter of all guests. While she is slightly (okay, perhaps a little more than slightly) vertically challenged, her smile and quick wit aren't. Her uncanny ability to be both warm and caring with a touch of sassiness endears her to us all. Her official ti-

tle is church relations assistant. As such, she coordinates all the logistics involved in the ministry of church relations. If you've called the office or have written to arrange a service with a missionary, most likely, you have talked to Jen. She coordinates re-entry for missionaries returning from the field and assists with the logistics of the E-TEAM program. Jen's highly refined organizational skills and personality make her a perfect fit for her role in laboring with the Body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission.



Across the room from Jen you find **Cyndi Ludeman**. Cyndi is the assistant to the general director of the Mission. I am afraid if I listed all the things she does, this article would turn into the whole issue. Suffice it to say, she not only coordinates the activities of the general director, but her service touches nearly every aspect of the ministry of IM. I am confident her Dutch heritage has contributed to her frugality, not only personally, but in her role at IM as well. She books hundreds of flights, hotels, and a

myriad of other things, and she knows how to find the best deal. I had to take a box of tissues to her desk the other day. A penny lay on her counter, and Lincoln was crying because he had been pinched so hard. It's not that she is cheap, but she understands and believes deeply in the biblical concept of stewardship. Cyndi's attention to detail and ability to multitask make her ideal for her role in laboring with the Body of Christ to fulfill



the Great Commission.

Turn left at Cyndi's desk, and you will find the office of **Deborah St. Lawrence**, communications manager. If this article makes any sense, you know Deborah has done her job. Her desk is piled high with papers and proofs. Her eyes are glued to the monitor in front of her as she executes editorial magic on all the communications coming from IM. A few of us who write from time-to-time are a little concerned about Deborah. When we turn an article in, she seems to cut herself every time. The amount of red on our paper could not come from a mere flesh wound. Deborah is responsible for all official communications (in every form) that emanate from IM. When you stop and think about the critical nature of her responsibilities, it makes you appreciate even more her attention to grammar, punctuation, and all things related to

communication. It is clear her editorially skilled mind and hands suit her well



for her role in laboring with the Body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission.

As you move down the hall, you will run into the desk of **Stacie Compton**, financial operations clerk and newest member of our IM family. Stacie processes donations and sends out receipts and missionary reports. A window rests between my office and hers. More often than not, when I look out, I think she is praying; but she is simply poring over spreadsheets on her computer, focused on her tasks. At the same time, she probably is praying that she gets every number in the right place. Even early in her tenure at IM, we see her diligence and focus, and also her sensitive heart for the Kingdom of God around the world. It is little wonder she was hired



to labor with the Body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission.

Beside Stacie's desk is the office of financial operations manager, **Cheri Ham**. Given my consummate knowledge of all things financial, I will not even attempt to describe what Cheri does. Suffice it to say, everything to do with finances, at some point, crosses Cheri's desk. Truth be told, Cheri would rather sit on the back of a horse and herd cattle across the Western plains. Not unlike Annie Oakley, her marksmanship hits the financial bullseye every time. Her passion for the gospel and reaching the world for Him is a testimony to all of us at IM. She works tirelessly to ensure all things financial are precise, adhering to the parameters set by the government and the Mission. I promise, herding cattle would be far easier than herding the financial concerns of missionaries and staff. Her

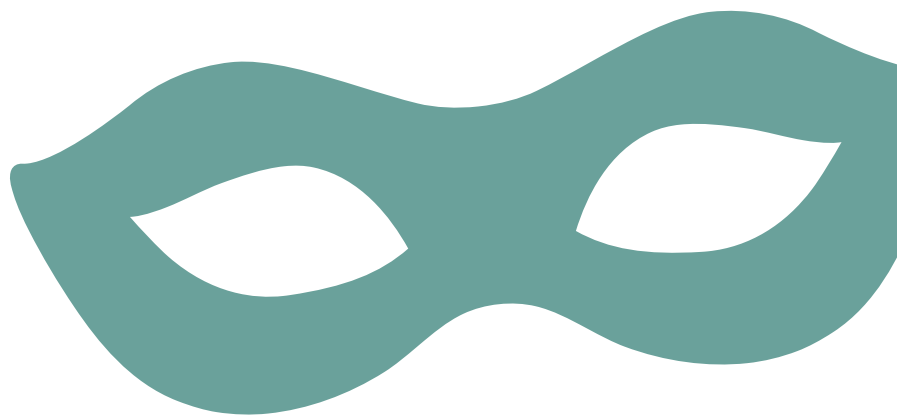



heart and demonstration of excellence is an inspiration to all who join her in laboring with the Body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission.

To find our final hidden hero, you would have to board a plane and head to Michigan, the home of **Hanna Mott**, student ministries coordinator. If you have had any connection with student ministries (E-TEAM, CMP, or OA) over the past three years, you have encountered

and experienced the wild and wacky world of Hanna. Hanna is incredibly passionate about missions and students. While she does most of her work from home, she occasionally makes a trip to the office to complete a bevy of tasks. When she arrives, she brings LIFE. She is a free spirit who is deeply in love with Jesus. If your child has been involved in E-TEAM, CMP, or OA programs, you understand the vital role Hanna plays as we labor together with the Body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission.

I would be remiss if I did not mention Dari Goodfellow, retiree from the Free Will Baptist Executive Office who volunteers weekly in financial operations. Why? Oh, the same as all the above: Dari does not simply want to be a spectator in missions, but wants to be involved with those who labor together with the Body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission.



These heroes (and all those who preceded them) may be somewhat hidden from the casual observer of the ministry of IM, but I assure you, they are not hidden from our missionaries and our directors. Our deep appreciation and gratitude will pale in comparison to the words each will hear when the Father says, “Well done, my good and faithful servants.” 

About the Writer: Neal Gilliland is member care consultant for IM. Learn more about how you can become an IM hero: www.fwbgo.com.

the • awe • lo • gy

THE STUDY OF GOD

Since it was organized in 1960, the Commission for Theological Integrity has worked diligently to guard Free Will Baptists from theological trends that would threaten the doctrinal integrity of the denomination. Today, the Commission continues its work of promoting sound theology through annual symposiums, educational materials, and articles on its rapidly-expanding website:

www.FWBTheology.com

Visit the site today for book reviews; articles on Arminianism, church history, news, culture, Free Will Baptist doctrine, discipleship, salvation, eschatology, sanctification, evangelism, leadership, and much more; and information about the annual symposium.

Around the World >>

Cuban Free Will Baptists Convene

Pinar del Río, Cuba—The Cuban Convention of the National Association of Free Will Baptists met on the Cedars of Lebanon property in Pinar del Río, Cuba, February 26-28. They conducted business early, allowing focus on worship services, a graduation ceremony for seminary students, and youth competition. The facilities were filled to capacity.

The *Seminario Cedros del Líbano* (Cedars of Lebanon Seminary) graduated seven students (four with A.A. and three with B.A. degrees) during the Saturday evening service, February 27. Over the last year, the seminary trained 216 people.

Additionally, Cedars of Lebanon, in cooperation with a consortium of Free Will Baptists, will provide online Bible courses later this year. This should benefit Hispanic Free Will Baptists worldwide.

IM's formal, written partnership agreement with the Cuban association facilitates the national church's growth. Assistance focuses on church planting (home missions) and training (seminary, camps, and retreats). IM works directly through the structure set by the Cuban association, according to their priorities. Through this partnership, the Mission provides professors and financial support to Cedars of Lebanon Seminary.

Kenneth Eagleton (regional director for Latin America and Africa), his wife Rejane, and a delegation of pastors from Alabama were on hand for the convention. American and Cuban pastors shared preaching responsibilities.

Read more: fwbgo.com. ■

Abidjan Attacked; THP, IM Teams Safe

Antioch, TN—Al Qaeda sympathizers attacked resort hotel guests Sunday, March 13, near Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Clint Morgan, in Abidjan, summarized the situation:

Sixteen people were killed in a terrorist attack on a luxury beach hotel in the town of Grand Bassam, located about 35 miles east of Abidjan. The Al Qaeda group of North Africa claimed responsibility for the attack.

We had THP teams in two locations in the interior. Also, Elizabeth Hodges, executive director of WNAC, and my wife Lynette attended a national women's conference, attended by over 500 ladies. The ladies held a portion of their conference on the beach the day before. We praise the Lord we all arrived

safely in Abidjan last night. Today, Monday, March 14, everyone is doing well and preparing for tonight's departure.

The teams departed for Côte d'Ivoire March 1 and March 4. A large number of the THP team conducted a soccer camp for hundreds of children and worked to complete construction of a school in Bondoukou.

Morgan took teams into three unevangelized villages where people heard the gospel for the first time. Doctors Eagleton and Mandy worked in the Doropo hospital/clinic established by Dr. LaVerne Miley. Dr. Mandy performed 20 surgeries and two small procedures while providing training for the Ivorian



doctors. Elizabeth Hodges spoke multiple times to more than 500 ladies attending the four-day women's retreat near Abidjan.

Everyone left Abidjan Monday, March 14, and arrived safely in Nashville, Tennessee, Tuesday, March 15. Read more on fwbgo.com. ■

Donahues Resign

Antioch, TN—The Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions accepted the resignation of Mick and Rachel Donahue from missionary service to Spain. The Donahues submitted an official letter of resignation to Free Will Baptist International Missions dated February 11. "Our family has been facing many challenges over the past couple years...our three boys have been diagnosed with various special needs and are now undergoing therapy," the couple wrote.

International Missions General Director Clint Morgan said, "We at IM are sad to see them leave the field, but the wellbeing of their children must take priority at this point."

Mick, Rachel, and their boys (Keith, Ian, and Gabe) returned to the States July 22, 2015, for a vacation. During this time, the boys underwent tests, and the family extended their stay.

The couple anticipates a three-to-five year timeline to meet their family's needs."



Appointed in December 2006 as creative access missionaries, the Donahues began working under The Hanna Project after its creation. The couple pioneered work among the immigrant population in Malaga, Spain. Their resignation became effective March 31, 2016.

Read more: www.fwbgo.com. ■

Snapshots Around the World



Bulgaria—Trif Trifonov hosted a discussion about the works of the famous Bulgarian writer, playwright, and dissident Georgi Markov on February 17. The discussion offered the opportunity to talk about the hope found in Jesus Christ. About 15 people attended. Seven of the participants had not attended church before. Most of the others are not regular members.

Brazil—On Easter Sunday, Pastor Dyone Kenedel baptized two ladies at the Nova Vida FWB Church in Antônio Carlos, Minas Gerais, Brazil. The church also celebrated Easter with a morning breakfast and fellowship. Easter services were held Sunday evening.

Uruguay—FWB Uruguayan women experienced their first ladies' retreat February 26-28. The two-night retreat included crafts, a beauty salon time, games, and more. Kathia Mendoza, a pastor's wife from Panama, developed the theme "God Is Faithful...in the Past, Present, and Future" for 14 women.



Côte d'Ivoire—Silas N'Guettia, pastor of the Yopougon FWB Church in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire (Africa), baptized three young people Sunday, March 6. The Yopougon Church meets in rented space. They have purchased land and are constructing phase one of a building that, when finished, will seat 600 people. They used the baptistry of this unfinished building for the baptism service.

France—More than 125 international students attended a luncheon at the Nantes church on Sunday, February 7.

Spain—On Sunday, February 7, 2016, the Alpedrete Church celebrated its 10-year anniversary. People shared testimonies of how God brought them to the church.

Bulgaria—Eleven couples attended the dinner and marriage seminar hosted by the Svishtov New Life Church on Saturday, February 13. The seminar was part one of four.



Brazil—On March 12, Paulo César Carvalho, pastor of Nova América FWB Church (Campinas, Brazil), ordained Leandro to preach the gospel. A graduate of the Bible college in Campinas, Leandro, his wife Cristina, and daughter Jamile were commissioned as home missionaries in the same service. They will go to Delmiro Gouveia, Alagoas, to begin the first Free Will Baptist work in that state. The town does not have any evangelical churches. Leandro is a barber and plans to set up shop to support his family. His home church and IM will help with evangelistic expenses.

Sargents Approved As Career Missionaries

Antioch, TN—The Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions approved the Sargents' status change from interns to career missionaries on March 8.



Chris and Tori Sargent were approved as two-year interns in southern Spain on December 4, 2012. At the time, the Sargents planned to join a team already in place, serving immigrant populations. After raising 100% of their support for two years of field service, they arrived in Spain in October 2015.

"Because of the resignation of Mick and Rachel Donahue," explained Jeff and Susan Turnbough, regional directors for Europe, "we asked the Sargents to assume leadership of our Malaga team. They have all the educational requirements and as much or more ministry experience as most career workers sent out in recent years."

The Sargents' shift in status was effective April 1, 2016. Read more on www.fwbgo.com. ■

Uruguay Holds Family Camp

Rivera, Uruguay—Family camp was held in Rivera, Uruguay, February 6-10. Examining three biblical characters' lives emphasized the camp's theme of unity.

Tony, a young man from the Cristo es el Camino church, was baptized. Tuesday night's closing service resulted in the salvation decisions of five young people and six rededications.

"A spirit of unity was truly evident during these days," wrote Jaimie Lancaster, "and, hopefully, will be the springboard for a movement in our churches. The camp was organized by a wide range of people from the various churches—a truly collaborative effort that resulted in a wonderful camp. Please pray for those who made decisions of faith and for those who were challenged to work together to advance the Kingdom." ■



Thank YOU FOR Giving!

Every year, Women Nationally Active for Christ coordinates a Pre-Easter Week of Prayer across the denomination. The WNAC Office sends out a simple packet that includes letters from Director Elizabeth Hodges and International Missions Director Clint Morgan, a reproducible prayer guide, an information sheet with tips for helping missionaries, and a resource guide. What follows is amazing, as Free Will Baptist women work together to pray, give, and get involved in the lives of missionaries around the world.

This year, IM gave missionaries an opportunity to thank the ladies of WNAC. Their expressions of gratitude were overwhelming. And almost every one mentioned how much the Steward Provision Closet blessed them, meeting a need in their lives not only while they are in the States, but also on their fields of service. They expressed deep appreciation for prayer, financial support, and the encouragement they receive through cards and letters. So, grab a cup of coffee, kick back in your favorite chair, and be blessed by these words of thankfulness from missionaries who have been blessed by *your* generosity.

—Jennifer Thomsen, *Free Will Baptist International Missions*

WNAC has been there for us in a multitude of ways over the last couple of years. It's been wonderful to see the body of Christ in action! Thank you for your prayers, generosity, and heart for living out the gospel. I feel like I can't say it enough! The provision closet has been a huge blessing to us. We have moved a lot since we were appointed in 2012. Just knowing that we can find certain household things there has made all of our moves so much easier. As a woman, I like to have my "nest," and I just want to say thank you for allowing me to have that. When I use my crockpot, I think of you. For all of you, I say a prayer of thanks, and I remember God's goodness and the faithfulness of his people. You are amazing.

—Miriam Bishop, Japan

We praise God for you! Thank you for being prayer warriors who hold us up in this fierce spiritual war. Thank you for giving, even when you do not always have excess to give. Thank you for caring and showing us in such thoughtful and creative ways—like writing on Ruby and Ellie's first day of Japanese school to see how it went. You are being used to build God's Kingdom around the world. We love you! —Josh, Alicia, Ruby, Ellie, and Josie Crowe, Japan

Thanks so much for your financial support in getting us to the field and keeping us here. We would not be in the field if it were not for WNAC groups, especially those in Missouri and Georgia. Thanks for messaging us every month to get new ways to pray for us, and thank you for praying! We could not do this without the prayers of you all. Thank you for loving on our kids through the fundraising process and now on the field through cards, gifts, special treats, and especially prayers. The provision closet truly made my daughter and I feel so very special! Thank you for providing for our homes with good quality materials that will last and last! —Tori S (country and name withheld for security reasons)

To say thank you to our ladies would not be enough for all they have done for us! I remember our first term in 1984, when I met Mrs. Lucille Steward. I was so impressed with her disposition and hard work for WAC in Michigan! She left a legacy of servanthood. She served and took care of our missionaries even when she was battling illness herself. Every room in our house has something or another that reminds me of our sisters in the U.S. It is one the highlights (no kidding!) for me to go to the Provision closet while in the States. May the Lord bless each one who has a part in serving missionaries. We go to serve, but we are also served. This way we bless one another, and the Lord blesses us all. Thank you! —Rejane Eagleton, Brazil

Thank you for keeping missions as a priority and making the effort to be involved through prayer and financial support and by giving to the provision closet. Thanks!

—Joy D (name and country withheld for security reasons)

Thank you so much for your faithful support! You have prayed for us, given us gifts of money and clothing, and supplied our home through provision closet donations. We can never convey our appreciation enough. We benefit daily from your ministry. May God continue to bless you and use you for His honor and glory!—Sandra and Dale Bishop, Japan

Thank you so much for your love and support over the years. I especially want to thank you for the prayers offered up for me during my time of sickness last year. The gift cards were a blessing as they helped us with food and gas expenses. Elizabeth (Hodges, WNAC director) was a wonderful caretaker with her hospital visits and encouragement, and she relayed support for us from throughout the denomination. During this scary time in my life, it was great to sense the warmth and love of our Free Will Baptist ladies.

—Tammy Lancaster, Uruguay

Thanks so much for all you do to show our children how much you care. They are blown away by your kindness to them, and your example teaches them what generosity is all about.

—Lea Edgmon, Spain

Thank you for sending birthday cards to my daughters Madeleine and Emilie. Even though they haven't met many of you, receiving cards from America really makes them feel special. And it certainly warms this mama's heart too. Merci!

—Cristina Price, France

Ladies of WNAC, I really don't think we could do it without you. We use items from the provision closet every day. Thank you once again for your generosity, love, and care for missionaries.

—Lori Torrison, Uruguay

Free Will Baptist women are the most generous people I know, and I find it very hard to express with words just how much they mean to me.

You ladies have put clothes on our backs, food on our table, money in our wallets, money in our accounts, made our children feel so special, and covered us with prayer. We could not have done all we did on the mission field if you had not given so generously. All I can say is simply,

“Thank you for letting God bless us through you.”

May God richly bless you as you serve Him.

—Judy Bryan, France

My family and I just came back to the U.S. and were blessed by the provision closet where we found sheets, blankets, and more.

I couldn't keep from imagining the women who generously bought those items. I wanted to see all of you to give you a hug and thank you for what you are doing for missionaries. Before coming to the States, I don't think I've ever seen people that generous in my life. You are a blessing to us and you surely encourage us. Thank you also for your prayers and support. Lots of love!

—Lydie Teague, France

I don't know what we would do without you.

Through the years, you have been our best and most faithful supporters. Thank you so much for loving on us through special projects, personal touches, and your gifts to the provision closet. You are the best!

—Ruth McDonald, Japan

We are so thankful for the sweet encouragement we received from WNAC groups during our first term as missionaries in Bulgaria!

The birthday cards, emails, and reports of financial gifts have reminded us that we are not alone in what we have set out to do. We thank God for the way He has shown us His love through all of you!

—Amy Postlewaite, Bulgaria



Thank you for your ministry of giving and encouragement over the years.

Our family has made many transitions to the field and back, and each time needs have been met through the provision closet, gift cards, or notes of encouragement and prayer. Your ministry eases some of the difficulty we face in being suspended between “home” and “home.” We thank God for the ways your help facilitates the work we do in His kingdom. “Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these my brothers [and sisters], you have done it unto me.”

—Rachel D (name and country withheld for security reasons)

Everywhere I look, whether my house in Japan or my apartment in America, I see evidences of your generosity and support.

Whether it's a small appliance in my kitchen, curtains in my living room, or a note of encouragement on my refrigerator, I am constantly reminded that I am loved and that I am not alone. Thank you for partnering with me in a myriad of ways and supporting what God is doing in Japan. I love you all and can't say thank you enough! Love,

—Shannon Little, Japan

Thank you for your care of us. We are grateful for your support and prayers.

—Ariadna Riesgo, Educational Specialist

Thanks to WNAC!

We are still using quilts made and given to the provision closet more than 30 years ago. One quilt was given to us in 1984, and we still feel the love and hard work that put it together. Thank you for always caring for us and for adding so much to our daily lives through your sacrificial giving, sharing, and loving.

—Judy and Ken Bailey, Japan

Thank you for all the love you have shown to my family.

Every time I walk into the provision closet, I am amazed at the generosity provided by various churches. My family is so very grateful. Thank you for your prayer and support as we work with international students. —Kellie Penn, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

Thank you for your notes of encouragement, sacrificial giving, and faithful prayer for our family!—Lydia Provow, Bulgaria

Thank you, WNAC, for all the ways you support us. For prayer, encouragement, opportunities to share about our ministry, for the provision closet. One of the most helpful things for us has been gift cards for eating on the road, as well as Wal-Mart cards, which we often use for gas. The restaurant cards have given us divine opportunities to meet people we otherwise never would have met, even resulting in becoming a spiritual mom and dad to a young waitress in Tennessee. Your ministry is bearing eternal fruit, in the U.S. and overseas. Thank you. Blessings! —*Eddy and Amanda Simmons, Kenya*

Thank you WNAC for the provision closet that provided things for my kids as they went to college. There is no way we could have afforded all those nice things for them. We are familiar with other denominations, and I don't know of another one that has a closet to "shop" in while home on stateside assignment. What a blessing you all are to us. Thank you! —*Linda Snow, Japan*

We are so thankful to WNAC and their continued support and encouragement of missions. You probably have no idea what an encouragement it is to us. The provision closet is such a practical and huge example of the ways you are meeting needs for us, for which we are at a loss for adequate words to thank you. When we were stateside and in need of a car seat for our baby, WNAC stepped in and provided that specific need for us, and this is just one example of the kind of caring ways WNAC takes care of us. We are so humbled and grateful!

—*Joni Hubbard, Japan*

We have several things from the provision closet in our home that we use often.

Every time I use them, I remember that someone took the time to bless our family through their donation. We are so grateful for the women of WNAC and their service in the Kingdom. Thanks to each of you for your prayers, encouragement, generosity, and love. With Grateful Hearts,

—*Neil and Mandi Morgan, Spain*

Thank you for sending our family birthday and Christmas cards. Thanks for keeping the provision closet stocked. Thank you for sharing our prayer requests with ladies in your WAC groups each month. Thanks for showing a younger generation of "little Free Will Baptists" the importance of being active for Christ and missions.—*Kristi Johnson, Spain*

I hope these letters blessed your hearts as much as they blessed ours in the International Missions office. We are very thankful for the ministry and impact WNAC has had over the years...and continues to have. Thank you, ladies of WNAC. You are a blessing to IM missionaries.



The Steward Provision Closet

The third resolution of the 1962 WNAC minutes reads: "Be it resolved that the convention set up a provision closet which would provide linens, stainless steel flatware, and other domestic items for our missionaries who go to the field." Mrs. Eunice Edwards, then executive secretary, established the closet as directed.

The closet is located at the National Offices Building in Antioch, Tennessee. The warehouse-styled storage area has floor to ceiling shelving and metal cabinets on the other two. Items are organized and arranged to make it easy for missionaries to find what is needed.

Who supports the closet?

The closet is stocked by Free Will Baptist women all over the United States. The ministry provides women with an opportunity to share what they have been given in tangible ways. Throughout the year, WNAC receives items from local, district, and state groups. Gift cards have become a popular item in recent years, providing the missionary with a way to purchase items not found in the closet. Cash gifts are utilized for purchases when the missionary needs items while on their field of service.

Who are the beneficiaries?

Originally, the closet served only international missionaries. But as it grew and expanded, so did its outreach. Today, all Free Will Baptist missionaries are served, both home and international. The closet also meets the needs of missionary kids when they set up their dorm rooms and the needs of Bible institutes across the world. These items are provided free of charge. Find out more about the provision closet: www.WNAC.org.

Contentment BREEDS Generosity

BY
JOSHUA
EIDSON

*What would enable you to be more generous?
A larger salary? Less debt?
Selling your house and your dog?*

Although these may help with the math of increased generosity, they will not lead to a spirit of generosity. Sometimes people struggle with whether or not to tithe, let alone give above and beyond that level. If our basis for giving is to adhere to the principle or discipline of tithing, then we have vastly missed the point of giving. God desires that we give to His work and to others with a spirit of genuine generosity. But to give generously, we must first be people of contentment. The foundation for a generous spirit is a content soul.



The Bible readily speaks to the blessedness of a spirit of contentment. Proverbs 15:16 warns “Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.” Contentment is the acknowledgement and acceptance of Christ’s sufficiency for all our needs. I don’t believe this truth just speaks to our spiritual needs; as Matthew 6:26-34 reminds us, God provides nourishment to the animals and adornment for the plants. If He cares that much for birds and flowers, how much more does He desire to care and provide for us? God wants us to know He takes great joy in providing for us, and He is more than capable to provide any need we have. Christ even teaches us to pray with determined contentment in the Father’s provision in Matthew 6:11, “Give us this day our daily bread.” We must realize He is the ultimate provider of our needs; that realization is the source of our contentment.


God expects us to be diligent, hard workers, and good stewards of the resources He provides. A content life is not a lazy, care-free life. God will not reward the sluggard for his supposed reliance on God’s provision, for his faith has no works. Being a diligent steward is a way of showing our faith through good works (James 2:17).

The purpose of contentment in Christ’s sufficiency isn’t that we have less stress. It isn’t even about us. It is about putting our faith into action, becoming instruments of God’s blessing and provision to the ministries and people He has placed within our sphere of influ-

ence. God expects us to bless those around us with the resources He has provided to and through us. A natural outgrowth of contentment is generosity. Once we really know and trust in our hearts that Christ cares enough to provide our needs, it unshackles our hands and hearts so we can freely share with others God’s blessings.

Think of how awesome it is that God desires to partner with us to provide for others. So, the cycle continues. God is a dependable provider in whom we can trust; therefore, we can be free to share our blessings with others. Trusting in His sufficiency frees us from worry or concern that we will have enough, when we decide to be generous in this situation or that. We can give with an unburdened desire to serve God’s work through ourselves and others. God desires for us to give cheerfully at whatever level we are able.

Do I believe the biblical principle of tithing still applies? Yes! But God is more concerned with our attitude while giving any amount, than whether we legalistically follow a calculation on how much we “must” give to His work. Second Corinthians 9:7 states this principle clearly: “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

So how do we become a “cheerful giver?” By starting with the truth of God’s sufficiency and allowing Him to grow a content heart within us. Then, from a content heart will spring unrestrained generosity. 

About the Writer: Joshua Eidson is accounting administrator for the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement: www.BoardofRetirement.com.

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“No! I’ve Got This!”

BY KEVIN LAUTHERN

Alec was unusually attentive, listening to “Miss Carrie” tell the story about religious leaders and their response to Jesus’ ministry. His eyes were glued to the picture book showing Jesus in the crowd; ears locked in to how people were welcoming or rejecting His teachings. The lesson led to sharing about God’s love demonstrated through the death of His Son on the cross and transitioned into a personal yet unpressured appeal to respond to Jesus by asking Him into their hearts.

Carrie encouraged the kids to go speak with one of the adults after the prayer if they were interested in knowing more about Jesus. Alec, obviously touched by the love he had just heard described, made his way to where I was sitting.

What makes this ministry opportunity unique is the setting. It isn’t the typical Sunday School classroom, Vacation Bible School, or camp small group. This took place in a public elementary school gymnasium. The weekly Good News Club meets for 90 minutes after school. Kids sing songs, play games, and listen to Bible stories with the purpose of introducing young students to the gospel. Many children in our multi-cultural school do not have a Bible, haven’t heard of Jesus, and know little about Christianity.

Alec is a fourth grader, smaller than most children his age, which he makes up for with a big attitude to show he can hold his ground. His father is in prison, few of his

siblings have the same father, but his mother remains a constant source of care in his young life. Often in trouble for acting out, not listening, even fighting, he is constantly corrected by dedicated teachers, counselors, and administrators. Most people in the school recognize his potential and encourage his infectious smile and actions in the right direction.

After the lesson, Alec shared that he wanted to ask Jesus to forgive him of his sins and come into his heart. We sat on the floor next to the bleachers and talked about what salvation means. He was eager to pray for forgiveness, and I asked if he would like for me to lead us in prayer. In a way that only this independent young man could say, he looked up at me and said, “No! I’ve got this!”

He prayed softly and solemnly, but loud enough that I could hear him. It was a simple prayer, straight from a child’s heart. “Forgive me for all my sins. Come into my heart, Jesus. Help me to do better.”

My heart was touched too, and when we said amen together, my arm was raised in praise to an awesome God and in thankfulness to my new fourth-grade brother in Christ. **ONE**

About the Writer: Kevin Lauthern and his wife Linda are active members of the Donelson Fellowship in Nashville, Tennessee. He is president of Lewis Letterworks, a company providing design, printing, and mailing services for corporations, associations, and non-profit organizations. Good News Club is an outreach ministry of their church and is sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship. Learn more: www.cefonline.com/good-news-clubs



Shine!

Groundbreaking Conferences Help Free Will Baptist Girls Realize Their Worth



The concept of Shine! began during a WNAC board meeting, as board members dreamed of expanded ministry opportunities...if money were no option. When WNAC received an opportunity to apply for a FWB Foundation grant a few months later, the ministry submitted a proposal to host two conferences for 12- to 18-year-old girls, their mothers, and their youth leaders. We chose the name, *Shine! Realizing Your Worth*, to portray our hearts for these young ladies.

The conferences provided two tracks simultaneously. Beth and Rachel Bryant spoke to the girls, while Ana Batts and Sarah Sargent spoke to moms and youth leaders. The girls were challenged to live God's way, hearing the important message, "You're God's girl, and that's enough!" Moms and youth leaders were challenged to pray specifically with and for their girls and their friends. Speakers shared specific statistics, information on technology, and guidelines for Web safety.

A total of 114 girls and 95 moms and youth leaders participated in the two conferences. The average age of the girls was 13.5 (42 for the moms and youth leaders). Thirty-six churches from 11 states were represented, including three non-Free Will Baptist churches. Ten state WAC presidents attended, and a team of 21 ladies from 14 states comprised the prayer team for the conferences.

Little did we know what God had in store for attendees in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and North Little Rock, Arkansas. He prepared the way, and lives were changed.

Let me share a few of the comments we received:

PASTOR: *I just wanted to let you and the Shine! Conference Committee know how much I appreciated the conference being held at our church.* I listened to Beth

and Rachel talk to the girls and was very impressed with the caliber of discussions these ladies presented. They were informative, instructional, and inspirational. I am very thankful our church was the first church to host the conference. I pray the next conference in Arkansas is as beneficial as the one held at our church.

STATE WAC PRESIDENT: *To God be the glory, great things He has done!* Can't tell you also how much I appreciate each member of our WNAC board and the great speakers who shared such valuable messages and information. So glad I was able to attend. I'm confident eternal benefits will be reaped.

MOMS/YOUTH LEADERS: *Gave me tools to use to connect with the girls in my life and a renewed urgency to pray for and with them.* Soul-searching and challenging as a youth leader. Net safety was an eye-opener. Very convicting topics. Helped me value my daughter and love her, even her failures, even if

she is not successful, just as God loves us. I will not be blindsided by issues my kids face. Free Will Baptist and internet statistics surprised me. Very relevant in our culture. It will be helpful to do this or something similar in my local area.

GIRLS: *It taught me I have value and that I am God's girl, so I am special.* We talked about things I needed confirmed. To really know what worth is to God and not anyone else. No one can put a price tag on me. I learned the importance of friendships, dating, and marriage. I learned how to live God's way. (P.S. please pray for me to get saved.)

WNAC is deeply grateful to Free Will Baptist Foundation for the grant that made these conferences possible. We are rejoicing at the seeds planted and anxiously awaiting the harvest in God's time. Please pray with us for each attendee and especially the young lady who desires to be saved. God is at work among us. To Him be the glory and honor. **ONE**

DUSTY SANDALS?

By Clint Morgan

In 1857, a pastor named James Smith preached a sermon entitled “Keep Close to Christ!” In his introduction, he shared the last words of advice from a dying minister to his sister. The transcript of the message gives his account of this final encounter between the pastor and his loving sister.

The words of a dying minister, realizing the *value of the soul*, and the *solemnity of eternity*, are important words. Taking her by the hand, and fixing his eyes upon her with a loving look, he said, “*Keep close to Christ!*” What could he say of more import? Her life lesson was comprised in four words, “*Keep close to Christ!*” She had come to Jesus, she professed love to Jesus, she found happiness in Jesus; but the dying brother knew the deceitfulness of the human heart; the power of the world’s fascinations, and the craft and subtlety of Satan, therefore he exhorts, “*Keep close to Christ!*” May the Lord give us grace to *get* near to Him, and then give us more grace, to *keep* near to Him; for alas! how many of us, like Peter, follow Him afar off.

Last year, I attended the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists in Campinas, Brazil. National leaders from five countries gathered for fellowship, ministry reports, dialogue, and strategic planning for the future.

Several of the national pastors were asked to prepare messages for this gathering. As I listened, I was impressed with the depth of their messages as well as the passion and compassion of the speakers.

One of the speakers referred to his appreciation for well-polished shoes. He launched from this thought to a reference to the disciples and their time with Jesus. I think we all could agree the disciples probably were not greatly concerned with polished sandals. This pastor reiterated that those who followed closely to Christ more than likely had dust from His sandals on their sandals. A disciple should not have “polished shoes.” Instead, as he follows closely, dust from the Master’s shoes should be on theirs.

Do we have dust from His sandals on ours?

*“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, **that ye should follow his steps.**” —1 Peter 2:21* **ONE**



Across the Nation >>

Seminario Enviame

If you want to grow a ministry by addition, work hard.

If you want to grow by multiplication, teach others. Pastors and missionaries around the world can testify one of the most vital and valuable tools to advance the work of God and accomplish the Great Commission is training church leaders. As a result of the cooperation from several segments of our denomination, a new and exciting educational tool will soon expand the potential of multiplication.

The Enviame Seminary (Seminario Enviame) draws its name from Isaiah 6 and translates “send me.” The seminary will be an online, web-based educational program for Spanish-speaking students. The seminary plans to launch in September 2016, with theological and practical courses offered only in Spanish. The concept is to provide quality, biblical education from a Free Will Baptist perspective to the 329 million people around the world who speak Spanish as their first language.

This web-based program will in no way replace or compete with present seminaries or institutes, but rather complement them by providing the means for students to further their studies, especially those students limited by location or resources.



The idea of an online seminary in Spanish began as a result of a budding partnership between Free Will Baptists in Cuba and Mexico. Recognizing a serious need for biblical instruction and training in Spanish, a meeting was held in Nashville with 14 participants from Free Will Baptist colleges and mission entities. A spirit of unity was evident, and it has resulted in a collaborative effort among individuals from Welch College, Southeastern College, Hillsdale College, Cedars of Lebanon Seminary, North American Ministries, and International Missions. To develop and organize the seminary, committees were formed from these participants and board members from the missions organizations.

Think of the potential:

- Millions of Spanish-speaking people from which to draw students

- Flexibility of online classes at affordable costs
- Abundance of qualified and experienced instructors
- Availability of course materials and technological expertise
- Spirit of cooperation and common purpose
- Burden for Spanish-speaking people

Only God knows the possibilities and impact of such a ministry. Help us pray for a multiplication of converts and church leaders.

If you wish to know more about Enviame Seminary, whether a prospective student or an interested donor, visit the website: www.seminarioenviame.com. Contributions are tax deductible and may be sent to North American Ministries, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011, and designated Enviame Seminary. **ONE**

North American Ministries Hold Biennial Training Event

Nashville, Tennessee—North American Ministries (NAM) held the biennial Church Planter Summit February 22-24, 2016. Approximately 100 church planting and revitalization team members gathered in Nashville, Tennessee, for three days of fellowship, education, and inspiration.

The event started on Monday with a great evening meal followed by a time of worship led by Jordan Ledbetter (member of the Utah team) and a message from David Crowe, executive director. Brad Ransom, director of church planting, served as master of ceremonies.

Tuesday was filled with teaching, fellowship, games, and encouragement from Ken Akers, director of Master's Men; guest speakers Jeff Nichols, executive pastor for the Donelson Fellowship; and Anne Milam (for the ladies) from Charlotte, North Carolina. Several church planters also addressed important topics. Tuesday was capped off with a wonderful dinner at Monell's at the Manor, a Southern dining treat in Nashville.

Wednesday included more teaching and encouragement, sidesplitting hilarity created by the NAM version of "Family Feud," and other entertaining games hosted by Jim McComas, director of church revitalization.

While teaching and training is important, the greatest feature of the Summit is the fellowship and encouragement the team



receives from the event. Church planters, along with revitalization pastors and spouses have time to connect with office staff and one another. This year NAM welcomed more new planters and associates than at any previous summit. As a result, many team members had never met. It was great to see connections made, laughter shared, and even tears dried by those who attended.

Other staff members attended and spoke during the event—Rick Bowling, director of Hispanic ministry; Kerry Steedley, director

of chaplain support, and wife Brenda; and board chairman Jeff Jones and his wife Rose. It was a great opportunity for conversations and connecting. Teresa Womack, executive assistant, played a major role in planning the event. She did a wonderful job handling details and ensuring everything ran smoothly.

For more information about North American Ministries please visit: www.fwbnam.com. ■

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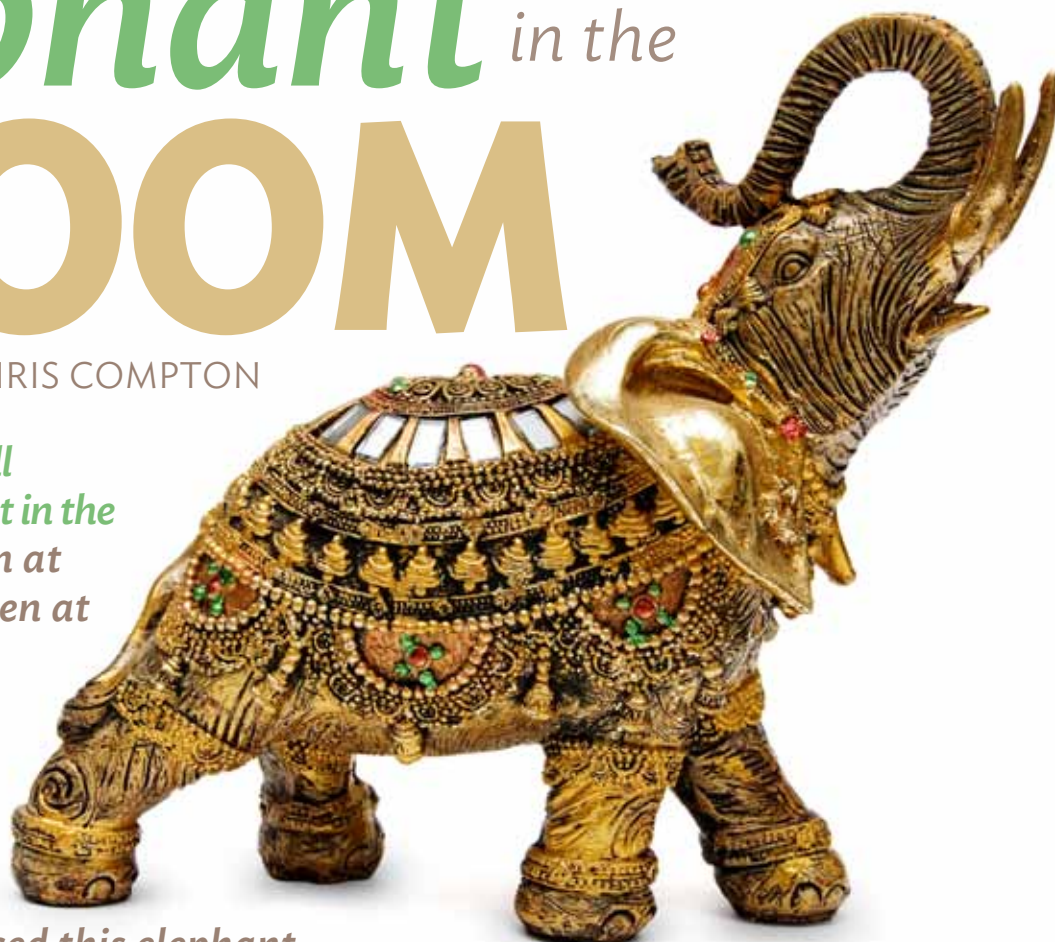


The *Elephant* in the *ROOM*

BY CHRIS COMPTON

At some point, we have all experienced the “elephant in the room.” It may have been at work, or it may have been at home. The subject was taboo. Everyone was thinking about it, but no one really wanted to talk about it. Even in my church experience, I have noticed this elephant.

*I imagine you have too. Who could miss it? So, let’s give this elephant a name: **FINANCES.***



If we are honest, we think about finances a lot. Not only do we think about money, we deal with it on a daily basis. Yet, the fact remains, we don’t like to talk about it. This is even truer when the pastor deals with the subject in a sermon. We are uncomfortable, and the pastor is uncomfortable; therefore, in some cases, we reach a truce. The subject is simply avoided all together. Or, if money happens to be the subject of a sermon or series, churchgoers skip, ignore the teaching, or criticize the pastor for bringing it up.

The Elephant

Why is money the elephant in the room? Several reasons come to mind, but I would like to explore two. First is the perception that if the preacher talks about money, it is the only thing he cares about. How unfortunate and unfair. That is not the heart of most pastors, especially the ones I know. Give them the benefit of the doubt. Your pastor will stand before God and give an account of what he teaches and why he teaches it (James 3:1).

Another reason? Many Christians do not allow Jesus to be Lord of their finances. Most Christians would say they want to honor God with their money, but statistics show that many are

simply not. The reality of that truth makes a sermon on money too uncomfortable to hear. Nobody likes it when their toes get stepped on, right?

Why Ignore the Elephant?

While it might be easier to ignore the elephant in the room, I propose it would be more beneficial to hear what God has to say about money. According to the 2014 *Stress in America: Paying With Our Health* survey, nearly three-fourths (72%) of adults report feeling stressed about money at least some of the time, and 32% of adults say their finances prevent them from living a healthy

lifestyle. Since money is on the minds of most adults, and stress is not good for our overall wellbeing, it makes sense to learn how to handle our finances in a way that honors the Lord.

Not only that, money is a foundational indicator of the health of a man's heart. Jesus said in Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." *Heart* in this verse refers to one's deepest affections. In other words, Jesus said if you want to know where the heart of a man truly resides, look at his treasure (money). To combat the lure to chase after the treasures of this world, we need biblical teaching about finances to help us chase after God instead.

Dealing With the Elephant

In what is referred to as "The Parable of the Soils," Jesus emphasizes the importance of how we hear the Word of God. We find a sense of urgency in the words of Jesus when He says in Luke 8:18a, "Take heed therefore how ye hear..." One of the reasons for this urgency is because our fruitfulness depends on how we hear the Word of God (Luke 15:8). Sermons and how we hear them is a big deal, even the ones on finances!

So, what should we do when the upcoming sermon (or series) is about finances? Let me suggest some ways you can prepare which

will both help you and honor God.

Go. It may be tempting to skip that service but resist. It will not only help you, it will encourage your pastor.


Pray. Ask God to give you a good and honest heart. Pray He will help you align your will with His in the area of finances.

Read and meditate. Find Scripture passages that will cultivate your spiritual hunger for the Scriptures. Do this Saturday night or Sunday morning before church and see if God will not nourish your soul.

Come prepared. If you arrive at church thinking the service will be of no benefit to you, it will not.

Be teachable. James 1:21 says, "Receive with meekness the engrafted word..." Don't let Satan rob you of what God may want to do in you.

Let God help. No one is more trustworthy when it comes to financial advice than God. Not only will you get help with how to handle finances biblically, you will be drawn closer to Him. That is a win-win!

May God help each of us have a greater hunger for His truth, even His truth about money. May God transform our thoughts to align with His thoughts on finances. May God help us to keep the "elephant" out of the room. 

About the Writer: Chris Compton is communications officer for the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement. Learn more: www.BoardofRetirement.com.

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+ Designed for **DISASTER**

By Ken Akers



IN 2004, HURRICANES ALEX AND IVAN HIT THE UNITED STATES. POWERFUL WINDS, EXCESSIVE RAINS, AND AN ENORMOUS STORM SURGE RESULTED IN MASSIVE FLOODING. SEVERAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCHES SUSTAINED EXTENSIVE WATER DAMAGE. ONE PASTOR CONTACTED MASTER'S MEN TO SEE IF HELP WAS AVAILABLE. IT WASN'T...AND IT SERVED AS A WAKE-UP CALL.

Master's Men began to prepare and equip for the next big disaster. In the summer of 2005, God provided a large work truck, which was exhibited at the national convention. Groups and individuals responded generously to our requests for tools and other equipment. We felt like we were prepared for whatever came.

We had no idea how important that preparation was. Two short months later, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. No one could have anticipated the magnitude of destruction left in its wake. Free Will Baptists responded by giving hundreds of thousands of dollars to those devastated by the storm, and a small army of volunteers helped repair,

rebuild, and relieve the desperate situation on the Gulf Coast.

Master's Men helped organize these volunteers at Gulf Coast Free Will Baptist Church and the surrounding area. More than 50 volunteers showed up the first week, and another wave followed the second week. They repaired the church, which had sustained major damage, and worked with many other relief organizations in the neighborhoods around the church, assisting with clean up and debris removal.

Katrina made it clear that not only Master's Men but also the entire denomination needed an organized plan to channel relief efforts and supplies to victims of natural disasters. Before an-

other hurricane season passed, a special Disaster Relief Task Force had developed the following plan of action for Free Will Baptists, a plan designed for disaster:

1. Each state appoints a representative to communicate disaster-related information in the event of an emergency.
2. The Executive Office acts as a channel for collecting and distributing donations to affected areas with the help of the contact person in each state.
3. Master's Men coordinates with local leaders to channel volunteers to assist in the efforts.

As coordinator of disaster relief for the denomination, Master's Men has




added trucks, trailers, and heavy equipment to do the job. We have coordinated relief after hurricanes, tornadoes, ice storms, and flooding, in states from North Carolina to Oklahoma, including most southern states.

Many have volunteered in disaster relief efforts that are not affiliated with Master's Men. We appreciate all volunteers and we gladly acknowledge, help,

and support their efforts. We are continually looking for more workers, and we appreciate all the men and women who have supported us by volunteering, giving, and providing supplies. Many churches have provided lodging and meals while volunteers serve. Free Will Baptist Disaster Relief is a team effort!

If you would like to be part of the Disaster Response Team, visit the Master's

Men website (www.fwbmastersmen.org) and sign up for email updates. While you may be physically unable to volunteer, please keep in mind that donations are vital to fund this important ministry. Please consider a gift or donation to help Master's Men continue its work of disaster relief. 

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

Free Will Baptist Disaster Relief

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WWW.FWBMASTERSMEN.ORG

Church SECURITY: The Shepherd, the Flock...and the Wolves

BY ROB CONLEY

THE CONCEPT OF CHURCH SECURITY IS UNSETTLING TO SOME. I get that. “The Lord will protect us,” they say. I agree completely. The challenge is that even when the Lord does something, He most often does it through us...frail, imperfect humans. So, let me start at the beginning...church security MUST be about ministry.

We want, even pray, for the vilest sinners to come to our churches. That is why we exist as a congregation. Every sinner needs the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ. Our efforts in church security must be congruent with this primary focus on seeing the sinner gloriously saved.

Only when your church and security team have come to this realization should you begin to think about protecting the flock from the “wolves.” Church security is about creating and maintaining an environment where congregants are free to worship without distraction, and where sinners can hear the gospel presented without interruption.

Each church is unique. Every church should develop its own individual plan that flows out of the circumstances, gifts, and resources available to each congregation. Church security is designed to minimize risk and hopefully prevent safety issues from occurring, but it also includes a strong component of mitigating or minimizing liability after an incident has occurred. If we are prudent before something occurs, and do all we should as an incident occurs, liability will be reduced or even removed entirely.

As you form a church security plan, be mindful of local

and state laws. Some states restrict personnel functioning in a security role to those properly licensed. Many states offer a security organization license a church can obtain, after which it becomes the “employer” of security officers. Check your local and state laws to make sure your plan complies.

Like any good plan, a security plan needs to be communicated and exercised. Once you have a plan, your security team and all relevant personnel need to practice the plan.

While your security plan needs to be church and personnel specific, most plans consider topics such as:

- Health emergencies
- Fire emergencies
- Weather emergencies
- Children’s areas, custody issues, and prevention of child abduction
- Evacuations
- Lock downs
- Active assailants
- Bomb threats
- Protestors
- The use of radios
- Using incident reports
- Property maps and building floor plans
- Special events
- Contact with media
- Securing leadership personnel

Church security is about creating and maintaining an environment where congregants are free to worship without distraction, and where sinners can hear the gospel presented without interruption.

Most pastors don't like to talk about the need for protection. Consider one simple perspective: the Church universal may not be dependent on one single individual, but ongoing ministry and Kingdom impact for our local church would be radically disrupted if our pastor were no longer able to minister. Protecting our pastor is not about him as an individual, but about the ongoing ministry of our church. Churches need a security plan!

In the next issue of *ONE Magazine*, security specialist Sam Hodges will introduce the basics of a good church security plan, from how to pick your members to training and practical steps. In the meantime, it might be time for your church to start the conversation by asking, "What would we do in case of an emergency?" **ONE**

About the Writer: Rob Conley is director of financial operations. He is also a private corporate security specialist, with many years of experience in the field.



Church Security: Now on DVD

At the 2015 Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference, Free Will Baptist layman and security specialist Sam Hodges presented a one-hour security workshop for Free Will Baptist leadership. This training session is now available for your church or ministry at no charge (although \$5 is requested to cover shipping).

Request your Church Security DVD today: 877-767-7659 or www.nafwb.org.

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At Welch College >>

Beck Joins Welch Faculty



Stephen Beck, principal of the Free Will Baptist Christian School in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, has been hired as a full-time faculty member in Teacher Education at Welch College, according to Provost Greg Ketteman.

Beck will assume the position this fall when Dr. Thurman Pate shifts to a part-time role, the beginning of a planned, phased retirement. Pate began serving the college in 1999 as chairman of the TE department. “Dr. Pate and Mrs. Ann Pate, who herself served 14 years as a faculty member in the TE department, have been such a blessing to the TE Department at Welch for a combined 30 years,” Ketteman reflected.

Beck started out as an engineer, attending Vanderbilt University, where he received a B.S. in engineering with minors in math and com-

puter science in 1997. During this time, he took Bible and missions courses at Welch College, where he met his wife Rejyna.

Beck, an ordained minister and the grandson of Welch’s founding president Dr. L. C. Johnson, served as an engineer for a defense contractor in Huntsville, Alabama, until sensing a calling to the school in the Virgin Islands, where he also served as associate pastor in an associate home missionary role with Free Will Baptist North American Ministries. In addition to his administrative and pastoral work, he coached championship soccer and cross-country teams.

“The college has long envisioned offering a program for math teachers,” Ketteman said. “Stephen will allow us to pursue that goal. He will teach full-time in the department and take over many of Dr. Pate’s administrative duties as well.”

Dr. Etta Patterson will serve as interim chairman of the department until Beck completes his doctorate. Stephen completed most of his coursework toward a master’s degree in engineering at University of Alabama Huntsville. He holds a master’s degree in mathematics education from the University of Virgin Islands, where he is an adjunct assistant professor in mathematics.

President Matt Pinson said, “I am delighted that Stephen Beck will join our Welch team. He has an ideal mix of administrative background, ministry experience, and fit with Welch’s mission.”

Stephen, Rejyna, and their five children—Opal Ruth (12), James Foster (12), Stephen Linton (10), Samuel Fletcher (9), and Charlotte Grace (6)—will move to Nashville this summer. ■

President’s Home to Be Built on Gallatin Campus

By resolution of the Board of Trustees, Welch College will construct a president’s home on its new 66-acre campus site in Gallatin, Tennessee, according to David Williford, vice president for institutional advancement.

“The most recent plans for phase one did not include a president’s home...but plans changed when the lead donor to the Building on the Legacy capital campaign, Mrs. Alicia Celorio of the Do Unto Others Trust in Miami, Florida, promised an additional gift that would make it possible for the home to be built without diverting funds from the core campus.”

James and Mary Beasley of Turbeville, South Carolina, subsequently made an additional, significant pledge beyond their Building on the Legacy commitment. As directed by the Board of Trustees, the funds for the president’s home will not come from gifts to the Building on the Legacy campaign, but from special gifts made above and beyond Building on the Legacy gifts, as well as from the president’s housing allowance.

“We’re grateful to our two lead donors who had a special interest in seeing a president’s home built on this land,” Williford said. “Rather than taking a personal housing allowance, President and Mrs. Pinson wanted their monthly housing allowance funds placed back into the new Welch campus through the construction of a president’s home for future generations of the Welch family.”

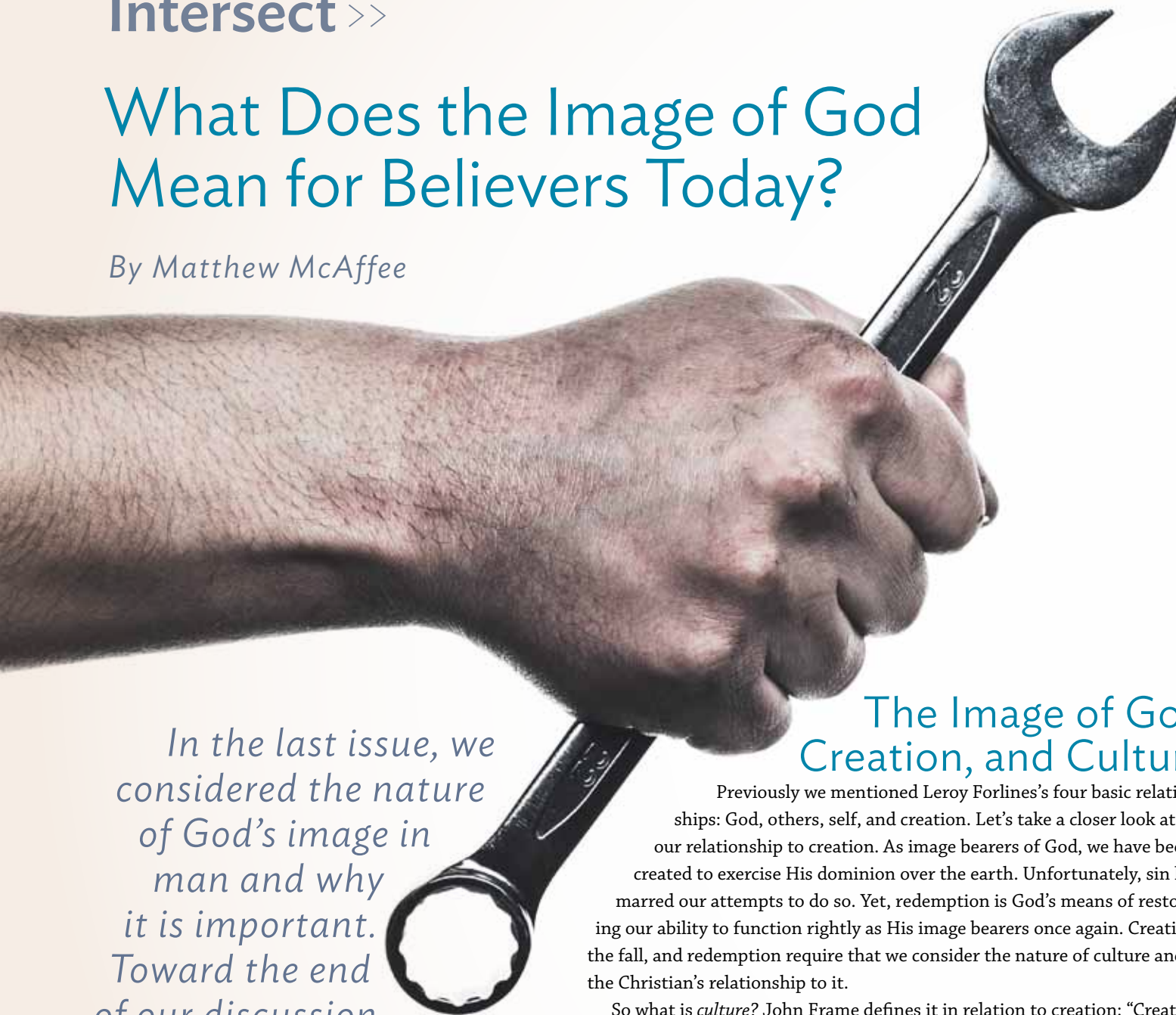
The design of the house has been completed, according to Relocation Consultant Bob Bass, and construction is set to begin. To learn more about campus relocation or to give to the Building on the Legacy campaign, visit www.BuildingontheLegacy.com. ■



Intersect >>

What Does the Image of God Mean for Believers Today?

By Matthew McAfee



In the last issue, we considered the nature of God's image in man and why it is important. Toward the end of our discussion, we began to draw out its relationship to the gospel. This time, I would like to focus on its specific importance for believers today.

The Image of God, Creation, and Culture

Previously we mentioned Leroy Forlines's four basic relationships: God, others, self, and creation. Let's take a closer look at our relationship to creation. As image bearers of God, we have been created to exercise His dominion over the earth. Unfortunately, sin has marred our attempts to do so. Yet, redemption is God's means of restoring our ability to function rightly as His image bearers once again. Creation, the fall, and redemption require that we consider the nature of culture and the Christian's relationship to it.

So what is *culture*? John Frame defines it in relation to creation: "Creation is what God makes; culture is what we make."¹ In short, God has fashioned the world, and He expects us to do something with it. Our creativity is a reflection of God's original creation work. Andy Crouch illustrates this point by distinguishing between raw materials and what humans do with them. He explains, "Omelets and chairs and paintings are just as much a part of the world as eggs and wood and pigments, preexisting and waiting for both interpretation and further creation."² In other words, God has gifted human beings with both the ability and the command to make beautiful and enjoyable things within the world He has made.

Cultural creativity does not end with omelets, chairs, and paintings, however. It is even broader, including "sounds, institutions, philosophies, fash-

ions, enthusiasms, myths, prejudices, relationships, attitudes, tastes, rituals, habits, colors, and loves, all embodied in individual people, in groups and collectives and associations of people (many of whom do not know they are associated), in books, in buildings, in the use of time and space, in wars, in jokes, and in food.”³ Understood in this way, our prerogative as redeemed image bearers of God is to remake our cultural expressions to reflect the purposes of God, not the purposes of sin-fallen man.

Cultural Transformation and the Gospel

It is important to define culture in this broad way because it needs to be understood in light of our other relationships (God, others, self). It helps us in thinking about how Christians relate to culture. Sanctification in the life of believers is God’s work of restoring the brokenness of all our relationships. All these areas (God, self, others, creation) are interconnected. We cannot expect to grow in our relationship with God if we fail to give attention to our relationship with others. Neither can we grow closer to God if we ignore the inner self and the created world around us.

It is tempting for Christians to live segmented lives. To do so fails to grasp the full ramifications of the gospel for all of life. The gospel is the power of God for salvation (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18), and its effect in our lives is transformative. Paul urges us not to be conformed to the world, but to be transformed by a renewed mind (Romans 12:2). As the word of Christ renews our minds, it changes the way we think. This, in turn, leads to a change in behavior. It is a comprehensive change, one without boundaries.

What does this transformation look like? Let’s take Christian vocation as an example. What does it mean for a redeemed image bearer of God to transform his life’s work? Some folks would say that a Christian mechanic ought to post Bible verses throughout his shop, or perhaps play Christian music for customers. Though these measures are not necessarily bad, they do not capture the essence of gospel transformation. One obvious means of demonstrating gospel renewal as a mechanic would be to carry out fair and honest business dealings. It shouldn’t stop

there, however. His work should strive for the highest standards of excellence. The underlying motivation driving his work has also changed. The sole purpose of his vocation is to glorify God in everything he does. In essence, he is exercising God’s rule over creation through his skills as a mechanic.

What about human relationships? We sometimes think our only purpose in relating to others is to lead them to Christ. While that is our primary purpose as Christians, it is not our only purpose. Every human being has dignity, because he or she is a bearer of God’s image. For instance, those in the medical profession have a unique opportunity to care for the physical and emotional needs of others. It is a noble vocation for believers. The gospel would have us invest in the lives of others. The empathy of a nurse or the listening ear of a physician genuinely interested in his or her patients both exemplify Christian virtue. We help others because they bear God’s image and are of value to Him. We serve others with excellence and sacrifice so as to glorify God in our vocations.

Summary

Many other examples could be given. How does the gospel inform our views of education, medicine, social health, science, politics, or the arts? How does the gospel transform habits as a student, an assembly line worker, a school guidance counselor, or business person? How does it affect my choices in entertainment and leisure? What about my hobbies, likes, dislikes, loves, attitudes, or philosophies? The application of the gospel is as broad as the world God made, and as diverse as the cultural expressions of the image bearers He has placed within it.

God is making creation new again. His vehicle for doing so is Christ and His glorious Church. One day this renewal will be complete. The heavens and earth will be restored once and for all. All those image bearers found in Christ will be renewed in the resurrection. On that day, we will reign with Christ forever, making culture for the glory of God, but without the taint of sin.

God’s transformational work through the Church in the world today is a sign of what is to come. My prayer is that God would grant us wisdom in understanding His world and discernment in identifying our transformational role within it. **ONE**

About the Writer: Dr. Matthew McAfee is an Old Testament professor at Welch College: www.Welch.edu.

1 John M. Frame, “Christianity and Culture,” Lectures given at the Pensacola Theological Institute (July 2001), 2. Online: http://www.thirdmill.org/newfiles/joh_frame/Frame.Apologetics2004.ChristandCulture.pdf.

2 Andy Crouch, *Culture Making: Recovering our Creative Calling* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2008), 25.

3 Ken Myers, *All God’s Children and Blue Suede Shoes With a New Introduction* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2012), 34.



A sign on the door at 436 Main Street read, “Peace to all who enter here.” We rang the bell, and James Cox, sporting steel-rimmed glasses and a gray mustache, guided us to an elevator and up to his and Dorothy’s second-floor apartment in downtown Paintsville, Kentucky. In 1979, the couple began following a call God gave James, a layman, to change directions and build Camp Caleb Christian Camp and Conference Center in the Appalachian highlands of Kentucky. This interview is part of their story.

EVANS: James, you mentioned a call to build. How did that come about?

JAMES: My father had started a Chevrolet and Oldsmobile dealership in 1927. After his death in the early 1950s, I ran it. But by 1977, I knew I needed to do something else.

DOROTHY: We were out in the backyard, and James told me, “God wants me to do something. I just don’t know what.”

JAMES: So the Lord spent two years preparing me.

EVANS: How was that?

JAMES: I bought 400 acres for \$15 an acre as an investment. The road was so rough and rutted we had to borrow a friend’s Jeep just to get back to see it. Later, the Lord helped us build a camp and conference center on 265 acres of that land.

DOROTHY: Also, James was always involved in things—dealership school, the car business, director of the bank board, community organizations, the building committee at church. He had also built and operated a motel and restaurant in town. In 1979, Dr. J. D. O’Donnell was used to bring about the tipping point.

JAMES: That year, He lived in the prophet’s room at our house while heading up Bethel Bible Institute. Dorothy and I taught some of the classes and made a lot of contacts because of him.

DOROTHY: Then he set up a summer youth camp at Levi Jackson State Park and asked James to direct it. I said, “Lord, help us! James has never even been to camp.”

JAMES: The first day was mass confusion. Even some of the cooks didn’t show up. I said, “Lord, if you’ll help me through the week, I’ll never do this again.” But before it was over, 25 kids had been saved, and the Lord had told me to build a camp. So, I laid everything else aside and began.

DOROTHY: Our son Jim had left college, so he took on the dealership. Also, the Lord sent the Gil Johnson family to Paintsville for a job, and he and his wife took us to The Wilds in North Carolina, where we learned so much about how to build and run a camp and conference center.

Evans: What was your first step?

JAMES: A master site plan. I hired the Woolpert Company of Dayton, Ohio, to do aerial photographs and elevation studies and draw up a master plan, locating cabins, bathhouses, a pool, dining hall/activities building, office, snack shop, sewage plant, lake, and playing fields.

DOROTHY: By the fall of 1979, we also had selected a Scripture and purpose from Luke 2:52: grow as Christ did, mentally, physically, socially, and spiritually. Then we started traveling to churches and conferences to present Camp Caleb and ask for help.

JAMES: I was 47, so I'd been around a while, but I knew I needed good people to work with me, so I asked the Lord to supply the people He wanted to be board members and advisors. I never asked anyone. Seven trustees and four advisors volunteered. Eventually we had ten trustees, a board president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and four advisors.

EVANS: How did you get financial backing?

DOROTHY: We asked. By early 1980, we were incorporated as a non-profit organization and by law had to work under someone for a year to secure our non-profit status. Dr. O'Donnell served in that role. As for finances, we used several plans. One was called Camos, a club for young people who gave \$2 or more each month from their own money. For families and churches we had a check-o-matic plan, a \$1,000 Club, a \$100 Club, memorial giving, and monthly pledges.

JAMES: So, the summer of 1980, we had camp at Levi Jackson State Park again.

DOROTHY: Then in 1981, we had an "illegal camp," as we now call it. We had built cabins and bathhouses at the camp, but no dining hall. So we rented a big tent, cut 55-gallon drums in half for grills, carried water for cooking from a spigot over the hill, and fed the kids under the tent. After camp was over, inspectors came and told James, "You know you can't have camp here until the dining hall is done." James' only answer was, "I understand."

JAMES: In early 1982, we were ready to start the dining hall, so I wrote an appeal letter. I told them we had to have \$5,000

or more every month to meet our bills. We also needed 2,600 eight-inch concrete blocks, 150 tons of gravel, 150 bags of mortar, and volunteer plumbers, concrete finishers, and common laborers. I asked for prayer, too.

At the very end I told them about a young lady who had sent us a gift of \$1.10. I said I knew her and knew her gift was a sacrifice. Then I wrote, "If God speaks to your heart about giving time and money to the camp, please, please, don't rebel against His calling." It was hard. I don't really know how we did it.

DOROTHY: For the dining hall, we had a log and truss campaign where individuals "bought" a log or a truss for the building. We borrowed some, too, and had a great treasurer, Norman Preston. He and I would sit down every month and spread out the bills. I would make piles. One pile had to be paid now. The second could wait two weeks. The last could wait until next month. After I made the piles, he wrote the checks, so we made it.

EVANS: You mentioned the dining hall a while back, was that the first thing you built?

JAMES: No, we started with water, electricity, and a sewage system.

DOROTHY: There was already a gas well on the property, which we had cleaned out, and it was great. Still is. Heats everything on campus.

JAMES: We did the sewage plant ourselves. I figured a way to do it, and with some volunteers did the digging. It was a gravity flow system, so the pipes had to be laid at just the right level to keep everything moving. It was a huge project.

DOROTHY: James is so smart, and he's like a dog on a bone when he's onto something.

JAMES: Like Pookie. He was our Bassett Hound. Actually, God just gave me the gift because I wasn't a builder.

DOROTHY: At first, they dug with pick and shovel in almost solid rock. It was terrible. I took them sandwiches and water and felt so sorry for them.

JAMES: Finally, one day a volunteer came with a backhoe, but we didn't get finished. The owner sent word to keep it another day, then another, I think. Anyway, that backhoe sure beat pick and shovel. When the company delivered our 15,000-gallon tank, I had a spot picked out, but the crane dropped it, missing the spot. We worked so hard on that.

DOROTHY: But you played some, too.

JAMES: Oh, yeah! One day, it was just us men. We were hot and tired, and somebody said, "Let's go swimming." We all started running and tearing off our clothes. By the time we got to the lake, we were naked and clothes were flung everywhere. Estill Williams from Springfield, Ohio, was in that group. Such a good friend. The Lord sent us people like that. Course, there was Dorothy. I couldn't have done it without her.

DOROTHY: The Lord had told me, "You're in this, too," and so I was.

EVANS: When did you finish the work the Lord called you to at Camp Caleb?

JAMES: I resigned as director in October 1989. I'd been there ten years. I always knew my call was to build the camp, not operate it. One day I was in the kitchen at the camp, and the Lord said, "You can go now." I kept on as president of the board until the early 2000s, but Camp Caleb went on just fine without me. Still is. Ryan McKenzie, who came to our camp when he was young, is the current director.

DOROTHY: You know, when the Lord calls you, He doesn't give you the whole plan, just enough to start. You might give up if He gave you the whole thing at once. By the time the Lord had prepared us back in 1979, we were like Caleb, ready for the mountain where the Anakim were (Joshua 14). It was a difficult place, a place of giants, but the Lord gave it to us like He did Caleb. That's why we called it Camp Caleb. **ONE**

About the Writers: Bill Evans, former director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, lives in Ashland, Kentucky, with his wife Brenda, a retired English teacher. They are proud grandparents of seven.

The End

MAKE YOUR ENDING EPIC WITH AN ESTATE PLAN!

Let's face it...death is an inevitable part of life, and parents who really love their children will prepare their estates in such a way that it will benefit their families and the ministries they have loved and supported throughout their lifetime. Free Will Baptist Foundation has partnered with Cornerstone Estate Planning to help! More than 1,200 Free Will Baptist families have already taken advantage of an opportunity to have peace of mind about their estates. Contact the Foundation to learn more:

family | peace of mind | security



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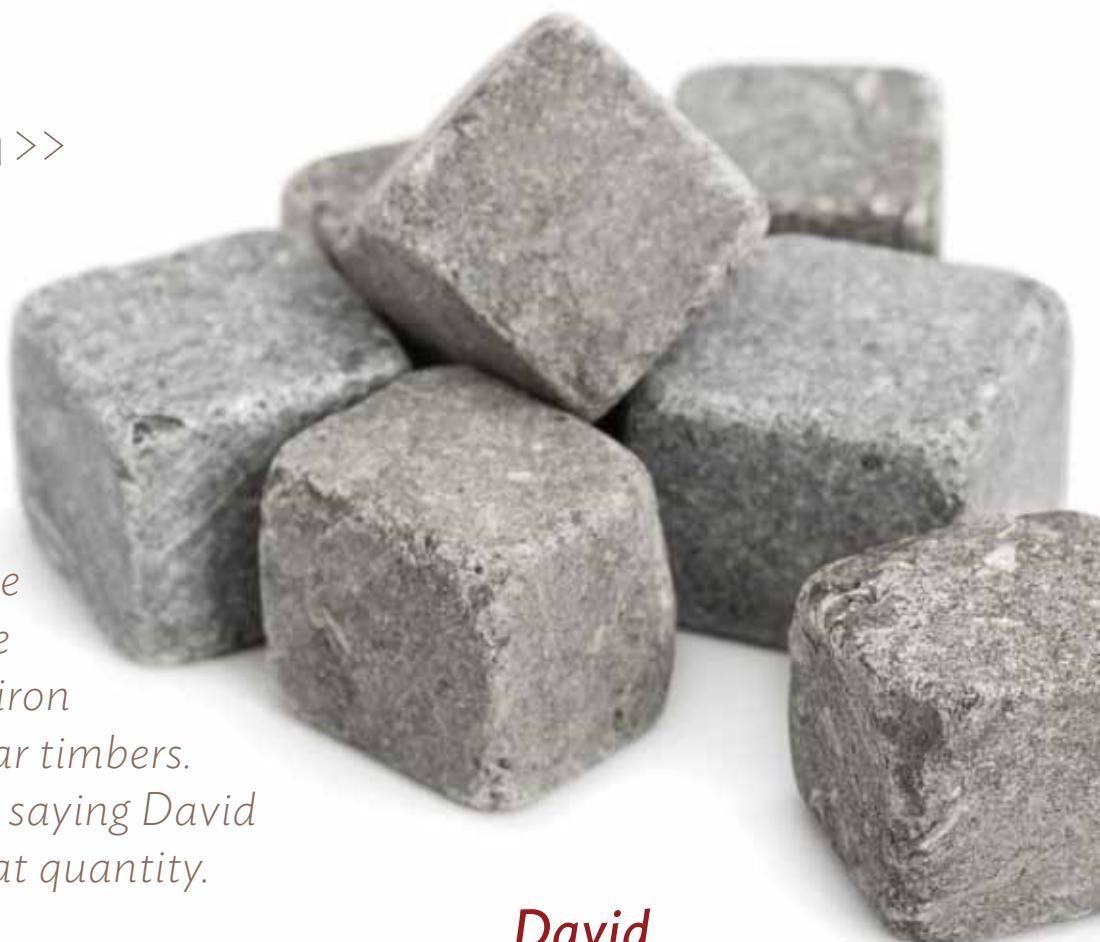
Brown on Green >>>

Be Like David

In the opening verses of 1 Chronicles 22, we find an account of David's preparations for the Temple Solomon would build. The writer lists dressed stone, iron for nails, bronze, and cedar timbers. The passage concludes by saying David provided materials in great quantity.

A few chapters later, in 1 Chronicles 28, we learn he even helped design the plans for the temple. While God did not allow David himself to build the temple, David did everything possible to make sure Solomon would have the necessary materials. David wanted to do all he could to help the next generation be successful. This is a reminder to us that we will get to the point in life where our personal future is short. However, each of us has a responsibility to the next generation of Free Will Baptists to help make them be even more successful in God's work.

Through the Foundation, laymen and women have an opportunity to be a vital part of all Free Will Baptist ministries as they provide gifts that fund the spread of the gospel around the world. The work of these ministries simply would not be possible if the laity did not provide the support.




Tithes and offerings are vital to keep current ministry going, but we must think about giving another way. Every Free Will Baptist should consider tithing on his or her estate. Free Will Baptist Foundation can help make this a reality. A planned gift can be used to set up an estate tithe. Setting aside an amount equal to 10% in a planned gift has the added benefit of providing lifetime income. A charitable tax deduction is generated along with tax-advantaged, or in some cases, tax-free income.

Another way to tithe on your estate is to set up a Free Will Baptist estate plan through the Foundation and our partner Cornerstone Estate Planning. We generally have given individuals opportunities to set up an estate plan after presenting an estate-planning seminar in their local church. With field representatives assigned to several regions now, we can meet with individuals personally to set

David wanted to do all he could to help the next generation be successful.

up an estate plan.

More than 1,100 Free Will Baptist families have created estate plans, and conservative estimates indicate that \$12 million has been set aside in those estate plans for Free Will Baptist ministries. Why don't you contact the Foundation and set up a plan to tithe on your estate? After all, don't we all want to be like David, and do everything we can to help the next generation carry on the Lord's work? 

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.

Leader Profile >> BY RON HUNTER JR.

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

Melvin Worthington

Leadership involves routines and disciplines.

Most great leaders follow a strict regimen that helps prepare them for the unpredictable. While interviewing Dr. Worthington, several habits surfaced: a weekly date with his wife Anne, a detailed routine of quiet-time, and daily feedings of cattle, llamas, donkeys, and a horse.

Thirteen years ago, Dr. Worthington transitioned from his role as executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists to co-pastor Liberty FWB Church in Ayden, North Carolina, the city where he was born and raised. Dr. Worthington feels there is no higher position in the denomination than pastoring, that national agencies exist to serve and unite the efforts of local churches.

Melvin grew up in a Christian home, where his parents served their church and community. After coming to know Christ at age 16, Melvin graduated high school, attended Asbury University, answered the call to preach as a sophomore, and began to sing with the Musical Messengers. He humbly shared, "I am still amazed that God called me." Since that call many years ago, a denomination, a church, and now the state of North Carolina have benefitted from his leadership.

When asked what leadership looks like on state and local levels compared to a national agency role, Dr. Worthington did not hesitate, "I believe it is my responsibility to participate in the district, state, as well as, the national level. Attending and serving in the district and state brings insight and understanding to dealing with issues that arise in the national association."

When asked what people most misunderstand about him, he reluctantly muses, "Perhaps they misunderstand that I am not very emotional, and they conclude I am uninterested or do not care. As my daddy always taught me, one does not need excessive emotionalism. I have always believed deep water runs quiet, and shallow water makes lots of noise."

Dr. Worthington, you are a great leader! ONE



What is an ideal date for you and Anne?

We enjoy eating out once each week at Mayflower or Chico's.

Where are your kids in life right now?

Lydia Anne Selitto teaches first grade in Sparta, New Jersey. Daniel Edward Worthington works for the University of Illinois at the Abraham Lincoln library in Springfield, Illinois.

One indulgence:

Chocolate/Peanut M&Ms

Do you exercise? How and what do you do?

I play golf. I walk on the farm.

Who's your favorite author?

Albert Barnes

What books are you reading right now?

The Biblical Illustrator and Matthew Poole

What are your top three books of all time? (other than the Bible)

Fully Furnished by F. E. Marsh

Lectures to My Students by Charles Spurgeon

Albert Barnes Commentary on the Scriptures

Why Free Will Baptist?

This is simple: I believe Free Will Baptist doctrine and Free Will Baptist church polity. If I did not embrace the precepts, principles, philosophy, and polity of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc. I would seek another denomination.

Paper or Plastic Questions:

Fiction or non-fiction? Non-fiction

Music or talk radio? Music

Sushi or burger? Burger

Facebook, email, Pinterest, Twitter, Instagram, or

texting? Email

Tie or no tie? Tie

Mac or PC? PC



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Greater IMPACT

BY
KEN
AKERS



Impact began July 15, 2006, in Birmingham, Alabama, when more than 400 Free Will Baptists from eight states braved 100-degree temperatures and sweltering humidity to change the focus of the annual Free Will Baptist convention. The idea was simple: each year, make a difference—an impact—on the city hosting the national convention.

“I just think it is amazing to see Free Will Baptists come together for something like this” participant Tina Brewer said that day. “No matter what happens the rest of the convention, we will always remember Birmingham for what happened today!”

As the Impact program celebrates its first decade, Tina’s statement has proven prophetic. Over the nine-year history of the program, more than 2,500 Free Will Baptists have participated in the one-day outreach program. Held on the Saturday immediately preceding the national convention, Impact gives convention-goers an opportunity to serve the host city through door-to-door evangelism, service projects, community outreach events, and more. Volunteers have done everything from building pole barns to marching in parades and hosting street carnivals.

While the logistics of Grand Rapids prevented the outreach in

2015, a year earlier, 84 volunteers from eight states participated in Impact Fort Worth, enduring the heat and humidity to distribute more than 2,000 flyers and 1,000 gospel tracts.

In 2016, Impact Kansas City will offer four locations and a variety of service projects:

LifePoint FWB Church in Blue Springs, Missouri, has a monthly food distribution ministry. Participants will assist this local church in distributing food to those in need.

Victory FWB Church in Kansas City, Missouri, and Central FWB Church in Grandview, Missouri, will host community outreach carnivals for their neighbors. The events will help these churches build connections and meet prospective members while providing a day of fun for the community.

In coordination with the Overland Park FWB Church, volunteers will work alongside local church members in a number of inner-city ministry opportunities.



Impact volunteers are needed at all four locations. Participants will meet at their respective locations at 9:00 a.m. Groups and individuals can register for Impact online at www.fwbmastersmen.org and register for the location they wish to serve. All participants who preregister by June 27 will receive a free Impact Kansas City t-shirt.

We want this to be the largest and best Impact outreach event ever. Will you help us impact Kansas City with the gospel? Consider the reaction of one local pastor who hosted the event at his church: "We are very grateful for this program. It was a rare opportunity to have nearly 200 workers do more in six hours than our church could do in months! They accomplished more than I dreamed."

This is your chance to make a greater impact! **ONE**

About the Writer: Ken Akers is director of Free Will Baptist Master's Men, a division of North American Ministries. Learn more: www.fwbnam.com.

About the Denomination >>

Jack Williams With the Lord

Antioch, TN—Dr. Jack Williams, former editor of *Contact* magazine, died Friday, April 29, 2016, at age 73. Jack had struggled to regain his health since November 2012, when a massive stroke left him partially paralyzed.

Jack was born in 1942 on a sharecropper's cotton farm in West Carroll Parish, Louisiana. He was saved in 1958 at age 16 and eight months later he accepted God's call to preach. When the nearby Sardis FWB Church offered him a pastorate shortly thereafter, the 17-year-old high school senior accepted, and using a borrowed Bible, began his nearly 60-year ministry.

After graduating from high school, Jack attended Free Will Baptist Bible College, graduating in 1966 with Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Theology degrees. More importantly, he met and married Janis Wilcox, "prettiest girl in West Virginia," as he called her. He continued his education at Sacramento Baptist Theological Seminary, completing a M.A. in 1973 and a Ph.D. from Louisiana Baptist University in 1976.

From 1959-1969, Jack pastored churches in Louisiana, Tennessee, and Arkansas before accepting a position as academic dean at California Christian College, where he remained for eight years. Then, in 1977, Jack began what became his life's work as editor of *Contact* magazine and executive assistant for the Free Will Baptist Executive Office. In addition to editing the magazine, the role included oversight of day-to-day operations and the planning of the annual convention.

Jack quickly earned a reputation for excellence and professionalism, both in the convention planning community and in the publishing world. He was known for witty writing, journalistic objectivity, and constant encouragement and development of

new writers. His strong journalistic ethics are evident in the words of his final *Contact* magazine editorial: "Those who wield the journalistic sword must be careful where they lay the edge of the blade lest they harm the innocent while probing for truth." His writing and work as editor earned 13 awards from the Evangelical Press Association and helped launch a fleet of new Free Will Baptist writers.

In 2005, after *Contact* magazine ceased publication, Jack accepted a position as director of publications for Welch College, where he remained until his retirement in 2014.

Throughout his life and ministry, Jack remained fully dedicated to the work of Free Will Baptists. In addition to a number of local and regional positions, he served as assistant moderator of the California State Association (1971-1977), member of the national Sunday School Board (1975-1977), and chairman of the Free Will Baptist Press Association (1978-1991). Another notable denominational work was with the Free Will Baptist Historical Commission, where he served from 1977 until his passing.

Robert E. Picirilli recalls his long-time friend: "Jack was one of the good guys, a personal friend whom I admired. Nobody loved the Free Will Baptist denomination and its ministries any better. He was a gifted speaker and writer, spoke positively about others, and believed in building up rather than tearing down. We'll remember him most for his long stint as editor of *Contact*, and I for the many years we worked together on the FWB Historical Commission. We will miss him."

Executive Secretary Keith Burden noted, "Jack Williams was an encourager, a cheerleader. He may have been short in stature, but he cast a long shadow across our



Dr. Jack Williams

Photo: Mark Cowart

denomination. I'm a better leader and writer because of Brother Jack."

Perhaps the best way to remember Jack is to recall his own words, penned in an editorial for *Contact*: "The point of all this is that the work of God goes on when the people of God die. Abraham dies—Isaac steps up. Moses dies—Joshua leads Israel across Jordan. Stephen dies in the last verse of Acts 7. Acts 8 opens with God's hand already on a young man named Saul of Tarsus. The work of God never stops. The people of God wipe away the tears, strap on their spurs, and keep looking up...I like the way God writes obituaries for His people. They all end, not with a period, but with a comma."

Jack is survived by Janis Wilcox Williams, his wife of 53 years; daughter, Rebecca Deel and husband Recardo; son, Brad Williams and wife, Tina; grandchildren, Austin Deel, Andrew Deel, Kristen Williams and Kullen Williams; sister, Carol Mariche; and brother, Jerry Williams. He was preceded in death by a grandson, Kyler Williams. Funeral services were held Wednesday, May 4, 2016.



THE PATH TO revival

2 CHRONICLES 7:14

National Association of Free Will Baptists | Kansas City, Missouri | July 17-20, 2016

Saturday, July 16

Impact KC
9:00 a.m.
Various Locations
www.fwbmastersmen.org

Registration Open
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Sunday, July 17

Registration (Open Daily)
8:00 am - 7:00 pm
KCCC 2200 Lobby

Sunday School*
10:00 am
KCCC Hall A

Morning Worship*
11:00 am
KCCC Hall A

CTS & NYC Sponsor Orientation
4:00 pm
KCCC 2215C

Evening Worship*
7:00 pm
KCCC Hall A

Monday, July 18

General Board Meeting
8:00 am
Marriott, Count Basie Ballroom AB

CTS Ministry Expo
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
KCCC

Convention Seminars
9:00 am
KCCC

ENGAGE Student Ministry Luncheon
(Ticketed Event)
12:30 pm
Crowne Plaza Salon B

Theological Integrity Seminar
*Implications of the Supreme Court
Decision on Same-Sex Marriage*
2:00 pm
Marriott, Count Basie Ballroom AB
Speaker: Matthew Steven Bracey

Exhibit Hall Open
3:00 pm - 10:00 pm
KCCC 2103

ENGAGE Children's Ministry Panel
4:00 pm
KCCC 2205

North American Ministries
Appreciation Dinner
(By Invitation Only)
5:15 pm
Marriott, Truman Room

Evening Worship
7:00 pm
KCCC Hall A

WNAC Laughter & Latte
(Ticketed Event)
8:30 pm
Marriott, Count Basie Ballroom C

National Youth Evangelistic Team
(Y.E.T.) Program
9:00 pm
KCCC Music Hall

ENGAGE Panel: *God and Country:
the Christian and Politics*
9:00 pm
KCCC 2215C

Tuesday, July 19

CTS Ministry Expo
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
KCCC

Convention Seminars
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
KCCC

WNAC Celebration Service
10:00 am
Marriott, Count Basie Ballroom AB
Speaker: Kellie Penn

Revival Prayer Rally
10:00 am
Marriott, Colonial Ballroom

Exhibit Hall Open
10:00 am – 10:00 pm
KCCC 2103

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

ENGAGE Student Ministry Panel
4:00 pm
KCCC 2205

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

I Am They Concert (Ticketed Event)
9:00 pm
KCCC Music Hall

Wednesday, July 20

CTS Bible Finals
8:00 am
KCCC 2104B

GPS Experience: A Missions
Experience for Every Age
9:00 am – 11:00 am
KCCC 2102A

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

Reach That Guy Blood Drive
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
KCCC 2104A

Exhibit Hall Open
10:00 am – 9:30 pm
KCCC 2103

Welch College Alumni and Friends
Luncheon (Ticketed Event)
12:00 noon
Marriott, Count Basie Ballroom C

Evening Worship
6:45 pm
KCCC Hall AB

CTS Awards Ceremony
9:00 pm
KCCC Hall AB

***Teen services will be held in the
KCCC Music Hall.**



Ben Evans (MO)
Sunday School



Wayne Miracle (GA)
Sunday Morning



Cory Thompson (OK)
Sunday Evening



Brad Ryan (IL)
Monday Evening



Richard Robinson (MO)
Tuesday Evening



Marc Neppi (VA)
Wednesday Evening

Meeting in the Midwest

In July, Free Will Baptists will return to Kansas City, Missouri, for the fifth time in the convention's 80-year history. Settled at the junction of Interstates 70, 35, and 49, this Heartland city lies within a day's drive of most Free Will Baptist churches. Attendees can expect sunny July days and Midwestern friendliness in the largest city in Missouri.

Speakers **Ben Evans (MO)**, **Wayne Miracle (GA)**, **Cory Thompson (OK)**, **Brad Ryan (IL)**, **Richard Robinson (MO)**, and **Marc Neppi (VA)** will address the theme, "The Path to Revival" from 2 Chronicles 7:14. Those unable to attend the convention are encouraged to take advantage of online streaming at www.nafwb.org, courtesy of the Free Will Baptist Media Commission. The theme will also be emphasized by a prayer rally on Tuesday morning, when convention-goers will gather to ask God for revival.

Attendees are encouraged to arrive a day early to participate in Impact Kansas City, a one-day evangelistic campaign of service and outreach. Volunteers will spread across Greater Kansas City, working with local Free Will Baptist churches to share Christ with the community. Read more about this year's Impact and how you can get involved on page 47.

Delegates are expected to approve denominational budgets of more than \$25 million as Moderator Tim York guides delegates through Tuesday and Wednesday business sessions. This year's slate of business includes election of board members, general officers, and commission appointees. In addition, all national agencies and commissions will submit annual reports.

National Youth Conference

Meeting simultaneously with the National Association is the 49th annual National Youth Conference. Planners expect more than 2,500 registrants who will participate in national competitive finals in Bible and fine arts, seminars, and services designed especially for youth. In addition, students from across the nation will participate in "Reach That Guy" projects, serving Kansas City with time, volunteer labor, and kindness.

Welcome to the Fountain City

Attendees will enjoy a cutting-edge streetcar system opened May 5, just in time for the convention, providing fun and speedy transportation around downtown Kansas City with stops directly in front of the convention center and area attractions.

“The Fountain City” is home to hundreds of fountains (some over 300 years old) the Kansas City Zoo, and a variety of museums, from the Harry S. Truman Museum to museums featuring the histories of jazz and steamboats. Thrill-seekers may want to try their hand at zip-lining, or drop 200 feet at 75 miles per hour on the Mamba, one of Worlds of Fun’s largest roller coasters.

Many convention-goers will catch a Royals game at Kauffman Stadium and take time to reflect at the National WWI Museum at Liberty Memorial, between meals of fantastic local barbecue, of course. Famous for wet (basted in sauce) barbecue, Kansas City rivals Memphis and Austin for the best American barbecue.

The last convention in Kansas City produced historic decisions such as the combination of *Contact* magazine and other national publications into a single publication—*ONE Magazine*. Randall House introduced the CLEAR learning system for Sunday School curriculum, which later evolved into the popular generational discipleship-centered D6 curriculum we use today.

Twelve years later, Free Will Baptists will arrive in Kansas City with high expectations for doing God’s business and exciting and uplifting worship.



Convention Musicians Needed

The 2016 Mass Choir and Orchestra, sponsored by the Music Commission, needs vocalists and instrumentalists (15 and above, with at least third-year skill level) to participate in convention music. The ensemble will accompany congregational and choir selections during each service. If you would like to be involved or have questions, contact the commission: music@nafwb.org or visit fwbmusiccommission on Facebook. ONE



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Photo: Mark Cowart



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

ONE to ONE >>

THE LEGACY OF A WORD FITLY SPOKEN

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver” (Proverbs 25:11).

A word can be a powerful thing. I’ve personally known few people who could use words more skillfully or precisely than Jack Williams. Long before I became executive secretary, I was a fan of practically anything that flowed from his pen. Anyone who read his work agreed he had a way with words.

Brother Jack was an eloquent speaker. When speaking in a public forum he had the uncanny ability to hold audiences mesmerized by painting colorful word pictures while using plain, easily understood language. He could effectively communicate with folks on both ends of the intellectual spectrum.

Privately, he earned the reputation for being an encourager. He had a knack for building people up rather than tearing them down. His words instilled confidence and a sense of self-worth in individuals who lacked those important qualities. Until we get to Heaven, we will never know how many people stayed in the race because Jack Williams was on the sideline cheering them on to the finish line.

He was a prolific writer. Few Free Will Baptists have been published more than Jack. He served as editor of *Contact* magazine for almost 30 years. Subscribers eagerly flipped to his legendary *Briefcase* column and the *Currently* section in each issue. He made significant written contributions to the work of the Historical Commission.

On one particular occasion, I found his printed words especially comforting. A couple of days after my father’s death, I received a letter from Brother Jack. I was amazed at his insight and how accurately he described my relationship to my father. His words gave me the courage, strength, and confidence I needed to preach my dad’s funeral a few days later.

Jack Williams was a peacemaker. Finding myself on the “hot seat” in a controversial situation, I tapped into Jack’s vast experience and wisdom to create a written statement that would be closely scrutinized. He saved grief and criticism by helping me choose the appropriate words.

Another time he assisted me as I chaired a meeting and tried to facilitate conflict resolution. Thanks to his historical perspective, humble spirit, and tearful appeal, we managed to reach an understanding and avert an outcome that otherwise might have had tragic consequences for one of our national ministries.

Jack had a servant’s heart. Prior to my election as executive secretary in 2002, I asked him if he had ever considered applying for the position. I’ll never forget his response: “My job is to wash the hands of Elijah.” During the time we worked together, I never questioned his loyalty.

Jack Williams was vertically challenged, but few people stood taller or had a greater impact on our denomination. May God raise others to fill the vacancy he leaves and carry on his legacy of words fitly spoken. **ONE**





Calling for History...

The **Free Will Baptist Historical Commission** is creating a digital archive of minutes from national, state, district, and quarterly association meetings. Over time, these valuable records are being added to www.FWBHistory.com, available to anyone, anywhere in searchable PDF format.

We need your help! Gaps still remain in the collection. If you would like to donate books or records, please contact commission chairman, Robert E. Picirilli: repicirilli@comcast.net. Let's work together to preserve the amazing story of our movement for the next generation of Free Will Baptists.

www.FWBHistory.com



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