

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

# ONE

MAGAZINE

# A FAMILY AFFAIR

2007 Convention Coverage Inside

**ROGER REEDS**  
Sunday School King

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2007

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**My Parents, My Heroes**



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# ONE MAGAZINE

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

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ERIC THOMSEN  
MANAGING EDITOR

## FIRST GLIMPSE

# I AM LEGAL!

### “WHERE ARE YOU FROM?”

My casual question is prompted by her lilting accent and unusual name. I am not prepared for her reaction. Face darkened, she drops her eyes. “I am—how you say—Islam.”

Thinking she has misunderstood, I try again. “But where are you from?”

Her sudden glare and defensive tone indicate I have gone too far. “I am Kurdish...and I am legal!”

Embarrassed, I hastily complete my transaction and leave the store with smoldering, dark eyes burning holes in my back.

During my walk to the car, I ponder the strange exchange. How many times has she answered similar questions only to receive suspicious looks or demeaning comments? My wounded ego screams, “You should have known better!” My heart replies, “She needs Jesus.”

The immigration debate rages around us. “Racial Profiling” has become a catch phrase since 9-11. “Foreigners” are regarded with suspicion, resentment, even hostility. How should the church react to this hostile social climate? Should she join hands with churches that shelter illegal immigrants, refusing access to immigration authorities? Or should the church take a hard line by condemning them as lawbreakers? One thing is certain. Today’s congregation cannot ignore the situation, hoping it will “go away.”

In the short book of Philemon, the Apostle Paul’s interaction with a runaway slave named Onesimus provides helpful guidelines:

1. **BE COLOR (AND CLASS) BLIND.** Onesimus and Paul could not have been more different. On one hand, Paul was an influential religious leader, a Roman citizen with friends among the upper echelon of society. In contrast, Onesimus was a slave—a runaway slave. Yet Paul embraced the unlikely friendship. He referred to Onesimus as an adopted son. His actions reflect his statement to the Galatian church, “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor

free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

God is not in the business of racial profiling. All human hearts look the same to Him. They all need Jesus.

2. **INQUIRE ABOUT CITIZENSHIP.** Don’t misunderstand. We need not concern ourselves with country of origin. Our concern is eternal citizenship. While the U.S. government grapples with immigration, citizenship, amnesty, and assimilation, the church has been granted a marvelous opportunity to introduce millions to the heavenly kingdom.

3. **KEEP IT LEGAL.** Compassion does not negate Christ’s command to “render to Caesar.” Paul sent the young slave back to his master (although he encouraged Philemon to treat Onesimus as a highly-regarded brother). Today’s church must be kind, caring, compassionate...and legal. The law tells us that churches can feed, shelter or clothe anyone regardless of his or her legal status. However, the church *may not* hide, hire, or facilitate the actions of lawbreakers without becoming accessories to the crime. Consider the following positive (and legal) actions:

- **PROVIDE APPLICATION ASSISTANCE.** The complex, legal process is intimidating to many immigrants. While most churches will not be able to complete the application, they can develop a network of trustworthy lawyers and specialists who will not cheat or misrepresent their clients.
- **OFFER ENGLISH CLASSES.** One of the highest hurdles in the immigration process is learning the English language. Offer classes and conversation-partners for those who cannot afford formal education.
- **EDUCATE YOUR CHURCH.** Today’s congregation is bombarded with opinions about the immigration debate. Develop a plan for reaching out to immigrants and work together to effect positive change in the lives of people who face constant scrutiny by a culture growing ever more hostile.

□

## *Tribute to* Dr. Roger Reeds



# THE SUNDAY SCHOOL KING

*By Jack Williams*

When 33-year-old Roger Reeds arrived in Nashville to be the director of the Free Will Baptist Sunday School Department, the denomination was shipping curriculum from a garage on Richland Avenue and using literature borrowed from the Oklahoma State Association. Under his visionary leadership, by the time he retired in 1993, the landscape was different. The department outgrew the West Nashville garage, outgrew a new building across town, outgrew a 10,000-square-foot warehouse, and eventually relocated to a tri-level, 50,000-square-foot facility on ten acres just off the interstate. The Sunday School king had come to town!

How does a Missouri boy from St. Louis become a legend in the Music City printing industry? During his 31 years as director (1962-1993), Roger did it by gathering creative associates around him, sharing his dream for a national literature program, and riding the wave of technology. In three amazing decades, Roger Clark Reeds took the denominational printing agency to a level beyond any expectations.

## Timeline of Dr. Roger Reeds



Pastor/Stacy FWB Church/Stacy,  
North Carolina

1928 1947 1948 1949 1950 1952 1955 1957 1959 1962 1965 1966 1967 1

Born September 16, 1928



August 29, 1952  
Married Myrtle Pembroke

### faced reality

The Sunday School program was in big trouble in June 1962 when Roger resigned his St. Louis pastorate to resurrect a dead dream. The mid-1950s effort to launch a Sunday School Department failed, and the agency closed. The denomination contracted a private publishing firm in Ayden, North Carolina—the Free Will Baptist Press—to provide literature. However, representatives from Ayden had already notified the Sunday School Board that they wished to be released from the contract.

Following the 1959 national convention when Roger was elected to the Sunday School Board, the Oklahoma State As-



sociation began to publish Sunday School curriculum. They agreed to give the program to the National Association—the transition taking place during the second quarter of 1962.

“This proved to be the salvation of the department,” Reeds reflected. The successful program with its strong nucleus of church accounts jumpstarted the new department.

For Roger, the risks of leading the fledgling department were business as usual. Named after Rogers Hornsby, the St. Louis Cardinal baseball player, he was no stranger to taking risks and facing reality. He dropped out of high school at 16 and ran with the Rangers A.C. Gang. Lying about his age, he talked his way into a printing job. Although gang members

avoided trouble with the law, they drank and gambled away their paychecks and went to work broke every Monday.

Roger was converted at age 19 during a revival at South Side FWB Church in St. Louis. The evangelist challenged any unsaved person to attend three services. He took the dare just to prove the preacher wrong. The dare changed his life. A few months later, he answered the call to preach and enrolled at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He arrived on campus sizzling with energy, determined to do something for God.

### focused on the possibilities

He needed that sizzle after he and his wife Myrtle unpacked in Nashville. The Sunday School Department was in debt, desperately in need of an identity, with one full-time employee—Roger Reeds. He immediately hired two part-time employees and persuaded his board members to volunteer as editors and proofreaders.

His first report to the National Association (1963) noted that six Sunday School quarterlies were being written by Free Will Baptists, and the department’s indebtedness had been paid off.

“It is no longer necessary for you to send your gifts to us,” he told delegates. “Send these to other needy areas within our ranks, but let us have the opportunity of serving you with your Sunday School needs.”

More than a thousand churches bought materials from the department in 1962. His second report to the National Association (1964) cited 1,170 churches purchasing literature, and introduced seven available quarterlies and three teachers’ books.

The number of employees increased from three to 21 by 1969, eventually rising to 55 in 1987 at the 114 Bush Road location Reeds called “...one acre of building under roof.”

Former Home Missionary Mark Vandivort recalls about the early years, “If you shook hands with Roger during those days, you might have noticed ink smudges and paper cuts on his hands. He and his associates operated on a ‘thin sheet’ of faith and dogged determination.”

Roger’s final report to the National Association (1993) sounded like his first. “Randall House Publications does not cost our denomination money,” he said. “We save our churches money on their literature....we sell our quarterlies



Randall House Publications sales reach \$1 million



First two volumes of Randall House Bible Commentary Series published

Died May 2, 2007

1970 1971 1972 1973 1975 1977 1978 1979 1983 1984 1987 1993 1994 2007

Spanish Department started



Retires as Randall House General Director



at a cheaper price than most publishing houses.”

He always reminded pastors, “Randall House Publications is the only publishing house that champions the distinctives and doctrines of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.”

### born to lead

Dr. Reeds marketed Randall House as “The House That Trust Built.” The 1965 decision to develop its own seven-year Bible study cycle put the denomination on the same page every Sunday morning. The Sunday School king brought Free Will Baptists together to study the Bible—the same book of the Bible, using Free Will Baptist curriculum.

Everywhere he served, Roger was a visionary—a pioneer with barely-contained zeal. This was demonstrated during a remarkable five-year pastorate (1957-1962) at South Side FWB Church in St. Louis. Attendance doubled, and before long 16 South Side young people enrolled at FWBBC, including four preachers—Ed Cook, Don Dungan, John Gibbs, and Bill Van Winkle.

This same passion marked Reeds’ North Carolina ministry (1955-1957) where he pastored the Stacy and Davis FWB Churches at the same time and preached Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons at a mission in Otway. He described the North Carolina years as the busiest in his life, preaching five and six times a week.

Perhaps that’s why the demands at Randall House did not overwhelm him. He was already tempered by years of relentless schedules and deadlines.

### prepared to serve

When he accepted the leadership of FWB Sunday School, Roger knew he would play catch-up with heavy hitters in the publishing community. He wanted Free Will Baptists to be respected in the curriculum and publishing industry. Undaunted, he rose to the challenge.

His annual 50,000-mile travel schedule included graduate classes. He added a master’s degree from Middle Tennessee State University to his B.A. from FWBBC, and earned two doctorates (D.R.E. and Th.D.) from Luther Rice Seminary.

He attended industry trade shows, thriving in the fast-paced publishing culture. As he embraced technology, Ran-

dall House replaced typewriters with computers, swapped hand-set type for desktop publishing, and upgraded two-color presses to four-color presses.

Roger wrote with alarming ease, producing articles for national publications, lesson outlines and plans, and six books and booklets (including his 330-page *Biblical Graphics, The Story of the Bible*). He never coasted, never let up, never rested on yesterday’s successes.

He was a trendsetter who could not wait to climb the next hill, confront the next challenge. He could charm the academic elite and chum with his buddies in one-room churches. He spoke the coded language of publishing giants yet understood the heartbreak of bivocational pastors struggling to balance their jobs and ministries.

Roger Reeds was a man ahead of his time in the largely rural FWB denomination of the late 1950s and early 1960s, but he was determined to build a national literature program for the denomination that brought him to Jesus.

### 25-year challenge

In 1976, Roger dared denominational leaders to overcome apathy and inferiority complexes, to lay aside regional divisions and fear of numbers, and adopt “The 25-Year Challenge.” Using a snappy motto, “From 2 to 1 by 2,” he challenged the denomination to move from 200,000 to 1 million in Sunday School by the year 2000. With Randall House primed to lead the way, he publicly called out national department directors, college presidents, and pastors. “Our future is not behind us,” he said. “We stand at the threshold of new horizons.”

### made a difference

Only a brief news item announced his 1962 appointment as general director of the Sunday School Department, and the city of Nashville ignored him as he reached out to a growing denomination.

But 32 years later at his retirement banquet, organizers required a room at the largest hotel in town (Opryland Hotel) to seat guests waiting to validate the ministry of the man whose dream would not die. On that April evening in 1994, they said some things about the Sunday School king that needed to be said.

## OTHER POSITIONS

Vice President / Freshman Class/ FWBBC  
President / FWBBC Ministerial Fellowship  
President / FWBBC Alumni Association (twice)  
President / St. Francois County (MO) Sunday School Convention  
Chairman / Executive Committee / St. Louis District Quarterly Meeting  
Clerk / Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists  
Editor / *The Missouri Gem*  
Board Member / National Sunday School Association  
Curriculum Committee / National Sunday School Association  
Vice Chairman / School Board / Donelson Christian School (TN)  
Commissioner / FWB Softball League / Nashville, Tennessee  
Secretary / Sunday School Secretaries Commission  
President / Woodbine Kiwanis Club / Nashville, Tennessee

The Governor of Tennessee wrote a letter of congratulations. The Tennessee House of Representatives sent a framed certificate citing Roger's contributions. A Certificate of Honor arrived from Nashville's mayor. Professional colleagues and dozens of the men and women touched by his ministry added to a book of letters, paying tribute to the man who believed his denomination could build a publishing house second to none.

And the "House that Roger built" lives on. Every time a child picks up a Free Will Baptist Sunday School quarterly, Roger Reeds lives on. He lives in the *The Randall House Bible Commentary* series, in the books and church resources published under the Randall House imprint, through authors encouraged at Writers' Conferences sponsored by Randall House, through the *Free Will Baptist Yearbook*, and much more.

### NEVER FORGOT HIS HERITAGE

Industry professionals took note of Roger's entrepreneurial spirit, and job offers came from other groups, but his heart remained committed to Free Will Baptists.

Dr. Elmer Towns, co-founder of Liberty University, said, "I tried to hire him to be publisher for all of the Jerry Falwell ministries, and even offered him twice what the Free Will Baptists were paying him. He turned Jerry Falwell down because of his great love for the Free Will Baptists."

In his last editorial (November 1993), Reeds said, "I have loved every minute of every day that I have spent at Randall House Publications. My work has never been a drudgery. Those who know me could tell you that I hate holidays and vacations, because they take me away from Randall House."



### 'serve until I die'

He wrote in his retirement banquet program, "Thanks a lot Free Will Baptists. I plan to serve the Lord and you until the day I die."

The St. Louis street kid converted on a dare almost died in the pulpit at Trinity FWB Church in Nashville 60 years later. But even cancer could not keep him from preaching on Sunday morning, April 29, 2007, supported by a chair on stage.

Three days later, Roger Clark Reeds died at age 78.

He came to Jesus with nothing at a Free Will Baptist altar; he went home to Jesus with everything as the king of Free Will Baptist Sunday School. □

*Roger Reeds died May 2, 2007, leaving behind Myrtle, his wife of 54 years, four children (Kathleen, Timothy, Holly, and Thomas), seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.*

## Quotations

"Roger Reeds was a pioneer, a visionary, a very able man. He saw what needed to be done and set out to do it. He had a real heart for training people."

—Dr. Melvin Worthington

*Executive Secretary Emeritus (NAFWB)*

*Former Chairman / Sunday School Board*

"Our denomination would not have had Randall House had it not been for the efforts of Roger Reeds as he worked out the dreams he had for it. I am happy I was able to follow him and build on the foundation he left."

—Dr. Alton Loveless

*Former General Director / Randall House*

*Publications*

"Roger Reeds led the effort to establish a national literature program for the denomination. He saw clearly the importance of unified efforts at the national level to best serve a growing denomination. He never lost his pastor's heart. His commitment to the local church was evident throughout his lifetime."

—Dr. Billy A. Melvin

*Former Executive Secretary (NAFWB)*

"Roger Reeds offered me a job with the Sunday School Department in 1962, and I stayed 30 years. He believed in me and gave me opportunities to advance. My last eight years with the department, he allowed me to start and develop the Youth Ministries Division. Although we didn't always agree, we always respected each other. He was a man of God and a great mentor."

—Jim Lauthern

*Former Assistant Director / Randall House Publications*

"As the first director of Randall House Publications, Dr. Roger Reeds is remembered for his incredible visionary leadership. We shared several lunches this past year and discussed the history of Randall House. I think of him in one-word descriptions: pioneer, visionary, futurist, leader. He was a man ahead of his time in the way he thought and created products. Randall House Publications was built by his hard work, and the foundation he laid is that we continue to build upon today."

—Ron Hunter, Jr.

*Executive Director and CEO / Randall House Publications*



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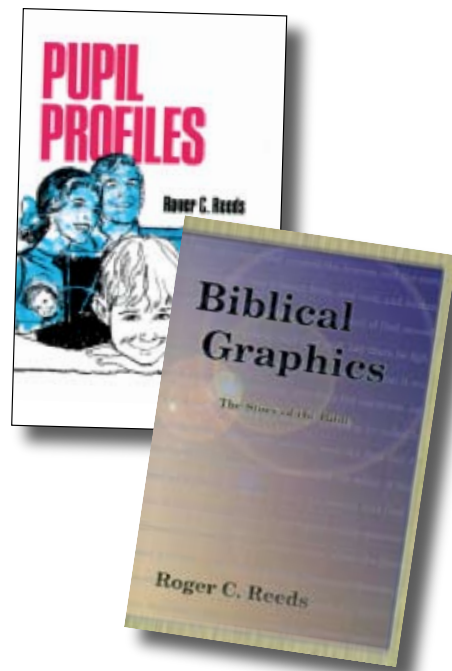
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# My Parents, MY HEROES

By Deleen Cousineau

I ONCE HEARD A MAN SAY THAT HEROES ARE those who do what must be done in the face of adversity. While sending an adult child to another country as a missionary may not be considered adversity, it is certainly a challenge!

Parents are often the last people to see their child board a plane for a distant place...and the first to receive them when they return home. They see us arrive fatigued, with outdated hairstyles and clothing. But they are always present to welcome us with open arms.

I know it must have been extremely difficult for my parents when, during my ninth month of pregnancy, Mike and I boarded a freighter to travel from Marseille, France, to Abidjan, Ivory Coast, West Africa. What were we thinking? Yet, my parents were faithful in prayer and support.

I believe missionary service has been easier and more fruitful because, even when their hearts were breaking, our parents did not stand in the way. As we prepared to return to Ivory Coast during volatile civil unrest, Mike's mom assured me, "I know why Mike has to return to the Ivory Coast. It's God's call on His life."

She said this after Mike had been kidnapped and his life threatened during our previous term.

I love her for understanding the call of God on a man's life, especially the life of her son.

I honestly believe our parents will rejoice with us before the Lord when we see Revelation 7:9, 10 fulfilled: "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; and cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."

I understand my parents' sacrifice better now that my own children are adults. As my daughters lead families of their own, I want to say to them, "Go. Above all else, do God's will for your life. Don't worry about me. We'll catch up on lost time in Heaven."

While I write this in honor of my own parents, it also represents many other parents like mine. They never discouraged us from following God's leading, regardless of circumstances. I will always love them for this.

Thank you, Mom and Dad, for being a godly example to me. □

*Deleen and Mike Cousineau have served as missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire for almost 30 years.*



# /// e Stain



SHE'S HERE! SHE'S FINALLY HERE! AS THE DOCTOR HANDS my daughter to me for the first time, I am filled with emotion. I count her fingers and toes, and I count my blessings. She is a gift from God, and she is beautiful! As I smile groggily, my attention is drawn to the color of her face. Something seems unusual, but I am too tired to figure it out. As her daddy passes her to the nurse to be weighed, measured, and cleaned up, He also notices something unusual.

A pediatrician bluntly explains that Crystal has a port-wine stain (vascular birthmark) covering the left side of her face. As the name suggests, the birthmark is deep red, almost purple in color. We bombard him with questions: Will it go away? Are there side affects? What caused it? Did I do something wrong during my pregnancy?

We soon learned that 10% of all babies are born with a port-wine stain birthmark (although only a small percentage of these are located on the face). This type of birthmark is formed by extra blood vessels under the skin and will not go away on its own. The birthmark often darkens as the person ages. Laser treatments will lighten the stain, but they are not always effective.

This type of birthmark runs beneath the skin. A severe stain like Crystal's can reach deep into the brain. Doctors warned us that she could suffer a traumatic seizure during the 24 hours following her birth that would cause lasting brain damage. We breathed a deep sigh of relief when 24 hours passed with no sign of a seizure.

The causes of this particular birth defect are unknown. The documented fact that port-wine stains are not caused by the actions of an expectant mother does not relieve the nagging guilt, the question, "Did I do this to my child?" It took years for me to gradually accept my innocence.

## Reality Check

As the reality of Crystal's condition set in, I began to wonder how society would accept my child. The question was answered on her first trip to church, only a few days after her birth. As we passed by, an elderly man leaned over and whispered to his wife, "Did you see her face?" His

audible whisper was much louder than he realized, and I overheard the stinging remark.

Several weeks later, during a family shopping trip, my sister Felicia was holding the baby when a man casually asked, "How did you burn your baby?" This is the most offensive, brutal comment I remember. How could anyone ask a complete stranger such a personal and horrifying question? When he looked at our marvelous gift from God, he only saw her stain.

On another occasion, as my sister Joanna held Crystal, a lady appeared from nowhere. "What's wrong with your baby?" She asked harshly. Taken aback, Joanna told the offensive woman it was only a birthmark. She could hardly resist asking what was wrong with her, to ask such a rude and thoughtless question.

As one might expect, our family has always tried to protect Crystal from cruel and thoughtless questions and comments. I did not realize how much these remarks bothered her older sister Amanda until the day she caught a clerk at the local hardware store staring intently at the stain. Amanda blurted, "It's a birthmark—only a birthmark!" Later, she told me that she was tired of people staring at her sister because she looked different.

## Rising to the Challenge

We tried many different types of laser treatment to lighten the stain. We stopped counting after Crystal's 14th surgery. While the surgeries lightened the birthmark, they did not remove it. Each painful surgery leaves the skin discolored, swollen, and bruised. It takes several weeks before the stain gradually begins to lighten. Since Crystal has gotten older, surgery has become less effective. As technology improves, however, we hope new procedures will make her stain substantially lighter.

Of more concern was the effect on Crystal's eyesight. Because the birthmark covers her eye, doctors were deeply concerned. Their fears were realized when Crystal was diagnosed with glaucoma at age nine. Yet, her loss of vision has made her intent on seeing what's really important—



by RHONDA  
HODGES

the inner worth of a person rather than his or her outward appearance.

### Staring Contests

When the world looks at Crystal, it can't see beyond the visible stain that cannot be hidden and rarely takes time to get to know the beautiful person behind the stain. And so, the stares continue.

When Crystal realizes someone is staring, we lighten the moment by staring back—an impromptu “contest.” Without fail, the person turns away in embarrassment. While I try to laugh to myself, I still become angry. After nearly 16 years, I still want to protect my beautiful daughter from thoughtless, hurtful words and actions.

Surprisingly, adults are the most inconsiderate. Children simply look at Crystal for a minute before resuming their activities. When a child asks about her face and she tells them her stain is a birthmark, their curiosity is usually satisfied. Often, they show her their own birthmarks. Life con-

tinues for them as if nothing is unusual. No wonder Jesus said a child-like spirit represents the Kingdom of Heaven!

### Behind the Stain

Crystal's friends and family no longer see Crystal's birthmark. They see Crystal. They have discovered the person behind the stain—the fun, dramatic, delightful girl who loves to be the center of attention! They forget her condition until we request prayer for an upcoming surgery. Often they must be reminded why she is having the surgery.

As her mother, I can't even remember which side of her face the birthmark affects. When scheduling a doctor's appointment, I have to look at her picture to remember where it is located.

### Crippled Vision

I criticize others for failing to accept my daughter as she is, but too often, the same is true of me. We are sadly human, judging others by their looks rather than their



Photo: Mark Cowart

## THE EAGLE AND HIS LADY

### THEY VISITED OUR CHURCH A FEW

Sundays then never came back. Brett and Tiffany (as I'll call them) seemed a natural fit for our congregation. Both testified to knowing the Lord. Both had a Free Will Baptist background. His business brought them to town; they even bought a house in the church neighborhood. But they didn't stick. Brett and Tiffany bounced around several churches, only to drift away from the faith altogether.

From what I can tell, their story is far too common in our shifting, mobile culture. Ask any pastor, and he'll tell you. The bloodstream of any local congregation flows through committed couples who have a heart for God and a relentless desire to do His work.

The apostle Paul met one such couple in Corinth some 20 centuries ago. The husband was a Christian Jew named Aquila or "the eagle." His wife, apparently from Roman nobility, was Prisca, better known by the less formal "Priscilla."

This amazing pair is mentioned six times in the New Testament: Acts 18:1-3, 18-19, 26; Romans 16:3-5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; and 2 Timothy 4:19. Priscilla and Aquila portray an ideal husband-wife ministry team because their commitment extended to three levels.

They were deeply committed to each other. Apparently theirs was a mixed marriage. He was Jewish, she was not. Given her

family's prominent standing in Roman antiquity, what are the odds that she would take up with a Jewish tent-maker and travel all over the empire with an itinerate tradesman? Yet the two of them always appear together, no doubt joined in love as well as in ministry.

Aquila and Priscilla devoted themselves to the Scriptures. They knew their Bibles! Had they not, they could not have tutored the learned Apollos who himself had likely memorized the Hebrew Scriptures. Remarkably, they were able to teach him "the way of God more accurately."

People who love and study God's Word also cherish His church. Out of their huge, hospitable hearts, this couple hosted a Christian community in their home, both in Ephesus and in Rome. In fact, their commitment to God's people was so radical that they even risked their lives for Paul. When he sent them greetings in Rome he asserted that, "all the churches of the Gentiles" owed them a huge debt of gratitude.

God's church—your church—desperately needs such duos today teaching, mentoring, and evangelizing. Make no mistake. Committed couples plugged into local church ministry unleash explosive kingdom energy. □

*Dr. Garnett Reid is a member of the Bible faculty at Free Will Baptist Bible College.*

## the Stain

personality or intrinsic qualities. This natural prejudice goes far beyond birthmarks or defects.

Consider those who are too heavy. We typically think they are lazy and listless. On the other hand, we assume that those who are very thin are sick or have an eating disorder. I can almost hear the sarcastic speculation. "How else could they stay that skinny?" What about those with severe acne? We assume their hygiene is not what it should be. We forget that medicine or overactive glands might cause their condition.

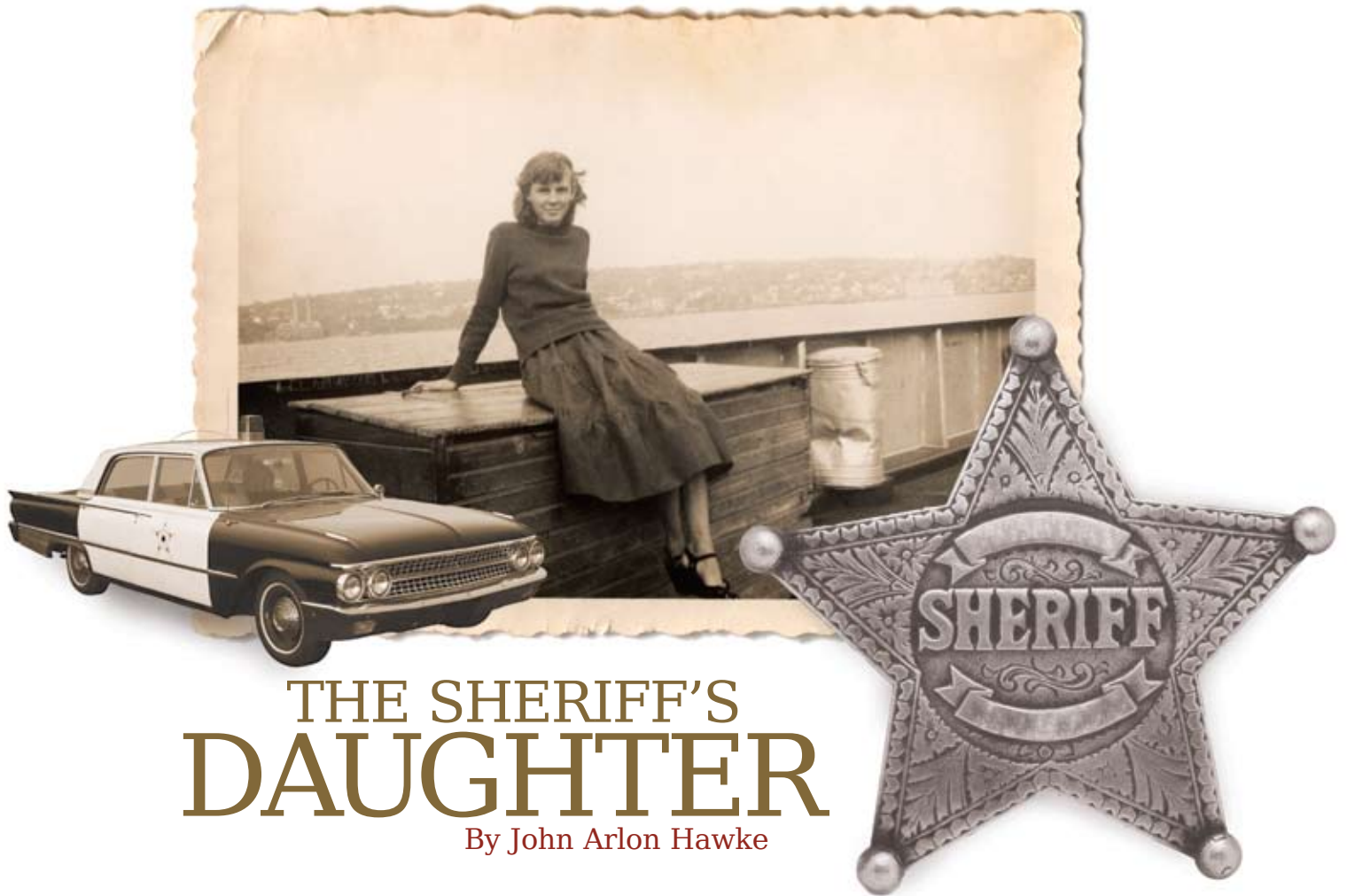
How often have we missed a wonderful friendship because our "crippled vision" caused us to judge another by his looks?

Two young ladies in our church are mentally challenged. One has Down's syndrome, the other mental disabilities. For years, I avoided these girls because they

were "different". Today, my attitude has changed dramatically. Maybe it's because my own daughter's stain has taught me to look beyond the surface. Maybe I've simply matured. In either case, I have learned a tremendous lesson. If we judge people by the way they look, we limit their abilities and—even more serious—question God's ability to work through them.

In 2004, Crystal started a pen pal ministry to missionaries and their families. The global ministry has been featured on talk shows and radio stations across the country—amazing for a pre-teen. In 2005, she was named Free Will Baptist Youth of the Year. As God continues to work through her, I find myself asking time and again. Stained? Absolutely! Stained with the power of God grace! □

*Rhonda Hodges and her family live in Fresno, CA.*



# THE SHERIFF'S DAUGHTER

By John Arlon Hawke

**DARK-HAIRED PATRICIA DYKE'S FATHER OPERATED A** ferry at a river crossing in northern Arkansas, but by the time she was a senior in high school, Dad wore a badge and carried a pistol as the county sheriff. Then she met the preacher's son. Oh, he was a handsome lad doing his practice teaching at a school in Grubbs, full of fire, and hungry for something more than a cotton sack.

When he saw pretty Pat Dyke, his eyes lit up. He had to tread softly, because she was a high school student, and he a senior in college, more than four years older. Society frowned on teachers dating students, especially when her Pa packed a six-gun.

## Date Ducks

Still, he was a preacher's son with winning ways, a quick smile, and a personality that would melt stone. One look, and they knew they were meant for each other. He would drive by and pick her up in his car. On their way out of town, she would duck down in the seat lest someone see them and get him in trouble with the school board. And in the back of his mind, of course, there was always the man with the gun.

Three children and six grandchildren later, Glenn Lewis laughs like a boy at the county fair as he tells how he and the sheriff's daughter navigated the back

roads and the social No-No's on their way to a 50-year marriage.

## Herman's Boy

Arkansas-born Charles Glenn Lewis, 71, was the youngest of seven children born to Free Will Baptist minister Herman Lewis who preached 73 years. Daddy Herman pastored 14 Arkansas churches in addition to his West Coast work in California and Washington. Pastoring as many as seven churches at the same time, he traveled to appointments on foot, horseback, and wagon, and later by bus, train, car, and plane.

Glenn learned to make do, adapt, change, adjust, and all with a good attitude. Two of his brothers became deacons. Older brother Hoover Lewis answered the call to preach, and that gnawed away at Glenn for seven years. He was converted as a boy during a revival meeting and baptized in a creek.

## Born to Teach

After finishing high school, Glenn enrolled at Arkansas State Teacher's College (now University of Central Arkansas) at Conway, where he earned a bachelor's degree in education. He soon found himself teaching in Grubbs where he also coached both the boys' and girls' junior high basketball teams.

## Pastorates

Smyrna FWB Church	Alton, Missouri	2 years
Santa Paula FWB Church	Santa Paula, California	2 years
First FWB Church	Pocahontas, Arkansas	3½ years
Airport FWB Church	Tulsa, Oklahoma	14 years
First FWB Church	Pryor, Oklahoma	16 years

## Other Duties

<b>Executive Board</b>	Missouri State Association
<b>Executive Board</b>	Oklahoma State Association
<b>Clerk</b>	Missouri State Association
<b>Credentials Committees</b>	Local Associations/Missouri and Oklahoma

He later moved north and completed a master's degree at the University of Missouri in Columbia, eventually teaching 10 years. While at West Plains, he taught grades seven and eight in a tiny three-room school outside town, where he was also the school janitor. In time, he became principal in West Plains and did extensive counseling.

### Time to Preach

But something chewed around the edges of Glenn's mind. "I knew I was called to preach a long time before I surrendered to do it," he said. The preacher's son finally acknowledged his call, was licensed to preach in 1965, and ordained in 1967.

"I've pastored five churches in four states," Glenn says. "The first three pastorates (Missouri, California, Arkansas) lasted just over seven years combined. The last two (both in Oklahoma) combined for 30 years. We now live in Tulsa in a home I bought while pastoring here, then rented out to a lady for the next 15 years when the ministry sent us somewhere else."

Glenn is a people magnet. Wherever he goes, people clamor for his attention. His sense of humor and practical understanding of biblical preaching make him attractive, approachable, and welcome. One unique element of his 42-year ministry is that he pastored a California church (Santa Paula FWB Church) that was organized by his dad.

The two most influential people in his life are Free Will Baptist ministers—Herman Lewis (his father) and J.W. Blanks (who was like a father). His favorite author? Another preacher, of course, Peter Marshall. That's Marshall, not Sheriff.

### Running from Death

Something happened 33 years ago while Glenn pastored in Tulsa that changed his life. He became unexplainably sick, so ill that he sought medical help. The family was called in, and the diagnosis was blunt. Glenn was dying and could not live, unless he diverted the stress that had created two large ulcers in his stomach.

He was not a golfer and did not fish or hunt. A Tulsa friend suggested something different—that he work as a valet parking cars at the country club.

"I had to run to get the cars," he says. "There was no pressure on me, and I set my own hours. The church was aware of my health concerns and concurred with me moonlighting as a valet. I've done valet parking at all hours of the day and night for 30 years, running and running and running. Valet parking saved my life."

### 'Thank God for the Board of Retirement'

Glenn entered his retirement years prepared, thanks to the Free Will Baptist retirement program.

"The best thing I ever did to get ready for retirement was join the Free Will Baptist program in 1980," he says. "I know we can't do it, but I wish we could require every minister to participate in the program. My dad had nothing after a lifetime in the ministry. Believe me, it doesn't have to be that way."

Glenn settled his retirement account in December 2001, opting for a 15-year guaranty. "During the time I contributed to my account, the program increased almost 10% every year. That's better than 401-Ks and IRAs. You just can't beat the Free Will Baptist program."

Glenn's church contributed to his account. "It's always better if the church helps," he says. "Tell our young ministers to get in the program early and contribute all they can. They will be amazed how quickly the account multiplies."

By the way, the sheriff's daughter started her retirement account in 1990, and will settle up some time later. After all, she is much younger than the man she married.

### One Change

Now that he's retired, Glenn is busier than ever. He has served three times as an interim pastor. He does pulpit supply and conducts hospital visitation as needed.

But he would change one thing about his ministerial career. "Believe it or not, if I could do it all again, I might remain as a bivocational pastor. When I think of all the people I met while teaching that I would never have met as a full-time pastor, I understand how our bivocational forefathers were able to influence so many." □

*John Arlon Hawke is a freelance writer and journalist with a wide range of publishing experience. He currently makes his home just south of Nashville, TN.*



# hairless LOVE



**ONE OF THE MOST DREADED WORDS** in the English language is the word *cancer*—especially if you are a child. Aaron Phillips, a typical 12-year-old from Park Hills, Missouri, recently learned that he has Hodgkin's lymphoma. Aaron is the son of Gary and Donna Phillips and the grandson of Ann and Wayne Phillips, pastor of Fellowship FWB Church for 27 years.

The congregation at Fellowship is a close-knit family. When they found out about Aaron's illness, they wanted to help, to let the Phillips family know they were standing with them during this difficult time.

The youth group decided to shave their heads so Aaron would not feel alone when he lost his hair. They went one step further when they decided to raise money with the upcoming head-shaving event. The funds would pay for gas used to take Aaron for treatments.

When the day arrived, a total of 11 people participated in the event including nine teenagers, Aaron's Sunday School teacher, and a member of the youth ministry team. With so many heads to shave, the regular service was cancelled...but God definitely spoke to everyone that night. The group raised \$230 and a local gas station agreed to match fifty dollars in gas.

Aaron is still being treated at Children's Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri. Please pray for him and his family. Visit Aaron's website (set up for him by the school system). The address is: [www.farmington.k12.mo.us/lincoln/aaron/](http://www.farmington.k12.mo.us/lincoln/aaron/).

Jesus said it best when He said we should love our neighbors as ourselves (Romans 13:9c). The actions of Aaron's friends not only impacted the life of a 12-year-old cancer patient, they changed their world. □

*Michael Hutton and wife, Holly, are newly appointed home missionaries to Spring Hill, Tennessee, where they will plant a new church.*



# Quiet man from Mulkey~

By Jack Williams

*He championed Free Will Baptist Bible College for 64 years.*

WHEN WALLACE MALONE WAS 25 YEARS OLD, he traveled from his Illinois home to Columbus, Mississippi, to attend the Free Will Baptist national convention. That was July 12–17, 1942. He was one of seven Illinois ministers registered for that sixth annual meeting of Free Will Baptists.

He was young and hungry, and had answered the call to preach two years earlier. Deep inside the quiet man from Mulkeytown, a flame burned hot to know more about the Bible. He wanted to study, to be a better pastor, to take his place in the energetic new denomination.

#### VOTE FOR TOMORROW

On Thursday afternoon of the convention, Wallace was one of the delegates who authorized the Board of Education “to proceed with the completion of all plans to open the Bible School in Nashville, Tenn., on September 15, 1942.”

That vote changed his life, for the “Bible School” became Free Will Baptist Bible College. Wallace’s son Tom was 18 months old during that convention. Forty-nine years later, the boy who grew up to become Dr. C. Thomas Malone was inaugurated as the college’s fourth president.

#### MORE THAN TALK

Soon after FWBBC opened, Wallace completed an application and drove to Tennessee where he enrolled for two days. But with no job and with pressing family responsibilities, he could not stay and returned to Illinois. Still, he remained first in line to say a word supporting the college, and he opened the doors of his churches to FWBBC—College Choir, drama groups, quartets, student preachers, and more.

Wherever he pastored, young people heard often and with great enthusiasm about Free Will Baptist

Deep inside the quiet man from Mulkeytown, a flame burned hot to know more about the Bible.



Bible College. He did more than talk. He could have started his own college. Sixteen of Wallace's children and grandchildren attended FWBBC. That doubles the institution's first class in 1942!

#### PAYING AND PRAYING

Malone gave himself, his family, his finances, and his energy to a dream called Free Will Baptist Bible College. For nearly seven decades, he served Free Will Baptists—founding churches and youth camps, serving on the State Mission Board and the national Executive Committee. Always, he was an unapologetic FWBBC booster.

He was greeted with smiles and hugs on his many trips to the Nashville campus. He prayed for and paid for the college on West End Avenue, even though circumstances did not permit him to attend the school he loved.

#### NOT BE DENIED

When the 89-year-old Wallace died in 2006 after a bold 66-year ministry, his obituary included this line: He was a member of the Alumni Association of Free Will Baptist Bible College. The man who could not attend would not be denied—Wallace Malone was voted in as an honorary member of the FWBBC Alumni Association.

The H. Wallace Malone Heritage Scholarship has been established in his honor. Free Will Baptist Bible College has had no greater champion in its 65-year history than the quiet man from Mulkeytown. □

*Jack Williams is director of communications at Free Will Baptist Bible College.*



## What is your legacy?



#### MARY MYERS

has a long-term love for Free Will Baptist Bible College. She wants to be sure the college receives a major portion of her assets. Yet while her present income is more than she needs, her future needs are uncertain.

As a result, Mary funded several gift annuities. She receives a generous income each month, and her gifts reduce income tax liability. Her generous gift to the college has been deferred to the future, but it is assured.

The beauty of gift annuities is that whether the gift is large or small (\$5,000 and up), the income is steady and guaranteed.

Please send me additional information on Charitable Gift Annuities to benefit FWBBC.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS [gafwbcc080907](mailto:gafwbcc080907)



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

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## GRADUATION YIELDS LARGEST CLASS IN 23 YEARS



**FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE** graduated 78 students during commencement exercises, Friday, May 4, its largest class in 23 years, according to President Matt Pinson. Graduates came from 17 states and four foreign countries.

Students completed degrees in five programs ranging from two-year associate's degrees to four-year bachelor's degrees. Thirty-seven percent of the class graduated with honors, according to Provost Greg Kettelman.

Robert J. Morgan, nationally-acclaimed author and senior pastor at Donelson FWB Church in Nashville, brought the 14-minute commencement address from Romans 8:28 on "Optimism," explaining the strong biblical basis for the believer's optimistic point of view in a world frequently defined by philosophical pessimists.

North Carolina pastor Rusty Russell, whose daughter Jenny was among the

2007 graduates, preached the baccalaureate sermon Thursday evening from Psalm 11 on the theme, "How to Turn Your Trouble Around." Reverend Russell pastors Peace FWB Church in Wilson.

### ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS DEGREES

Elizabeth Ashley Dennis, Vilonia, AR  
Jeremy Delbert Luthy, Amelia, OH

### ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEGREES

Allison Michelle Hall, Rockingham, NC  
Brittney Nicole Holcomb, North Judson, IN  
Jessica Bailey Klug, St. Claire Shores, MI

### ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREES

Douglas Scott Bishop, Sapporo, Japan  
Laura Jean Dooley, Austintown, OH  
Vanessa Ann Powell, Johnsonville, SC  
Youngsoon Shin, Andong, South Korea  
Sarah Aldridge Skiles, Brandon, FL  
Kasey Lynn Lundquist, Goldsboro, NC

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREES

Jennifer Elizabeth Altom, Mt. Juliet, TN\*\*  
Drew Allen Bigley, Ina, IL\*\*\*  
Lauren Marie Cameron, Garden City, MI\*\*  
Julia Carolyn Campbell, Chicago, IL  
Ashley Ellen Coker, Woodlawn, TN\*\*\*  
Elizabeth Spruill Colf, Virginia Beach, VA  
Tabitha Renee Corbett, Virginia Beach, VA\*\*  
Tonya Nichole Corbett, Virginia Beach, VA\*\*  
David Donnell Corprew, Exercise Science, Norfolk, VA  
Tyron Michael Crews, Jesup, GA\*  
Brooke Allison Dickerson, Limestone, TN  
Matthew Scott Dunlap, Nashville, TN

Jonathan Dale Eastridge, Ashland, KY  
Joshua Brian Eidson, Greenbrier, TN\*\*\*  
Jesse Daniel Fletcher, Antioch, TN\*  
Mary Elizabeth Frixen, Norfolk, VA  
Amy Rebekah Gladson, Franklin, TN\*\*  
Jarrod Lee Greer, Tupelo, MS  
Graham Guy Hart, New Bern, NC  
Carolyn Faye Head, Springfield, TN  
Erik O'Neil Hearn, Durham, NC \*  
David Richard Hodges, Kathleen, GA  
Joseph Christian Huls, Olive Branch, MS\*\*\*  
David Eugene Inman, Pleasant View, TN  
Ryan Eugene Johnston, DeSoto, MO\*  
David Thomas Jones, Fenton, MO\*\*\*  
Susan Renee Eastridge Lawrence, Cattlettsburg, KY  
Michael James Lemons, Mt. Vernon, IL  
Allison Marie Lutes, Lombard, IL\*\*  
Jill Nicole McAlister, Farmersville, CA\*\*\*  
Joshua Lee McMillan, Jonesboro, AR  
Leslie Anna Meadows, Lexington, KY\*\*\*  
Bethany Dawn Parks, Pleasant View, TN \*  
Brian Lee Phillips, Desha, AR  
Richard Lamar Polston, Jr., Portsmouth, VA  
Aaron Todd Pontious, Norfolk, VA  
Casey Dawn Pontious, Locust Grove, OK\*  
Barry Keith Powers, Flatwoods, KY  
Matthew Scott Price, Gastonia, NC \*  
Brandon Scott Roysden, Baxter, TN \*  
Jonathan Daniel Runion, Riverview, MI  
Jennifer Ruth Russell, Wilson, NC

Daniel Courtney Simpson, Fairfield, IL  
Christina Elizabeth Sizemore, Sulligent, AL  
Alex Christopher Sloan, Wabash, IN  
Janet Angela Smith-Simms, Grand Bahamas, Bahamas  
Susan Burden Stewart, Knoxville, TN\*\*\*  
Barbara Leigh Stone, Norfolk, VA  
Phillip Gordon Sutton, Apex, NC  
Jessica Blair Thielemier, Pocahontas, AR  
Heather Erin Watkins, Batesville, AR  
Megan Nicole Wilfong, Park Hills, MO \*\*\*  
Elizabeth Sue Willhite, Pleasant View, TN  
Lyle Andrew Williams, Pocahontas, AR  
Olga Anatolyevna Zavozina, Tyumen, Russia

### BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREES

Derek Allen Altom, New Castle, IN  
Edward Lewis Colf, Virginia Beach, VA  
Joshua Wayne Detherage, Huntsville, AL\*\*\*  
Josue Droz, Virginia Beach, VA\*\*  
Andrew Paul Harrison, Nashville, TN  
James Norris Judkins, Monticello, AR\*\*  
Derek Nathaniel Lambert, Bentonville, AR  
Jeremy Delbert Luthy, Amelia, OH\*\*\*  
Jared Andrew Oakes, Knoxville, TN  
Ashley Michelle Price, Statesboro, GA\*\*\*  
Alan Ray Skiles, Guin, AL\*\*  
Daniel Anthony Speer, Charlotte, TN  
William Jackson Watts, Turbeville, SC\*\*  
\* cum laude  
\*\* magna cum laude  
\*\*\* summa cum laude

## 150 ATTEND WELCOME DAYS

**ONE HUNDRED TEN STUDENTS** and sponsors from 15 states attended Spring 2007 Welcome Days at Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to Ryan Lewis, director of recruitment. The largest state contingency was 19 from South Carolina, while the largest group from one church was 14 from Horse Branch FWB Church in Turbeville.

The Welcome Days campus guests attended classes and chapel, then cheered and laughed during a Flames Alumni Basketball Game and Hawaiian Luau. President Matt Pinson hosted a reception for high school seniors, recent graduates, and sponsors.

Mr. Lewis said, "A 19-year-old FWBBC freshman (Zach Yoho) died on Friday during Welcome Days. As the faculty, staff, and students grieved Zach's loss, visiting students and sponsors experienced first-hand the caring and warm FWBBC community and family atmosphere."

More than 200 prospective students visited the FWBBC during the 2006-2007 academic year. The college will sponsor two Welcome Days during the 2007-2008 school year: Fall 2007—October 19-20; Spring 2008—March 27-29.



## PRESIDENT COMPLETES DOCTORATE

**FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE** President J. Matthew Pinson completed graduate work at Vanderbilt University and received the Doctor of Education (Ed. D.) degree in higher education leadership and policy during commencement exercises May 11.

President Pinson said, "This doctoral degree in higher education leadership was a great learning experience and something I can put to use immediately in light of the new graduate and undergraduate programs we're launching here at FWBBC. I'm thankful to the Board of Trustees and to the college faculty and staff for their understanding and encouragement through the process."

A fifth generation Free Will Baptist, Dr. Pinson was inaugurated as the fifth president of FWBBC September 2002, one day after his 35th birthday. He completed the Ed.D. degree at Vanderbilt during the fifth year of his presidency.

Under Pinson's leadership, enrollment at FWBBC has surged from 281 to 420, setting a 22-year high in 2006-2007. The largest graduating class in 23 years (78 students) received FWBBC degrees in May. Net revenues for the college have increased 43 percent in five years, nearing the \$6 million mark annually.

An alumnus of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Dr. Pinson completed two degrees at the University of West Florida (B.A in 1990; M.A. in 1993), and the Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.R.) at Yale University (1994).

Matt and Melinda Pinson have two children, Anna (7) and Matthew (5).

## COMMENCEMENT WEEK HONORS STUDENTS

**MORE THAN 35 STUDENTS** were cited for academic excellence, Christian service, and other awards during commencement week celebrations May 1-4, according to President J. Matthew Pinson. The annual recognitions were announced during final-week activities in Awards Chapel and Commencement Exercises. Nearly 50 scholarships totaling more than \$73,000 were awarded to students.

The following recognitions and awards were made:

**Best All-Around Girl:** Ashley Coker (TN)

**Best All-Around Boy:** Derek Altom (IN)

**Most Outstanding Student:** Ashley Coker (TN)

**Student Body President Medal:** David Jones (MO)

**Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges:**

Jennifer Altom (TN)

Drew Bigley (IL)

Ashley Coker (TN)

Tonya Corbett (VA)

Joshua Detherage (AL)

Carolyn Head (TN)

Mark Headrick (MO)

David Jones (MO)

Jill McAlister (CA)

Leslie Meadows (KY)

Bethany Parks (TN)

Alan Skiles (AL)

Susan Stewart (TN)

Megan Wilfong (MO)

**Seniors inducted into Delta Epsilon Chi Honor Society (ABHE):**

Drew Bigley (IL)

Susan Stewart (TN)

Ashley Coker (TN)

**Graduating Seniors with highest grade point average (4.0):**

Drew Bigley (IL)

Ashley Coker (TN)

Susan Stewart (TN)

**Students with highest grade point average (all with 4.0):**

**Freshman:** Samuel Benninghoff

(TN), Elisabeth Franks (AL), Leah

McDonald (Japan), Trisha Stacks

(MO), Kera Zint (IN)

**Sophomore:** Kristen Edwards (SC), Derek Lewis (IL)

**Junior:** Ryan Akers (TN), Brandy Howell (TN)

**Senior (non-graduating) with highest grade point average (3.81)**

Shawn Birmingham (MS)

## COLLEGE FRESHMAN DIES UNEXPECTEDLY

**NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD BUSINESS STUDENT,** Zachary Charles Yoho, was found dead in his dormitory room shortly after chapel Friday morning, March 30, according to FWBBC Provost, Dr. Greg Ketteman. The cause of death was unknown, however, Yoho's parents confirmed that he was diabetic and had recently been diagnosed with epilepsy.

Ketteman said, "Every student is important to us. We love them and pray for them, and Zach was one of those students who brought smiles wherever he went."

"Zach" Yoho was born September 28, 1987, in Springfield, Ohio, the only child of Wesley and Janet Yoho of West Liberty. He was a member of Urbana FWB Church. Seventy FWBBC students, staff, and faculty traveled to Ohio for the April 4 funeral.

Yoho had just returned from spring tour with the College Choir where he represented FWBBC in services in Florida, Alabama, and Georgia. He also participated in Rejoice, another college musical group as a sound technician. He had worked in the college's call center with the Enrollment Management Team, and was a member of the Alpha Chi Omega Society.

Zach graduated from West Liberty Salem High School in 2006 where he sang in the school choir four years, and played drums for the marching and concert bands. He was a skilled photographer, and won numerous awards at the Champaign County Fair. He was part of a missionary E-Team that traveled to France in 2006. He participated in the Truth and Peace Leadership Conferences sponsored by Randall House.

During a memorial service conducted on campus April 11, President Matt Pinson said, "We were stunned and saddened by Zach's unexpected death. He was a well liked and respected student, always open and friendly, and eager to make a difference in God's world. We grieve the loss of this fine young man with so much promise."

Zach's death occurred during Welcome Days with more than 100 visiting high school students on campus.

Mr. Michael Walker, chair of FWBBC's Business Department, informed memorial service attendees, "Zach recently told me that he wanted to finish well. I believe he did."

Walker presented plaques honoring Yoho to President Pinson and to Zach's parents. He announced that the "Zach Yoho Memorial Scholarship" had been established and would be awarded each spring to returning Business students.

# RESCUE

**PERHAPS YOU HAVE SEEN THE FILM,** *The World Trade Center*. When I watched it recently, I experienced a wide range of emotions—anger, sadness, pride, and patriotism. My mind traveled back to September 11, 2001, and the moment I heard about the first attack on the World Trade Center. With millions of other Americans, I watched in horror as the second plane crashed into the remaining tower. I experienced shock, fear, and awe accompanied by an intense need to do something.

I clearly remember thinking to myself that there might be 50,000 people in the towers. As I contemplated that number, I thought with sadness that it equaled nearly one-fifth of the entire Free Will Baptist denomination. I remember thinking with shame that two buildings could hold 50,000 people, yet the entire Free Will Baptist denomination did not have a single church in the state of New York at that time.

On that tragic day 2,801 people died and thousands were injured. In the midst of all the death and despair, Free Will Baptists had absolutely no ministering presence. It's a shame.

Consider where God led Paul to plant churches: Corinth, with a population of 650,000; Ephesus, one of the most influential cities in the Roman world; Thessalonica, a bustling seaport and primary route for goods and information. It is no coincidence that God used believers in these cities to spread the gospel across the known world.

The Home Missions Department is targeting the American Northeast and the fast-growing urban sprawl



# THE PERISHING

BY JARVIS REED



at the base of the Rocky Mountains for church planting. Consider the disappointment in Heaven if we do not have the courage and fortitude to pour ourselves into this cause.

Again, consider some population statistics: New York City, population 8,008,278; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, population 1,517,550; Baltimore, Maryland, population 651,154; Boston, Massachusetts, population 589,141; and Washington, DC, population 572,059. If we are to expand His kingdom, Free Will Baptists must pursue the areas with the largest concentration of people and the smallest representation of evangelical, Bible-teaching churches.

Perhaps we should turn to a biblical example to help us reach these and other growing cities for Jesus. In the Old Testament, God's armies attacked a city by surrounding it. We should follow this example by selecting a city and forming a team to work together to plant six to ten churches in one area "surrounding" the entire city. Teamwork would promote the name recognition of Free Will Baptists, share the financial burden of church planting (for advertising and promotion, etc.), and give church planters consistent accountability to their partners. By working together, we could produce staggering results.

**We must continue to plant churches, thinking outside the box, doing whatever it takes, in any way necessary to plant biblically solid, Great Commission churches.**

If God will allow me (and others) the ability and foresight, we will never experience another tragedy like the

one on September 11, 2001, with no witness, no testimony, no impact for Christ's kingdom. It is time to become aggressive and deliberate in our church planting! Support the efforts of Home Missions to see souls saved through church plants. Give your time and money to help plant those churches. When God calls, say, "Yes, I'll go."

**We must continue to plant churches, thinking outside the box, doing whatever it takes, in any way necessary to plant biblically solid, Great Commission churches.**

As you read this, thousands of people receive their last chance to respond to God's grace. Even on days without tragedy, thousands breathe their last. It is time to become more serious than ever about church planting. For the glory of God and in Jesus' name, let's plant 500 more churches by 2024! □

*Jarvis is the pastor of North Point Fellowship FWB Church in Conroe, Texas. He and wife Kelly are implementing new and exciting methods for church growth in their ministry. It is their goal to see many Free Will Baptist churches planted across the state of Texas.*

# Missionary SUMMIT

By Richard Atwood

EARLIER THIS YEAR, 80 HOME MISSIONARIES and their wives gathered in Nashville, Tennessee, for a Missionary Summit. Former Home Missionary Paul Thompson was the keynote speaker. Chris Truett, chairman of the FWB Music Commission, spoke on music and its many uses in the worship service.

Ladies attending the meeting enjoyed sessions that featured valuable information to help them in their roles as missionary wives (presented by guest speakers Wanda Powell and Sandy Atwood). The ladies also enjoyed fellowship in the home of Sandy Atwood where they shared stories from their fields of service.



In other sessions, Home Missionaries Keith Bartlett, Greg Floars, Chad Kivette, and Jason Taylor shared ideas and solutions to common problems with the missionaries. Besides the services, those in attendance enjoyed times of prayer, eating, and sharing. Missionaries seemed to enjoy the fellowship and instruction. Here are some quotes from some of the missionaries:

“Thank you for a tremendous three days. Oh, what a family we have been united with. I cannot tell you how much Holly and I were encouraged and challenged for the work.”

*Michael Hutton, newly appointed home missionary, Spring Hill, TN.*

“How does one say thank you for what you have done? Each of you made us feel so loved, special, and encouraged. We feel revived, strengthened, and challenged as we go back to our work.”

*Julie McCoy, missionary's wife, Prattville, AL.*

“As to the question of the conference being worthwhile...Wow! I have been to a lot of “stuff,” and I am not sure I have ever been to anything that was more on target for what I needed. Great job. I will number the days until the next one.”

*John Reed, home missionary, Green Bay, WI. □*

*Richard Atwood is the director of missionary assistance for the Home Missions Department.*



# Celebration in PIGEON FORGE!

RECORD NUMBER ATTEND RETREAT

By Larry A. Powell

ON MAY 21, 2007, MORE THAN 130 PEOPLE MET IN PIGEON FORGE, Tennessee, to celebrate the completion of the second phase of the Roy Thomas Memorial Trust. The million dollar irrevocable trust will help the Home Missions Department plant churches until Jesus returns. The first phase, the Build My Church Fund, was raised to aid missionaries, and it continues to be used for that purpose. Phase two will support the general fund, benefiting missionaries through the work of the Home Missions office.

On April 24, 2007, the Home Missions Board voted to begin a third million dollar trust called the Richard Adams Endowment Trust. David Crowe, newly appointed director of development, will begin immediately to raise funds for this endowment. Richard and Carolyn Adams have worked tirelessly for Home Missions. Richard has always given God the credit for the success of the Church Extension Loan Fund and the Build My Church campaign. It took only five years to complete the second million, averaging \$200,000 each year. Adams also helped coordinate the annual Benjamin Randall Day, with an average offering of approximately \$350,000.

Pictured are 29 members of the East Side FWB Church that Brother Adams pastored for 20 years before his employment at the Home Missions Department. The church, which is located in Elizabethton, Tennessee, gave \$100,000 to the trust during the month of May. Don and Willene Wilson contributed \$50,000. Sandy Carr, former preacher pal of Richard Adams, gave the final \$32,000 to complete the campaign. These men and women have been friends to Richard and Carolyn for more than 36 years and have traveled with them extensively. They enjoy supporting the work of Home Missions.

Our donors gather each year in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, for food, fun, and fellowship. This year was no exception. The group enjoyed



Howard Messer, Pastor, East Side FWB Church is pictured with members of the church.



Don and Willene Wilson present the \$50,000 check to Richard Adams and Larry Powell.



dinner at the Applewood Farmhouse Restaurant and a concert by John Gibbs. The following day, the men played golf while the ladies shopped at the outlets.

That evening we enjoyed a night of food and entertainment at the Dixie Stampede. These annual retreats have provided great opportunities to enjoy Christian fellowship with those who support Home Missions. □

*Larry A. Powell, general director, Home Missions Department.*

# Parable of the Fisherman

*By Matt Upton*

JAKE LOOKED AROUND THE ROOM, TAKING IN THE excitement reflected in the bright eyes of the fishermen assembled before him.

"Today, I will introduce you to the newest and best fishing equipment on the market." Holding up a shiny lure he continued, "Today's fish are much smarter than in the past. Due to the specialized equipment fisherman use in increasing numbers, fish have become suspicious of attempts to catch them. As a result, we must constantly use the newest methods and devices available. They will help us catch fish."

Jake was the master instructor at a fishing expo. One of the best fishermen of his day, Jake was responsible for developing a number of fishing methods and inventing some of the very best equipment available to fishermen. He has landed some of the biggest fish on record, and is known for his ability to catch fish anywhere, in almost any situation. His success landed him a training position with one of the largest manufacturers of fishing gear. His company flies him all over the world to conduct training seminars and market the newest equipment available.

Attendees were mesmerized by Jake's knowledge and understanding of the sport. After a fascinating demonstration, he closed his session by asking, "Are there any questions?"

After a moment of awkward silence a young man in the back raised his hand. Jake acknowledged him and asked, "Yes, young man. What is your question?"

"Sir," the young man took a gulp of air, obviously nervous to question such an accomplished fisherman, "Would you tell us about the last time you caught a fish?"

Reaching for a flashy pole and shiny lure, Jake began to talk about the precision of the pole and the lure, taking several minutes to comment on the technology behind the tools of successful fishing. Then he told a story about leading a small fishing expedition in 1989.

With a confused look on his face, the young man raised his hand again, "But when and where have you caught fish recently? And, what equipment did you use?"

The truth is that Jake had been so busy teaching and selling the newest and greatest tools, gadgets, and methods that it had been a very long time since he had done any fishing at all.

What a good reminder! We can have all of the latest and greatest "equipment" and know all of the latest methods of winning the lost to Christ, but if we never get out there and fish, they have no benefit. We must get on the water and begin fishing.

Catching fish is not about gadgets, special goodies, or the latest methods. It is about two basic principles:

1. **Fish love to eat and crave food.**
2. **We must go where the fish are with what they crave in order to catch them.**

Winning people to Christ is the same as fishing. It has very little to do with methods or tools. We simply need to recognize two important principles of winning others to Christ:

1. **Everyone craves a relationship with Christ, even when they cannot articulate what they want.**
2. **They will not come to us. We must go to them and offer them the Bread of life.**

We must get out of the classroom, out of the seminars, out of the "how to books," and off the Internet. We need to go where the fish are. This is the Parable of the Fisherman. □

*Matt Upton serves on the Home Mission Board. He is the pastor of Discovery Free Will Baptist Church in Stockton, CA.*





# NEW DIRECTIONS FOR HOME MISSIONS



Canyon, Texas

**JEFF CATES AND 22 OTHERS** attended the first service at Canyon Country FWB Church in Canyon, Texas. Texas also had cold, snowy weather, but it didn't prevent the congregation from meeting. Cowboy coffee, muffins, and fellowship soon warmed everyone in attendance.



Tommy and Pam Jones

**DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2007** several new missionaries celebrated their first services. Despite cold, snowy weather, Tom Jones and the Keystone FWB Church in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, had 31 people at their first official service. Two people were saved during the service. One was the granddaughter of the Jones' neighbor whom they met while shoveling snow from the driveway.



**AFTER CONDUCTING SEVERAL** preview services in Collinsville, Illinois, on Easter Sunday, Stephen Gray and members of the new church celebrated their grand opening with 81 people in attendance. One person was saved during the service. Twenty-two people were first-time guests.

The congregation tried a different approach to invite visitors to church. They held a gasoline buy-down. The church paid 50 cents on every gallon of gas purchased at a nearby station. The event created a lot of publicity for the church. Those already attending the church pumped gas, washed windows, and gave out free water and cards containing information about the church. Seven people from the event visited on grand opening Sunday.



**AFTER DISTRIBUTING 1,500 FLYERS** and 5,000 postcards, running three large ads in the local newspaper, and praying fervently, Tim Riggs held the opening service at Bay City FWB Church in Mobile, Alabama. Thirty-four people attended the service and one person was saved on this special day.

**LARRY REYNOLDS IS PLANTING** a new church in Meridian, Mississippi. Thanks to the generosity of the Mississippi State Mission Board, money was provided to purchase land and build meeting facilities. In early April, members of Cotton Heights FWB Church met in the fellowship hall of their new building. At the end of the service, 20 people came forward to commit to establishing the new church.



# HOME MISSIONS Welcomes New Missionaries



Sexton Family



Weaver Family



Lightsey Family



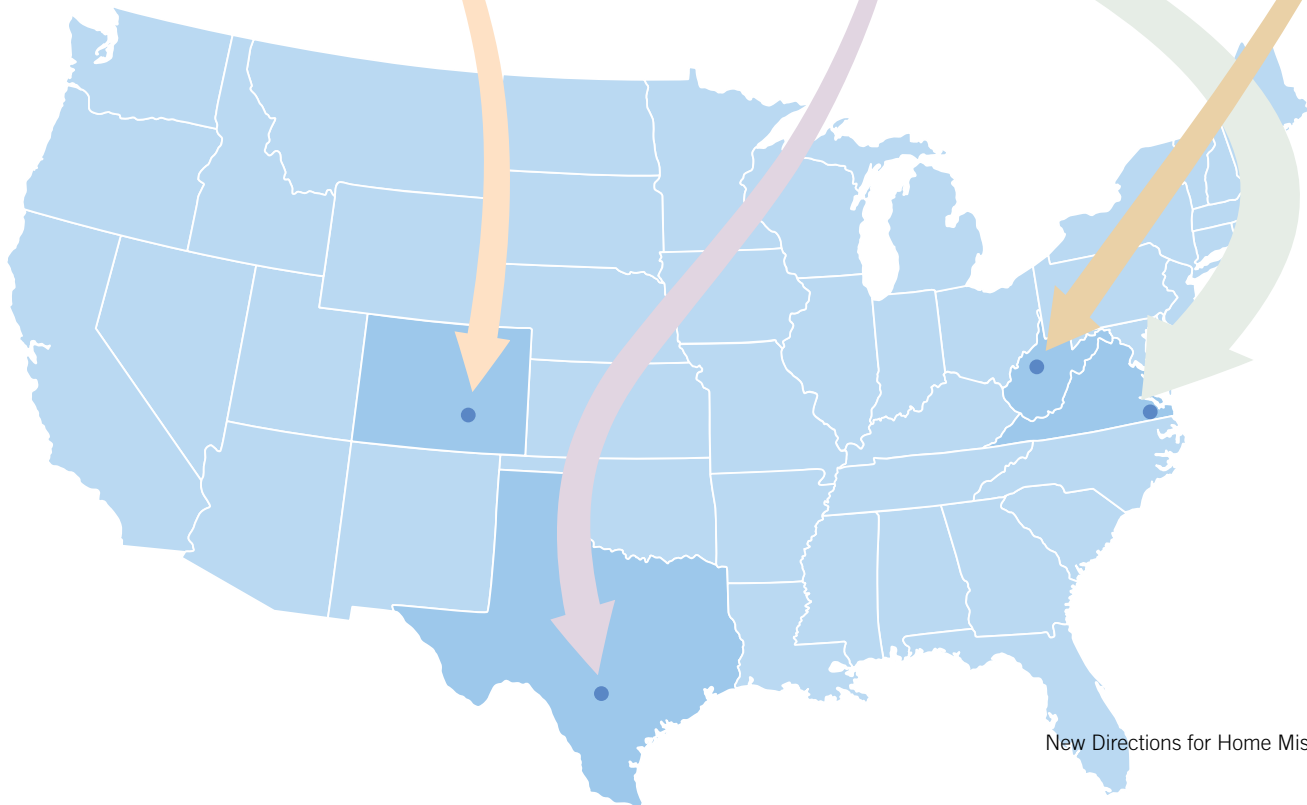
Cooper Family

David and Charity Sexton are joint project missionaries with the state of Virginia and the Home Missions Department. They plan to establish a church in Suffolk. David has been the youth pastor at Gateway FWB Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia, for seven years and presently serves as assistant pastor. The Sextons have faithfully served the church for 15 years. David has a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Education and Administration. David and Charity have four children: Austen, Devan, Chassity, and Cailey.

Associate home missionaries Jason and Holly Weaver will work with veteran church planter Mark Thomas to establish a church in Pueblo, Colorado. After attending Southeastern Free Will Baptist College and Gateway Christian College, Jason has a Bachelor's degree in Bible and Pastoral Theology. Forty-five percent of the population of Pueblo claims no religion affiliation. No Free Will Baptist church exists in Pueblo at this time.

Jeremy and Jill Lightsey are joint project home missionaries with the state of Texas and the Home Missions Department. The Lightseys will start a church in the San Antonio area. Jeremy is a graduate of Hillsdale FWB College with a Bachelor's degree in Theology/Pastoral Training. San Antonio is the seventh largest city in the nation, the second-fastest growing city among the nation's top 10, and has the third largest population increase in the nation since 2000. Jeremy and Jill have two daughters, Adria and Hope.

Kenneth and Shirley Cooper are joint project/associate missionaries with the Home Missions Department and the state of West Virginia. They will plant a church in Glenville, West Virginia. The city, located in the exact center of the state, lies in Gilmer County. It is the home of Glenville State College. Cooper has pastored in Ohio and West Virginia and brings a wealth of knowledge to this church plant.



# Prayer Paves the Way

## STRATEGIC INTERCESSION



Each year, more than a billion Muslims observe the most holy month of their religious calendar.

And each year, millions of Christians internationally use the *30 Days Muslim Prayer Focus* for more constructive, informed prayer for Muslim peoples worldwide. Some are able to follow the booklet and pray each day. Others miss a day here and there. Still others start out well, but somewhere along the way miss a couple of days and never finish the month.

### **Don't be discouraged!**

You *can* engage in strategic intercession for efforts to share the gospel with those in Muslim-dominated areas. You can encourage workers striving to share Truth with those behind the veil of Islam.

### **Global Prayer Initiatives**

Global Prayer Initiatives are planned to enable churches and their members to pray strategically for fulfillment of the Great Commission around the world. Utilizing the four regions of Free Will Baptist International Missions ministry, four initiatives are planned for the calendar year.

The first of these focuses on creative access regions and coincides with Ramadan, the Muslim holy month. Ramadan is September 12 through October 11 in 2007.

### **Free Resources**

FWBIM has free resources available for group or personal use. Guides are designed to allow individuals to spend one hour in prayer. The hour is broken into twelve five-minute segments focused on spiritual needs of specific countries, the needs of Free Will Baptists who have responded to God's call to missionary service in these regions, and selected portions of Scripture.

Churches are encouraged to adopt a day of Ramadan for a 24-hour prayer vigil.

Help rip Satan's veil of deceit from the eyes of Muslim peoples!

Give crucial prayer support to missionaries and workers in creative access countries.

Contact International Missions to participate or receive more information

E-mail: [go@fwbgo.com](mailto:go@fwbgo.com)

Toll-free phone:

1-877-767-7736

**“ No pursuit of God's design for local churches in global mission would be adequate without a call to prayer. Prayer paves the way for kingdom advance like nothing else... There is power in individual prayer in the prayer closet. There is also awesome power in intercession with others in the congregation. Prayer, from genuinely humble hearts, bound in the unity of the Spirit, filled with faith and love, is the engine of kingdom advance. ”**

*(Loving the Church...Blessing the Nations, p.162, George Miley)*



## 2007 E-TEAMS SERVE

**ANTIOCH, TN**—Nine groups of high school students were deployed in June as part of E-TEAM 2007. Training took place June 4–11 at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, TN. The teams of 76 students and 18 team leaders departed June 12 and returned on June 26 and 27.

**E-TEAM BRAZIL 2007**—Katie Phillips, Wabash, IN; Stevie Conner, Madison Heights, MI; Jamie Kilgore, Greeneville, TN; Courtney Barnes, Locust Grove, OK; Hannah Brobst, Raleigh, NC; Haylee Hubbard, Hot Springs Village, AR; Megan Nelson, Nashville, TN; Chris Sharry, Moore, OK; Colby Barthelemy, Albany, GA. Team leaders: Rodney and Mary Yerby, Madison, AL. **Highlight: Witnessed seven students accept Christ in a service at the São Jose FWB Church.**

**E-TEAM CHICAGO 2007**—Valerie Conner, Madison Heights, MI; Thomas Gibson, Greenville, NC; Hunter Pardue, Greenville, NC; Michelle Spradlin, Springfield, OH; Becky Wilson, Pontotoc, MS; Ben Osterkamp, Old Monroe, MO; Sara Layton, Wellington, KS; Kailey Scott, Garner, NC; Katherine Butler, Carrollton, VA. Team leaders: Billy and Geneva Walker, Smyrna, TN. **Highlight: Held a VBS for “unchurched kids only.” Averaged around 70 kids each night.**

**E-TEAM CUBA 2007**—Rachel Smith, Washington, NC; Jordan Scribner, Jenks, OK; Steven Reeder, Doerun, MO; Caleb Sloan, Ft. Wayne, IN; Lindsey Stump, Springfield, OH; Mary Ann Murphy, Albany, GA; Joe Reel, Carrollton, VA. Team Leaders: Peter and Jane Johnson, Nashville, TN. **Highlight: Opportunity to interact with Cuban youth.**

**E-TEAM FRANCE 2007**—Jared Wall, Knightdale, NC; Heather Grant, Knoxville, TN; Wesley Coats, Ada, OK; Ashley Wildmon, Booneville, MS; Jeremiah McFerrin, Wichita, KS; Tina Peck, Carrollton, VA; Lauren Watts, Muldrow, OK; Brooklin Holland, Nashville, TN; Haley Murphy, Muskogee, OK. Team Leaders: Jim and Linda Hutchison, Huntington, WV. **Highlight: Muslim moms and children attended the children’s carnival and listened to the presentation.**

**E-TEAM HOKKAIDO 2007**—Rachelle Moore, Fredricktown, MO; Hannah Gaston, Belle Plaine, KS; Nick Dennis, Vilonia, AR; Blake Jordan, Tishomingo, MS; Matthew Lee, Coward, SC;

Andrew Osterkamp, Old Monroe, MO; Abigail McLoy, Floral, AR; Eleni Karounos, Ashland City, TN. Team leaders: Seldon and Pam Buck, Darlington, SC. **Highlight: Homestay with a Japanese family gave a unique opportunity to experience the culture, and the need for Christ.**

**E-TEAM MEXICO 2007**—Thomas Judkins, Monticello, AR; Sam Bevis, Houston, MO; Jonathan Tolle, Homerville, GA; Erica Dove, Harrisonburg, VA; Chanel Bonds, Gastonia, NC; Katie Edington, Pocahontas, AR; Holly Petty, Beecher City, IL; Amber DuBose, Booneville, MS; Loyd Miller, Delaware, AR. Team leaders: Tommy and Barbara Boyd, Blounts Creek, NC. **Highlight: Helped with two different Vacation Bible Schools.**

**E-TEAM PANAMA 2007**—Allison Hibbard, Modesto, CA; Matthew Lindsey, Ada, OK; Crosby Brooks, Wellington, KS; Daniel Coker, Iuka, MS; Stephen Murray, Magnolia, TX; Jessica Brown, Minford, OH; Corie Lambert, Tishomingo, MS; Kevin Lundquist, Goldsboro, NC. Team Leaders: Jonathan and Teresa Snow, Nashville, TN. **Highlight: Outdoor service in Las Tablas neighborhood where several kids were saved.**

**E-TEAM ST. CROIX 2007**—Heather Christensen, Ashland City, TN; Hannah Ward, Van Buren, AR; Jason Provow, Fredericktown, MO; J.J. Bond, Portsmouth, OH; Crystal Hodges, Fresno, CA; Brittany Echols, Northport, AL; Jessica Voltz, Magnolia, TX; Zack Paschall, Broken Arrow, OK; Maggie Paxton, Leo, IN. Team Leaders: Jamie and Monica Greenway, Nashville, TN. **Highlight: Getting to know the island culture and people.**

**E-TEAM TOKYO 2007**—Kelsey Vick, Greenville, NC; TJ Foster, Pleasant View, TN; Mandy Jones, Greensburg, PA; Paige Ellis, Florence, SC; Autumn Fitzgerald, Braselton, GA; Aaron Ray, Van Buren, AR; Beth Brown, Oil Springs, KY; Molly Turner, Johnson City, IL. Team Leaders: Michael and Sherry Wolf, Leland, NC. **Made traditional Japanese fireworks in a chemistry class at a high school.**

After a debriefing session at FWBBC, the students returned to their homes—tired, exploding with stories and experiences, and carrying a new vision of God’s work around the world in their hearts.

## NINE BAPTIZED IN BRAZIL



**RIBEIRÃO PRETO, BRAZIL**—Nine people were baptized at the Marincek FWB Church in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, on Sunday, June 3. Bobby Poole indicated one man had been “the community drunk and we had been working with him some 15 years.”

The 55-year-old Mario Vieira was the lone adult baptized. The eight young people were Giúlia Feitosa (10), Karen (nine), Oseias Silva (12), Lígia Feitosa (10), Carlos (12), Guilherme Assunção (10), Bruno (eight), and Guilherme Silva (10).

## AYCOCKS RETIRE

**BARBACENA, BRAZIL**—Bobby and Sue Aycock retired from missionary service in Brazil after almost 40 years. The couple began their ministry in 1960. As a result of their tenure, the area of Barbacena has seven established churches and a Bible institute. Bobby faithfully preached the gospel through a daily radio ministry.

The couple was honored twice before their June 7 departure from their adopted country. On May 5 over 330 people attended an early 50th wedding anniversary celebration. The Aycocks renewed their wedding vows in an emotional ceremony.

Their actual anniversary was June 14.

Over 400 people gathered to say goodbye to the senior missionary couple on June 2 in a special church service. Bobby preached his final sermon on Brazilian soil. A mass choir formed by the seven churches provided special music.

They were greeted with a surprise celebration by Faith FWB Church in Goldsboro, NC, on June 16.



## ABIDJAN COUPLES' RETREAT



**ABIDJAN, CÔTE D'IVOIRE**—The three FWB churches in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, joined for a weekend couples' retreat June 1–2. Over 40 people participated in the event.

Clint Morgan, IM's regional director for Africa and Creative Access Countries, spoke on “The Christian Family and Finances.”

## OWENS RETIRE

**MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY**—Dennis and Trena Owen returned to the States on July 1. The couple has resigned from missionary service due to Dennis' health.

The Owens' pioneered work in Montevideo, the capital city of Uruguay. They united church-planting efforts and Bible institute training to advance the gospel in the atheistic culture. A strong church, led by a Uruguayan pastor, is a tribute to the 16 years they served.

Dennis also conceived and implemented a program called the Pro Templo Fund. The innovative system allows a congregation to build a church building, hire a national pastor, and become self-supporting.

The couple was appointed in 1979, and originally planned to serve in Brazil. God redirected them to ministry in Spain. There they assisted Ron and Linda Callaway in planting a church in Mostoles and Jeff and Susan Turnbough in planting a church in Villalba before God led them to Uruguay.







## NEW MISSIONARIES APPOINTED



Cindy Hall  
BRAZIL



Paige Autrey  
BRAZIL



Kimberly Johnson  
BRAZIL



Rosanna Miller  
BULGARIA



Rusty and Brenda Carney  
JAPAN



Josh and Alicia Crow  
JAPAN

**ANTIOCH, TN**—The Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions met April 23–25 in Antioch, TN. As a result of the meeting, two couples and four single women were appointed to missionary service.

Paige Autrey and Cindy Hall of Gateway FWB Church in Virginia Beach, VA, were approved to teach English in Brazil for a two-year term. They will work with the David Aycok family in Barbacena. Both ladies currently teach at Gateway Christian School.

Kimberly Johnson (First FWB Church, Wewoka, OK) was appointed as a career missionary to Brazil. She will serve at Lar Nova Vida (New Life Children's Home) in Araras. Working with former missionary and founder of LNV Shirley Combs, Kimberly will train to become the director of the children's home.

Kimberly holds a B.A. from Hillsdale FWB College and a Master's degree in social work from East Central University. She served as a short-term missionary with FWBIM (2002–2004) in Araras, Brazil.

Rosanna Miller of Modesto FWB Church in Modesto, CA, was approved for a two-year term in Bulgaria. She will join the Tim Awtrey family in Svishtov.

Rosanna will be involved in ministry to university students and assist with discipleship and evangelism.

Rusty (Unity FWB Church, West Frankfort, IL) and Brenda (Lafayette FWB Church, Stigler, OK) Carney and Josh (Northwest FWB Community Church, Chicago, IL) and Alicia (Sherwood Forest FWB Church, New Bern, NC) Crowe were appointed as career missionaries to Japan. Both couples will enter a two-year language program in Hokkaido, Japan. Both Brenda (Wendlandt) and Alicia (Hart) previously served two years as English teachers in Japan.

**Global Purpose Seekers**

Attention youth leader...

September 20 - 23, 2007

**GPS-Xperience**

A mission event for 7th, 8th and 9th graders.  
Details to be announced soon!

For more information email: [go@fwbgo.com](mailto:go@fwbgo.com)

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Antioch, TN 37011-5002  
615-760-6123 or toll free 877-767-7736



# THE TEN DOLLAR CLUB

By D. Ray Lewis

AT THE VERY HEART OF THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT is our motto (taken from Psalm 78:72), "Serving those who serve others with the integrity of our hearts and the skillfulness of our hands." Thirty-eight years ago, the National Association adopted the Board of Retirement as a national agency to serve the denomination's retired ministers. The original purpose was three-fold: to provide for a minister's family in the event of his death, to furnish a regular income in case a minister should be permanently and totally disabled before age 65, and to insure income for the minister during retirement years.

After all these years, our purpose has not changed. It has been expanded, however, to include anyone who receives a taxable income from a Free Will Baptist church or agency. This includes ministers and non-ministerial employees—any full-time, part-time (at least 20 hours per week), or bi-vocational employee. Whether you are a pastor, teacher, office

worker, or a member of the maintenance staff, you have an opportunity to invest in your future.

The decision to start investing for your future could be one of the best you can make for your church, your family, and for yourself. We want to help you gather the right amount of savings in order to live comfortably through your retirement years. The key is to start early and be consistent in maintaining your plan.

If the Lord tarries, and we live long enough, we will all go through two distinct stages in our lives. We all enjoy productive years followed by years when our economic productivity will be reduced or cease entirely. For most, this occurs at retirement. Therefore, it is critical to prepare financially for those times in the future when our earned income will decrease or cease.

Financial planners suggest that per-



sonal contributions to your retirement account each year equal a minimum of 5% of your salary. This should be in addition to any amount your employer may provide.

Many younger ministers and lay employees think that the recommended 5% personal contribution is too hard to do all at once. It is difficult to convince many young people to invest in a retirement account when they have trouble simply paying the monthly bills, making ends meet, or dealing with life's little emergencies. When paying for student loans and the note on the new car take precedent over buying groceries, investing in the future sounds like a foreign language. However, it is those early years that can make the greatest difference in retirement.

We want to help you! Our newest endeavor, the \$10 Club makes it easy for you to start building for the future. Begin by contributing at least \$10 of your salary each month to your account with the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement. As a club member, you will receive a Salary Reduction Agreement every year accompanied by a reminder to increase your contribution by at least \$10. Over the next few years, you can increase contributions until you reach or surpass the goal of 5%.

We all know that \$10 per month will not provide an adequate retirement, but let me share an amazing fact with you. If a 25-year-old joins the \$10 Club

If a 25-year-old joins the \$10 Club and contributes \$10 dollars each month for 40 years, the account will grow to more than \$41,000 dollars.

and contributes \$10 each month for 40 years, and never does any more than that (at our average rate of return, 8.68%), the account will grow to \$41,004.02. Not enough to retire on, but not bad for a \$4,800 investment.

Churches, if you aren't contributing to your staff's retirement, let me encourage you to start now by matching their \$10 monthly contribution to their retirement account. Your concern will speak volumes. Most of us need some encouragement to save for retirement. Matching contributions provide that incentive.

And now the best part! If you join the \$10 Club by opening a new account with the Board of Retirement, we will make a one-time \$25 contribution to the account.

Don't put off getting started. The Free Will Baptist Pension Plan is a great program. It is my goal to see every Free Will Baptist pastor and employee provided for adequately throughout retirement. Join the \$10 Club today by contacting us at (877) 767-7RET. We want to serve you. □

*D. Ray Lewis is the general director of the Free Will Baptist Board of Insurance and Retirement.*

# THE TEN DOLLAR CLUB



**Now, YOU can afford to save for retirement!**

Contribute at least \$10 of your salary each month. As a \$10 Club member, you will receive a Salary Reduction Agreement each year, along with a reminder to increase your contribution by another \$10. In time, you can increase your contributions to the suggested 5%.

**REACH your retirement goals and BEYOND!**

Contact the Board of Retirement for enrollment forms and a personalized review of your retirement plan today: **(877) 767-7738.**



**For a confidential consultation, call (877) 767-7738** PO Box 5002  
Antioch, TN 37011-5002



Does Your Family  
Experience Power Failure?



Plug into **D6**

And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto they children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

 Get Connected to the Source  
[over]

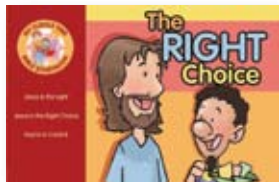
# Get Connected to the Source

Families spend at most, four hours a week involved in spiritual training at church. What do we do to power up to the source of other 164 hours a week?

Here is the thing; spiritual training begins in the home, not in the church. That is what Deuteronomy 6 is all about. It is time that moms, dads, and grandparents take up the responsibility to lead our families spiritually in the home.

CLEAR Devotional and Bible Study Magazines are an exciting way to lead the whole family to a deeper connection with God and with each other.

## My Cuddle Time Bible Storybook



Infants & Preschoolers

- Each book has three distinct stories based on three heartprints (A heartprint is a biblical concept or truth that, when taught and repeated, will imprint the heart of a child for life)
- Loaded with bright colors, child-friendly art and simple fonts
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- User friendly for parents and other family members (everyone reads to a child—this book lets you read something of substance biblically)



Early & Upper Elementary

## Explorer's Guides

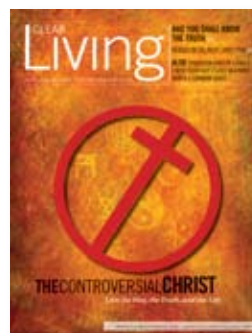
- Helps kids spend daily time with God
- A fun tool for getting students into the Bible
- Inspires students to live out their faith with stories, testimonies, and inspirational articles
- Provides kids with wholesome and positive alternatives for reading material
- Activities, games, puzzles, and articles can be used to share Christ with friends and family members



Jr. High & High School

## Clear Horizon & Clear Direction

- Helps students get into God's Word
- Includes articles of hope and inspiration—many are student-written
- Includes fun and exciting features
- Provides answers for some of life's most challenging questions



Adults

## CLEAR Living

- Direct your daily devotions
- Grow in your understanding of God's Word
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- Apply the truth in your own life
- Share the lessons you learn each week with your family

The power of D6 is in the relationships, and relationships can transform lives. Families who use CLEAR Magazines are connecting with God and experiencing unity and joy together.



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<b>Teens</b>				<b>Early Elementary</b>			
<i>Clear Horizon</i>	10-12 grades	\$28.99	\$52.99	<i>Explorer's Guide 1</i>	1-3 grades	\$19.99	\$36.99
<i>Clear Direction</i>	7-9 grades	\$28.99	\$52.99	<b>Pre-school</b>			
				<i>My Cuddle Time</i>	Ages 2-5	\$22.99	\$41.99
				<i>Bible Storybook</i>			

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## CLEAR® Teacher of the Year... Stanley Seibert

Stanley Seibert from the Sciotodale Free Will Baptist Church of Portsmouth, Ohio is the 2007 CLEAR Teacher of the Year.

Sunday is a busy day for Seibert. He not only teaches the upper elementary class, but he also serves as Sunday School Superintendent. In this dual role, Seibert routinely encourages parents to use CLEAR at home with their children during the week. He also ensures that students take the materials home to use with their parents.

Seibert, who has been a part of the Sciotodale Church since the late 1970s, taught the preschool class before assuming his present teaching position. Stanley also serves as a deacon and trustee of the Portsmouth congregation.

Pastor Aaron Reed stated, "Ever since CLEAR was introduced, Stan has been passionate about using and promoting it. He knows that CLEAR is an excellent tool to draw families closer to Christ."

"Stan sends postcards from the children's material to his students, assuring them that they are thought of and loved, as well as reminding them of the lesson content for the week. He is an inspiration to me."

Seibert is employed by the CSX Railroad and does carpentry work on the side. Stanley and his wife Jean Annette met at the Sciotodale Church. The Seiberts, who have been married for twenty-six years, have three children and two grandchildren.

The CLEAR Teacher of the Year Award is sponsored by Randall House Publications. This year's award was announced in July at the National Association of Free Will Baptists in Little Rock, Arkansas.

# In Review FEATURES

## **His First Noel** by Joshua L. McKinney

0892655887 \$5.99 each or \$4.99 each in quantities of 13 or more  
*His First Noel* is the story of a middle-aged man named Jim. Although gravely ill, Jim continues to resist God. This heartwarming story set against a family tradition of entertaining a homeless person is sure to cause all who see it to examine their own lives.



## **Celebrate Christmas, Christmas Sketches & Plays for Your Church, Volume 1**

0892655860 \$19.99

If you are looking for a Christmas play, here is a good place to start. *Celebrate Christmas* brings together 15 Christmas dramas by various authors under one cover. The selections include 10-minute sketches as well as full-length plays. Whether you have a large church or a small one, you are sure to find what you need in this helpful resource.

## **Heaven Came Down** by Jack Dale

0892655871 \$5.99 each or \$4.99 each in quantities of 35 or more  
*Heaven Came Down* is set in the period starting fifteen months before Christ's birth. This full-length drama depicts events that occurred before our Lord was born and some that may have. The author clearly portrays God's love for man through the birth of His Son.



All products reviewed above can be purchased from Randall House. Call (800) 877-7030 or visit [www.RandallHouse.com](http://www.RandallHouse.com).

## RANDALL HOUSE NAMES BOOK ACQUISITIONS EDITOR

**MICHELLE VINCENT ORR** has been named the new book acquisitions editor for Randall House Publications replacing Emily White. Emily built a strong system of acquisitions for Michelle to build upon.

Michelle is the daughter of a Free Will Baptist pastor. She graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1987 with a double major in Bible and secondary education with specialization in business.

In 2000, Michelle began to work for J. Countryman, a division of Thomas Nelson Publishers. She worked for the senior

acquisitions editor, the vice-president, and associate publisher. Her responsibilities soon increased to include copy-editing, proofing, managing translations, obtaining permissions, filing copyrights, registering ISBN numbers, and many other essential publishing tasks. The experience gained at Thomas Nelson will prove invaluable in her new role at Randall House Publications.

Executive Director Ron Hunter remarked, "Books help define who we are as a publisher and a denomination. Adding Michelle to the book division places the process in very experienced hands as we continue to publish life-changing books."





## YOHO FAMILY EXPRESSES GRATITUDE

WEST JEFFERSON, OH—Wes and Janet Yoho, parents of Zachary Yoho would like to thank their national church family for the prayers, phone calls, cards, and words of encouragement following the unexpected loss of their son on March 30, 2007. “We are so blessed to have so many people praying for us during this most difficult time in our lives. We are thankful to all of you who were part of his life.”

“For those who just heard of a family in need and cared enough to pray or send a card, we thank you as well. Please know that your kindness has not gone unnoticed.”

Read more about Zachary’s life and untimely death on page 23 of the magazine.

## CE BOARD NAMES DIRECTOR

OWASSO, OK—The Oklahoma Christian Education Board recently appointed Casey Cariker as its promotional secretary. The associate pastor at Rejoice FWB Church in Owasso, Casey has served on the board since 2000. Cariker replaces Darryn McGee, who resigned in January after heading the successful ministry for 13 years. In a statement by the board, “Darryn has served with professionalism and integrity and has helped the board become one of the best and most productive state Christian education boards in the nation.”

## MINISTERS’ QUARTET SINGS FINALE

WESTERN HILLS, OK—Citing health issues, members of the beloved Minister’s Quartet recently announced that they can no longer continue their ministry. For more than 40 years, Free Will Baptist ministers Delbert Akin, Homer Young, Waldo Young, and Jack Richey have traveled across the country lending their voices to services, revivals, retreats, and conventions.

## ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

BOONEVILLE, MS—Elementary school principal Lynn Brewer, a graduate of FWB Bible College and Mississippi Southern University, was recently named “Administrator of the Year” by the Jackson School District in Mississippi. Brewer is the daughter of J.L. Gore, executive secretary of the Mississippi State Association.

## RIGO HEADS TO “MEXICAN TOWN”

DETROIT, MI—The Michigan Mission Board recently announced that Rigoberto (Rigo) Lumbreras has been approved by the national Home Missions Board to begin a church planting movement in South Detroit. The joint project between the state and national agencies will target the area known in Detroit as “Mexican Town.” More than 60,000 people live within a five-mile radius. Most are Hispanic in origin, and opportunities for a cross-cultural ministry are plentiful.

Pastor Lumbreras is a graduate (and former professor) of the Seminary of the Cross in Reynosa, Mexico. During the last eight years, he and his wife Erica worked together to start a Spanish-speaking church in Lincolnton, North Carolina. Today, the church averages 150 in attendance. To learn more about Rigo and the Lumbreras family, visit [www.homemissions.net](http://www.homemissions.net).

## FAMILY MINISTRIES RELEASE ANNUAL REPORT

GREENEVILLE, TN—A recent report released by Free Will Baptist Family Ministries shows encouraging statistics. In the 12 months prior, 102 children accepted Christ as their Savior. Forty-six rededicated their lives, 21 were baptized, 26 graduated from high school, 43 received their GED, and 12 were adopted through the ministry of the organization.

In addition, The Hope Center has more than 340 clients. Sixty-one of the women gave birth in 2006—babies who would otherwise have been aborted (in many cases). To learn more about Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, visit [www.fwbfm.com](http://www.fwbfm.com).

## BOOKSTORE REACHES MILESTONE

LEBANON, MO—Lebanon Bible and Book Store celebrated its 35th year of service on February 22. The store, established by the Missouri State Association, opened its doors in 1972. The first sale was a greeting card for 15 cents, according to the Missouri *Gem*. “It’s ironic that 35 years later, the first sale of the day was boxed cards for \$4.99.”

Long time manager Dennis Jones reflects on the visits by guests and former employees. “The Lord has truly blessed the ministry of the bookstore throughout the past 35 years. We have no idea how many lives have been touched.”

Close to Home is a new feature of *ONE Magazine* that highlights Free Will Baptist life on the state, local church, and individual level. To submit your news to Close to Home, email [editor@nafwb.org](mailto:editor@nafwb.org).

# What, is it?



**WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE Free Will Baptist Foundation—the planned giving arm of the denomination?**

We sat down with new Director David Brown to discuss their ministry.

**Q. Can the Foundation assist individuals as well as ministries?**

A. Yes, very much so. We can help individuals arrange a planned gift where they receive income for life, and at death their favorite ministries will receive the remaining portion of the gift. We even manage a few such agreements benefiting an individual other than the donor. I call it the “have your cake and give it away too” planned gift.

**Q. What kind of earnings rate can an individual receive on these arrangements?**

A. The rates can be pretty high. They are based on your age. Older persons receive a higher rate because they will receive the income for a shorter period of time. Younger persons receive lower rates because they will receive income longer. These arrangements also can include two lives. The chart (figure 1) illustrates the rates for both one and two life arrangements as of September 2007.

SINGLE LIFE RATE		JOINT LIFE RATE		
Age	Rate	First Age	Second Age	Rate
55	5.5%	55	55	5.0%
60	5.7%	60	60	5.4%
65	6.0%	65	65	5.6%
70	6.5%	70	70	5.9%
75	7.1%	75	75	6.3%
80	8.0%	80	80	6.9%
85	9.5%	85	85	7.9%
90+	11.3%	90	90	9.3%

figure 1

**Q. Those are phenomenal rates. How is this possible?**

A. These funds are invested to benefit from both earnings and appreciation. Overall expectations are for a good return

long term. However, it is assumed that over the life of an individual that a portion of the principal will be returned along with the earnings. This is especially true of older individuals who are receiving the highest rates.

**Q. Who determines the rates?**

A. The rates are set by a national financial group that consults with experts on life expectancy and investment professionals. Most charitable organizations that manage these agreements generally adopt these rates to be consistent with other charities.

**Q. Are the rates guaranteed?**

A. Absolutely. If the instrument is completely exhausted we are obligated by contract to pay the earnings out of the general fund.

**Q. Have any of these agreements ever exhausted the funds?**

A. No. We expect some erosion of principal, but none have ever come close to exhaustion.

**Q. What are the tax advantages?**

A. The tax advantages are tremendous. The donor receives a partial charitable tax deduction based on the original principal. The IRS recognizes in this type of agreement you are receiving back a portion of your principal. Therefore, only part of your income is actually taxable.

SINGLE LIFE RATES		
Age	Stated Rate	Effective Rate
55	5.5%	7.05%
60	5.7%	7.47%
65	6.0%	8.06%
70	6.5%	8.96%
75	7.1%	10.08%
80	8.0%	11.68%
85	9.5%	14.26%
90+	11.3%	17.39%

figure 2

**Q. Wait a minute, let me get this straight. Part of your income is tax-free?**

A. That is correct. This means your effective rate of return is even higher than the rates stated in figure 1. The effective rate is simply the rate of return that would be required on a fully taxable investment to equal the return on these agreements. It is the same concept as municipal bonds that pay tax-free income, except in these cases the charitable agreement rates are much higher than municipal bonds, but only a portion is tax-free. The chart (figure 2) illustrates the effective rates on selected single life rates based on the 28% bracket as of September 2007.

**Q. What about using appreciated assets like stocks or real estate in these agreements?**

A. They can be used to fund this investment, but capital gains cannot be avoided. However, the capital gain is spread out over the donor's life expectancy. You pay the capital gains tax on an installment plan as you report a portion each year. If avoiding capital gains is a concern, other agreements may be more suitable.

**Q. Do I have to be rich to fund one of these agreements? Are they available in smaller amounts?**

A. You don't have to be rich to fund this instrument. The minimum is \$5,000 and there is no maximum amount.

**Q. You mentioned that these gifts can benefit someone besides the donor. How does that work?**

A. Sometimes people may want to provide ongoing income to a parent, sibling, or friend instead of an outright gift. In that case the donor receives a partial tax deduction. All calculations are based on the age of the income beneficiary. The other individual receives the income that will be partially taxable.

**Q. How long have you been managing these agreements, and how many do you currently have?**

A. We are currently managing over 30 agreements and established our first one in 1985.

**Q. I almost forgot. What are these investments called?**

A. They are gift annuities, and they are the oldest form of a planned gift dating to 1831 when the American Bible Society issued the first one. The agency that sets the rates is the American Council on Gift Annuities.

**Q. Gift Annuities sound interesting and effective. How can I get more information?**

A. Visit our interactive website [www.fwbgifts.org](http://www.fwbgifts.org) for additional information. More specific information is offered via email at [foundation@nafwb.org](mailto:foundation@nafwb.org) or by calling toll-free at (877) 366-7575. □

## What is it?

Aebleskiver is a traditional Danish delicacy. The light, rounded, fruit or berry filled pancakes are usually frosted with powdered sugar and served around the holidays. According to Danish legend, the dish was invented by Viking raiders who cooked the tasty morsels over campfires in the indentations on their metal shields. As any cook might guess, the cast-iron Aebleskiver pan pictured on the opposite page works much better than a shield!

Want to make your own Aebleskiver? Find this and other recipes or order a pan from [www.aebleskiver.net](http://www.aebleskiver.net).

### Innkeeper's Aebleskiver

Ingredients: 4.5 ounces wheat flour, 3 ounces margarine, 11 fluid ounces buttermilk, 1 egg, 1 ounce sugar, and 1/2 teaspoon baking soda. Add lemon extract, vanilla or cinnamon according to taste.

Stir the baking soda and sugar into the buttermilk until the mixture begins to thicken. Add the egg, melted margarine, and lemon, cardamom, vanilla, or cinnamon. Using an aebleskiver pan, cook at moderate heat for 5 to 6 minutes, turning until a golden brown ball is formed.

Fill the ball with berries or jam and roll in powdered sugar. Serve hot for best taste.



**Master's Men**  
Free Will Baptist  
Men's Ministry

## ARE YOU "WILLING" TO HELP MASTER'S MEN?

**The work of God moves forward through men who yield themselves to His will.**

Through the legal will, every state allows individuals to plan for distribution of his personal assets following his or her death. When an individual does not leave a will (over 70% of Americans do not have one), the state writes one for him.

Take time to review your will. If you have established one already, think of changes in your family, assets to be distributed, and the people and ministries you wish to make your beneficiaries. Most financial planners suggest that you review you review your will every five years because things do change.

**Suggestions for an effective charitable will:**

1. Give Master's Men a child's portion.
2. Remember Master's Men for at least a tithe.
3. Give Master's Men the residue.



[www.FWBGifts.org](http://www.FWBGifts.org) • Or call us toll-free at (877) 336-7575

PLEASE SEND ME INFORMATION ON  
DRAFTING OR UPDATING MY WILL.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

willmm080907

Please clip and return this form to:  
**Free Will Baptist Foundation**  
P. O. Box 5002  
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

# Down to the River

## FREE WILL BAPTISTS FLOOD LITTLE ROCK

Seventy-First National Convention / July 15-18, 2007

THE ANGRY, BROWN WATERS OF THE flooded Arkansas River churned beneath Statehouse Convention Center as more than 6,000 Free Will Baptists met for worship, fellowship, and business July 15-18. Much has changed in the 13 years since the convention visited Little Rock in 1994.

The denomination has grown by more than 70,000 members, according to a statistical report published by the Executive Office. The statistics reflect 313,444 members in 2006, up from 243,244 in 1994.

Denominational budgets doubled in a decade. The \$13 million budget approved in 1994 pushes the \$26 million mark in 2007. No one had heard of an NGO in 1994, but in 2007 The Hanna Project, the first Free Will Baptist NGO (Non-Governmental Organization), dominated the convention program with nine presentations in three days.

*ONE Magazine* was a dream in 1994, but in 2007, the 56-page publication representing eight denominational agencies is reality. Delivered free to more than 60,000 homes six times a year, the magazine is a testimony to denominational cooperation and the vision of new leadership.

In recent years, the IMPACT program has turned the focus of the convention outward. On Saturday, July 14, nearly 400 Free Will Baptists from

across the nation arrived early for the annual one-day, evangelistic campaign. Volunteers came armed with Bibles, hammers, paintbrushes, and willing hearts—ready to share Christ with the city.

Before the day ended, volunteers provided more than 1,400 hours of service, visited 874 homes, and spoke to 480 people. They shared the gospel 35 times and rejoiced when one person professed a new faith in Christ.



Executive Secretary Keith Burden enjoys a rocking chair presented by the host state.

The names changed in 13 years. The headquarters hotel (Excelsior, 1994) became the Peabody Hotel, the Camelot evolved into the Doubletree, and the Wyndham Riverside replaced the Hilton. "I've been coming to the convention for 30 years," said Steve Trail, prayer coordinator, "and check-in has never been so smooth. The hotel staff has been fantastic."

Names changed among Free Will Baptists as well. In 1994, Roy Thomas ended his service as director of Home Missions; Roger Reeds addressed delegates one last time as director of Sunday School and Church Training; FWB Foundation director Bill Evans (who retired in 2007) delivered his first report to delegates.

Yet, while many things have changed since the last visit to Little Rock, other features of the convention remain unchanged.

### Rousing Worship

More than one convention attendee remarked, "The services this week were the best in years." Each service seemed to build on the one before as keynote speakers Roy Harris (TN), Joe Grizzle (OK), Eddie Moody (NC), Wendell Walley (CA), and Nelson Henderson (AR) addressed the 2007 convention theme, "Helping One Another."

Convention Music Coordinator

“If all the funds sent to International Missions in the past 10 years had been undesignated,” Forlines said, “no missionary account would have ever been in the red, no missionaries would have had to come off the field early to raise support, all needs would have been met, and we would never have had a general fund deficit.”

Chris Truett delivered an inspiring program with a mass choir featuring more than 100 voices, an orchestral ensemble, and a vocal accompaniment group. Every service featured rousing specials and enthusiastic congregational singing.

On Monday evening, Darrin Dwyer shared a moving testimony, describing for listeners how God used his suffering after the tragic death of his five-year-old son in December 2006 to surprise him. “As I look back,” Darrin said, “I am glad that I have joined the ‘fellowship of suffering,’ because it was only in suffering that I came to understand that God is sufficient.”

A Missions Revolution took place Monday afternoon when the annual missions rally opened with music by Central Asian group Zavet. Attendees were challenged to find revolutionary ways to fulfill the Great Commission in their churches. Jim McAllister (CA), Bobby Ferguson (TX), and Karl Sexton, (VA) shared personal revolutions from their own ministries that changed their perspectives on ministry.

The 2007 Preaching Conference featured Florida pastor Paul Smith and David Crowe, director of development for the Home Missions Department.

On Tuesday, father-son duo, Trent and Wendell Walley, tag-teamed the service when Trent (IN) led worship before his dad took the pulpit.

The 2007 convention concluded in spectacular fashion as more than 6,000 Free Will Baptists crammed into the convention hall for a combined worship event. After the annual “Pa-

rade of Nations” featuring missionaries from home and abroad, Arkansas native Nelson Henderson challenged the congregation to “help reach the world.” As the service came to an end, missionaries returned to the stage a final time, creating a memorable visual spectacle for everyone present.

### Responsible Business

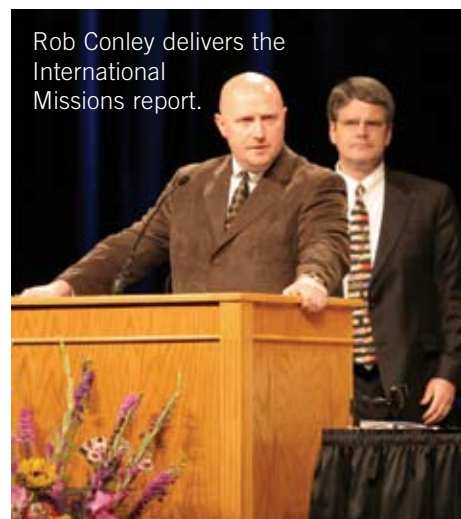
**EXECUTIVE OFFICE** Executive Secretary Keith Burden announced a \$500,000 financial turnaround in four years, as the agency retired more than \$100,000 in debt, establishing \$400,000 in cash reserves since 2003.

Burden praised first-year convention coordinator Roy Harris for his excellent planning. He lauded the efforts of the *ONE Magazine* staff in producing the publication that goes free into 60,000 homes and recently expanded from 48 to 56 pages per issue.

**INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS** General Director James Forlines delivered a glowing report describing a “wave” of 84 missionary candidates who will graduate from FWB colleges in the near future. He described unprecedented growth of new converts, new churches, and new workers on international fields.

His report was greeted by more than 20 delegates who crowded around microphones to express concerns, ask questions, and cheer on the director’s proposal to restructure the current missions funding system.

In order to “get the wave on the



Rob Conley delivers the International Missions report.



Keith Burden congratulates Bill Evans on his retirement.

More than one convention attendee remarked, “The services this week were the best in years.”

Photos (left to right): Wendell Walley (CA) and his son Trent (IN) pause for prayer before Wendell takes the pulpit. Volunteers take to the streets for IMPACT Little Rock. Todd Horne (GA) hits a high note. Other members of the Horne family (GA) pause in front of The Old Statehouse Museum adjacent to the convention center.



field," Forlines explained, the denomination needs to return to more undesignated missions giving. The International Missions Board will launch a study and meet with state leaders and pastors in order to make a strategy recommendation to the denomination by 2008. If the plan is approved, it will be fully implemented by 2010 or 2011.

"If all the funds sent to International Missions in the past 10 years had been undesignated," Forlines said, "no missionary account would have ever been in the red, no missionaries would have had to come off the field early to raise support, all needs would have been met, and we would never have had a general fund deficit."

Some delegates appeared stunned at the suggestion. Others quickly offered verbal support. Still others wondered if the proposed study would respect the donor's right to designate funds. In any case, resolution of the issue appears to lie three or four years in the future.

With Tuesday afternoon adjournment approaching, Forlines paused to recognize recently retired missionaries Bobby and Sue Aycock (Brazil) for 40 years of faithful service. When he presented the respected couple a plaque of appreciation, delegates responded with a lengthy standing ovation.

**FWB BIBLE COLLEGE** "We continue to be a name you can trust in education," President Matt Pinson told delegates Wednesday morning, during his up-

beat, fast-paced report.

Citing the largest graduating class in 23 years, a budget surplus of \$239,000, and four new degree programs to be launched by 2009, Pinson called the next five years "heady days" for the school. He asked for wisdom, prayer, and patience.

He updated delegates on plans to relocate the campus. Thirty-five potential buyers have contacted the college since mid-March when the previous buyer cancelled the existing contract. An offer from one potential investor exceeds the amount of the earlier contract. Administrators continue to narrow the search for a site for the new campus.

Enrollment at FWBCC has increased 37% since 2001 with a 22-year-high of 420 students during the 2006-2007 academic year. Ministry enrollment, up by 40%, is the fastest-growing program on campus.

**RANDALL HOUSE** Sales surged to \$4 million in 2006, and the agency made \$250,000, thanks mostly to printing curriculum in-house, according to Executive Director Ron Hunter. Their award-winning literature design captured multiple awards in the publishing industry for the second year in a row.

The agency revealed a simplified logo to match their new name as convention delegates approved the change from Sunday School and Church Training Department to Randall House Publications.

As Hunter completes his fifth year at the helm, Randall House publishes 172 pieces of printed curriculum per year and has expanded into the arena of digital publishing. Delegates received free videos about the innovative D6 program that assists parents in developing spiritual conversations with their children.

Hunter expressed his intention to revisit long-standing contracts with state bookstores in an effort to curtail dwindling unit sales (which have dropped 26% between 1989 and 2003). Delegates approved a motion from the floor requesting the agency to meet with state leaders and bookstore managers to discuss concerns and to seek resolution.

**HOME MISSIONS** Two standing ovations punctuated the Home Missions report from General Director Larry Powell. The first came when he announced the retirement of Free Will Baptists' only active-duty Navy Chaplain Robert Cooper after 27 years.

The second followed a similar announcement about the retirement of Richard Adams, director of development. Both men received plaques of commendation and briefly addressed delegates. Powell called Adams "the finest fund-raiser in the denomination" and announced the establishment of a \$1 million dollar perpetual endowment in his name.

He called 2006 a record-setting year with 14 new church planters in nine states and three church planters reach-

# 2007 CONVENTION AT-A-GLANCE



ing self-supporting status. Six church-planting teams were authorized in the past six months, and 55 Hispanic students have graduated from the Gwen Hendrix Bible Institute (South Carolina), giving cross-cultural ministry a boost. The graduates have started 33 churches in nine states.

**MASTER'S MEN** Master's Men celebrated their 50th year of service in 2006 and doubled their outreach in the last 10 years. Director Ken Akers offered a free, three-minute DVD to pastors or churches interested in organizing a chapter. The agency added eight new chapters this year.

**BOARD OF RETIREMENT** General Director Ray Lewis reported a record-breaking 24.5% rate of earning during the last half of 2006. The agency enrolled 102 new participants and recorded 22 percent growth to increase managed funds to \$39.5 million. Lewis hopes to reach \$50 million in managed funds by 2007. The agency introduced the \$10 Club, a new program designed to encourage workers to enroll.

**FWB FOUNDATION** General Director Bill Evans delivered his final report to the convention. He retires July 31, after serving 14 years as director. He introduced successor David Brown who promptly quipped, "Bill Evans wears a size 10.5 shoe, and I wear a size 13. But I still have big shoes to fill."

Board Chairman Waymon Fields presented a plaque of appreciation to

## REGISTRATION

Board members.....	45
Home missionaries.....	61
International missionaries.....	41
Licensed ministers.....	45
Local church delegates.....	8
Ordained deacons.....	152
Ordained ministers.....	635
State delegates.....	73
NAFWB attendees.....	2,640
WNAC.....	1,016
NYC.....	3,388
Visitors.....	2,361
<b>Total Registered.....</b>	<b>8,104</b>
Actual Count.....	6,045*

\* Many attendees register for more than one convention.

## 2007 BUDGETS

Executive Office.....	\$734,689
FWBBC.....	\$6,305,675
FWB Foundation.....	\$397,853
Home Missions.....	\$5,000,000
Int'l Missions.....	\$8,200,984
Master's Men.....	\$145,300
Retirement.....	\$545,000
Randall House.....	\$4,469,000
Theological Comm.....	\$7,200
Historical Comm.....	\$3,600
Media Comm.....	\$3,600
Music Comm.....	\$6,375
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$25,819,296</b>

## SPEAKERS:

Sunday Morning, July 15  
Sunday School  
Mark Paschall, MI

Sunday Morning, July 15  
Roy Harris, TN

Sunday Evening, July 15  
Joe Grizzle, OK

Monday Evening, July 16  
Eddie Moody, NC

Tuesday Morning, July 17  
Paul Smith, FL  
David Crowe, TN

Tuesday Evening, July 17  
Wendell Walley, CA

Wednesday Evening, July 18  
Nelson Henderson, AR

## ELECTED IN 2007

Home Missions Board  
2013 Matt Upton (CA)  
Jerry Atwell (MS)  
Bobby Shepherd (AR)

Board of Retirement and Insurance  
2013 Rick Cason (NC)  
Craig Cook (TN)  
Jack Ward (NC)

Master's Men Board  
2013 Ken Oleson (OK)  
Jason Vinson (AL)  
Rudy Taylor (MI)

Board of Trustees, FWB Foundation  
2009 Len Blanchard (GA)  
2011 Mark Price (OH)  
2013 Brian Hurst (TN)  
Donnie Miles (SC)  
Wendell Walley (CA)

Commission for Theological Integrity  
2012 Leroy Forlines (TN)

Historical Commission  
2012 Jack Williams (TN)

Media Commission  
2008 Mark Ousley (TN)  
2009 Keith Fletcher (TN)  
2012 Kevin Norris (MI)

Music Commission  
2012 Doug Little (TN)

General Board  
2008 Eastern Iowa, Jim Martin  
Kentucky, Chris Sturgill  
2009 Oklahoma, Mike Wade  
2010 Alabama, Rick Cash  
Arizona, Charles Marshall  
Arkansas, Tim Campbell  
Association of Mexico, Luis  
Felipe Tijerina  
Atl-Canada, Fred Hanson  
California, Millard Sasser  
Colorado, Mark Thomas  
Florida, Paul Smith  
Georgia, Len Blanchard  
Idaho, Gene Kissinger  
Illinois, David Shores

Executive Committee  
2009 Mike Wade (OK)  
2010 Tim Campbell (AR)  
Fred Hanson (CAN)  
Rick Cash (AL)



James Forlines, director of International Missions, honors retiring missionaries Bobby and Sue Aycock.

Evans as delegates delivered a standing ovation to the popular director.

**COMMISSIONS** The Commission for Theological Integrity presented a proposed *Treatise* appendix on marriage.

The proposal will lay on the table for one year and be presented to delegates in 2008 for consideration. To read the proposed statement, visit [www.onemag.org](http://www.onemag.org).

The Historical Commission distributed copies of their second in a series of historical pamphlets, "Free Will Baptists and the Perseverance of the Saints," written by Robert Picirilli.

The Music Commission announced plans to create a music ministry website and discussed the reprint of *The Free Will Baptist Hymnbook: Rejoice*.

The Media Commission plans to meet with Executive Secretary Keith Burden to reorganize.

## Extra

In other business, delegates...

- +Voted to meet in Louisville, KY, in 2017.
- +Recommended the Executive Committee evaluate the nominating process and bring recommendations to the 2008 convention.
- +Adopted a *Treatise* change defining "standing delegates" to the national convention.
- +Welcomed the Eastern Iowa Association of Free Will Baptists into membership.
- +Approved the Ridge Church Com-

mittee Report authorizing funding for repairs on the First FWB Church in New Durham, NH.

+Thanked the Arkansas State Association for hosting the 71st annual session.

+Instructed the moderator to appoint a nine-person committee to study a proposal by the International Missions Department to restructure missions funding.

+Requested that Free Will Baptist Bible College make financial reports available to delegates at registration.

## Events

Attendees at the sold-out International Missions *Celebrate!* event, were treated to a multi-sensory experience. An Asian foyer provided entry to banquet tables hosted by missionaries, board members, and others.

Dr. Henry Blackaby greeted the group via video, congratulating their interest in missions, celebrating FWB breakthroughs, and challenging them to greater involvement. Oklahoma pastor Joe Grizzle acted as MC, introducing a video segment about E-TEAM. Almost 900 students have participated in the program since its inception in 1992.

Additional video demonstrated the impact of the ministry of The Hanna Project. Regional directors shared breakthroughs on their fields and requested prayer for specific goals via audio recording.

A dramatic video celebrated the breakthrough growth of churches overseas from one church in 1935 to 934 churches at the end of 2006. As the event concluded, table hosts shared breakthroughs needed on various fields. Veteran missionary to India Carlisle Hanna asked God to break through the barriers that restrict the spread of the gospel around the world.

## Exhibition

No national convention is complete without a visit to the exhibition hall. This year's exhibits provided aisle after aisle of products and services for churches and individuals. Each of the denomination's agencies was represented among the exhibitors.

The hall is more than a marketplace. It is a gathering place where old friends reunite and new acquaintances meet. Delegates and attendees flock to the hall before and after the evening services. Many visited the Eastern Iowa Association of Free Will Baptists' booth to welcome them to the denomination.

## Expectations

Convention goers can begin making plans to attend the 72nd Free Will Baptist National Convention in Charleston, West Virginia, July 20-23, 2008. The convention theme will be "Walking in the Light."



# First Things First

## 2007 National Youth Conference

More than 3,000 children, teens, and youth workers from around the world gathered in Little Rock, Arkansas, to put "First Things First." Participants in the fast-paced convention enjoyed age-appropriate worship, intense competition, great music, challenging service projects, and surprises along the way.

### Making History

During the Monday night service, participants recognized Malcolm Fry for his pioneer work in developing the National Youth Conference. In 1972, Fry became the director of the FWB Church Training Service. Although Bible competition was already in place, he wanted to institute a program that would include all young people, so he introduced Music and Arts Competition. The program experienced instant success with more than 200 entries during the first year of competition.

While the new event was successful, Fry worked hard to refine the program in succeeding years, eventually bringing Bible competition under the umbrella of the National Youth Conference.

The conference itself continued to evolve as the innovative director added a new feature each year. He developed services for children and teens, activities after evening services,

banquets, and daily activities.

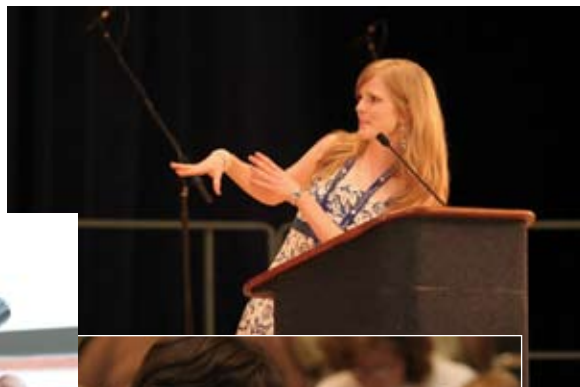
Daughter Becky (Fry) Gwartney and granddaughters Becky and Casey accepted the award on his behalf.

### Highlights

Reach That Guy enjoyed another successful year. In only three days, 620 students served the city of Little Rock. They donated more than 2,300 hours to a variety of ministries and agencies including The Arkansas Food Network, Fish Net Ministries Food Bank, the Florence Crittenton Home, and the Union Rescue Mission among others. Their efforts caught the attention of local media, prompting coverage by the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* and local television. Volunteers represented 59 different churches.

The National Youth Evangelistic Team celebrated 20 years of ministry. Under the direction of Angie Deel, alumni from previous years joined the current team for an inspirational finale.

Students donated more than \$5,000 to FWB ministries through the Buck-a-Week offering on Tuesday night.



### General Officers

Moderator Tim York (TN)  
Assistant William Smith (GA)  
Clerk Randy Bryant (FL)  
Assistant Ernie Lewis (IL)

### Thanks to members of the 2007 convention coverage team:

**Business** Jack Williams  
**Worship** Marian Pilgrim  
**Exhibits** Larry Hampton  
**Special Events** Ida Lewis,  
Deborah St. Lawrence

**NYC** Danny Conn  
**WNAC** Sarah Fletcher  
**Editor** Eric Thomsen  
**Photographer** Travis Penn  
**Videographer** Victor Albright

## NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE AT-A-GLANCE

**Theme:** First Things First  
**Registrants** ..... 3,388  
**Competition Entries** ..... 833  
**Reach That Guy**  
620 volunteers  
2,300 hours of labor  
59 churches  
19 missions

### Speakers

**Children:** Katie Greenwood, TN; Johnny and Gail Miller, AR

**Teens:** Joey Postlewaite, AR; Jason Nichols, AR; Gowdy Cannon, IL; Casey Cariker, OK; Christian Powell, NC

### Youth of the Year

Andrew McPeak, Nashville, TN

### Youth Group of the Year

New Home FWB Church, Berryhill, OK

### Youth Worker of the Year

Gowdy Cannon, Northwest FWB Church, Chicago, IL

## Changes

Conference Director Danny Conn unveiled revised Competition Guidelines that will go into effect in 2008. The revision adds several events that develop practical ministry skills for youth. Events are more inclusive, offering a wide range of categories with something for everyone.

Bible Millionaire, a new team game for 4th—6th grade students, is a fun way to reinforce weekly Bible studies. Group Bible Memorization will enable

all students to participate in Scripture recitation. Extemporaneous translation will hone skills for cross-cultural ministries. The expanded Instructional and Promotional Media category will help students develop media skills for use in the local church.

Entry Requirements and rules have been adjusted to include more young people. New members can be added to large ensembles and substitutions can be made in groups. Guidelines accommodate unique circumstances of missionary kids and home school

students. Music contestants will be allowed to use “homemade” recorded accompaniment.

For more details on Competition Guideline revisions, visit [www.randallhouse.com](http://www.randallhouse.com)

The conference closed with the announcement of next year’s theme, “It’s Not About Me,” based on John 3:30. “He must increase, but I must decrease.” The conference will be held July 20-23, in Charleston, WV.

# One of the Best!

## 2007 Convention, Women Nationally Active for Christ

“My desire is to get women into the Word,” says Rebecca, pastor’s wife and mother of six, whose talents and interests include music, teaching, organization, and encouragement.

Delegates to the 72nd annual convention of Women Nationally Active for Christ unanimously chose Rebecca Pugh of Tennessee as their next president. She replaces Debe Taylor of Arkansas, who completed a 10-year term on the WNAC Executive Committee. “My desire is to get women into the Word,” says Rebecca, pastor’s wife and mother of six, whose talents and interests include music, teaching, organization, and encouragement.

### 2007-2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

President	Rebecca Pugh (TN)
Vice-President	Shirley Jackson (MO)
Secretary	Phyllis York (TN)
Members-at-Large	Jan Clay (IN)
	Diana Bryant (FL)
	Linda Harvey (AZ)

The new slate of officers faces a monumental task. Current Executive Secretary-Treasurer Marjorie Workman announced her retirement, effective July 2008. Throughout the coming months, the Executive Committee will accept resumes and recommendations for the position. The committee will select an individual for recommendation to the body at the 2008 convention in Charleston, West Virginia.

Delegates also voted to award \$500 scholarships to four students enrolling in the new seminary in Panama and another \$500 student scholarship to the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute in South Carolina.

Business matters comprised only a small part of the two-day meeting. Attendees honored pastors’ wives with gifts, uplifting music from the group 4-GIVEN, and encouraging words from speaker Janice McAlister during a two-hour Monday afternoon seminar.

Tuesday’s sessions highlighted WNAC’s worldwide kingdom efforts. An early morning concert by Zavet, a men’s trio from Almaty, Kazakhstan, offered listeners a glimpse of the heart and devotion of Christians in Central Asia. Luba



Ivorian pastor, Paul Amieze thanks WNAC

Kazakh music group Zavet (Promise) in concert.



Kudratova praised God for WNAC's participation in Christmas Joy, an evangelistic outreach to Central Asian children and their families. During the past year, women raised over \$41,000, providing Bibles, toys, and candies for homeless, handicapped, and underprivileged children in the region. A team of WAC leaders traveled to Kazakhstan in January to assist in gift distribution and evangelism. Team member, Bobby Bowen (WV), captured the attention and hearts of women with pictures of actual Christmas Joy recipients. She challenged women to continue sharing the true joy of Christmas with others.

Pastor Paul Amieze extended greetings from Women Active for Christ in Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa, and personally thanked women for their prayers and efforts in his country. WNAC funded seminary costs for this leader who now heads the Ivorian Bible Institute.

Members of the WNAC staff announced the winners of its annual Creative Arts Contest. Attendees previewed upcoming *Together With God* magazine Bible studies and donned purple glow bracelets, officially launching Travel Light, WNAC's new program year.

The convention turned its evangelistic focus to the U.S. during the worship hour as the Huntsville FWB Youth Choir (AR) sang a patriotic tribute. Tom and Pam Jones, missionaries to Greensburg, Pennsylvania, shared personal testimonies and a challenge from Matthew 26 to go farther through "nevertheless moments" of surrender to the will of God.

Fellowship Luncheon ticket holders crowded elevators and lined stairwells for the sold-out event. Speaker Luba Kudratova detailed her personal path to salvation and expressed her dream to see Kazakhstan's 59 million inhabitants come to Christ. Arkansas Women Active for Christ prepared large giveaway basket centerpieces filled with assorted Arkansas products.

WAC state presidents and field workers enjoyed a bonus concert by ZAVET during a late Tuesday reception. The informal setting gave leaders an opportunity to fellowship and exchange ideas. The constant theme of conversation was the convention itself.

One of the best.  
Absolutely wonderful.  
Such a blessing!

**WNAC CONVENTION AT-A-GLANCE**

**Theme** Travel Light, Hebrews 12:1

**Registration**..... 1,016

**Speakers:**

- Monday** Janice McAlister
- Tuesday** Luba Kudratova, Almaty, Kazakhstan

**Musicians** 4-Given, Hot Springs, AR  
ZAVET (promise), Almaty, Kazakhstan



WNAC editor Sarah Fletcher (TN) and Mary Neal (IN) at the podium.

# IN DEFENSE OF DOCTRINE

BY MATT PINSON

## DOUBTS ABOUT DOCTRINE

Adherents of the Emerging Church argue that doctrine is not as important as evangelicals have made it. How you live is what's important, they say—not the details of what you believe. This is especially true when it comes to denominational doctrines that are not essential to salvation.

For example, Emerging Church writer Dan Kimball is critical of believers “who most hold to tightly detailed and long doctrinal statements with no room for mystery on the ‘minors,’” which in his view are things like Calvinism, Arminianism, and women in pastoral ministry—things, he says, “that are just not black and white laid out in the Bible.” These things “are not super clear, and it leaves room for a variety of interpretations.” He says of conservative evangelicals: “If you don't agree with their interpretation on the more minor issues, then they will beat you up as their doctrinal statement is better, bigger, and badder than yours and you better watch out” (From “My Doctrinal Statement Can Beat Up Your Doctrinal Statement,” [http://www.dankimball.com/vintage\\_faith/2006/05/index.html](http://www.dankimball.com/vintage_faith/2006/05/index.html)).

Brian McLaren, who diverges more from evangelical orthodoxy than does Kimball, traces the roots of his aversion to strong doctrinal conviction to the postmodern flight from objective truth. “We need ‘new theological wineskins’ for a postmodern world,” he says. “We have to tolerate diversity in nonessentials so as to enjoy unity in the essentials.” He explains why. “Postmodernism is the intellectual boundary between the old world and the other side. Why is it so important? Because when your view of truth is changed, when your confidence in the human ability to know truth in any objective way is revolutionized, then everything changes. That includes theology. . .” (*The Church on the Other Side*, pp. 68–70).

So what are confessional Protestants (Reformation Christians who subscribe to scriptural confessions or articles of faith) like Free Will Baptists to do with regard to doctrine? What should our posture be toward faithful preaching, teaching, and defense of doctrine? How does this apply to issues that are non-essential to salvation?

## IMITATING APOSTOLIC DOCTRINE, PRACTICE, AND TRADITION

First, we must understand that we have not simply chosen what to believe because we like it and want to impose it on people. We believe with all our hearts and minds that a certain set of beliefs is what the apostles believed, taught, and practiced. The Word of God constrains us to imitate the traditions that the apostles handed down to us, standing firm in them, holding fast to every apostolic tradition and doctrine (1 Cor. 11:1; 2 Thess. 2:15; Phil. 1:27). We simply confess as truth what we believe is apostolic doctrine, practice, and tradition. And the New Testament commands us to continue in that doctrine, practice, and tradition.

This “holding fast” (Titus 1:9) to apostolic doctrine keeps believers from being carried about by every wind of doctrine (Eph. 4:14; Heb. 13:9). It helps them to cling to the traditions of Christ and the apostles rather than human traditions and the principles of this present evil age (Col. 2:8). Paul tells Timothy to hold fast to the standard of sound teaching he had learned from Paul (2 Tim. 1:13). Paul ties doctrinal purity and stability to Christian maturity in his comment to the church at Ephesus that our not being carried about by every wind of doctrine shows that we are no longer children (Eph. 4:14). Furthermore, he says we cannot be worried about pleasing people in our doctrinal teaching but must be concerned only with what God thinks. He is the One who entrusted us with the gospel and who examines our hearts (1 Thess. 2:4).

## CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH

Second, the New Testament witness urges us to “contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3; cf. Phil. 1:27: “striving together for the faith of the gospel”). Contend is a negative term. One contends against something. We are in a war. But it is not in a war with people—for we wrestle not against flesh and



blood—but against error, against beliefs and practices that depart from the apostolic doctrine of the New Testament.

This language of “defending and contending” for what the apostles passed down to us is used throughout the New Testament. Paul tells the Ephesian elders that it is their responsibility, as shepherds of the flock of God, to be on guard and protect the flock against “wolves” who will rise up and teach false doctrine and try to entice people to become their disciples (Acts 20:28). Paul tells the church at Rome to “mark” contentious people who are contrary to apostolic doctrine (Rom. 16:17).


We are to “try the spirits”—prove or test everything (examine everything carefully, NASB)—to see if it measures up to the apostolic witness that has been handed down to us (1 John 4:1; 1 Thess. 5:21). Paul urged Timothy to charge certain people to teach nothing other than apostolic doctrine (1 Tim. 1:3), to keep reminding his brothers of Christian truth, to be continually nourished in sound doctrine (1 Tim. 4:6), and to “take

heed” (pay close attention, NASB) to his doctrine (1 Tim. 4:16). In two places, Paul exhorted Timothy to “guard” the teaching he had handed down to Timothy (1 Tim. 6:20; 2 Tim. 1:14), avoiding opposing arguments of what is falsely called knowledge (1 Tim. 6:20).

Furthermore, Paul instructed Timothy to correct those who oppose apostolic teaching (2 Tim. 2:25). Indeed, Paul said, this is part of the purpose for inspired Scripture: for reproving (rebuking) and correcting us (2 Tim. 3:16). Thus, Paul tells Timothy to “reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 2:2), and he instructed Titus to use sound doctrine to exhort and refute those who contradict it (Titus 1:9). Some false teachers, Paul told Titus, are so dangerous that their “mouths must be stopped” and they must be rebuked sharply (Titus 1:11, 13).

### SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

Third, while we must speak the truth, we must do so in love. There seems to be a tendency today to create a dichotomy between truth and doctrinal purity on one hand and love and unity on the other hand. Yet the apostles constantly put



DEALING WITH  
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STANDING FOR  
DOCTRINAL  
TRUTH IS  
INEFFECTIVE IF  
IT IS NOT  
COUPLED WITH  
A LOVING  
PATIENT  
ATTITUDE.

# A Christian Community of Faith and Learning

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Church Music and Youth Ministry	Psychology
Early Childhood	Sports Management
Early Childhood (teacher licensure)	Youth Ministry
English	ROTC
English (teacher licensure, 7-12)	Associate of Arts Degree
Exercise Science	Associate of Christian Ministries Degree
General Christian Ministries	Associate of Science in Biology
History	Associate of Science in Business Degree
History (teacher licensure, 7-12)	Associate of Science in Early Childhood
	Evangelical Training Association (ETA) Diploma

the speaking and defending of truth together with love and unity. We must reaffirm that telling someone the truth is an act of love, because truth will set them free.

In the context of his warning to the church at Ephesus not to be carried about by every wind of doctrine, Paul said that believers should hold to the truth and speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:14, 15). In 2 Tim. 1:13, when Paul told Timothy to hold fast to the standard of sound teaching, he stressed that Timothy was to do this “in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.” Paul told Titus that using sound doctrine to refute those who contradict was a means of helping them (Titus 1:9). This pattern of mentioning love and similar emotions in the context of hard truth-telling and doctrinal vigilance is common in Paul’s writings. Paul believed that uncompromising doctrinal orthodoxy and lived-out love go hand-in-hand.

In the context of his exhortation to Timothy to correct those who oppose apostolic doctrine, Paul told Timothy that the servants of the Lord should not be “quarrelsome” (NASB), but rather kind and gentle and patient to everyone, correcting people who are in error only in a spirit of genuine meekness (2 Tim. 2:24, 25). Only when we combine these characteristics of love can we lead others to the knowledge of truth.

An integral part of this loving approach is patience. As Paul said to Timothy, “Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Tim. 2:2). Dealing with error and standing for doctrinal truth is ineffective if it is not coupled with a loving, patient attitude.

### DOCTRINES NOT ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION

The New Testament witness is replete with the apostolic admonition to stand for truth, and to hold fast to the doctrine, practice, and traditions that the apostles handed down. However, what do we do when it comes to issues of doctrinal truth that are not essential to salvation? Obviously, many doctrines that separate evangelical believers denominationally are not essential to salvation. Yet the fact that they are non-essential to salvation makes them no less true and no less apostolic. The apostles shared as truth many doctrines, practices, and traditions that are not essential to salvation. Is the New Testament indecipherable on all doctrines that are non-essential to salvation and decipherable on all essential doctrines? No. If we believe a given doctrine is apostolic, we must teach that doctrine.

Furthermore, it is almost impossible for sincere believers to be in the same congregation if they differ on non-essential yet significant issues. For example, if a Baptist plants a church with a Presbyterian, and both are serious about their doctrine, what will happen? When parents submit their infant for baptism, the Baptist will oppose it, because he believes it violates apostolic doctrine and practice. When the Presbyterian wants to bring the

church under a presbytery that will have final jurisdiction over the church facilities, the Baptist will forbid it because he believes apostolic doctrine and practice forbid it.

When the Presbyterian wants a board of lay elders to have sole decision-making authority over the congregation, the Baptist will forbid it because he believes the apostles want the churches of Jesus Christ to be overseen by preaching pastors/elders (not lay elders), with final decision-making authority in the hands of the congregation. If the Baptist were a Free Will Baptist, and preached a straightforward sermon on Hebrews 6:4-6, earnestly warning the congregation of the possibility of falling from grace, the Presbyterian would attempt to refute it, because he believes it is unbiblical and dangerous.

The apostles did teach authoritatively on matters that are non-essential to salvation. Unlike many evangelicals, Free Will Baptists have agreed to tolerate some diversity on some of these matters (the millennium, for example). Yet differences in many doctrines of salvation and the church will make vibrant and effective congregational life almost impossible.

Of course, most would acknowledge the need to cooperate with orthodox Christians of other denominations on matters about which we agree. But we need to teach what we sincerely believe is the whole counsel of God, even on matters that are non-essential to salvation. God has given His church means of grace and edification. The New Testament commands us to continue in the doctrines, practices, and traditions of the apostles. This principle is not optional! Yet we must do so in a way that demonstrates love to the household of faith and the watching world. It is possible to maintain strong, doctrinal convictions and at the same time be characterized by charity and humility. This is the scriptural balance we must seek.

My grandmother, who grew up Methodist, joined the Free Will Baptist Church because she thought “it was closest to the apostles.” That’s the reason I am a Free Will Baptist. I want to be a part of a living, confessional community that seeks to build itself on the foundation of the prophets and apostles, with Christ being the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20). Let us reaffirm our commitment to doctrinal purity and doctrinal vigilance, to the whole counsel of God, and to speaking the truth in love. □

*Dr. J. Matthew Pinson is president of Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, TN. Read more of his commentary on the Emerging Church on page 59.*



## conversation with the Emerging Church

BY KEVIN RIGGS

# Two Views of the Emerging Church (Part 2)

RECENTLY, WHILE TALKING TO A GROUP OF CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY students, the subject of absolute truth arose. I passionately explained how essential truth is to Christian faith and morality. They all nodded in agreement. I was pleased, confident that they were eagerly accepting my statements... until I asked a simple question: How would you define absolute truth?

After an awkward silence, they started talking. In summary, their view of absolute truth was “something a person believes deeply.” They defined absolute truth as anything “I believe to be absolutely true,” but also “anything an other individual believes to be absolutely true.” To be sure I understood, I asked, “You mean what I believe to be absolute may differ from what another person believes to be absolute, yet both would be absolute?” Their answer was a shocking “Yes.”

How do we proclaim and live the good news of Jesus in a culture that believes absolutes are relative? That is the question wrestled with by the emerging church. The phrase “emerging church” refers to an ongoing dialogue about how (or whether) the Christian Faith needs to be revised for a postmodern generation. At the core of this “conversation” is the conviction that as the culture changes, the church must adapt to the changes. This brief article will summarize the pros and cons of the views of the emergent movement from the perspective of a pastor. First, the cons:

### Three Cons

Deconstructing and reconstructing Christianity can lead to an eventual rejection of Christianity. This often depends on the motive of the individual. Questioning faith while honestly searching for truth is healthy, but questioning faith without the guidance of the Holy Spirit is dangerous (to say the least).

Second, without a definite creed Christianity is subjective. Subjective faith becomes relative faith, which in turn becomes empty faith. Rather than deconstructing, reconstructing, and reinventing our faith, I believe we should renovate our methods. We have not been called to destroy, rebuild, or replace what others have done before us, but to build on the foundation that has already been laid.

Third, open minds can lead to old heresy—namely, Gnosticism. Gnosticism teaches that a person can only learn truth through special insight or intuition. The practical outgrowth of Gnosticism is vulnerability to teachings that stray from orthodoxy.

Questioning everything without being “rooted and grounded” will lead a person astray. Paul warned of this. “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.”

### Three Pros

The emerging church is open to questions. In the past, most believers were taught simply to accept things by faith. Along the journey of faith, however, those same believers encounter mountains and valleys, struggles and doubts. And God can handle those doubts! Questions, when asked properly, do not damage our faith but strengthen it.

The emerging church also understands that following Jesus is a journey, not just a destination. It’s a journey

{For a fully annotated version of these articles in downloadable format, please visit [www.onemag.org/two\\_views.htm](http://www.onemag.org/two_views.htm).}



# Hopes and dangers of the Emerging Journey

BY HEVIN L. HESTER

WHEN I SAW THE NEW BILLBOARD ADVERTISING A LOCAL COMMUNITY church I was not sure what to make of it. "Is it possible to make a 'non-religious journey to God?'" I mused. "Isn't a journey to God religious by definition?" Then it dawned on me. The advertisement was not a rejection of religion (after all, it was an advertisement for a church), but was instead a rejection of the traditions the emerging congregation saw as antiquated or hypocritical in today's evangelical community.

Emerging churches have embraced the worldview of postmodernism in order to communicate the gospel to a generation that has largely given up on finding God the "old-fashioned way." Emerging congregations are convinced that the only way to reach these individuals is to contextualize the gospel in new language and to live a Christ-like life before them. While I have great respect for their zeal, I cannot help but wonder if their approach will ultimately prove disastrous. Their criticism of Modernism, although appropriate, has led them to embrace postmodernity too quickly and too naively.

Neither has their dim view of Modernism moved them toward a purer, more biblical, version of Christianity. Instead, they have swapped one secular worldview for another. By watering down the truth, the very strength of the emerging church has proven to be its greatest weakness.

## Subjectivity and Objective Truth

The greatest gift of postmodernism is the way it reveals in stark detail the perspective we bring to our claims to truth. No one is capable of blind objectivity without presuppositions. For this reason, the emerging church is openly critical of modern evangelicalism, and rightly so. For centuries, traditional theology and exegesis have been too Western, too male, and so on, clinging to a rigid view of the world as viewed through our own experience. Unless we are willing to learn a new perspective, we may learn only a small portion of the revelation God meant for us to enjoy.

This does not mean, however, that truth cannot be found and identified. In an attempt to remove 20th century waspishness from the gospel, the emergent church discarded truth and exchanged one pair of glasses for another pair with different-colored lens. Their view of the world is still tainted by their own perspective.

Yes, Christians should listen attentively to the criticism of the emerging church and work harder to understand God's truth. But the very concept of God's revelation of Himself to mankind re-

## RESPONDING TO THE EMERGING CHURCH

by J. Matthew Pinson, Part Two

WHAT THE EMERGING CHURCH OVER-emphasizes. The EC overemphasizes the visual at the expense of the Word. Our Free Will Baptist forebears (like others in the Free Church and Reformed movements) avoided medieval image-drivenness in an era when only a fraction of the population could read. Rather than leave behind a 500-year tradition of Word-based worship without images, we need to recapture our tradition, based on that of the New Testament and earliest Christian churches, which worshiped God without visual images. We need to reaffirm that "faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17).

What the Emerging Church Overestimates. Lastly, the EC overestimates the difference between postmodern culture and the unbelieving cultures of the past. They need to read early Christians like Clement of Alexandria. In the early 200s, when Clement was writing, Christians lived in the midst of a multi-cultural, multi-religious, pluralistic, relativistic, highly sexualized, body-pierced, tattooed, raucous-musical, image-driven, entertainment-saturated culture. But they radically set their lives, fellowship, and worship apart from the world. Yet, this was the time when Christianity grew more than any other time in history.

Free Will Baptists and the Emerging Church. So I would say to FWBs who might be considering the EC, go back to NT, Apostolic, Reformational Christianity. Go back to the means Christ has given for the calling out, growth, and expansion of His church. These means have produced results in past cultures much like our own. And, the Spirit promises, they will continue to produce results—kingdom results that will not pass away with this present age, but will endure forever. □

*Dr. J. Matthew Pinson is president of Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, TN.*

## conversation with the Emerging Church [cont.]

Adam, Enoch, Noah, Moses, Peter, and Paul walked, as did Augustine and Aquinas, Benjamin Randall, and Mom and Pop Willey, you and I. The story of God and His covenant people continues to unfold. In this sense, Christianity is fluid, an ever-changing, fresh, and living stream—not fixed, stagnant like a pond with no outlet.

Perhaps the most appealing characteristic of the emerging church is the emphasis on the present reality of the kingdom of God. Jesus taught that the kingdom of God was both now and not yet. Too often, the church bemoans how terrible things are here. In contrast, the emerging church challenges followers of Christ to bring the kingdom of God into the present world while waiting for the “blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” The good news of Jesus is redemption for the whole world, here and now.

### Conclusion

One thing is certain, today's church is ministering to a postmodern world, and dangers confront the church from two sides.

On one side is the jagged bluff of blind acceptance. Just because something is new doesn't make it automatically better than the old. Discernment keeps those bluffs from becoming rock slide.

On the other side lies a deep canyon of blind rejection. Holding to old, man-made traditions is no better than jumping on the band wagon of new teachings. Old doesn't necessarily mean better than new. Discernment keeps the canyon of tradition from swallowing us in anonymity.

Walking the narrow path between the bluff and the canyon requires the twenty-first Christian to keep his eyes on the left and the right. Negotiating these perilous times requires open minds and eyes wide open for the paths God has for us. □

## Hopes and dangers of the Emerging Journey [cont.]

quires objective truth! The core of Christianity lies upon the truth that God's Son became human and died for the sins of humanity. If this truth is not objective, the gospel is forfeit.

### Cultural Awareness and the Content of Forms

In its interest to promote Christ in today's culture, the emerging church emphasizes the need to contextualize the gospel for today. Recognizing that the world has become a great melting pot of ideas, the leaders of the movement reached back in time and across cultures to “baptize” certain practices and adopt them into their own worship. In an attempt to emphasize the transcendence of God, the emerging church borrows architecture, liturgy, incense, and even *lectio divina* from Roman Catholicism. Others emphasize “new avenues” of spiritual awareness by teaching “Christian” yoga or devising prayer labyrinths for their congregations to use.

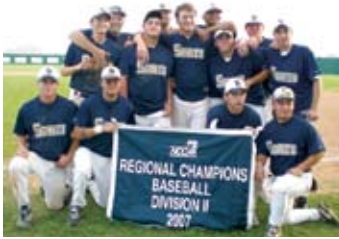
While I applaud anyone who communicates the gospel in creative ways, trying to disguise the gospel in cultural creativity is wrong from the outset. Jesus taught that the gospel is in and of itself counter-cultural.

In addition, proponents of the emerging church fail to recognize the danger of adopting practices that have dangerous, even sinister associations. While Scripture clearly teaches the importance of exercise, I do not think yoga can be separated from its Eastern origins that taught individuals to become one with cosmic energy.

### Narrative and Propositional Truth

Teaching the Gospel as narrative is yet another attempt by the emerging church to connect with postmodern culture. Story lines seem real, authentic, and often invested with personal meaning in a way precluded by traditional exegesis. Yes, the Bible is an intimate love story of God's relationship with humanity. But any claim that Scripture makes no systematic doctrinal statements fails to ring true. Weak doctrine leads to shallow theology, disjointed and amorphous. An overemphasis of the “images” of Scripture produces a significant softening on the part of the emerging church when it comes to moral issues like homosexuality or theological teachings like the satisfaction view of atonement.

Ultimately, while the tolerant and accommodating nature of the emerging church accounts for quick—even phenomenal—growth, it may also prove to be an Achilles' heel. At present, most leaders of the movement find their roots in evangelical churches and maintain a largely orthodox theology. Without a foundation of solid doctrine, however, nothing anchors their “communities” to the gospel they celebrate. In time, their “non-religious journey to God” may lead anywhere but.... □



## SAINTS WIN MULTIPLE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

**MOORE, OK**—The Lady Saints of Hillsdale FWB College won the Association of Christian College Athletics National Championship (ACCA) on March 3, 2007. This is the second National Championship in a row for the Lady Saints. The administration and alumni of Hillsdale College congratulate Coach Autumn Drake and her team for a consistent performance.

More recently, the baseball team beat Mid-America Christian University to win the NCCAA Regional Championship and a spot in the National Tournament in Lakeland, FL. The team went on to place second in the national tournament. In addition to the fine on-field performances, Coach Eddie Davis was named National Baseball Coach of the Year by his fellow coaches.

## FOUNDATION NAMES ACCOUNTING ADMINISTRATOR

**ANTIOCH, TN**—David Brown, incoming director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, welcomed Richard Davis to the Foundation staff on May 1, 2007. “Richard is uniquely qualified for the position of Accounting Administrator of the Foundation,” said Brown. “In addition to his accounting skills, he will assist our ministry through writing and public relations.”

The eastern North Carolina native is a 1980 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College. He received his accounting degree from Columbus State College and was licensed as a Certified Public Accountant in 2001.

Richard served as worship leader during a 17-year period at Heritage Temple FWB Church in Columbus, OH, as well as churches in eastern North Carolina.

According to Davis, “I count it a privilege to serve our denomination in this capacity. I am excited about the opportunity to combine my accounting background and ministry skills into this one position.”

Richard and Pamela, his wife of almost 25 years, have three children: 12-year-old daughter Samantha, 15-year-old son Alexander, and 20-year-old son, Brandon, a student at FWBBC. The family attends Donelson FWB Church in Nashville, TN.

## HILLSDALE ANNOUNCES GRADUATE PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**MOORE, OK**—Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College recently announced its fall schedule for post-graduate courses. The Master’s of Arts in Ministry is a 42-hour program that can be acquired through a variety of options. Tuesday evening classes are held on the campus in Moore, OK. Week-long intensive studies are held at Hillsdale and First FWB Church in Albany, GA. Distance Learning classes are also available.

For more information, contact Hillsdale at (405) 912-9020 or Program Director Mark Braisher at [mbraisher@hc.edu](mailto:mbraisher@hc.edu).

## NEW HEALTH BENEFIT AVAILABLE

**ANTIOCH, TN**—The FWB Board of Retirement and Insurance recently announced a strategic partnership with BB&T Insurance Services, Homeland HealthCare, and AIG. These companies will work together to offer pastors, church staff members, and their families an affordable and functional health benefit plan.

Homeland SecureCare is a benefit program that provides a wide array of first-dollar accident and sickness coverage, including specified benefits for emergency room and other hospital-related care, health screenings, in-hospital stays, doctors’ office visits, well child care and critical illness. SecureCare offers a cost-effective way to provide access to doctors, clinic and healthcare facilities nationwide as well as providing real benefit dollars to cover health care costs for you and your family.

Enroll in one of four benefit programs: SecureCare 250, SecureCare 500, SecureCare 750, and SecureCare 1000. With all of the programs, there are no underwriting questions. All pre-existing conditions are covered with no deductibles or co-pays.

Enrollment is simple. Call (888) 348-7669 for more information.

If you wish to enroll, please have personal information for your spouse and dependents ready for the enrollment counselor when you call.

Once your enrollment information has been taken, a fulfillment package that includes plan information, certificate of coverage, and wallet friendly I.D. Cards will be mailed to your home address.

## RANDALL HOUSE ANNOUNCES NEW RESOURCE PROGRAM

**NASHVILLE, TN**—On June 4, 2007, Randall House launched The Church Bookstand, a unique program that gives pastors and church leaders a way to provide their congregation with trustworthy, top-quality Christian resources at reasonable prices. In effect, the Bookstand is a miniature Christian bookstore for your church. It can be set up in the church lobby, fellowship hall, or wherever is most convenient for your church. Order books and restock at discounted prices through Randall House.

According to Ron Hunter, executive director, “Pastors look for ways to impact their congregation during the other six days of the week. The Church Bookstand provides a simple way to get more Christian resources into the hands of people in the pews. Pastors’ recommendations carry weight, and people respond by reading books that further solidify the pastor’s message.”

For more information about The Church Bookstand, visit [www.churchbookstand.com](http://www.churchbookstand.com) or call (800) 877-7030.



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

## ANGELS IN THE OUTFIELD

**THE MOMENT WAS SUR-**real. I peered intently through the chain-link backstop as my four-year-old grandson took the field for a tee-ball game. He looked great in red

cap, uniform, cleats, and black cowhide glove. It would prove to be a teachable moment—not for him, for me.

Coaching four and five-year-olds is challenging and requires extraordinary patience. Most have a hard time hitting the ball—even when it’s on a tee. For many of them, catching and throwing is even more difficult.

These pint-sized players understand only the basics of the game. If not for the seven-run-per-inning rule, I might still be watching the game. As it was, it took over an hour to play three innings.

I saw many predictable, yet humorous incidents. For instance, several times during the game I had to get my grandson’s attention. He was preoccupied with something just beyond second base. I couldn’t figure out why he kept digging into the clay while the other team was at bat.

When he finally pulled a black object from the ground I understood. The bases had been moved closer for the tee-ball game. The object he unearthed was the rubber plug filling the hole where the base had been. He simply couldn’t leave it alone.

A fellow outfielder discarded his glove, lay down, and wallowed in the grass. Another young batter took a big

swing at the ball, missed, and did a 360-degree pirouette, falling flat in the batter’s box.

When another batter hit the ball and went scampering down to first base, the ball was overthrown. The alert coach told the lad to “keep on running.” So he did—right down the first-base line into the outfield!

Although I enjoyed a chuckle or two during the ballgame, God used it to remind me of some things as a parent and grandparent:

- **Time flies.** It seems only yesterday I watched my little girls play ball. Now, I’m watching their children. We need to make every day count with our families.
- **Don’t take life too seriously.** We can become so focused on “the game” that we miss out on the fun... like digging or rolling in the dirt. My grandson had forgotten about the game long before we got home. Maybe we need shorter memories too.
- **Be encouraging.** The tee-ball coach impressed me. Every player got a pat on the back and words of praise whether they struck out or hit a home run. Your children and grandchildren need positive reinforcement and approval. Don’t depend on someone else to do it for you.

The images of those cherub-faced kids are etched in my memory. That experience made me a better Pa-Pa. I’m going to be more diligent to pray for my little angel in the outfield. □

# WNAC & Master's Men Marriage Enrichment CONFERENCE August 24-26 • Branson, MO

Branson's Grand Plaza Hotel is the site for the Marriage Enrichment Conference. Whether you need a marriage refresher or just a weekend away, the conference promises helpful sessions and plenty of time to enjoy being with your spouse. Soak in the beauty of the Ozarks, browse the host of quaint shops, or take in one of Branson's famous entertainment venues.

Free Will Baptist sweethearts Richard and Sandy Atwood will lead workshops at the event. The weekend package includes two nights' lodging with hot breakfast buffets, Saturday evening banquet meal, and all conference costs. Space is limited. Register today.

# Leave the light on....

To register, contact Master's Men at [www.nafwb.org/mm](http://www.nafwb.org/mm) or call toll free: (877) 767-8039.



Master's Men  
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Men's Ministry



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