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ONE

MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2009

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IS HER MIDDLE NAME

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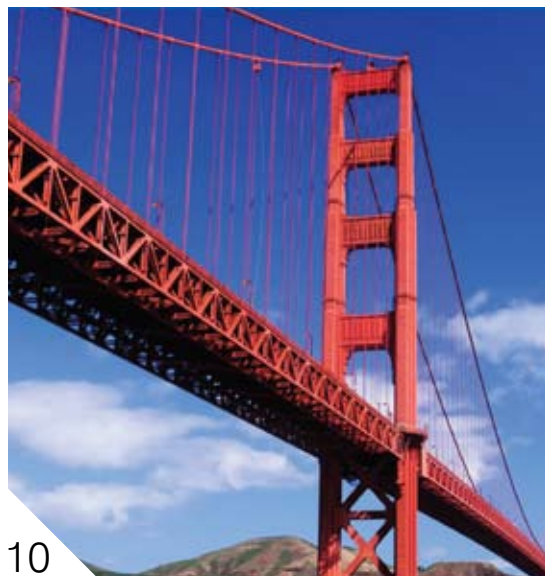
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FIRST GLIMPSE

In Focus



Photo: Mark Cowart

ERIC THOMSEN
MANAGING EDITOR

IT IS A TYPICAL FAMILY PHOTO SNAPPED DURING MY Aunt Edith's recent birthday party. I can't help but chuckle at the expressions frozen in time—young cousins scrambling over each other to get the best spot, older cousins holding up “bunny ears” behind the heads of their oblivious spouses, and my aunt's expression of deep pride in the jovial and energetic group gathered around her. What a great-looking family!

The picture does little, however, to capture the fascinating stories behind the smiling faces—the long years my aunt and uncle toiled in small churches from North Carolina to Florida and back again; the young couple desperately carving out a living and a relationship; the high school senior contemplating his future; the single mom struggling through college. As much as I enjoy looking at the picture, no camera can capture a family—yours, or mine—with a single image. No matter how fast the shutter speed.

In contrast, each family is made up of an endless stream of “images.” Moment by moment, decision by decision, experience by experience, families grow and change together. Over time, parents pass their beliefs and values to their children—not only by their words, but by how they live. Sadly, these “living snapshots” are not always pretty. Often, they reveal broken homes, lonely children of overworked parents, rampant immorality, materialism-gone-mad, physical abuse, and on and on. How did the picture become so distorted?

We find a clue in a recent survey* of more than 1,200 American parents. Only nine percent of the participants indicated that passing their faith to their children was a mark of good parenting.

I beg to differ—emphatically!

Passing our faith to our children is the most important mark of good parenting. Don't take my word for it. Consider the words

of the Apostle Paul, “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4). Listen to Moses' fervent instructions to Israel. “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy 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 6:6, 7).

These passages and more make it clear that God holds parents responsible for the picture they create. Is your home in focus?

*(The national survey of 1,200 adults with children under 18 at home was conducted by LifeWay Research, for the new book *The Parent Adventure: Preparing Your Children for a Lifetime With God* by Rodney and Selma Wilson and Scott McConnell, available from Randall House Publications.) **ONE**

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Coming Next Issue: Pastor Appreciation Month is just around the corner! How do you let your pastor know you are grateful for his work and ministry? Find creative ideas that your pastor will appreciate in *Thanks Again, Pastor*.

New Parenting books from Randall House



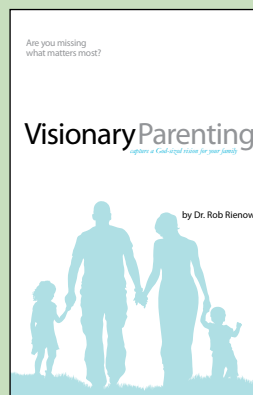
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MORE THAN A STORY

Raising
Children
the Deuteronomy 6
Way

BY RENEE SWOPE

ONE AFTERNOON WHILE RUNNING ERRANDS, MY SON JOSHUA, WHO WAS EIGHT AT THE TIME, TOLD US HE WAS WRITING A BOOK.

“It’s about a boy who goes to the beach with his family and gets stung by a stingray. He’s afraid to go in the water, but that night he reads his Bible and remembers about David. So, he asks God to give him courage to go swimming. The next day he goes in the ocean, and his parents are really surprised! I’m working on the next chapter where he’s getting bullied at school, and he’s gonna learn about forgiveness.”

My husband and I looked at each other and smiled. After years of praying for ways to show our children that the Bible applies to everything we face, Joshua’s story gave us hope that our prayers and efforts were making a difference.

We want our kids to know that the Bible is filled with God’s words to help with everyday concerns and challenges. It’s part of a promise we made when we became parents more than 14 years ago.

I laugh when I think about the day we made our promise public. Joshua was two weeks old when our pastor



asked us to be part of a baby dedication ceremony and share how we planned to raise Joshua to know Christ.

Although we were only asked to speak for a few minutes, you would have thought we were going to preach the Sunday sermon or write a thesis paper on Christian parenting. We spent hours searching our concordance and writing pages of notes outlining every Bible verse that included the word “children.” When we turned to Deuteronomy 6, we found just what we were looking for—clear instructions from the heart of God for moms and dads.

“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 thy 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 6:5-8).

These words shaped the promises we made before our family and friends that Sunday morning and paved the way for us to lead our children to Christ by making Him part of our everyday lives.

We talk about what God is teaching us personally and look for ways to live out those truths daily. We read stories about people like the Good Samaritan and brainstorm how we can show our neighbors compassion. We pray together during our carpool journey and talk about how we’ve experienced God’s presence when we sit down for dinner or lie down at the end of the day.

Just like the little boy in Joshua’s story, we go to God for courage when life stings. We let our kids see us struggle with our faith in hard times and thank God for His faithfulness in good times. As our sons live out their faith, we listen for what God is teaching them. We hope the promises we made as their parents will lead to promises of their own, as they commit themselves wholeheartedly to the commands we are teaching them each day. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Renee Swope is a national speaker, author, and co-host of the Proverbs 31 Ministries international radio program. For more encouragement, visit ReneeSwope.com. Renee will be a main event speaker at the D6 Conference in Dallas, TX, September 23-25, 2009. For more details, go to D6conference.com.

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RECENTLY AN ACQUAINTANCE AT CHURCH TOLD US, “My son is a senior in high school this year. He never listens anymore. You know how they are at that age!”

We smiled kindly, but do you know what? We really don’t “know how they are,” even after raising four teenagers. All of our children have always listened, and they still do. How did we manage that? Did we lock them away in a cave, safe from all outside influences?

Not at all! They attended public school throughout their lives. We did it by actively building and keeping a deep connection with them during their teen years through a process we detailed in the parent’s section of my book, *Preparing Your Son for Every Man’s Battle*. Here are three of the necessary steps:

1. You must believe it’s possible to keep connection.

In Deuteronomy 21:18-21, the Lord clearly implies that a good connection with our kids is not only quite possible, but it should be common and quite normal. One of God’s signature promises in Psalm 91:7 pro-

vided great hope to me as a parent and enabled me to believe for things with confidence and without fear: “A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.”

You see, it doesn’t matter what is plaguing the society around you, whether it be a disease or the plague of rebellion in teens that just won’t listen. Though ten thousand high schoolers around you may shut their ears to their parents, it needn’t touch you.

2. When it comes to connection, you need to go first.

Building and keeping connection with your teens is your job, not theirs. Your kids likely see you the same way my kids saw me, as Superman. As their parent, I was the strong, handsome guy who had been setting all the boundaries for years, and the guy who never seems to have trouble living with the rules himself. How easy would it have been for my kids to walk up to me and say, “Dad, it’s been hard lately to stand up

You Know How They Are!


BY
FRED
STOEKER

to my friends and all the peer pressure. Can you help me?” They’re thinking, “How could my strong parents possibly understand, and how could they do anything but be embarrassed by my weakness? I’m embarrassed myself!” With these thoughts on their mind, we shouldn’t expect them to step out first to build this connection with us. You’re the parent. You’re the one responsible to build a place that makes this kind of connection easier, and to open the door to them. You must go first. As their parent and their friend, you need to show them that you know where they live. To do that, you need to spend more time talking with them, and you need to be open and transparent as you share your life and your walk with God.

3 Do book with them.

In my experience, the best way to build this connection is by going through books with your junior high and high school-aged children, a process I explain in detail in *Preparing Your Son*. Reading books together provides a platform for sharing many of your own stories from your past, both the mistakes and the victo-

ries. It is in swapping stories from our youth that we can convince our children that we know where they live, and that our friendship and connection is very relevant to their lives.

I can’t wait to share more about this process at the upcoming D6 Conference in September. I hope to see you there! 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Fred Stoeker is the president and founder of Living True Ministries. In 2000, he co-authored the best selling book, *Every Man’s Battle*. He has published other best-selling titles, including *Every Man’s Marriage*, *Preparing Your Son for Every Man’s Battle*, and the entire *Every Man’s* series.

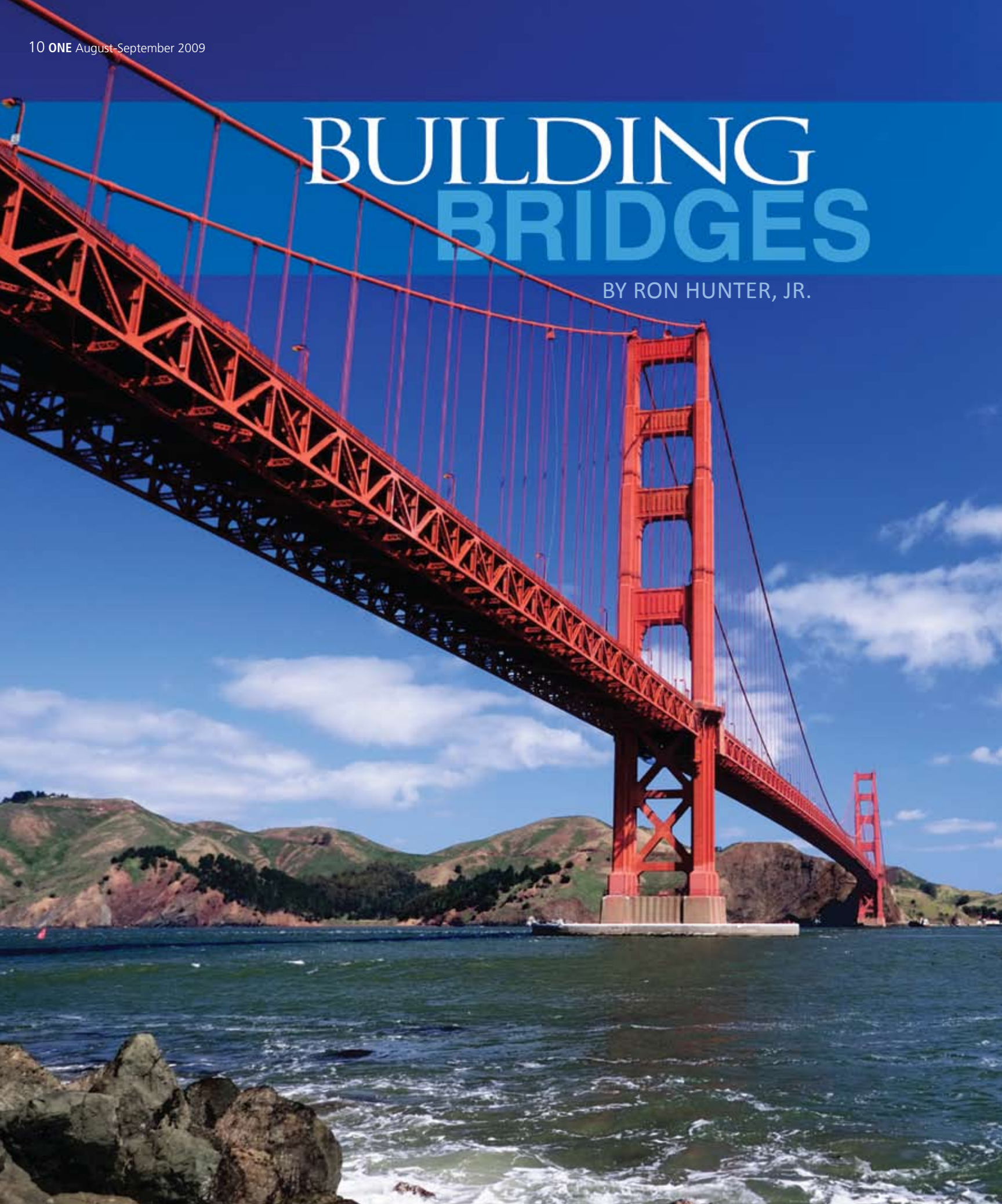
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BUILDING BRIDGES

BY RON HUNTER, JR.



WHILE MY WIFE HOLDS HER BREATH AND HIDES HER FACE, I am fascinated—not at her gasps but at the architecture of the bridges we cross. Bridges have always intrigued me. The old Florida Sunshine Skyway was first big bridge I remember crossing. At five and a half miles, it was noted as the longest cable-stay main one-span bridge in the world. Pretty hard for my wife to hold her breath over that one!

Some bridges have become quite famous, from hearing children sing about the London Bridge to watching the *Bridge over the River Kwai* blow up one more time. People make long journeys to see the massive Golden Gate Bridge and the romantic Heartland Covered Bridge.

I developed this fascination with bridges while watching a PBS documentary directed by Ken Burns about the Brooklyn Bridge. The initiative to build this amazing structure started in 1866, one year after the Civil War. Construction began in 1871 and was completed in 1883. I have both walked and driven across this majestic structure that stands as a testament to the possibility of spanning the gap through hard work.


Where would we be without bridges? We would be farther away from the shortest distances. Bridges span chasms and provide passage over seemingly insurmountable barriers. They are engineering marvels and icons of connectivity. It takes years to build them, yet they can be demolished in a moment by a stray barge or an intentional act of destruction.

Blowing up bridges happens more quickly than we can imagine. Adam and Eve destroyed their fellowship with God with a bite. Jacob blew up the bridge between him and 10 of his sons with a single coat. Countless thousands of parents and children through the ages have torn down bridges of communication with harsh words and careless conversation.

Yet from Deuteronomy six to Ephesians six, Scripture makes it clear that parents should bridge this communication “gap” intentionally so the next generation learns to be faithful, and spiritual values are transferred.

Building a bridge between teens and parents can be difficult because bridges are never built from one end to the other. They start at both sides and meet in the middle. That is where Randall House comes in. Our purpose is to help the church partner with the home, reconnecting parents and kids. Our D6 initiatives are the building blocks of the bridge between generations. Bridges rarely look alike, but all of them serve the same purpose. Each service and product Randall House provides to the church and home is unique, but all are based on the principles of D6 (Deuteronomy six).

It is hard to believe we still drive across a bridge built in the 1800s, but its sturdiness and success speaks for itself. In a day when many people look for “the next big thing,” Randall House provides a bridge constructed in the Pentateuch, with God as the architect. The columns supporting this D6 bridge are the directives to love God, obey His Word, and teach children to do the same. The parents are the suspension cables, lifting their children and guiding them across the “bridge” to a godly, faithful life. The D6 bridges built today will connect generations to come.

Today we benefit from those who once said, “We need a connection here” and worked to make it happen. Connecting churches and homes is the future of spiritual engineering! Generations to come will marvel at the D6 bridges built today—not for their iconic value but for the connections they established. Where are you building bridges? 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Ron Hunter, Jr., is the director/CEO of Randall House Publications. He is the co-author of *Toy Box Leadership*.



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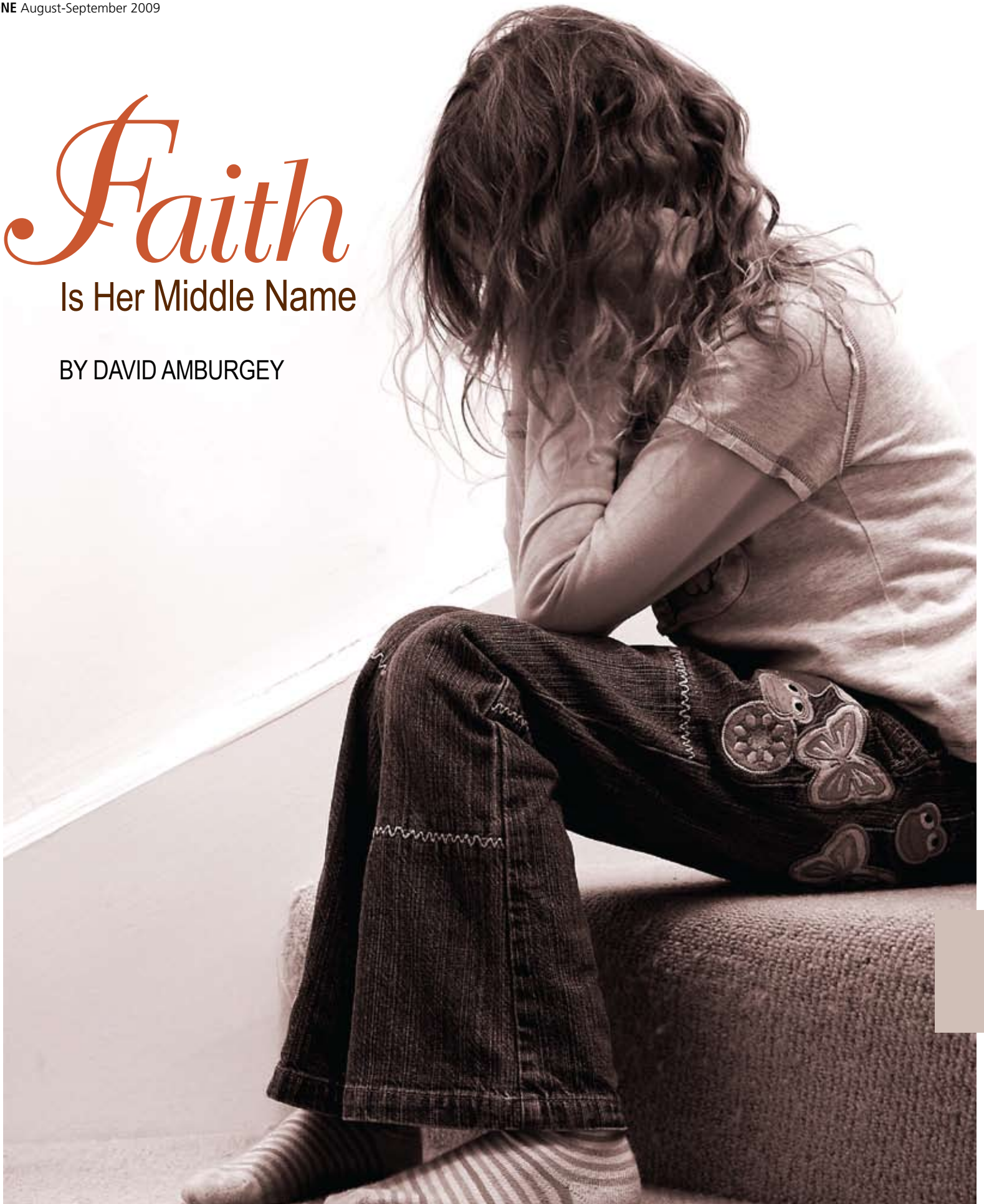
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Faith

Is Her Middle Name

BY DAVID AMBURGEY



THREE O'CLOCK APPROACHED QUICKLY, AND I BEGAN TO WONDER IF I WOULD MAKE IT HOME IN TIME.

I impatiently drummed my fingers on the steering wheel. Stupid road construction! The delays made the return trip from Savannah unbearably slow. I had pushed the length of my hospital visits too far. Frustration grew as long minutes ticked away. I felt foolish for putting myself into such a predicament.

Fear began to twist my stomach into cold knots as I realized I wouldn't make it home to meet my daughter's bus. Frantic thoughts raced through my head. Who would get her? What would they do with her? Would she go ballistic when I wasn't there to help her off of the bus, give her medicine, make her a snack, and turn on Popeye? I could picture the abandoned, lonely look on her face. I just couldn't do that to her, yet it was happening. Gripping the wheel, I stared grimly at the traffic in front of me.

Allow me to introduce my daughter, Amanda Faith Am-burgey, age 14. Amanda has been diagnosed with severe/profound autism. She is non-verbal and developmentally delayed. In other words, when it comes to autism, she is about as bad as it gets. As a result, our lives are filled with constant drama. Unlike most people, who crave excitement, we long for a dull, boring, ho-hum day.

Severe autism means that Amanda cannot speak and is unable to express herself, her needs, desires, and frustrations. Although she does know several signs, or at least her own version of American Sign Language, many times she simply moans and points. If you don't know "her version" of sign language, she cannot communicate. This frustrates her deeply, often resulting in a tantrum—not that she needs a reason.

Tantrums have become an everyday part of life. They are often triggered by the simple mention of the word *no*—a concept any child with autism, especially our child, has difficulty comprehending. Amanda wants what she wants, and she wants it instantly. Idle time is torture for children with



common areas of our home because we simply grew tired of replacing them. Barely 90 pounds, she is stronger than she looks. When she pulls, kicks, hits, and thrashes it is difficult to contain her. She hits walls, tables, or anything else within reach, including herself. If it can be thrown, she has thrown it. If it can be broken, she has broken it.

If she has nothing to do, she quickly finds something, anything to fill the void. Her favorite activity is tearing pages from a magazine. When she finishes ripping it apart, she tears the pages into smaller pieces until she has nothing left but tiny fragments. While this sounds harmless, it quickly grows wearisome when you constantly clean up mounds of shredded paper and rarely get a chance to read an undamaged magazine. But as problems go, it could be worse!

I would love to hear my little girl say, "Good morning, Daddy," "Good night," or "Daddy, I love you." It would fill my soul with joy to see her enjoy a day like most young girls her age. I would gladly be a nervous wreck waiting for her to return home from her first date. I dream about walking her down the aisle with my heart pounding rapidly as I give her away.

I would do anything in my power to give Amanda a "normal" life, but that was not God's plan for us...and I am okay with that. You see, my wife and I know that our child always has been and always will be in God's mighty and loving hands. Her journey through life will be difficult, but at the end of that journey she will be freed from her human prison. You and I face a life-long struggle against the forces of sin and darkness, clinging desperately to our hope in Christ as Savior. In contrast, Amanda has a free pass. She will never understand this sinful plight. Her battles are physical, and she will never experience the dreadful weight of sin that separates us from God.

At times, Amanda stares off into space, laughing at nothing. I can't help but wonder if God is speaking to her

HER MIDDLE NAME IS FAITH. WE NAMED HER THAT BECAUSE WE KNEW SHE WOULD NEED FAITH IN HER LIFE.

autism. Boredom is their biggest nemesis and patience is another concept they simply cannot grasp. Amanda may know the word *wait*, but the concept eludes her.

During her tantrums, Amanda often destroys things. For example, we have removed most of the blinds in the

in those moments—simple communication between a child and the only One who understands her perfectly. Don't pity Amanda. She is one of God's children.

Her middle name is Faith. We named her that because we knew she would need faith in her life. This realization came during the pre-natal struggle for life, long before her diagnosis of autism at age four. My wife's water broke 23 weeks into pregnancy. Doctors kept her in the hospital for two weeks, pumping a regimen of fluids and medication into her to keep her from going into labor. They gave Amanda a fighting chance at survival. Eventually, the umbilical cord became prolapsed, and the doctors performed an emergency C-section to save the baby. At 25 weeks, the likelihood of survival was very slim. Her lungs were underdeveloped, and doctors warned us that she would probably suffocate at birth. To their shock, she took a deep breath and kept on breathing—a miracle! She fought for life for three months in an incubator before we brought home a healthy, beautiful little girl, perfect in our eyes. We could not have predicted the challenge that lay before us.

Yet in spite of her physical challenges, Amanda has a purpose in life like every other child of God. In contrast to her frequent anguish, Amanda sometimes has moments of

absolute joy. And when a child who suffers finds joy, it is magnified. Everyone around her shares her joy. We laugh with her and smile with her. It is those moments that make the day worth living. Sometimes her laughter is a bit misplaced—like when a person trips and falls—but it is still laughter, and the angels could not sing a sweeter song.

So much more could be said of Amanda and her life, but I can't seem to find the words. God himself would have to write what I feel in my heart. I fall far short of the talents required to undertake such a task. How could anyone describe the wonderfully heartbreaking yet infinitely rewarding task of raising such a child as Amanda.

Often, I try to imagine what it will be like on the day God calls Amanda home. She will enter the presence of the Lord because her name is written down in the Lamb's Book of Life. I like to imagine that after she sees Jesus, she will come running to me with open arms to say, "Good morning, Daddy. I love you." Until then, I live in hope of that day. After all, her middle name is Faith. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: David Amburgey pastors Baxley FWB Church, Baxley, GA.



OPERATION FAMILY

BY KATHY MURPHY

THE MORNING WAS COLD and rainy. As we drove down our assigned street, I remember counting 25 houses. We were nervous and unsure of what we would say, but we suited up with jackets and umbrella, our three children in tow. We had no idea what a sweet experience awaited us.

As we knocked at each door, we were amazed at the ease of conversation the Lord provided. One man cried as he told us he knew he was backslidden. He kept thanking us for stopping by. Another couple was grateful for our

visit because they were looking for a church closer to home.

The last house on the street offered a challenge. My six-year-old daughter handed a flyer to the lady who answered the door, while my husband told her who we were and why we were visiting. With a fierce look and harsh gestures, she shoved the flyer back at my daughter. Taken aback, I thought, "How could she do that to a child?"

The incident provided an opportunity for us to talk openly with our children about how people sometimes reject Christ. What it didn't do was discourage us.

That night, as we were praying with our girls, they each wanted to pray for the lady who had been unkind. What a humbling experience, so filled with blessings. I am so thankful we did not let our nerves get the best of us. We grew as a family. Our faith was

strengthened. And we pray that God was honored.

Would you like to get your family involved in Operation Saturation?

The annual outreach event is a joint project of Master's Men and Home Missions. On September 26, 2009, volunteers will gather in Battle Creek, Michigan, to help Jeff Isaacs get the word out about his new church.

On October 3, a second Operation Saturation will be held just outside of Memphis, Tennessee. Under the direction of Tim Osborn, participants will blanket neighborhoods near the new church, distributing flyers, surveys, and other relationship-building materials.

Take the challenge. Get your family involved in this life-changing activity they will never forget. For more information, visit www.fwbmastersmen.org or call 877-767-8039.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Kathy Murphy is a member of Cane Ridge FWB Church in Cane Ridge, TN. She is also a member of the Teacher Education faculty at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

BROWN

on green

BY DAVID BROWN

A RECENT *FORTUNE* MAGAZINE article focused on Johnson and Johnson, the consumer products, pharmaceutical, and medical devices company. They've had a remarkable run since their founding in 1886. Sales have not declined in 76 years, profits have not declined in 25 years, and their dividend has risen for 46 years in a row. Last year, while the American economy was in drastic decline, Johnson and Johnson's sales increased by 4.3%. The 500 largest companies in America saw their profits drop 85% last year, but the profits of this remarkable corporation were up 22%.

The company has managed to do this without fanfare or headlines. Why am I drawing attention to Johnson and Johnson? Certainly not to recommend a stock pick (analysts believe both sales and profits will decline in 2009), but to observe a couple reasons why they have been so resilient through the years. They have developed an outstanding creed to guide their company and—more important— they actually follow their creed.

About the Writer: David Brown is director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.fwbgifts.org.

Johnson and Johnson remains focused on the long view. Many corporations that are struggling through the current economic crisis have focused only on the short term. Following no creed but greed is not good for any company in the long term. This is true for Christian individuals as well. We need to follow a financial creed—the principles regarding money laid out in God's word. What is this financial creed?

Live within your means.

Don't take on extreme debts.

Give back to God at least 10% of your income and assets; just to name a few.

The overriding principle is simple. Take the long view. Don't lose sight of retirement and other long-term goals. Avoid making long-term financial decisions based on short-term information. Good financial planning can bless many generations in the future, a lesson we can learn from Johnson and Johnson—123-years-old and thriving. **ONE**



How to Teach Your Children About Money

Start early. Children should start learning as soon as possible.

Use an allowance. Require work (chores) for pay.

Hands-on. Involve them in household finances. Show them where money goes.

Let them get a job. Part-time employment will teach them how to function in the workforce.

Lead by example. Don't expect your kids to be good stewards unless you are.

Teach them the 70-20-10 rule:

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20% for savings

10% retirement

5% emergency savings

5% long-term purchases

10% for the Lord

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Teaching by FAITH

Lessons from the Classroom

BY RACHEL MARTIN

She tilted her face toward me with beautiful, chestnut brown eyes. I gently tucked her long bangs behind her ears as she asked with all sincerity, “Miss Rachel, where does Jesus live?”

She’s heard me talk about Him often, and every Sunday the other kids bellow out songs with His name in them, but she has never seen Him. After all, Savannah has been blind since birth. I scrambled to find the right words for this child to whom words mean everything.

“Well, Savannah, He lives in my heart,” I replied.

The sudden puzzled look on her face told me that another question was coming.

“Well, is He ever gonna come out?”

I tried not to giggle as I searched for words that would reassure her. “Nope. He comes in to stay.” I went on to explain to Savannah that she too could have Jesus in her heart. Her face lit up as she asked me how.

I teach Sunday School at Landmark Free Will Baptist Church. Many of the children in my class



come from broken families and have never spent much time in church. At times, I feel discouraged, and I wonder if they are listening and understanding the lessons. I know I'm not alone; I'm sure most Sunday School teachers have felt this way at one time or another.

When I first started teaching, I tried everything to get the kids to listen. After many failed attempts, I have begun to learn what works and what doesn't. Perhaps you've heard the familiar teacher's adage, "If you don't have a plan, the kids will plan for you." I thought a routine was a must, but after only a few weeks into my familiar pattern (singing, lesson, and snack), I discovered that the children were sick of the routine.

In order to keep their attention, I switched to "popcorn teaching," a fast-paced classroom style that moves kids quickly from one activity to the next, and keeps teachers from getting stuck in the rut as well. The kids never know what we're going to do first, and it keeps them excited about Sunday School.

Sometimes we start with singing or playing a game. A jumping jacks contest is a great way to wind them down! I often use an "ice breaker" or object lesson to start the class—both great ways to get kids excited and ready to learn.

Turning snack time into craft time is another valuable idea to consider. For example, if you're teaching a lesson on David and Goliath, consider using a bag of licorice and malt balls. Ask the kids to build a slingshot, and pretend that the malt balls are the stones David used to kill Goliath. If

you have the blessing of teaching a child with a disability, they will enjoy snack crafts because it gives them an opportunity to use their hands. In addition, Play-Doh™ or beaded puzzles are great tools for children who face vision challenges.

If you are dealing with disciplinary issues, try implementing a set of simple rules. My class knows that they only get so many warnings before there are consequences such as: no snack time, going into the preaching service with an adult, etc. Whatever rule you set into place, always follow through.

In contrast it is nice to reward good behavior. My class knows that if they behave, they might get a token for the day. They save these plastic tokens (available at any dollar store) to shop in the "candy store." They can "purchase" a few pieces of candy per token. I also reward the loudest singer, the most attentive listener, and the biggest helper in each class time.

At some point during each class, we "pop" back into our seats for the lesson—once my biggest challenge. My popcorn approach doesn't stop with the lesson. Children like a change of pace—PowerPoint presentations with colorful visuals, videos that relate to the topic of the day, or a simple circle to teach them with Bible in hand. All are great methods to use. Variety is the key.

Certain topics are harder to cover than others. It is easy to teach them miraculous stories about Jonah and the whale or Moses crossing the Red Sea, because they have wild and vivid imaginations. Faith, on the other hand, is challenging for young chil-

Faith is
challenging
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to understand.

*For little Savannah,
however, faith is
all she knows.*

dren to understand. For little Savannah, however, faith is all she knows. On that particular Sunday, she helped me realize that my lessons were getting through, making all my efforts worthwhile.

What is the best tip I can give to Sunday School teachers? Have a servant's heart and a faithful spirit. We are never too big to serve, and if we plant the seeds, God is faithful to give the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6). Nothing is more satisfying than leading a child to the Lord. Their innocence and faith are so humbling.

After I prayed with Savannah that day, she smiled, and her next comment was even more satisfying than her beautiful prayer.

"Miss Rachel, is He speaking to you?"

Stunned, I replied "No, Savannah, is He speaking to you?"

She replied nonchalantly, "Yep. He's saying 'Don't be afraid!'"

For a moment, my heart stood still. Never had I felt so clearly the importance of my job. I had just led a five-year-old blind girl to the Lord, and she felt His peace. **ONE**

About the Writer: Newlyweds Rachel (Martin) and Nathan Atwood work alongside home missionaries Jim and Sylvia Martin and Dana and Betty Booth in Rochester, NY.

*“For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up”
(Ecclesiastes 4:10).*

HELPING THE *Fallen*

By Edward E. Moody, Jr.

As Christians today are painfully aware, many great people of God have fallen. Use the following principles to help those who have fallen or to prevent others from falling.

NO ONE FALLS SUDDENLY.

In reality, a moral fall is a gradual process. It begins in the mind with ungodly thoughts and a drifting away from God. Attitudes and priorities shift. One is not as concerned about the things of God as he or she once was (e.g., Bible reading, prayer, church attendance, fellowship with other Christians). This leads to “little sins,” behaviors previously avoided. Finally, the fall culminates with a “catastrophic” sin. The process of a fall underlies the importance of early intervention.

PRAY.

Jesus instructed us to pray about temptation and being delivered from evil. The first line of defense against a fall is prayer. We need to pray regularly for our friends, family, and those in our church family.

MAKE CONTACT.

When we notice something different about a person, we need to point it out (You seem down, is everything okay?). Make contact with the person in some way (an email or text, a call, a card, or lunch).

Failure to intervene at this point can result in hardening

and spiraling into sin. Unfortunately, with our busy lives we often fail to notice someone going astray at a point when it would be the easiest to bring them back.

INTERVENE.

Someone entangled in sin loses the ability to think biblically and intervention is required. Jesus gave us a model for intervention in Matthew 18. Today, however, few are eager to engage in this vital activity.

We must ask ourselves what kind of friend are we if we fail to tell the truth. A real friend intervenes out of love for the friend, even if it risks the friendship.

HOW?

Galatians 6:1 tells us to confront with a spirit of meekness. When we confront with this spirit, we are often very nervous (upset stomach and sweaty palms). If we think about our own sins and shortcomings we will be less likely to communicate a “better than you” attitude.

NOW WHAT?

The next step depends upon how the confrontation is received. Some people repent as David did when Nathan

confronted him. Others are sorry they have been caught, much like Saul when confronted by Samuel. They may cry, but they have no intention of changing their behavior and following the Lord. How do you know the difference? In my experience, a truly repentant person is willing to do whatever is necessary to make something right. Freedom from entangling sins often requires a complete change in lifestyle (new friends, new location, new job).

Some will need the assistance of a professional Christian counselor. To find a professional in your area, go to www.FirstAidforEmotionalHurts.com and select *Find a Christian Counselor*.

For those who persist in business as usual, you must follow the Matthew 18 model. Involve others (friends and family) and confront them again. If that fails, involve church leadership and confront them again.

BE CONFIDENTIAL

Be as discreet as possible and keep this out of the public eye. Doing so enables the one who has fallen to have a better opportunity to recover. Also, remember the spouse, children, parents, and friends who may be impacted. Confidentiality reduces lasting damage. Once information is released, it can't be brought back.

So much is at stake when someone falls. Heaven and Hell hang in the balance. We must handle these issues carefully and properly using the biblical principles God has given us. **ONE**

About the Writer: Dr. Edward Moody is an associate professor at North Carolina Central University. He has a Ph.D. in counselor education. Dr. Moody is the author of *First Aid for Emotional Hurts* and has published several articles in scholastic journals. He pastors Tippetts' Chapel FWB Church in Clayton, NC.

★ LEADER profile

By Ron Hunter, Jr.

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



Randy Bryant

With the average tenure of pastors today, the thought of staying 26 years in the same church may be foreign to many people. Yet serving as pastor at Ryanwood Fellowship FWB Church in Vero Beach, Florida, is only half of Randy's current duties. He also serves as executive secretary for Florida Free Will Baptists. Randy and his wife Diana have raised two outstanding children.

While his administrative and organizational abilities are evident in his leadership style and meeting planning, he balances these gifts with care and encouragement. When asked what gifts God has given him, he quickly replied, "not singing." It is Randy's desire for the people he serves to continue developing a deep passion for ministry that includes the local church and global evangelism.

Now empty nesters, Randy and Diana maintain a fast-paced ministry schedule of serving together. Most do not realize that churches in Florida stretch across a 12-hour drive! Randy should get frequent flyer miles.

★ About Randy:

Quiet Time Routine: Randy starts out early in the morning with Bible reading and is currently reading through the Old Testament. He then reads from one of four devotional books that he regularly rotates. At this time, he is reading *My Utmost for His Highest*. After his reading time, he walks three miles and uses it to pray.

Ideal Date: Going to a major league baseball game. They want to get to every stadium, which is getting harder with the new ones opening.

Favorite Books:

Lords of the Earth - Don Richardson
They Call Me Pastor - H.B. London
Pepper and Salt - Vance Havner

Favorite Author: H. B. London

Currently Reading: *Visioneering*, by Andy Stanley and *Emotional First Aid*, by Edward Moody, Jr.

One Indulgence: Krispy Kreme Doughnuts (especially when the "Hot Now" sign is lit).

Paper or Plastic Questions:

<i>Mountains or ocean?</i> Ocean	<i>Music or talk radio?</i> Talk radio
<i>Coke or Pepsi?</i> Diet Coke	<i>Email or texting?</i> Email
<i>Socks or house shoes?</i> Socks	<i>Mac or PC?</i> PC

In addition to leadership in his church, district, and state, Randy is clerk of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Holding his CMP (Certified Meeting Professional) certification, he is a respected meeting planner and credentialed member of the RCMA (Religious Conference Management Association). **Randy Bryant, you are a great leader!**

It takes more than saying “I Do” to grow a Christian family in the 21st century. But you can do it, and here’s how!



Safeguarding the Family

BY JENA SIMPSON

Your family is the most precious gift God has given you. You would do anything to protect it from an intruder. But what are you doing to protect your family from the enemy? This sly and subtle enemy slips into homes unaware when barriers of protection are not set in place.

Home Sweet Home

There's no place like home! Don't you love to get home after a trip or a long day at work? Home should be our refuge, our safe haven.

How is the atmosphere in your home? Does it exude a peaceful calm or a chaotic storm? You determine the home atmosphere whether you realize it or not. You've heard the saying, "If Mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy." It's amazing, almost scary at times, how one person in a home can set the tone for everyone else. That's why it's important to have a thankful attitude, a submissive spirit, and a song in your heart.

Thankful Attitude Showing appreciation to those in your home deters negative attitudes and encourages peacefulness. Be thankful for your spouse and children, and tell them. Expressing thankfulness goes a long way toward maintaining a calm haven when the front door closes and the rest of the world is locked outside. Thankfulness and ill will cannot coexist under the same roof.

Submissive Spirit A submissive spirit is essential to unity in the home. The family unit functions best when all members follow their God-appointed roles. The servant-leader husband, submissive wife, and obedient children produce a peacefulness that glorifies the Lord. Consistency is the key when it comes to our roles and Christian example. Satan can (and will) use any inconsistency in our lives to confuse and cause those in our families to believe his lies.

Song in the Heart Uplifting, godly music is a unique element that helps to create harmony in the home and

glorifies God. When God is glorified, the enemy has no place to stand. Music influences the way we feel, react, and think. What a blessing to wake in the night and hear songs replaying in my mind. Praise the Lord for a "song in the night." Satan cannot break through those barriers.

In his book, *The Bondage Breaker*, Neil Anderson said, "How pathetically unaware we are of the biblical prominence of music in the spiritual realm! When Elisha was about to inquire of God, he said, 'Now bring me a minstrel.' And it came about, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him (2 Kings 3:15).

"During the reign of David, over 4,000 musicians were assigned to sing in the temple night and day (1 Chronicles 9:33, 23:5). It is the mark of Spirit-filled Christians to sing and make melody in their hearts to the Lord and speak to each other in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:18-20)."

Plan, Plan, Plan

One of the most important ways to safeguard your family is to plan for the unexpected. Anticipate it. Expect it. Be prepared.

Ready for the Crisis Dennis Rainey said in *Growing a Healthy Home*, "If we wait until a crisis hits and then turn to the Scriptures, we won't be prepared – and we'll be more susceptible to the enemy."

It's not a matter of *if* trials will come, but *when* they come. Trials come in many forms: financial, physical, spiritual, and more. We can put money into an emergency fund to help when financial strain comes, eat right and exercise to help deter physical problems, but we cannot prevent trials from happening.

While it is wise to set aside emergency funds, eat right, and exercise, the most important element in emergency planning is the time we spend in God's Word, because time with Him will see us through the tough trials. We can depend on the truths we store in our hearts from God's Word to sustain us, whatever the crisis. God's Word is the storehouse from which we draw strength to meet the day.

Apostles' Example Have you ever wondered what would have happened to the disciples on the Sea of Galilee when the storm came if they had not kept the ship in working order? What if they had waited until the storm arrived to make sure all was working properly? The day of the storm was not the time or place for preparation; it was time to depend on trustworthy ropes, oars, and anchors to save their lives. So let it be with us. Prepare *for* the storm *before* the storm.

Children: Heritage From the Lord

Team Discipline How will disciplining your children be administered, and who is responsible for implementing the plan? After all, discipline is a Mom and Dad responsibility. Having a well-thought-out plan in place will prevent overreacting.

Discipline should always match the offense. Remember, children are children and will make childish mistakes. They shouldn't be punished for childish irresponsibility but for defiance and disobedience. As they become teenagers, pick your battles carefully. Don't win the war and lose the relationship. With a little time and a steady hand, children will outgrow some behavior patterns. Rules without relationships lead to rebellion.

Time to Train The goal of discipline is training. It is important to remember that in Scripture, training children is the responsibility of parents, not the church or Christian school. Bible memory and character development are essential. This is part of the plan for insulating the family from the enemy's tactics.

Taught to Think Teach children to be thinkers. In American society today, the media communicates to us in ways that make us feel like dummies. Have you noticed how meteorologists tell us not only that severe weather is near, but to take cover immediately—as if we don't know to do that? What other subtle messages are being sent daily via newscasts?

We must be able to reason and process what we hear and see from the media. Children and teens need to be cautioned about dangers that lurk on the computer, TV, and radio. They should be taught to respect parents and those in authority. There is security when Dad is the head of the home and is respected by everyone in the family.

Traumatic Teen Issues Availability counts with kids. Children, even teens, need parents to be available, especially in our hectic culture. It's easy to *appear* to be listening when in actuality we are distracted with other concerns. Teens need moms just as much, if not more, than preschoolers.

We think that because children reach a certain age, they can be left

alone, and that's true to a degree. But they must not be left alone too often. They need guidance, love, and understanding to keep them from looking for those qualities in the wrong places. Many harmful things are easily available today. That's why parents must be there for them, guide them, and love them.

Money Matters Materialism is a serious threat to the family if allowed in the home. Financial problems are a major cause of divorce. Take control of your finances before your finances take control of you. Teach children to handle money in a way that pleases God. Trust me here—it is all right to ask God for wisdom when spending your money.

Taught to Tithe

God must be honored first with the tithe. Today, many think they cannot afford to tithe when the truth is they can't afford not to tithe. When God is honored with the first 10%, He makes the remaining 90% go farther than the original 100%. This is God's way. He makes up the difference when we honor Him and manage our finances in the manner He directs.

Careful with Credit Use credit cards only when the bill can be paid in full each month. If the money is not there to make a purchase, don't buy it! Avoid using credit if you have a propensity toward spending.

It is wise to save for purchases and pay with cash. Save money by shop-

SEVEN KEYS to Family Communications

1. Be positive when speaking to those in your family.
2. Listen carefully when they speak to you. Look them in the eye as you listen and speak to them.
3. Spend time together.
4. Set boundaries for family time.
5. Support your children in their activities, but prioritize activities so everyone is not overextended.
6. You can communicate without saying a word. Be careful.
7. Be available.

ping at thrift stores, garage sales, and used bookstores. Look for the incredible deals available on the internet (if you do your homework). We have purchased two family vehicles and furnished a home with appliances using the internet. My point? You do not have to buy new to get a good deal.

So What's Ahead? Safeguarding the family is a full-time job. Are you taking necessary precautions to protect the most important people in your life? The best way to safeguard your family is to stay in God's Word so you know how He wants you to live. If you do, you'll have what it takes to hang in there when times get tough. Don't forget that God is in control, and He takes care of His own. He's always there for you. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Jena Simpson serves as Online Learning/Lifetime Learning associate, Adult Studies associate, and Teacher Education secretary at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Her husband Barry is director of development with Free Will Baptist International Missions.

**RULES WITHOUT RELATIONSHIPS
LEAD TO REBELLION.”**

Educator cites dangers of heavy media exposure for America's youth.

A GENERATION IMMERSED))) in Media

BY R. ALBERT MOHLER, JR.

A NEW REPORT INDICATES THAT THE AVERAGE CHILD in America spends 45 hours a week immersed in the media—a multiple of the hours spent with parents or in the classroom.

Commonsense Media, a group that advocates for better programming in the media, commissioned and released the report. Researchers looked at 173 studies done on media and its effects on children and adolescents. The results are sobering. Taken together, these reports strongly suggest that significant exposure to the media is related, among other concerns, to behaviors such as smoking and early sexual activity, as well as low academic achievement and obesity.

As *USA Today* reports:

Parents and policymakers need to take action to protect children from being harmed by TV, the Internet and other types of media, a report says.

Researchers have done individual studies for years to learn how media affect children. A review released today, which analyzed 173 of the strongest papers over 28 years, finds that 80% agree that heavy media exposure increases the risk of harm, including obesity, smoking, sex, drug and alcohol use, attention problems, and poor grades.

)))Media Push Boundaries

In one sense, this report should not shock any informed parent or observer. The report does offer something new, however, in its analysis of so many published scientific reports and studies. The sheer quantity of the data is impressive. One obvious point comes to the fore—there has

already been sufficient concern to prompt the development of the 173 separate studies considered in this report.

Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel of the National Institutes of Health commented, “The idea that this is having a really measurable adverse impact on health makes it important to take this seriously.” What isn’t measured in these studies, of course, is the adverse spiritual effects of so much media exposure.

Beyond the question of quantity—45 hours of media immersion on average—there is the question of media content. Anyone with the slightest awareness of media content knows the problems. Media of all forms and formats are saturated with violence, sexuality, morally troubling themes, alcohol and tobacco use, and the use of drugs.

Furthermore, the boundaries of acceptable content are being pressed back season after season. What was once limited to adult theaters soon makes its appearance in the mainstream media. Themes once off-limits to media in any form are now common on mainstream television. The emergence of the Internet, modern video games, MP3 players, and sophisticated cell phones offers yet more opportunities for increased media immersion and exposure to troubling programming and content.

)))The ‘Solitary’ Transformation

Another relatively new phenomenon is the digital revolution and the transformation of media consumption from a largely communal activity to one that is more and more solitary. The television set used to be located in a family gathering place and families watched television together.

No longer. Now, televisions are distributed throughout various rooms in most houses, and viewing is increasingly solitary. Millions of American children and adolescents have televisions in their bedrooms—many combined with digital recorders, video games, and other components.

Add to this picture a virtual explosion in the number of children and teenagers with computers and Internet access in bedrooms. Today's children, equipped with iPods, cell phones, laptops, and portable video players, are seldom more than a few feet (if not inches) separated from media technologies.

Parents should look to this new report with interest and concern. The adverse effects of immersion in the media are now beyond refutation. Does anyone really believe that all this media exposure has no ill effects on children and adolescents?

»»» Seven Suggestions for Parents

Christian parents come to this issue with deeper concerns. Like other parents, we are rightly concerned about the dangers of obesity and other effects related to physical health and well being. Beyond this, however, we must be concerned with the effects of media exposure on the soul. Though perhaps impossible to measure by scientific study, we have good reason to be concerned that media immersion of this sort leads to a deadening of the soul and hinders the development of spiritual health and maturity.

»»» Limit Media Exposure

Limit the total media exposure experienced by your children. The statistic that the average child and adolescent is immersed in the media for 45 hours a week should be sufficient motivation for parents to hit the brakes and gain control of media exposure. Access to entertainment media should be a privilege earned, not a right assumed by the child.

»»» Stop Unsupervised Media

Do not allow children and teenagers to have televisions and Internet-connected computers in the bedroom. There is simply too much danger in unsupervised media exposure, and too much temptation in terms of both quantity and content. No child needs a television in the bedroom, and a computer connected to the Internet is an invitation to disaster.

»»» Create Family Experience

Make entertainment media a family experience. There is a massive difference in the experience of a child watch-

ing programming alone and that same child watching with a parent. Parents should be in unquestioned control of media decisions. Parents should also be eager to discuss what is seen with teenagers and children, helping them to grow in discernment and judgment.

»»» Know What Children Experience

Parents have to do the hard work of actually knowing what their children and teenagers are watching, playing, hearing, and experiencing through media exposure. No one said parenting was supposed to be easy.

»»» Take Media Break

Realize that a revolution has taken place in the lives of children and adolescents. The emergence of social media technologies means that children (and adolescents especially) now expect to be in constant communication with their peers. This is not healthy, sane, or helpful. All of us—Children and teenagers included—need a break from this immersion. Put a charging dock in the kitchen and confiscate cell phones as the kids come in the door. That will send a message the old fashioned way—in person.

»»» Do Detective Work

Take a regular look at what your child is posting and what others are posting on his or her social media sites. Look at the instant messaging exchanges and emails. You are the parent, after all, and your child's access to these technologies should come with the open and non-negotiable requirement that parents see it all.

»»» Push the 'No' Button

Remember that saying "no" is a legitimate option. I do not believe that saying "no" is always the right response. The media bring opportunities for good as well as for evil. Children and teenagers who are never allowed access to media technologies and entertainment will emerge into adulthood with no powers of discernment. But "no" is sometimes the best and only appropriate answer, and parents should always be ready to use it when needed.

Today's generation of children and adolescents is, by all accounts, a generation immersed in media. This new report reminds us that this exposure cannot come without real costs. Let's hope America's parents are paying attention. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr., serves as the ninth president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (Louisville, Kentucky). Reprinted by permission from Dr. Mohler's blog, www.AlbertMohler.com, December 4, 2008.

NEWS at FWBBC

FWBBC Students Elect 2009-2010 Officers

NASHVILLE, TN—The following five students at Free Will Baptist Bible College were elected to serve as 2009-2010 student body officers:

Kurston Ward, junior English major from Van Buren, Arkansas, was elected president. The vice president is junior Thomas Holloway, a Pastoral Ministry major from Albany, Georgia. Katie Duttine, a freshman History major from Sod, West Virginia, will serve as secretary-treasurer.

Freshman Zach Maloney, a Pastoral Ministry major from Morehead, Kentucky, was elected chaplain and will provide spiritual leadership for the student body. Junior Missions major Matt Munsey from Newport, Tennessee, will serve as worship leader.



PHOTO (L-R): Matt Munsey, Katie Duttine, Thomas Holloway, Kurston Ward, Zach Maloney.

FWBBC Students Minister in New York City and Japan

NASHVILLE, TN—Twenty-nine Free Will Baptist Bible College students and staff members used their spring break to embrace urban and international outreach, according to Jeff Caudill, director of enrollment services. Team NYC (New York City) flew to the Big Apple on March 14 for an eight-day encounter. Team Japan boarded a plane March 11 for 14 days in the Land of the Rising Sun.

Team NYC leader Rachel Dennis (FWBBC enrollment counselor) said that ministering in New York City was one of the most rewarding experiences of her life. “It only took a short ride from JFK Airport to realize we were ‘not in Kansas anymore.’ Then we stopped watching the people and buildings from a distance, and we got involved.”

FWBBC students dressed in bright red smocks were posted at major intersections where they distributed salvation

bracelets and prayed with the broken, the confused, and the desperate. Many stopped for prayer, asking students to pray that they would find jobs, that God would protect their children from the streets, that they could overcome addictions. More than 20 people came to know Christ, while hundreds heard a clear presentation of the gospel.

Heath Hubbard, Team Japan leader and FWBBC director of recruitment, said his group spent eight days in Hokkaido and three days in Tokyo, plunging into a success-driven culture with a high suicide rate. “We stayed in homes where people did not believe the Christian message, some who had never heard the name of Christ. It was a Salt and Light encounter as we practiced English with Japanese at the international center and watched a nation of 127 million people hurtling by in spiritual darkness.”

Team Japan invited guests to “Ebetsu Alive,” a Christian concert sponsored by a group of churches to attract individuals who would never attend church. Many who attended the concert were first-time hearers of the gospel. Students were told how few Christians were in Hokkaido and that all the believers could fit inside one of the thousand tall buildings in the city.

Team Japan members walked the streets praying for people, helped with snow removal, and assisted missionaries who were relocating to new areas for the betterment of the gospel. They saw numerous high-rise buildings in Tokyo with lights blazing at 7:00 p.m. as workers labored up in the night pushed by the pressure to succeed.

Rachel Dennis echoed the sentiments of both teams when she said, “God taught us to have compassion, to empathize with a culture so different from our own. He taught us to look past our own problems and to love one another in spite of our differences.” ■



PHOTO: Team Japan smiles at God's goodness in a far-away land.

Darla Trimble Named FWBBC Women's Resident Director

NASHVILLE, TN—Mrs. Darla Trimble, a veteran pastor's wife and mother with a certified nursing assistant degree, has been named women's resident director at Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to Dr. Jon Forlines, vice president for student services and dean of students. She begins her new duties August 1.

Mrs. Susan Forlines, FWBBC's dean of women, said, "I am so pleased to have Darla join the staff as women's resident director. She brings a wealth of experience and insight from her years as a pastor's wife. She understands young women and can offer practical advice on what they can expect both as dormitory students and as many of them prepare to serve among our churches when they leave FWBBC."

Mrs. Trimble's husband, Dr. Kevin Trimble, recently resigned his 10-year pastorate at Oak Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Greeneville, Tennessee, to enter the military as a Free Will Baptist chaplain. The Trimbles served churches 20 years in Alabama, Arkansas, and Tennessee. Darla grew up in a military home and was converted at age 17 in a Missouri youth camp.

She graduated from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in 1985 with an A.A. degree in Christian Education. In 1983, she completed an A.A. degree in Business Administration at another college. Their two children, Nathan and Rachel, are enrolled at FWBBC.

"I love working with girls and teens," she said. "Youth ministry is my favorite." As women's resident director, Mrs. Trimble will live in an apartment in Polston Hall (the women's dormitory) and provide direction for the young women. ■

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WE SURRENDER ALL

BY DONNA CRABTREE

“If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26, 33).

ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MOMENTS IN OUR LIVES was the night God drew a line and asked us if we would cross it. It was either *yes* or *no*. No *maybe*. We said *yes* and surrendered to the Lord’s call as the congregation sang. That was the beginning of our missionary journey.

EVERYTHING?

“We surrender all.” Surrender what? Did we say all? Yes, we told God we would give up family, friends, and a stable environment to move to another country to serve Him. Did we understand what that meant? Not at first. Could we possibly uproot two teenagers, surrender everything we knew as normal, and survive? Yes, we did, and yes, we have survived.

Has the journey been easy? No, it has not. Have there been days when we were discouraged, lonely, and frustrated? Yes, there have been. Has it been taxing on our relationship as husband and wife? At times, yes. Do we miss our families during holidays or times of illness? Of course we do.

You might say to yourself, “I could never do that.” Yes, you could. You need to understand that when God calls you, He does not expect you to go alone. He goes with you. Jesus meant what He said in the scripture text above. We must be willing to give up everything to serve him. *Willing* is the key word!

On the other hand, we have experienced many wonderful things on this journey. God has been faithful, and we

have seen Him provide for us many times. He has provided in ways we would never have expected. I wish you could visit us and see what God has done.

JOIN THE TEAM

Are there things you can do to help us and other missionaries? Absolutely. Find out who your missionaries are. Learn more about where they are serving, whether in the U.S. or around the world. Study the cultures they live, and what it would take to live there.

We had to learn Canadian currency and culture when we arrived. We live in a province, not a state. Our holidays are different from those in the U.S. We have different postage rates. We have a prime minister, not a president. Everything that comes in or goes out of this country must go through customs, including us.

Remember, church planters start with nothing. Most have no piano or pianist, communion set or deacons to serve, Sunday School literature or teachers to teach, hymnals or someone to lead the singing. Most start without people or a building. When you think about us, think about providing the things listed above.

The journey is difficult, so pray. Finances are needed, so give. Be practical. Think about the items a missionary might need and raise money to purchase one or more of them. If you cannot visit your missionaries, send them a card of encouragement, or better yet, pick up the phone and call.

We need to know we are not forgotten. Finally, don’t forget that God continues to call others to do what we are doing. Are you willing to say, “Yes, I surrender all?” I am sure you can and will! **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Donna and Jeff Crabtree are home missionaries at Serenity FWB Church in New Brunswick, Canada. Read more about their church at www.homemissions.net.



Faithful

in a few things

By Chaplain David Trogdon

PEOPLE OFTEN CALL ME A HERO BECAUSE

I wear this uniform. While I appreciate their kind words, I always feel a little uneasy. In my mind, I am no hero. Recently, I said good-bye to a real hero—my Dad. He wasn't perfect, and he couldn't leap tall buildings in a single bound, but he was a hero in the eyes of his family and—more important—in the eyes of God. He was a true hero of the faith. Because I was in Iraq, I was unable to be with Dad when he died. But it is more important that I was there when he lived.

My memories of my dad begin six years before my birth. Obviously, I wasn't there, but I have heard him tell the story time and again. In February 1955, a drunk, "so low even the dogs wouldn't even bark at him," walked down the aisle of a little Free Will Baptist church in the mountains of West Virginia and was "born again." Just as the Apostle Paul shared the testimony of his conversion with everyone he met, my dad openly shared his testimony about how he met Jesus, how Jesus saved his soul and his marriage, and how Jesus called him to preach the gospel. On that night, 24-year-

old coal miner Donald Trogdon met Jesus, and his life was changed forever. A hero was born.

For the next 53 years, Dad served the Lord faithfully. He led my mother to Christ, and eventually all three children became Christians. While Dad never attended Bible college and was not a nationally recognized pastor or well-known evangelist, he faithfully pastored several small churches in West Virginia and Indiana.

As I watched my Dad work full time, pastor full time, and serve God full time through good days and bad, he taught me far more about Christian life ministry than I ever learned in college or seminary. Dad taught me by his life and his example.

He set an example of unconditional love for his family, especially my mom. One of most difficult moments of watching both parents losing their battles with Alzheimer's disease is the day when they wake up and don't know who you are, or—even worse—don't know each other. For the last year or so, Dad and Mom lived as strangers.

When I came home on leave from Iraq, I learned that Dad had stopped eating, had lost over 45 pounds, and was extremely weak. Yet to my surprise, he asked, “Where is Lulu?” I walked with him to the other side of the nursing home and watched him give his beloved Lulu a goodbye kiss. As I wheeled him back to his room, I knew I had just witnessed a gift from God. My dad is a hero because he loved his family until the end.

Dad also loved the ministry. He worked in a factory and sold insurance so the little churches he started and served could have a “full-time” pastor. He sacrificed much, including precious time with his family, because he loved being a pastor to God’s people. I watched him love people who hated him and love people who used him. He loved people because He knew that Jesus first loved him.

We won’t know how many souls accepted Christ as a result of Dad’s influence until we get to Heaven, but I know for sure that he led his wife, three children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild (my two-year-old grandson “Big Nate”) to the Lord. Every person God allows me to reach for Christ can be traced back to Dad—the best and most loving pastor I have ever known.

He loved the ministry so much that he never really retired. When my parents could no longer live alone, we convinced him to move into the assisted living facility by suggesting that God had provided him with a church that needed a pastor. We joked that the salary wasn’t much but did include room and board—a little “parsonage room” for him and Mom. Dad was overjoyed and immediately started

everything he did, from preaching and singing to making a living. Dad’s love for Jesus made sure that we had a Christian home. We had no cards, no cursing, and no drinking. Instead, we went to Sunday School, Sunday morning worship, Sunday evening service, Wednesday night Bible Study, and any other time the church doors were open. No excuse was good enough to keep us out of God’s House. Today, I am thankful that Dad loved Jesus—not only on Sunday morning but every day of the week.

Two years ago, God gave me a precious gift. I sat in a doctor’s office and watched as a psychologist gave Dad a memory test. To my dismay, he failed every part of the test. He didn’t know the year, the month, his social security number, the President of the United States, or even where he was. It broke my heart to see him so confused. Confused, that is, until the doctor gave him one last test. He said, “Mr. Trogdon, I want you to write down one sentence on this piece of paper, anything you want to write.”

To my amazement, I watched Dad write clearly and legibly, “I love Jesus with all my heart.” The doctor was speechless, and I was blessed. What a gift God had given me! My dad had gotten the most important question of life right, and he never forgot it. My dad is my hero because he loved Jesus with all his heart and was faithful to love Jesus until the end.

The best thing about being a hero of the faith is not the promotions or medals we receive in this life, but the eternal rewards in Heaven. Today, my heart is not broken because Dad is dead, because he isn’t. He is in Heaven with all the

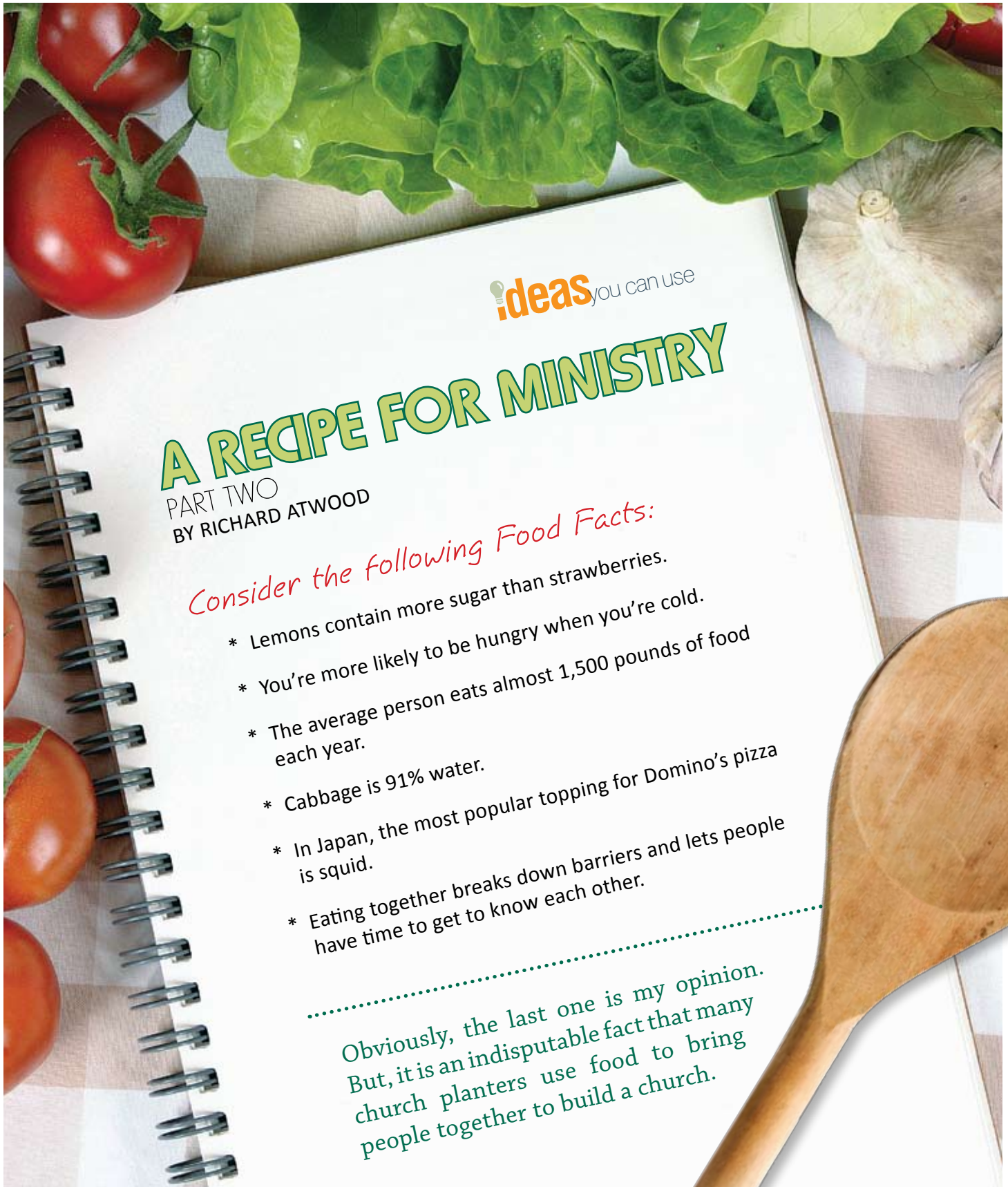
My dad had gotten the **most important question** of life right, and he never forgot it.

his new ministry. He walked the hallways, encouraging and praying with his new “church members.” He happily recounted how he led one elderly man to the Lord, and I was amazed to watch him take over a worship service provided by a local church to lead in singing and testimony time. Dad never stopped being used by God to bless others. This was never more evident than the day the center caught fire and the residents, including Dad and Mom, were evacuated to an empty church across the road. Dad led all the other residents in a prayer and praise service! He was a hero because he loved the ministry and he was faithful to the end.

More than anything else, Dad was a hero because of his love for the Lord. Dad’s love for Jesus motivated him in ev-

other heroes of faith. I can’t help but recall Paul’s parting words to Timothy. “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only but unto all them also that love His appearing” (2 Timothy 4:6-8). Well done, Dad! You will always be my hero. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Chaplain Major David Trogdon recently returned from a long tour of duty in Iraq. He pays tribute to his father, long-time FWB pastor and church planter. He and his family are stationed at Fort Rucker, Alabama.



ideas you can use

A RECIPE FOR MINISTRY

PART TWO
BY RICHARD ATWOOD

Consider the following Food Facts:

- * Lemons contain more sugar than strawberries.
- * You're more likely to be hungry when you're cold.
- * The average person eats almost 1,500 pounds of food each year.
- * Cabbage is 91% water.
- * In Japan, the most popular topping for Domino's pizza is squid.
- * Eating together breaks down barriers and lets people have time to get to know each other.

.....
Obviously, the last one is my opinion.
But, it is an indisputable fact that many
church planters use food to bring
people together to build a church.

WHEN I WAS SAVED AS A TEENAGER IN MARYLAND, OUR CHURCH WOULD SOMETIMES HAVE “DINNER ON the grounds.” I don’t know why they called it that, because we never ate on the ground! But we always had a great time. The church people became my family. Many miles and many years later, those people are still my friends. Our FWB church planters understand that people like to go to church where their friends are. Eating together is a great way to make friends.

Jeff Cates in Canyon, Texas

Most Sunday mornings, everyone is invited to a big country breakfast before the morning service. At our recent anniversary celebration, we enjoyed a brisket lunch.

David Sexton and Marc Nepl – Suffolk, Virginia

We use food in a variety of ways at Crosspointe. After an F2 tornado struck our community in April 2008, we passed out meals with tracts and brochures in them. We simply wrapped hot dogs in tin foil and included a bag of chips and a soda. In the second week, local businesses donated free food for us to distribute. Chick-fil-A provided chicken sandwiches and Pizza Hut gave us pizzas. Again, we passed out the food accompanied by church brochures and tracts.

In addition to disaster relief efforts, we have discovered that anytime we have a finger food social, people will come. We have enjoyed some of our largest groups in the Sexton’s home just by having a Friday night fellowship with finger foods.

Stephen Gray in Collinsville, Illinois

Several visitors came to a recent Sunday morning service as a result of our food ministry. We distributed food on the streets of St. Louis all winter. This has become a passionate ministry for the church. Up to 15 people go on Winter Patrol to abandoned warehouses, underpasses, and the streets of the city. One gentleman lives on the river, just south of the Arch, and we have gotten to know him better than most. Last week two volunteers picked him up for the service, and then several people took him to lunch. He had been in church before, but said he liked our service, and it really caused him to think about some things.

Greg Floars - Marquette, Michigan

We use food all the time! More than 150 people came to our home for a cookout on Memorial Day. We cook pigs on big days—North Carolina style. Everybody in the area knows about our “pig pickings.” The first one was held at our home on the day of our kick-off service. Four people were saved that day.

Michael Hutton - Spring Hill, Tennessee

We served refreshments for the first time recently, and it went well. We offered snacks and soda 30 minutes before the service. We were surprised at the good response. We plan to do this on a regular basis. In addition, the meal after our launch service went really well. Apparently, cheesecake is a big hit!

Howard Gwartney in Florence, Arizona

We invite people into our home often! We have had as many as 35 guests at one time, and we try to make them all feel welcome. We get together for rehearsals, meetings, and, of course, just for fellowship.

On some Saturdays, the men of the church eat breakfast together, and a group of ladies from the church get together regularly for lunch and activities. I also take first- and second-time guests out to lunch to get acquainted with them and to talk with them about the Lord, church, etc. I am encouraging others in the church to do this as well. **ONE**



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



HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED becoming part of something that will challenge and thrill you beyond your wildest dreams? Something that will stretch your faith in ways you never imagined? That's what life is like for a church-planting team.

God sent His disciples out in pairs for a reason, and after several years as a home missionary in Denver, I understand the benefits. As a home missionary, my family and I have seen God move in amazing ways, and the best is still to come.

God has given Rangeview Free Will Baptist Church a vision to reach the lost in the Denver metropolitan area. This winter, our church moved from an older part of town to a vibrant, growing area where a quarter-million cars drive by our storefront church each week. The building is ours every day of the week. We have state-of-the-art audio and video projection equipment, and we broadcast our Sunday worship

service over the internet each week. God has done incredible things, but He has more for us to accomplish.

We are ready to take this work to the next level. The challenge before us is larger than any we have ever tried to tackle before now. Exciting things are happening, and new dreams are unfolding right before our eyes. As a result, it has become evident that we are lacking in one crucial area—an associate partner to help me in the work.

In recent years, Home Missions has begun to realize the value of church-planting teams—Randy Ledbetter and Scott Warren in Utah, Tommy Jones and Nate Altom in Pennsylvania, Dana Booth and Jim Martin in New York, and David Sexton and Marc Neppl in Virginia, to name a few.

In the past, we thought we had secured partners to help us in the work, but those leads have gone cold. God has other ideas. Perhaps He is speaking to you as you read this. Has God

been dealing with your heart, but you are unsure of where He is leading?

Denver needs churches badly. Rangeview is the only Free Will Baptist church within the Denver metropolitan area. Yet the community around the church has over 100,000 families within a five-mile radius. Five miles! Thousands more need to be reached.

Young families seek a nurturing children's ministry while middle-aged families with teens crave solid, Bible-based learning for their young sons and daughters. Our families have already done much of the "sweat equity" for this church to thrive. The harvest is ready, but we need help in the field. Will you answer God's call? **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Scott Cheatham is the pastor of Rangeview FWB Church in Denver, Colorado. Contact him at 720-296-1719 or visit the church website: <http://rangeviewfwb-mission.blogspot.com/>.

Remembering an Unsung Hero

IN A DAY WHEN PEOPLE ARE CONSTANTLY ON THE MOVE, it is somehow comforting to hear about one who found her area of ministry and stayed with it. One such person was Iva Mae (Hunter) Bracey.

Iva Mae, affectionately known here in the Free Will Baptist national offices as “Granny,” began her work with WNAC. On May 20, 1968, she transferred to the Home Missions Department where she remained until her death, March 12, 2009.

For many years, Iva Mae worked as bookkeeper. That was her niche ministry, and gave her an opportunity to be part of the mission work. Iva Mae prayed continually for missionaries and their families and did everything she could to be of service.

In the late 1980s, she decided to retire and spend more time at home. The department presented her with gifts, best wishes, and a beautiful reception befitting someone of such quality and long-term service. Everyone hated to see her go, so her co-workers were thrilled when they learned Iva Mae had decided to continue working with Home Missions. She maintained missionary mailing lists and worked with large mailings.

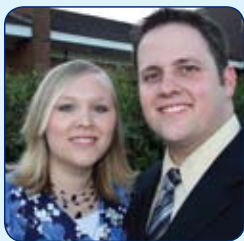
She continued to rise early in the morning and drive a great distance (even at age 80) to arrive at work hours before anyone else. She liked the quiet time and getting an early start.

In time, Iva Mae’s health began to fail, and eventually she became homebound. But to Home Missions, she remained part of the family. She called periodically to tell her co-workers that as soon as she could manage it, she was coming back to work, and not to move her things. Her request was honored.

When the day finally came to make some changes, Iva Mae’s possessions verified that the Lord was the center of her life, and she loved and prayed for those around her. Her Bible was filled with lists of things to do for people and lists of people to remember in prayer. She never stopped thinking of others, and more important, she always kept God in the center of her life.

Iva Mae Bracey went about her work quietly and never in the limelight, but only Heaven knows the far-reaching effects of her work for the Lord. ■

Introducing New Missionaries



Tim and Jessica Hodges, Colorado Springs, CO

The Hodges are associate missionaries to Colorado Springs, Colorado, working with home missionary Dexter Guin. Tim and Jessica hail from North Carolina and Virginia respectively. Tim graduated from Gateway Christian College in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He has been actively involved in ministry in the Union Chapel FWB Church, Chocowinity, NC, where he was ordained under the leadership of Pastor Henry Horne. He also worked at Gateway FWB Church under the leadership of Pastor Karl Sexton. Tim and Jessica are anxious to grow a Free Will Baptist church in Colorado Springs and then continue their mission work in another area.



Donnie Burke, Castle Rock, CO

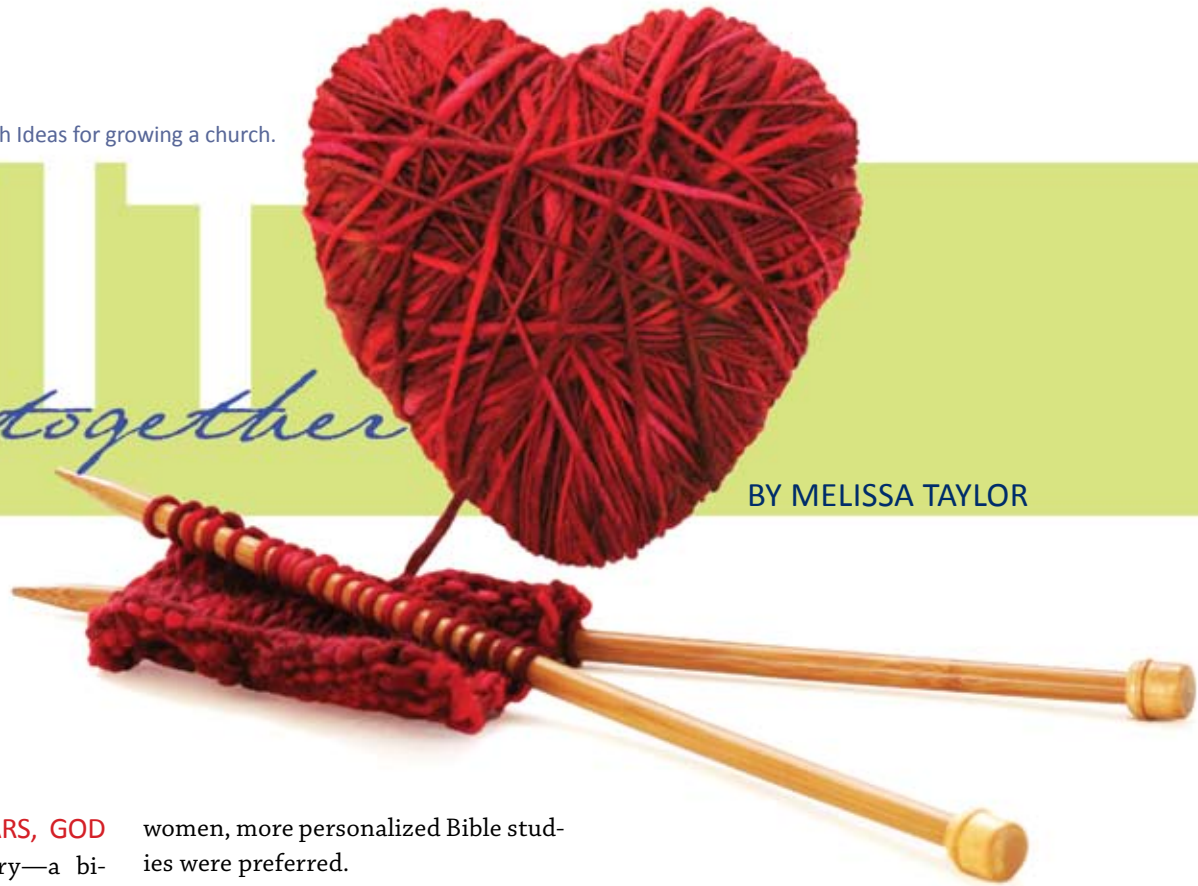
Donnie and Susan Burke were recently approved to become home missionaries to the Rocky Mountain area. Donnie graduated from Southeastern FWB College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible and Pastoral Theology. He earned a Master of Arts degree in Religion at Hillsdale FWB College. Susan is the daughter of Glenda and the late Bill Fulcher, former home and international missionaries. Susan earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Southeastern FWB College. The Burkes have three children, Tyler, Brandon, and Katie. Please pray for the Burke family as they embark on this great adventure for the Lord.

A missionary shares family-centered outreach ideas for growing a church.

KNIT

together

BY MELISSA TAYLOR



OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, GOD has used a simple ministry—a bi-weekly play date with other moms—to help our church grow. Two summers ago, I started this ministry, meeting at different locations around Yuma. The activity provided an informal way for ladies to fellowship while our children played. It also offered them an opportunity to invite friends to a non-intimidating environment. Because we met in public places like parks and playgrounds, we met other moms and told them how we all knew each other. Several families began coming to our church through this ministry.

At the end of the summer, I organized a mom's group that met during the day. While moms studied the Bible together, the kids played. I have to admit, some days were crazy! But most of the time, this arrangement worked out great. We built relationships and found prayer partners we could count on. Because the group consisted of all

women, more personalized Bible studies were preferred.

At our church, small groups run on a three-semester cycle—fall, winter/spring, and summer. During the most recent semester of small groups, I led a women's group at night with no kids present. Every group is challenged to participate in kindness projects during the semester. So my co-leader (one of the moms I met during play dates) and I decided to knit blankets and hats for the local NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit). Both of us have had babies in the NICU, and we understand how hard the experience can be. These small, handmade gifts let people know you care.

Each week, the group would knit during Bible study. Almost everyone in the group participated. Some ladies learned how to knit for the first time (including me), and we bought "Knifty Knitter" to help them.

We enjoyed sharing prayer re-

quests, learning about the Bible...and knitting. At the end of this semester, we had seven blankets and 103 hats for the NICU. We placed a little note with each one listing our church website and telephone number. It was exciting and rewarding to give these to the hospital.

Through this project, God has opened the doors of friendship with one of the nurses in the NICU. She is starting a support group for families with premature babies, and she asked me to share my story with them. I can hardly wait to see what God has in store for this growing ministry that started with a simple play date! **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Melissa Taylor ministers with her husband, Jason, as home missionaries to Yuma, Arizona.

+ INTERSECT

where the BIBLE meets life



Photo: Mark Cowart

DR. GARNETT REID
chairs the Bible Department at
Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Under the Rabbi's Microscope: Part Two

Tattoos, Torah, and the Two Testaments

"DR. REID, DO YOU THINK IT'S A SIN TO _____?" I get questions such as this fairly often. Just fill in the blank with a garden variety of issues related—or not—to Old Testament law, including: eat catfish, get a tattoo, marry someone who's been divorced, get a body piercing, charge interest on a personal loan...you get the picture.

A.J. Jacobs bumped into many of these odds and ends when he attempted to practice "as literally as possible" the Bible's laws over the course of a year. Read his story in *The Year of Living Biblically* (see previous column in the June-July edition). His efforts not only lead to some hilarious hijinks, they also raise a serious issue for Christians who take Scripture seriously. How does Old Testament law relate to New Testament believers?

The Wrong Battle

At the entry level of this discussion, one simple tip helps to steer us in the right direction. *We must not fall into the trap of pitting law against grace. On the contrary, the law is all about what grace wants to accomplish in God's plan.* Often you'll hear something like this: "The Old Testament is all about law, but the New offers grace." Big mistake! The law Moses received is actually one of God's most gracious provisions for us. That's because in the law God is giving us a detailed profile of Himself. I'll return to that fact shortly.

In addition, these legal codes serve like a mirror to reflect who we really are. Though we see God revealing Himself in the law, we also become keenly aware that we are not like Him. We "fall short" of His glory, as Paul put it (Romans 3:23). God's Spirit then uses the law to convince us that we need His gift of salvation found only as we trust Christ. Now that's the pinnacle of grace!

A New Testament Take on Old Testament Law

The New Testament itself reminds us of this gracious function of Old Testament law. Should we do away with the law since faith is the requirement to know God, Paul asked. "God forbid"—absolutely not—is his answer; instead "we establish the law" (Romans 3:31). In Galatians 2:21, the

apostle added, "Is the law then contrary to the (gracious) promises of God? Certainly not!" Actually "the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good" (Romans 7:12).

Remember, too, that the law's interface with grace prompts Jesus to tell us that He did not come to abolish the law, but to "fulfill" it (Matthew 5:17). Our Lord Christ embodies in Himself every good and right principle upon which the law rests. He therefore is the solution to our sin dilemma. After living a sinless life to meet the law's demand for perfect righteousness, Jesus died on the cross to pay for the law's insistence that sin receive punishment. What's more, His death continues to pay for our sin.

Torah the Teacher

The law also provides us with instruction about God. Remember, I said that it offers a thorough profile of who He is. So Jesus not only fulfilled the law through His saving life and death, He also taught us how to live in such a way that reflects the very character of God Himself.

This role of the law's instruction is often neglected by New Covenant Christians. The word translated *law* in the Old Testament is a Hebrew term you may know. *Torah*, also the title given to the first five books in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, has several shades of meaning. It can refer to a large body of laws; in that vein we talk about "The Law of Moses," the collection of precepts associated with God's revelation to Moses at Sinai and after. *Torah* can also denote a single law—the law of the Sabbath, for instance.

Yet this term often speaks in a general sense of teaching or instruction, of knowledge communicated to learners. At its most basic, "law" is simply God revealing Himself to us in a way that will transform what we believe and how we behave. As I will detail in the next column, Old Testament law set God at the center of life so that His people at least had the opportunity to immerse themselves totally in Him.

All those questions, then, about whether certain practices are sinful according to Old Testament law, actually take a back seat to the larger issue: who is God and what is His place in my life? We need both law and grace to help us with those answers. **ONE**

Change is in the Air

BY D. RAY LEWIS

SOME LOOK AT CHANGE AS BAD. THEY HAVE THE ATTITUDE, "IF IT ISN'T BROKEN, DON'T FIX IT." MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, HOWEVER, CHANGE IS GOOD. A PRIME EXAMPLE IS THE EXCITING CHANGES TAKING PLACE AT THE BOARD OF RETIREMENT.

First, the new interactive website, www.boardofretirement.org, was launched at the 2009 national convention. The site is part of an ongoing effort to provide participants with information and tools to help them with retirement planning.

Participants can now access their individual retirement account. Information is updated nightly with current account balances and recent account activity.


The site also contains current news feeds with happenings relating to retirement pension plans. Many current forms and documents can be downloaded and printed for use by the participants. Some forms are interactive and can be completed online, giving us updated current information much faster than ever before.

Visit www.BoardofRetirement.org to learn more about this valuable new tool.

The website is not the only change taking place at the Board of Retirement. History was made on March 24, 2009, when the Board of Trustees voted to make two major changes to the Free Will Baptist pension plan.

The first change deals with earnings allocations. We will change from semi-annual to monthly allocations of earnings or losses. This change went into effect July 1, 2009. Once this change went into effect, all participant withdrawals, transfers, rollovers, or any other settlements are calculated





according to the last day of the calendar month within which the participant's withdrawal, transfer, or other settlement decision is made.

Using new software, the Board will issue monthly electronic retirement fund statements to all participants who provide current email addresses. We will continue, however, to mail semi-annual statements.

The second Plan change adopted by the Board addresses the issue of investment options. For the first 40 years of our existence, plan participants have been limited to one investment option. Historically, this option has done very well, and we believe that in spite of the current economic crisis will continue to do so. Our life-to-date average return is 7.53%.

In recent years, however, more and more participants have requested additional options for their investments. The Board heard those requests and has approved an additional investment option.

The staff was directed to implement a second, more conservative investment option, as soon as practicable, and no later than January 1, 2010. The new option will be available to all participants, but the Board made their decision primarily for the benefit of the participants who are approaching retirement.

The newly-created fund will be managed by our longtime investment managers, Manning and Napier Advisors. This fund will be managed and invested under different and more conservative directives and policies than the current portfolio.

The original option will continue to be the default option for those who do not direct all or part of their funds to this new option.

In light of the present economy, some participants may be tempted to abandon the long-standing option that has done well in the past and move to the more conservative option. Making radical changes in investments during the financial roller coaster we have been experiencing lately is seldom a wise move. What happens if you are out of the market and the market goes up? Making changes based on short-term market movements is almost a guarantee for failure as it promotes "buying high and selling low."

Experience has shown that a disciplined and measured approach is the most prudent means of achieving positive long-term investment results. We are confident that this approach will continue to serve our participants' retirement needs.

Sometimes change is necessary. A new interactive website, revised earnings allocations, and a new investment option—all positive changes for an already good program. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: D. Ray Lewis joined the Board of Retirement in 1982. He became director in 2005 after serving several years as assistant director.



SUBJECT to CHANGE

BY BILL AND BRENDA EVANS

FIVE STATES AND FOUR YEARS INTO HIS JOURNEY, Cecil Hutchinson made a U-turn. Eating the dust behind him were Fort Knox, Cleveland, Little Rock, Nashville, West Virginia, and God. Boot camp and the 101st Airborne were back there, too. Hard labor as a deckhand in Cleveland and joblessness in Nashville were yesterday as well. It was 1966, and he was a brimming-full, 22 year old. A world of possibilities lay ahead, he figured—or at least Columbus, Ohio.

Spread out over a gently undulating plain, Columbus' outskirts were checkered with rows of lush, green crops and white farmhouses. The city itself rose tall and multi-storied with business, industry, banking, hospitals, and universities. Here on this fertile plain just about everything in Cecil's life was about to change.

He tumbled headlong into love for a spirited strawberry blonde named Gloria. They met in September and married in November. Two short months later, Cecil started a new

job at United Parcel Service, a job that evolved and grew with him for the next 28 years.

From Darkness to Daylight

But the more things changed, the more they stayed the same. The Holy Spirit had pursued Cecil through high school, the military, and five states. His persistent pursuit carried over to Columbus, where He worked through Cecil's Grandmother Hutchinson.

"Every time I saw her, she talked about the Lord. When I was in the army, she sent me cards, and just reminding me of the Lord. She just kept on trying," Cecil said.

"Just to show you her persistence, when her church was planning a new building, she went door-to-door asking neighbors, friends, anybody to buy a brick to help build the Free Will Baptist church. She never gave up on anything—most of all me.

“In 1982 the Lord was really after me. I began reading prophecy and economics. Late one night on March 14, alone in our family room, I came to the end of myself and committed my life to Christ. He changed me from darkness to daylight.

“My faith was a new thing in my life, and I was not certain how it would affect me at work. Gloria and I were very social and that always involved drinking, so I began by pouring out my liquor. Then I cleaned up my language. I thought I wouldn’t tell anybody that I was saved, but I think the change was obvious.”

In fact, the transformation was radical. Cecil lost his old identity but gained friendship with four men who are still his buddies 27 years later. Gloria, too, was transformed. This change was not about new clothes or a new leaf, but a new life. She sang the gospel while rocking their young children Michael and Kimberly: “If you believe, you shall receive. All you have to do is trust and pray. Believe...you must believe.”

Heaven’s makeover touched everything from the Hutchinson’s checkbook to their garden. “We tithed right away,” Cecil says. “I don’t even remember how or when I knew to tithe. We just did it first, before anything else. We didn’t buy new cars; we tithed. Gloria’s dad always said that

The Hutchinsons knew no one in Sebastian, and the move was difficult for their children, though ultimately a blessing. They began to search for a good church, part-time jobs, and friendship.

Change is often painful, whether geographic, physical, or emotional. In Sebastian, Gloria has survived cancer twice. They have ridden out two hurricanes, evacuated for one that didn’t hit, and been threatened by others. One year, Cecil made nine trips to West Virginia to care for his father during a serious illness. And, as with many families, they have suffered wounds too deep to share in casual conversation.

But Cecil remains philosophic about enduring troubles: “Pain and suffering are for reasons. We’ve never counted on being exempt from tragedy just because we have faith. Gloria and I apply Romans 8:28 and know that, under God’s control, good will come from bad.”

Planning for the Future

Cecil and Gloria have learned to make strategic adjustments when they encounter life changes. Recently, they made a financial move that set their house in order and assured that their objectives for the future are securely in place.

“You know how you’re always going to do something with your money...but not today. That’s the way it was with me,” Cecil says. “I had stocks just sitting there, and I had no idea how I could give them to the Lord’s work until I learned that the Foundation offered a Unitrust. It was exactly what I needed.”

“I wanted an income, a tax break, and to leave gifts to Free Will Baptist Bible College and International Missions. I had no idea how to do that until the Foundation came along.” Gloria adds, “Pastors need to bring in the Foundation staff to educate others about how to plan for the future. That’s how we learned what to do.”

Cecil’s permanent smile turns serious: “If people put it off—they have the heart to do a thing but put it off—that’s bad. The Lord never told Abraham to wait and let his son Isaac pay the tithe. When Melchizedek came by, He said, ‘give your tithe.’ And Abraham did!

“Finally,” Cecil says, “I have a peace of mind about the money I’ve accumulated and what I’ve done with it.” And that will never change. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITERS: Bill Evans, former director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, lives in Catlettsburg, KY, with his wife Brenda, a retired English teacher. They are grandparents of eight. To learn more planned-giving options offered by the Free Will Baptist Foundation, visit www.FWBgifts.org.

“PAIN AND SUFFERING ARE FOR REASONS.

We’ve never counted on being exempt from tragedy just because we have faith. Gloria and I apply Romans 8:28 and know that, under God’s control, good will come from bad.”

if you can’t afford to pay for it, you don’t need it anyway. That became our practice.”

“The garden was a powerful object lesson to our children,” Gloria says. “We prayed as we planted and tithed as we gathered by giving away vegetables or salsa that I made. Our children noticed that the Lord blessed us, that our garden thrived when neighbors’ didn’t, and that if I needed to get away from them or Cecil, I’d go weed.”

New Directions

After 28 years in Columbus, a sudden tectonic shift dislodged the geography of their lives. Cecil was offered a buy-out and retirement package from his management position at UPS—an offer he could not refuse although was just 51 and their two children were still teenagers. They prayed, packed, sold their Ohio home, bought one in Sebastian, Florida, and headed south. After all, they had dreamed of living on Florida’s Atlantic Coast since they first visited Co-coa Beach 20 years earlier.

WHERE IS YOUR WILL?

BY NORMA JACKSON GOLDMAN

“WHERE IS YOUR WILL?” MAY SOUND LIKE A strange, even abrupt question to ask a friend or family member. But that’s exactly what I have asked many of my friends and co-workers countless times over the past month. It isn’t strange, nor is it abrupt; I’m doing them a favor. The reason is that my beloved brother died recently, apparently without a will. He did so knowing his wife would require psychiatric care for the rest of her life. I’m certain that he did not intend to leave others to attend to his affairs, completely ignorant of his wishes, but that is exactly what happened. Compounding the matter further, he died in Canada, although he was a U. S. citizen.

The second question to be asked is, “Who knows where your will is?” followed by, “Do you have all your important papers in one place, and can they be easily found?” After the shock of learning about the circumstances of his death, and the will question, here are the other questions asked of me, of which I could answer only one: Do you know anything about your brother’s banking arrangements? Do you know anything about his other assets? Was there insurance? Did he have a safety deposit box? Can you provide any information relative to his surviving wife’s family in Canada? Did your brother give any instructions regarding his burial?

In just a few days, it will have been a full month since he died. I have not yet been able to attain legal status so that I can claim his body. I have not been told if the authorities have located a will. We have been able to plan a memorial service so his family members can begin the grieving process and find some sort of closure, but the wounds remain fresh and raw. The uncertainties of making final arrangements without knowing his wishes are painful.

As you read these words, doubtless you are mentally preparing an inventory—which questions could you answer and which would remain unan-



swered? Who could take responsibility, and how would that person carry out the desires of the deceased?

Likely you have heard this statistic many times: 50% of Americans die without a will. This is an incredible, almost unbelievable statement made about people in a country like our own. Yet until faced with circumstances similar to those described here, that statistic does not hit hard enough to move people to action.

This fact is astonishing, considering the number of people who have children in their care. Who will care for them in the event of your untimely death? Without a will, the state where you reside will make decisions that rightfully belong to you... and only you.

A hidden folder contains my will (it needs updating), a list of bank accounts (names, numbers, authorized signatories), a list of insurance coverage (personal life, auto, home, long-term disability, accident,

travel and cancer policies), sources of income (account numbers for investments, pensions), and a 2008 tax return. All three of my children know where the folder is kept, and they know who has been named executor of my estate. They know where I will be buried, and I have left notes about my funeral service, including music that is important to me.

Where is your folder?

While the issue of a will might sound abrupt or harsh, in truth, it is a loving and important responsibility. Even if it is uncomfortable, ask the question of your parents, family members with children under their care, or single friends. Agree to hold each other accountable for getting these important records together and keeping them updated. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Former magazine editor Norma Jackson Goldman enjoys a freelance writing career in her retirement.



My Last Will

Don't know where to go from here?
Let us help.



For a complimentary Wills Kit, contact the Free Will Baptist Foundation:
www.FWBGifts.org | (877) 336-7575 | foundation@nafwb.org

FIVE GENERATIONS and More

BY GENEVA POOLE



THE TELEPHONE RANG. THIS TIME IT WAS THE church's big talker—Rachel. She wants to help others so much she often spoils everything by being too helpful. "No" is never an answer to what she wants.

Rachel suggested the church pay the rent for a young couple she had just met. She also thought it would be good to buy them groceries to tide them through until she could find them a job. At that moment, things were rather dismal for the couple. Bare cupboards wouldn't matter if they lost the apartment they had rented.

My husband Bobby told Rachel he did not think it a good idea for the church to start paying rent for needy people, but he would gladly give personally to the cause and perhaps others in the church might do the same. Immediately, Rachel began to raise the needed funds. Within a few hours, the money was in hand to help this couple who, just after marrying, moved into town in search of a brighter future.

The names "Hemmer and Yeda" held no magic when the young couple hung out their sign as tailors of ladies apparel. Oh, yes, a few customers appeared, but not enough to get along. What were they going to do?

Then Rachel burst into their lives. Not only did she help them financially by gathering money for rent and food, she

also found Hemmer a job and told the couple about the Free Will Baptist church.

Rachel called Bobby and gave him all the details about Hemmer and Yeda. She asked us to visit them. She also involved our church people, and they began to pray that God would be glorified through this couple.

The night came for our first visit. We were impressed by Hemmer and Yeda's cordial welcome, intelligent conversation, and gentle manners. They certainly were not the type of people who typically ask for handouts. We easily turned the conversation to spiritual things. That night proved the turning point of their lives, for they both accepted Christ as their Savior. After each of them prayed, they became radiant with joy because of their newfound faith.

On Sunday they attended the First Free Will Baptist Church in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil. Before long, their shared joy of learning led them to enter the Bible college hosted by the church. As they dug deeper and deeper into the Word, the Holy Spirit began to impress upon Antonio (Hemmer is his professional name) the need for pastors. He yielded himself, responding to the need.

Love for people and a desire to help them spiritually is Antonio and Yeda's heartbeat. Their passion led them to



ride the bus for an hour and a half to the city of Franca to meet in Antonio's mother's home with family and friends they desired to win to Christ.

Antonio and Yeda wanted to share the good news of salvation with their many friends in Franca. They talked with Rubens, a physics teacher, and his wife Angelica about opening their home for a regular service in town. Rubens and Angelica agreed, so Bobby, Antonio, and Yeda, made the hour and a half drive to Franca once a month for many months. Many of Antonio and Yeda's friends and family members, including Rubens and Angelica, accepted the Lord.

Shortly after their conversions, a new teaching position moved the couple to a town about 20 minutes out of Ribeirão Preto. They began to attend First FWB Church where Bobby and I were working. They have been a marvelous blessing to the work of the Lord—participating in as many of the church activities as possible, serving as Sunday School teachers and Sunday School superintendent, and taking part in dramas and children's activities. They are examples to be observed and followed.

This family was also used of God in two of the new works started in Ribeirão Preto: the Second Church and

the Marincek work. It is a blessing to have people willing to leave the comfort and familiarity of one church family to help begin a new work.

Their children have grown up, and two of the three are active in the work of the Lord. Andraus uses his musical ability in the First FWB Church in Ribeirão Preto. Ariádine is active in the Marincek Church, currently teaching a Sunday School class, serving as program chairman for the Women Active for Christ, acting as church treasurer, and directing Friends Club, the children's outreach program. Through her work at an auditing firm, she invited a co-worker, Luciano, to Sunday School and worship service. He accepted the invitation and was saved and baptized shortly afterward. Luciano is a good student of the Word and now serves as Sunday School teacher of the young people's class.

Five generations of spiritual children—Rachel, Antonio and Yeda, Rubens and Angelica, Andraus and his sister Ariádine, and Ariádine's co-worker Luciano. Praise God for those who receive the gospel and share it with others. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Geneva Poole and her husband Bobby have worked to beget spiritual children in Brazil for almost 50 years.

NEWS

around the world

IM Board Meets

ANTIOCH, TN—The Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions held its annual meeting April 27-29, 2009, in the Mission office in Antioch, Tennessee. In historic and significant action, the Board approved both a new purpose statement and eight core values—

Purpose of Free Will Baptist International Missions: *We exist to facilitate Church Planting Movements among unreached peoples.*

International Missions' Core Values: *Integrity, Trust, Interdependence, Accountability, Flexibility, Affirmation, Life-long Learning, and Facilitation*

For more information about the purpose statement and core values, visit the IM website (www.fwbgo.com). The three-day meeting yielded the following additional actions:

The Board voted to renew IM's partnership with the International Training Alliance. Three official IM representatives for Cuba were interviewed and approved as part of our ongoing partnership with the FWB National Association in Cuba (Tom Willey, Jr., Ron Callaway, and Gary Curry).

Stan and Brenda Bunch (Panama) and Matthew and Brooke Turnbough (Spain) were appointed for another term. Affiliate status was granted to Joshua and Jennifer Detherage who will be seconded to ELIC to serve in an undisclosed creative access country. The couple's long-term goal is to serve as IM career workers.

The Board voted to expand the role of its NGO to mobilize Free Will Baptist people for projects on established fields. This allows The Hanna Project, originally created only to work in restricted access areas, to be strategically employed by workers on existing fields. Creative and restricted access areas will still be THP's priority.

A finance committee recommendation to commend the missionary family on their cooperation and understanding in reducing their current budgets and to encourage them to underspend in the remainder of the current fiscal year was adopted. The Board voted to reaffirm the plan and budget for the 2010 Mission-

ary Gathering as part of the 75th Anniversary Celebration in Oklahoma.

A change in missionary stateside travel policy was adopted. Beginning January 2010, the Mission will provide a Mission-owned vehicle for use while on stateside assignment. The 2007/2008 audit was received. The 2007 audit was restated to include field assets added to the IM books. The auditor outlined requirements for all field-held assets to comply with standardized reporting guidelines in the future.

In addition, the Board elected Danny Williams, chairman; Randy Wilson, vice chairman; and Tom McCullough, secretary for the coming year. The Board received updates on all areas of Mission activity. Some noteworthy highlights were:

A review of the newly redesigned IM website (www.fwbgo.com) including the MyIM feature allowing users to personalize their experience and the information and updates they receive.

A progress report on the development of *Into the Darkness*—the 75th anniversary commemorative pictorial history of IM.

A look at the new *IMpulse* video magazine strategy—free for download to all users on the website.

A meeting with representatives from FWB colleges to discuss curriculum planning and the Missionary-in-Residence programs.

A meeting with the U.S. stakeholders of our partnership with the Russian Baptist Union and our continuing role of the facilitating/educational ministry with the Russian Church.

IM's partnership with NYC to present GPS materials and training to students attending the NYC in Cincinnati, OH.

Board members participating were: Danny Williams (AL), chairman; Randy Wilson (OK), vice-chairman; Tom McCullough (MI), secretary; Paul Creech (GA); Nelson Henderson (AR); Sherwood Lee (SC); Jeff Manning (NC); Jerry Norris (MO); Robert Morgan (TN).



BRETAGNE, FRANCE—JCROIS, the annual youth conference in France, was held outside of Nantes for the first time May 1-3. Sixty-five young people participated, the largest number to date. During the last service, Raphael, the speaker for the weekend, invited those who believe God is calling them to ministry either in France or around the world to step forward. Twenty-four young people responded; six were from Dennis and Carol Teague's church in Saint Sébastien.



UBERLÂNDIA, BRAZIL—The Jardim Botânico Church in Uberlândia celebrated its first anniversary Saturday, May 30. This work started as a children's Bible club in the home of Juninho and Simone. Parents became interested in having a Bible study and the group gradually outgrew the couple's home. The church rented a storefront a little over a year ago with Juninho serving as the pastor. As part of the celebration, seven people followed the Lord in baptism in the congregation's first baptismal service. Six people accepted Christ during the Saturday evening and Sunday morning services.



SVISHTOV, BULGARIA—The Good News FWB Church in Svishtov celebrated its first baptism service Saturday, May 23. Tim Awtrey was privileged to baptize three new believers. The baptisms did not take place in a normal baptistery, but rather in a small pool.

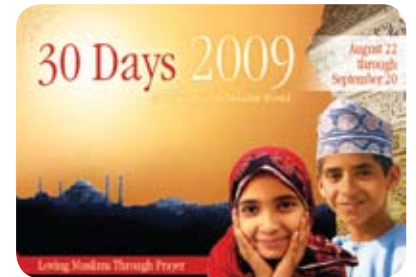


TOKYO, JAPAN—While sitting at an intersection waiting to turn, Noriko noticed the Kamifukuoka church sign. She walked 45 minutes in the rain to attend worship services on Sunday, May 24, and returned the next Sunday. Noriko has been a believer for many years, but her husband and two children have not accepted Christ.



ALPEDRETE, SPAIN—The Alpedrete church showed the movie *Fireproof* on Sunday, May 24, as part of their month-long emphasis on the family. Twenty-one children watched *Veggie Tales: The Pirates Who Can't Do Anything* while 30 adults viewed *Fireproof*. Several couples who watched the movie have recently faced difficult times in their marriages. The movie provided a great way to reach out in the community and help struggling marriages.

RAMADAN



The 18th annual focus on prayer for Muslims, coinciding with the Islamic festival of Ramadan, is scheduled for August 22-September 20. Each year, more than a billion Muslims observe the most holy month of their religious calendar. Each year, millions of Christians internationally use the 30 Days Muslim Prayer Focus for constructive, informed prayer for Muslim peoples worldwide. Join in prayer for Muslims in your neighborhood and around the world. Churches and individuals may order the prayer guides directly (www.30-days.net).

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE—

International Missions announced in the April-May issue of *ONE* that the 75th Anniversary Commemorative Coffee Table Book could be pre-ordered at a discount price of \$45. We apologize for inadvertently listing the wrong phone number. You may call 877-767-7736 to place your order.





Goodbye, "Mr. Foreign Missions"

BY CHARLES THIGPEN

ONE OF GOD'S CHOICE SERVANTS HAS been called home. On Monday, April 13, 2009, Raymond Riggs, of Monett, Missouri, peacefully left this life and went to be with the Lord, with his wife Bernice Davis Riggs, and all six of his children standing around his bed. It is so wonderful that God has said in His Word, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" (Psalm 116:15).

Brother Riggs was both a good man and a great man. He was 93 years old, born October 15, 1915, in Pocahontas, Arkansas. As a young public school teacher, he was invited to the Detroit area by N.P. Gates to sing in a gospel quartet. While in Michigan, he fell in love with Brother Gates' daughter, Winona, married her, and soon after answered the call to preach the gospel.

Urged to start a church in the

city, he rented a storefront building in 1938, and founded Highland Park Free Will Baptist Church (now Central FWB Church). He and his wife—an extremely gifted musician—held many street meetings and led hundreds of people to the Lord. After a short time, they bought a vacant building, and the church grew rapidly. The congregation enlarged the building twice. In just over 16 years, the membership grew to 400.

When Riggs attended the 1947 meeting of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, he heard Tom and Mabel Willey speak. God used the Willeys to inspire, challenge, and burden him about the cause of foreign missions. Before long, he was elected to serve on the Foreign Missions Board. Soon he became the part-time promotional director-treasurer of the board.

Although he was pastoring a

strong, growing church, Raymond felt led of the Lord to give up the church and become the first full-time promotional director-treasurer of the Foreign Missions Department. During his six years as director, the number of foreign missionaries grew from seven to 30. Raymond Riggs truly put FWB Foreign Missions on the map before resigning in 1959. He went on to serve on the Board for many years, where he earned the affectionate title, "Mr. Foreign Missions."

Riggs was a gifted evangelist. I have never heard any man give an evangelistic invitation as moving and compelling as Raymond Riggs. Nor do I know of any Free Will Baptist who won as many people to Christ through personal evangelism, pastoral ministry, and evangelistic meetings.



Not only have many come to Christ as a result of his influence, many have answered the call to full-time missionary or ministry service. When Central FWB Church celebrated its 50th anniversary, they named 50 full-time Christian workers from the church. Raymond Riggs influenced many of these workers.

After his service to Foreign Missions, Riggs pastored several churches including Bethany FWB Church in Norfolk, Virginia, where he founded the first FWB Christian day school. Eventually, he returned to Michigan to finish out 25 years of pastoral service at Central FWB Church. In addition to starting Bethany Christian Academy, he organized Great Lakes Bible Institute in Michigan and Upper Cumberland Bible Institute in Cookeville,

Tennessee. He also pastored several Tennessee churches: Cookeville, Goodsprings, Sparta, and United.

In 1982, Riggs became promotional director for the Tennessee State Association, a position he held 10 years. In addition to promoting the state work, he held many revivals under the name Stateside Evangelism. His wife Winona remained by his side throughout his ministry. She was an outstanding and accomplished musician who played the piano and organ. Together, they blessed the hearts of people with music and message.

After Winona's death, Raymond married Bernice Davis (called Bea). She was a great help and encouragement to Raymond in the closing years of his life.

The Riggs' children include: Charles (Joyce) of Hewitt, Texas. Charles is

a deacon in his local church and has been active in his church's music ministry. He spent many years in the Air Force. Dr. Ken (Carolyn) Riggs serves as headmaster of Pleasant View Christian School. Previously he served as chairman of the Teacher Education Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College for more than 20 years. Randy (Beverly) Riggs of Joelton, Tennessee, pastors Goodsprings FWB Church. Randy has been an active leader in the Northern Quarterly of the Cumberland Association and presently serves as moderator of the Tennessee State Association. Steve (Becky) Riggs is a successful missionary to the country of France. Ramona (Earl) Sessoms lives in Chesapeake, Virginia, where she has worked for Pat Robertson for many years. Patsy (Bill) Daniels lives in Calhoun, Georgia, where Bill serves as a hospice chaplain.

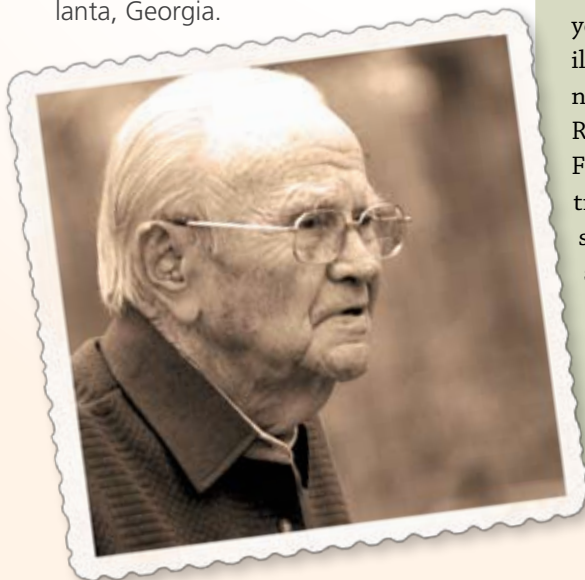
Riggs had two stepsons—Rick (Linda) Davis of Monett, Missouri, and Jim (Dee) Davis of Rapid City, Iowa—and one stepdaughter, Sue (Gaylon) Henderson, of Monett, Missouri. He had 31 grandchildren, 48 great-grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren.

Few men have made such an outstanding contribution to the work of the Lord. He was an excellent preacher, pastor, evangelist, and promotional director, as well as husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great grandfather.

He stood alongside and worked with men like Dr. L.C. Johnson, John L. Welch, Homer Willis, Robert Crawford, Damon Dodd, and others, to lay the foundation of the present day Free Will Baptist denomination. His passing marks the end of an era for Free Will Baptists. Truly he was an outstanding pioneer, a member of “The Greatest Generation” among Free Will Baptists.

I am so pleased to say that Brother Raymond Riggs was my friend and my hero. I will always be in debt to this great man of God. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Former president of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Dr. Charles Thigpen worked closely with Raymond Riggs for many years. He and his wife live in the area of Atlanta, Georgia.



Steve Riggs sent the following email just after the passing of his father:

Dear Friends,

My Dad went to be with the Lord tonight with all his children and Bea gathered around his bedside. Words simply cannot express the gratitude I feel in my heart that the Lord allowed all of us to be here and accompany Dad on his final steps from this life to glory. As we were singing the wondrous songs of the faith that Mom and Dad passed on to us, the Lord answered our prayer and took the greatest of His servants I have ever known to be with Him forever.

Thank you for your love and the support you have been to us.

What a day that will be, when my Jesus I shall see

When I look upon His face, the One who saved me by His grace.

When He takes me by the hand, and leads me through the

Promised Land,

What a day, glorious day that will be!

Steve Riggs

I can assure you, there were very few dull moments in our home! Visitors sometimes referred to our home as a “three-ring circus.” Dad’s full life included not only his family but his ministry. In his early days as a preacher, he preached in the streets off the back of a truck. Mother would play a pump organ, and Daddy would lead singing. He started his first church in a grocery store. When the church grew too large for the store, Daddy found a Muslim mosque in Highland Park, Michigan, and the church bought it. He was a radio preacher long before that became popular. And I even remember from my childhood that the old Highland Park FWB Church had a band. This was in the early '50s!

From “Tribute to My Father,” by Ken Riggs. Read the entire article online at www.onemag.org/raymond_riggs.htm.

With infectious laughter, a zest for life you don’t find in most 30 year-olds, and an ornery streak a mile long, Ray stepped into my family with the ease of a familiar foot donning a well-worn slipper. He just naturally belonged there. He blew my expectations of “Rev. Raymond Riggs” out of the water from the start. I quickly discovered that the Free Will Baptist icon in whose presence demons trembled and angels tread lightly was a man, and a fun one at that. Never stuffy, condescending or holier-than-thou, Ray entered into everyday life, eager simply to be one of us, and in so doing provided the perfect answer to the now-famous question, “What would Jesus do?”

From the article, “Remembering Ray,” by step-granddaughter Susan Henderson. Read the entire article at www.onemag.org/raymond_riggs.htm.

NEWS at randall house



Jennifer Brooks Named CLEAR Teacher of the Year

Now that the votes have been counted, congratulations are in order for this year's Teacher of the Year: Jennifer Brooks from Hillview Free Will Baptist Church in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

Jennifer is the preschool teacher at her church, and she has made a great connection with each of her students. Pastor Bill Hayes says she is very involved with the kids' lives. She takes time to get to know each boy and girl, and she often teaches from the floor to connect with her students in a more personal way. Other teachers admire the way she encourages her students' parents to

review the lesson with their children. She does this by giving them the materials they need each week and by using a point system to record how well the principles they learned in class were developed during the week.

Jennifer often thinks outside the box and goes out of her way to help the children in her class enjoy learning from God's Word. She even took time out of her week to build a cardboard boat and help her children experience, rather than just learn, the story of Paul's shipwreck.

As CLEAR Teacher of the Year, Brooks received a three-day, two-night stay at the 2009 national convention. This prize included transportation allotment, food, and lodging. She also won a \$200 decorating allowance for her classroom and a \$100 gift card to Randall Bookstore.

This award is sponsored by Randall House. If you would like to place a nomination for the 2010 Teacher of the Year, visit D6teacher.com. You can also write Randall House, 114 Bush Road, Nashville, TN 37217, or call 800-877-7030, and request an entry form. The deadline for nominations is April 30, 2010.



Randall House Receives Gift of Labor From Wheeler Inc.



Painting the outside of the Randall House building has been on a list of needs "for three years" said Ron Hunter, Jr. It's just that the CEO of the non-

profit ministry resource center "could never justify the cost" with all of the other priorities of the growing company.

That is, until Wheeler Inc. called.

Wheeler Inc. has served the heating and air-conditioning needs of Randall House for over five years. Clarence Lewis, COO of Randall House, said, "Wheeler has done an excellent job on our air conditioning system. We have been very satisfied with their service and quality of work." The company also does miscellaneous construction jobs.

"When [Wheeler] asked us what more he could do to be part of our mission as a non-profit by donating back to us, the one area we needed most that his crew could provide was a drastically needed facelift to our aging building," said Hunter.

David Wheeler, owner of the successful company, called looking for a way to help. He and his son (who currently manages most of the business) often look for ways to make charitable donations to churches, non-profit organizations, and individuals in need. It just so happens that the church Wheeler attends, Good Springs Free Will Baptist Church, uses the curriculum Randall House produces. The connection is obvious. Wheeler considered the work his company donated to be "one of the greater honors" he has had.

The labor was provided under the leadership of project manager Ronnie Clinard. Randall House supplied the paint. Over all, employees of Wheeler spent about three weeks (over 200 hours) working on the outside of the building, saving Randall House approximately \$15,000.

Wheeler, on his reasoning for donating to Randall House, said, "When God has been good, you try to be good to others in return. I'm living a dream. I've been relatively successful. For me to be able to give back is a great blessing to me."

Hunter responded by saying, "David's contribution is more than a new coat of paint. It allows our building's image to the public to look more like the high quality products we produce."



CLEAR Curriculum – Powered by D6

From its inception, CLEAR curriculum has employed a family emphasis. Having the entire family on the same biblical theme is an intentional effort to get the family talking about what was studied in Sunday School and small groups. Family links, and now *Splinks*, are more resources for the family to apply the principles of the lessons.

Along the way it became evident—CLEAR curriculum is D6 Curriculum. D6 is a term Randall House uses to express our philosophy of Christian education. Basing our philosophy on Deuteronomy 6, we have focused attention on the responsibility of parents to educate their children in the Word of God and to become Christ followers. To drive this point even closer to the heart of what we do, we have adopted the name D6 Curriculum. We still use the CLEAR Learning System: CONNECT, LEARN, EXPLORE, APPLY, RESPOND to teach the lessons. We just want to make it clear; God's philosophy of education is found in Deuteronomy 6.

Vertical Three

Daniel 3 records the story of three young men who faced a trial of their faith. These young men had been removed from their homes and the influence of their family and peers. They overcame the temptation to compromise and defile themselves. Then they were confronted with a life-or-death decision. When given one last chance, they affirmed their commitment to stand firm in their faith.

They refused to bow to the pressure to conform. They did not follow the crowd in worshipping a false god. Faithfulness to their God was worth their very lives. They trusted that the Creator of the universe was more powerful than a man-made god of gold. Not knowing the outcome, they stood firm in the face of death. They literally walked through the fire.

This strength of character and perseverance is only possible when one is grounded in the faith. Equipping young believers to be true to the faith is the goal of *Vertical Three*—the new name for Student and Children's Ministry. This goal is achieved through three avenues: ministry development, service and leadership training, and youth worker resources.

Ministry development is the purpose for Bible Competition and the Music and Arts Festival. This program is intended to help young people discover, develop, and dedicate their talents to God's service.

Service and leadership training is being accomplished through programs like Reach That Guy, Truth and Peace Leadership Conference, and the National Youth Evangelistic Team.

Youth worker resources include networking opportunities such as the *Gathering* at the Youth Pastor Summit in Orlando, training seminars at the NYC, and developing ministry tools.

The National Youth Conference is continuing to expand to accomplish all three goals. Training programs for youth this year include biblical creation instruction through Answers in Genesis/Creation Museum, Global Purpose Seekers seminars for teens to learn how to discern the will of God, and additional opportunities to equip youth workers.



elements

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It's Time to **CHANGE** the Conversation

BY JAMES FORLINES

USA TODAY PUBLISHED A STARTLING ARTICLE on the state of religion in America in the March 9, 2009, issue. In the article, “Redrawing the Map of American Religion,” Cathy Lynn Grossman reported on the results of a recent ARIS survey (American Religious Identification Survey).

By almost any measure, the number of Christians is declining in the United States. Despite the fact that 50 million immigrants have entered the U.S. since 1990, almost all religious denominations have lost ground in the last 19 years. The percentage of those who identify themselves as Baptist now stands at 15.8%, down from 19.3% in 1990. Do we doubt the same is true among Free Will Baptists?

No area of the country is immune. The author cites the specific example of South Carolina. Since 1990, Protestants have fallen from 88% to 73% of the state’s population. The new category, *nones* (people who reply none when asked, “What is your religious identity?”) have grown from 3% to 10% in 19 years in the Bible belt of South Carolina.

Whether these statistics create disquiet in our souls or simply confirm what we already sense happening around us, how should we respond to this undeniable trend? Though many responses are warranted, I believe one is a crying need for Free Will Baptists. We must change our conversation!

What does that mean? For the better part of my life,

Free Will Baptists have spent an inordinate amount of conversation on what makes us different from each another. We settle on a point of difference, gather with others who agree, and then talk *about* the group with whom we do not agree (rather than talking *to* them). In all of this, we act as though our fellow believers are the enemy.

Not only does this run contrary to the biblical model of how to treat a brother, it is a self-defeating strategy when facing the real enemy. What are the debilitating effects of these conversations?

First, it takes time and energy that would be better spent on evangelism and church planting. This is true both of those who go on the offensive and those who have to defend. We must ask ourselves, “Is this issue worth distracting my attention from my primary duty to win souls?”

Second, it unnecessarily labels brothers as enemies in a day when groups like the Wiccan cult are growing exponentially, and many view religion itself as irrelevant. In the article, Grossman gets to the heart of the matter as it relates to evangelicals when she says, “It’s about gay marriage and abortion and stem cells and the family. If a personal God says, ‘Thou shalt not’ or ‘Thou shalt’ see these a certain way, you’d take it very seriously. Meanwhile, three in 10 people aren’t listening to that God.” Is it not time to change our conversation? Are we the enemy? Really?

Third, it divides the body at a time we need to be united.

We are immersed in a cultural war for the soul of our nation and the souls of its people. Having a common enemy causes us to marshal resources, focus our energy, remove distractions, and, as a result, create a powerful unity. We must realize that our enemy has already done so—to us! When he surveys the enemy territory, guess what he sees? Us—all of us. He does not allow himself to be distracted by the things we have chosen to divide over. We may be fragmented, but he does not see it that way. We are all in his crosshairs.

If you believe the fundamentals of the faith that have been passed down to us, he does not care whether you sing hymns, choruses, praise songs, or contemporary Christian music in your church. You are a target. The same goes for the version of the Bible you use, what college you attended, or any number of secondary issues—yes, secondary issues.

Don't misunderstand. I am not asking you to change anything you do in your church, nor do I have the right to do so. The wonderful thing about congregational church government is that each congregation can adopt their worship and operational policies as they feel the leading of the Holy Spirit. And they should do so with zeal and zest.

The truth is we all need to encourage one another. Gatherings of Free Will Baptists should be one place that, regard-

less of stylistic or philosophical differences, we are encouraged in our efforts to face the enemy toe-to-toe, knowing our brother has our back.

This is not only a good idea; it is critical. We can no longer afford to waste the energy we have unwisely spent discrediting other brothers and sisters. We only have a few years on this side of eternity to do something that will matter forever. Souls headed to a Christless eternity hang in the balance. Our children and grandchildren are counting on us to pass them something that is alive, vibrant, and powerful.

I am neither utopian nor naïve, just passionately committed. I realize some people who read this will still believe they should concentrate their energies on pointing out philosophic or ministry differences, perhaps even with this article or the writer. They may feel honor and duty bound to do so. I respect their right, but ask respectfully if that is good stewardship. As for me, I am going to turn my attention to the enemy who targets both of us. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: James Forlines is general director of Free Will Baptist International Missions. Read part two of "It's Time to Change the Conversation" in the October-November issue of *ONE Magazine*.

Free Will Baptist Bible College

A Christian Community
of Faith and Learning

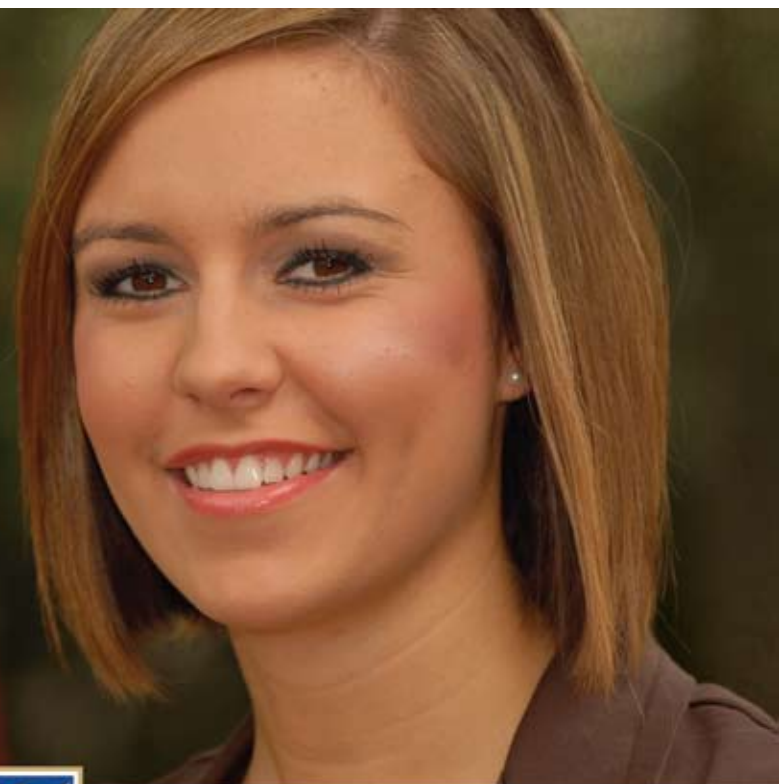


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NEWS

about the denomination

FWBBC Honors Bert and Dianne Tippet

NASHVILLE, TN—More than 250 people gathered in Free Will Baptist Bible College's Memorial Auditorium on June 4 to share in *The Celebration!*, an evening to honor long-time employees Bert and Dianne Tippet for their 44-year ministry at FWBBC. For the first time in school history, an event was streamed live from the college, with more than 500 people logging onto the FWBBC website.

President Matt Pinson said, "We were delighted that so many friends joined us to honor the Tippetts who have been Christian examples and mentors for four decades. Bert and Dianne embody the biblical principles of faithfulness and sacrificial love. Their consistency as role models in service has made them the face of FWBBC to a generation of pastors, parents, and students."

A 25-voice volunteer choir composed of individuals who sang or travelled with the Tippetts on choir tours and other music groups performed a special arrangement of "It Is Well With My Soul," by Dr. James Stevens, chair of the Music Department.

The 90-minute program included remarks by colleagues, family members, and friends, followed by a reception in Cumberland Cafeteria. Participants spoke of the Tippetts as co-workers, parents, friends, Christian examples, and professionals.

Dr. Robert Picirilli, retired academic dean, said, "Bert and Dianne began to rise above the crowd even when they were students. Both of them offered up, on the altar of this ministry we call Free Will Baptist Bible College, the sweet-savor sacrifice of excellence. They exemplified how to love God and submit to His bidding. They continue to set an example for all of us in their own personal lives and present, difficult circumstances."

Alumni Association president Frank Owens commended the Tippetts for their faithfulness and announced that the alumni scholarship will now be known as the Bert and Di-



anne Tippet Alumni Scholarship, in honor of their unparalleled service to the college.

Citing the Tippetts' outstanding work since 1965, President Pinson presented them a plaque of appreciation. He later shared that FWBBC graduates Gary and Dottie Wright (who travelled from California to attend) had made a \$15,000 gift to the college in honor of the Tippetts.

The Tippetts spoke briefly to attendees. "I've never felt more unworthy of anything in my life than I do tonight," Bert said. Dianne expressed appreciation for the ongoing encouragement, cards, and emails as they continue to face Bert's health issues.

The Tippetts serve FWBBC in the area of public relations. Bert is director of church relations; Dianne volunteers as mailing list coordinator. ■

Foundation Sets Money Management Trust Rate

ANTIOCH, TN— The Money Management Trust rate is set at 3.00% for the July 1-December 31, 2009 period by Free Will Baptist Foundation. The rate is set for the six-month periods to reflect the market interest rate. This rate applies to all trusts less than \$100,000 as slightly higher rates apply for larger trusts. These trusts are available to Free Will Baptist churches, organizations and individuals. Individual trusts require certain restrictions. More information can be obtained by calling toll free 877-336-7575 or email at foundation@nafwb.org. ■

NEWS at FWBBC



News at Free Will Baptist Bible College

May 2009 Graduates

All students at Free Will Baptist Bible College major in Biblical Studies, in addition to other majors, minors, or ministry emphases listed.

Associate of Science in Biology Degree

Kayla Kimberly Lynch
Joelton, Tennessee

Associate of Science in Business Degree

Christina Marie Peck
Carrollton, Virginia

Associate of Science in Early Childhood Degree

Lindsay Renee Conner
Brownstown, Michigan

Associate of Arts Degree

Sarah Reel Maloney
Carrollton, Virginia

Bachelor of Science Degrees

Jerry Clint Adams
River, Kentucky
General Christian Ministries

Daniel Russell Brown
Springfield, Missouri
Youth Ministry

Teddie Shaunell Collier***
Fair Grove, Missouri
Music
Instrumental Performance

Brittany Lane Craft*
Pryor, Oklahoma
Church Music

Caleb Joseph Ferguson
Seffner, Florida
Exercise Science

Megan Tess Fisher**
Morehead City, North Carolina
Child Development and Learning
Teacher Education Licensure

Jessica Dawn Folsom
Glennville, Georgia

English
Teacher Education Licensure

Rebekah LeFay Forlines**
Nashville, Tennessee
Business Administration

Jessica Leigh Frady
Pikeville, Tennessee
Psychology

Amanda Frances Fretter
Fairfield, California
Business Administration

Ashley Marie Gladson**
Franklin, Tennessee
Early Childhood Education
Teacher Education Licensure

Matthew Hunter Goodwin
Gastonia, North Carolina
History
Teacher Education Licensure

Allison Michelle Hall*
Rockingham, North Carolina
Early Childhood Education
Teacher Education Licensure

Kristen Michelle Helms
Allen Park, Michigan
Business Administration

Robert Daniel Huard
Pleasant View, Tennessee
General Christian Ministries

Tiffany Ann Johnson***
Mayesville, South Carolina
Business Administration

Derek Nelson Lewis***
Cisne, Illinois
Business Administration

Lauren Elizabeth Mercer**
Tupelo, Mississippi
Psychology

John Bryce Mims
Turbeville, South Carolina
Business Administration

Cynthia Denise Oakley
Durham, North Carolina
Early Childhood Education

Lindsey Brooke Parks***
Pleasant View, Tennessee
Child Development and Learning
Teacher Education Licensure

Hannah Elizabeth Postlewaite*
Florence, South Carolina
English
Teacher Education Licensure

Daniel Eugene Robinson
Indian Trail, North Carolina
Business Administration

Stephanie Renee Swick*
New Boston, Michigan
Child Development and Learning
Teacher Education Licensure

Mallory Layelle White*
Bristol, Virginia
Child Development and Learning
Teacher Education Licensure

Leah Marie Jolly Williams
Glasgow, Kentucky
General Christian Ministries

Brandy Howell Winn***
Pulaski, Tennessee
Early Childhood Education
Teacher Education Licensure

Bachelor of Arts Degrees

Ezra Paul Caynor
Rittman, Ohio
Biblical Ministry Studies
Pastoral Training

Jacob Eli Conner***
Riner, Virginia
History

Paul Daniel Corn**
Ashland City, Tennessee
English

Benjamin Randal Corn
Ashland City, Tennessee
History

Joshua Lynn Davenport*
Bristol, Canada
English

Melanie Ann Hawkins***
Salem, Illinois
Biblical Ministry Studies
Missions

Phillip James Kennedy
Mount Vernon, Illinois
Biblical Ministry Studies
Missions

Cherith Brooke McGough*
Salado, Arkansas
Biblical Ministry Studies
Missions

Chad Eric Mishler**
Edwardsville, Illinois
English

Kyle Matthew Saunders**
Wilson, North Carolina
Biblical Ministry Studies
Youth Ministry

Emily Nicole Platt-Yeomans
Batesville, Arkansas
Biblical Ministry Studies
Christian Education
Missions


Christina Joy Zink
Belleville, Michigan
English

Daniel Michael Zink, Jr.
Canton, Michigan
English

*** *Summa cum laude*

** *Magna cum laude*

Cum laude



The 2009 Free Will Baptist convention
lives up to expectations.

Photo: Members of Raymond Riggs' family listen as the late missions pioneer is honored for his life's achievements.

A Promise Fulfilled

When the National Association of Free Will Baptists returned to Cincinnati July 19-22, 2009, after a 12-year absence, the meeting held great promise.

Like 1997, delegates filled downtown hotel rooms, laughed and swapped stories in the hallways, overflowed the exhibit hall in the Duke Energy Center, shouted amens through the services, and sat through almost nine hours of business.

The denomination returned to Cincinnati with a vision to reach the world and the courage to adopt a \$25 million denominational budget during the worst recession in nearly a century. They adopted resolutions, elected 35 board and commission members, and honored the pioneers who put Free Will Baptists on the global map.

After four days of powerful preaching, heart-stirring music, passionate business discussions, and renewed fellowship, nearly 6,000 attendees left Cincinnati knowing that the convention lived up to expectations.

Powerful Preaching

Free Will Baptists from across the nation arrived in Cincinnati ready to hear great preaching, and they were not disappointed. Ohioans Bob Bouts and Mark Price kicked things off Sunday morning as they tag-teamed their way through Sunday School and morning worship. Bouts, an adult Sunday School teacher at Porter FWB Church, set the stage for his pastor's message to follow. Price, moderator of the Ohio State Association and a member of the FWB Foundation Board, spoke from 1 John 2:25, on "The Promise of Eternal Life."

Soft-spoken Jeff Sloan took the stage Sunday evening, and the Oklahoman's words hit with the authority of a 16-pound sledge hammer as he spoke from 1 Corinthians 10:13 about "The Promise of God's Faithfulness." The former Home Missions church planter chairs the Pastoral Ministries Department at Hillsdale FWB College (OK).

Church historian Paul Harrison manned the pulpit Monday evening. The Tennessee pastor delivered a timely message from 2 Corinthians 12, in which he examined "The Promise of Sufficient Grace." Harrison, adjunct professor at FWB Bible College and editor of *Integrity: A Journal of Christian Thought*, reminded listeners that God's grace is most evident during times of great weakness.

Fiery preacher Henry Horne drew thunderous response Tuesday night when he unlocked "The Promise of His Coming," found in 2 Peter 3. The North Carolina pastor urged listeners to live in light of Christ's imminent return despite the skeptical nature of the surrounding culture.

On Wednesday, veteran pastor and evangelist Fred Warner spoke from Acts 1, "The Promise of His Power." His passionate call to evangelism seemed natural from the man who once served as promotional director for FWB Foreign Missions. The altars filled, and the meeting ended in the best way possible—with Free Will Baptists on their knees.

Services throughout the week featured enthusiastic congregational singing and rousing special music from the Con-



Photo: Millard Sasser (CA), left, and Gary Fry (MO), right, enjoy a break during General Board.

vention Choir and Orchestra, directed by Convention Music Coordinator Chris Truett. Numerous talented individuals, families, and groups lent their voices to the music and led the congregation into worship.

In addition to evening services, convention attendees enjoyed the annual Tuesday morning Preaching Conference featuring pastors Steve Berry (FL) and Ken Simpson (TN) and a variety of workshops, seminars, and resource demonstrations.

Serious Business

When Moderator Tim York's gavel landed on the podium, delegates picked up their copies of Digest of Reports and took care of business.

The General Board met for seven hours and heard reports from 13 national boards and commissions. By 2:45 p.m. Monday, when Moderator Tim York declared the meeting adjourned, board members had voted to recommend a \$25 million denominational budget and passed along three motions to the convention business session. One motion suggested penalties for hotel room cancellations, another requested the FWBBC Board of Trustees to present a clear plan for getting college audits to delegates in a timely manner, and the third recommended that the Executive Committee study the need for all national boards to present current audits.

A fourth motion recommending that the Home Missions Board meet with the Illinois Home Missions Board to discuss the recent dismissal of a home missionary was defeated. The moderator appointed four national committees—Credentials, Nominating, Resolutions, and Obituary.

The lengthy Tuesday business session resulted in a Treatise change regarding election of officers (tabled during the 2008 convention), approval of a motion authorizing convention hotels to place a non-refundable charge of one room night on individual credit cards (effective June 1, 2010);

notice of an ongoing study that may result in future conventions meeting in select cities that best fit the convention.

The day ended with an earnest 30-minute discussion following the Randall House Publications report, centered on the use of pollster George Barna as a speaker during the September 2009 D6 Conference sponsored by the agency. Seven people spoke after Charles Cook (NC) read a lengthy statement questioning the wisdom of allowing Barna to speak.

Randall House Board Chairman Tim Owen and General Director Ron Hunter explained the rationale for including Barna as a resource for family-related statistics before delegates voted to approve the Randall House report.

In additional business, delegates heard national agency reports from the Executive Office and Randall House.

Executive Office. Executive Secretary Keith Burden indicated that the Executive Office remained in solid financial footing but cautioned that future conventions must address greater funding needs. He praised first-year convention manager Ryan Lewis for his hard work in making the 2009 convention a success.

"My job as your servant," Burden said, "is to provide stability, leadership, and focus." He announced plans to move the annual Leadership Conference to the Nashville's Airport Marriott Hotel in December.

Randall House. "What we're doing now [church methods] is not working," General Director Ron Hunter said during his opening remarks. "It's time to return to Scripture, to powerful preaching, and to solid small-group teaching." He introduced a number of new resources in both electronic and print format that Randall House hopes will reconnect the local church with the home and parents with children.

The agency reported a \$61,000 profit in 2008, and Randall House won 11 Awards of Excellence from the printing industry. The purchase of a digital press allows the agency to personalize curriculum for local churches, print books on demand, and print state papers at a reasonable cost. Hunter also introduced a new book by the late Jonathan Thigpen titled *Teaching Students, Not Lessons*.

International Missions. The International Missions Department revealed extensive plans to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the department at the 2010 convention in Oklahoma City. *Into the Darkness*, a 196-page coffee table-style book is being prepared for distribution. A number of pre-convention events will be observed in conjunction with the triennial meeting of the International Fellowship of Free

Will Baptist Churches when the organization meets in Oklahoma. The department has plans for a walk-through museum at the convention featuring artifacts from FWBIM's history. In addition, missionaries and international leaders from around the world will be flown to Oklahoma City to participate in the celebration.

General Director James Forlines announced that Free Will Baptist missionaries are in place for the first time in creative access countries such as Muslim North Africa and Buddhist Southeast Asia. His report to delegates included a tribute to Raymond Riggs, the agency's first full-time director who died in April 2009. International outreach now includes 1,081 churches and mission works with an average attendance of 37,851.

Free Will Baptist Bible College. President Matt Pinson indicated that plans are moving forward to relocate the college to Gallatin, Tennessee. A Nashville real estate development firm is working with officials to sell the current campus. Forty-one donors have pledged \$2.1 million to pay for the Gallatin property while another \$1 million in gifts-in-kind has been committed.

The college introduced a five percent salary reduction for all personnel in 2009, and instituted a new accounting procedure for pension liabilities. Since the college was unable to provide an audit for the first time in 67 years, the Board of Trustees presented a statement to delegates indicating that the audit would be completed by December 15, 2009, and mailed to denominational leaders. The audit will also be

2009 Convention Overview

Registration

Board members - 42
 Licensed ministers - 29
 Local church delegates - 9
 Ordained deacons - 117
 Ordained ministers - 599
 State Delegates - 72
 NAFWB Attendees - 3,111
 WNAC - 776
 NYC - 4,186

Total Attendees 5,664*

*Many attendees register for more than one convention.

2009 Budgets

Executive Office\$740,111
 FWB Bible College... \$5,457,425
 FWB Foundation.....\$431,112
 Home Missions \$5,000,000
 Int'l Missions \$8,500,000
 Master's Men.....\$155,417
 Retirement\$460,000
 Randall House..... \$4,664,800
 Theological Integrity.....\$4,100
 Historical Commission ...\$2,715
 Media Commission\$3,000
 Music Commission.....\$5,215

Total \$25,423,895

Elected in 2009

General Officers
 Moderator: Tim York (TN)
 Asst. Moderator: William Smith (GA)
 Clerk: Randy Bryant (FL)
 Assistant Clerk: Ernie Lewis (IL)

Executive Committee
 2012 Mike Wade (OK)
 Glen Johnson (VA)
 Keith Woody (TX)

General Board
 2010 Florida: Donnie Hussey
 2012 North Carolina: Billy Keith
 NE District: Jim Nason
 NW District: Brent Nix
 Ohio: Mike Stokes
 Oklahoma: Mike Wade
 South Carolina: Todd Smith
 Tennessee: Glenn Poston
 Texas: Keith Woody
 Virginia: Glen Johnson
 West Virginia: Luther Morgan

Board of Retirement
 2015 Jack Daniel (GA)
 Rick Dement (MO)
 Mark Ousley (TN)

Randall House Board
 2010 Joe Wilson (MO)

Home Missions

2015 Earl Hanna (SC)
 Ron Parker (LA)
 Tim Stout (OH)

Master's Men
 2015 Eddie Hodges (TN)
 Johnny Fowlkes (AR)
 Rick Stone (KY)

FWB Foundation
 2015 Len Blanchard (GA)
 Rick Locklear (MI)
 Phil Whitaker (AR)

Theological Commission
 2014 Steve Ashby (OK)

Historical Commission
 2014 Robert Picirilli (TN)

Media Commission
 2014 Keith Fletcher (TN)

Music Commission
 2014 Daron Dwyer (NC)

Miss the convention? CDs and DVDs are available for each service and seminar. Visit www.onemag.org to download an order form or contact the convention's Recording Coordinator Mike Anderson: mikea@fwbbc.edu | 615-885-3177

placed online for viewing. Several questions arose regarding a \$200,000 real estate loan made by the college to a member of its Board of Trustees.

Home Missions. The Home Missions Department reacted to the financially challenging year by downsizing but reported no deficit missionary accounts. General Director Larry Powell reported three new church planters appointed (Canada, New York, Colorado) and three mission churches that have achieved self-supporting status (Tennessee, Texas, Colorado). Church planters now serve in 65 cities, and 14 Hispanic churches have been established across the U.S.

Outgoing board members Loyd Locklear (MI) and Jim Puckett (OK) were honored for their work—Locklear for 12 years of service and Puckett for 18 years. Powell explained to delegates that heritage trips sponsored by the agency were funded through interest earned by endowments, not by the North America Missions Offering gifts. The Church Extension Load Fund (CELF) reached \$35 million in 2008 and is used to fund construction of new churches.

Historical Commission. The Historical Commission distributed copies of their third pamphlet in the Heritage Series, *Free Will Baptists and Church Government*, written by Matt Pinson. The Commission plans to distribute a fourth pamphlet during the 2010 national convention, *Free Will Baptists and the Priesthood of the Believer*, by Kevin Hester.

The first three pamphlets have been translated into French; the first pamphlet (feet washing) has been translated into Portuguese.

Commission for Theological Integrity. The Commission for Theological Integrity sponsored a convention seminar featuring Robert Picirilli speaking on the subject, “Is the Gift of Tongues for Today?” The 12th annual Theological Symposium met at FWB Bible College in October 2008; the 13th Symposium will meet October 19-20, 2009, at Hillsdale FWB College.

The Commission published the fourth issue of *Integrity: A Journal of Christian Thought*, and has a joint book project with Randall House Publication featuring a volume edited by Matt Pinson.

Music Commission. The Music Commission conducted three seminars during the 2009 convention featuring James Stevens and Monte McKenzie, in addition to the Wednesday afternoon Music Ministry Summit focusing on networking and ideas for music and worship in the early church. The agency also planned the music for the national convention.

The Media Commission. The Media Commission adopted a new motto: “Providing Tools for Excellence in Media.” The group re-launched its website (www.fwbmedia.com) as an interactive, blog-style site which also publishes short, informative articles. In an effort to assess media knowledge among Free Will Baptists, the commission surveyed 200 people during the 2008 convention.

Master’s Men. General Director Ken Akers pointed out that the purpose of Master’s Men is to encourage and equip men in local churches and beyond. Sports events—such as golf and softball tournaments—rallies, retreats, and work projects brought men together in 2008. In addition, the department sponsored projects in New Hampshire and Russia, and partnered with Home Missions in a Pennsylvania outreach project. Tom Harmon (IL) was named “Man of the Year” by the department.

Board of Retirement. “We believe we are coming out of the present crisis,” General Director Ray Lewis told delegates regarding the recent economic upheaval that resulted in the agency reporting a 32% (\$10 million) loss in 2008. He reminded listeners that over the life of the plan, the agency has averaged a 7.5% annual increase.

The department marked 40 years of service to the denomination on June 30, 2009. Assets the first year (1969) were \$11,707. In 2008, they topped \$34 million. Seventy-four individuals joined the retirement plan last year, bringing the total number of participants to 2,394.

This year’s achievements include a shift from semi-annual to monthly allocations of earnings and losses, and launching an interactive website. Outgoing board members William Ferguson (MI) and Jim Lowe (OH) were recognized for their service.

FWB Foundation. The FWB Foundation reported assets of \$35 million in 2008, a period Director David Brown called challenging. The endowment pool reported a 22% loss, and planned gift assets suffered a 25-30% loss.

The agency cut spending by \$20,000 in 2009, cut the 2010 budget by seven percent, and froze all salaries. Director Brown reminded attendees that the Foundation is like an olive tree—planted for the next generation to enjoy. **ONE**

Photos (clockwise): Preschool worship; Reach That Guy Director Bill Hayes; crowds at the registration area; Moderator Tim York and Executive Secretary Keith Burden examine gifts from the Ohio State Association; Randall House Exhibit; soloist Josh Owens hits a high note.



2009 National Youth Conference

A Promising Future

"My First One!" shouted a Truth & Peace altar counselor after the Monday night service. With an expression of pure joy, she recounted the experience of leading someone to Christ. Yet her experience was only one of more than 200 responses for salvation or surrender that students made during services at the 2009 National Youth Conference.

The conference made a profound impact upon the lives of the 1,917 students who attended. Reach That Guy participants who cleaned up an abandoned housing project were moved to tears by the squalor they witnessed.

Teens who attended Global Purpose Seekers seminars learned how to use Scripture, mentors, prayer, their conscience, and experiences to make wise decisions in discerning God's will. The cross-cultural setting of the GPS-X International Marketplace prompted one student to observe, "Now I have a better idea of how to pray for missionaries."

Teens and children who attended creation video sessions were equipped to defend their faith against attacks by secular philosophies that deny the reliability of God's Word. Trips to the Creation Museum provided a realistic depiction of God's account of Creation and The Great Flood.

On Tuesday night, Ken Ham, founder of Answers in Genesis and The Creation Museum, provided overwhelming evidence to support a young earth to an overflow crowd in the Hyatt Regency Ballroom. He described an earth shaped by a catastrophic global flood and supplied relevant answers to many questions that can weaken the faith of today's Christian students.

Youth leaders and adult attendees discussed the elements of a biblical model of youth ministry. They defined the God-given responsibility of parents to transfer their faith to their children. Youth leaders were challenged to develop reliable resources to provide relevant answers to questions asked by their students.

Other conference attendees enjoyed a demonstration of the new *Elements Kid's Worship* from Randall House. Children and youth leaders alike were excited about the product, its features, and the price. The customizable program allows youth workers to plug in their own music to fit with the video, Bible lesson, and other valuable elements of the program.

Attendance is on the rise as 969 students participated in competitive activities, a six percent increase over last year. Student registration was up by five percent (97 more teens and children), and total attendance increased by 254, topping out at 4,186. The slight dip in Reach That Guy statistics reflects the cancellation of several outdoor projects due to rain. Still, participants logged 2,433 hours of community service and collected 69 units of blood at the blood drive.

The 2010 conference theme was introduced Wednesday night. *Wherever* incorporates Acts 1:8, which commands us to be witnesses of Christ at home and around the world. This theme complements the 75th anniversary celebration of International Missions.

Free Will Baptist students have been challenged to walk 10 miles along a 2,500-mile-route (once traveled by Laura Bell Barnard) to raise funds for the Go10 project. The unique event will start on Easter Sunday at Miss Barnard's home church in Glenville, Georgia, and conclude next July during the Tuesday evening youth service in Oklahoma City. The goal? To raise \$1 million dollars by the time International Missions General Director James Forlines walks into the auditorium! Visit www.fwbgo.com to learn more about how you can become involved in the Go10 project. **ONE**



74th Annual Convention of Women Nationally Active for Christ That You May Know

That You May Know, the 74th annual convention of Women Nationally Active for Christ (WNAC), combined elements of past, present, and future. The two-day event drew 776 attendees and offered women opportunities to understand the changing ministry of WNAC and its participants.

Past. A Monday afternoon fashion show spanned the decades as it showcased the goals and accomplishments of WNAC from the 1930s to present. Christina Hopper (AL), Sandy Forman (AR), and Ellie Sargent (OH) shared moving testimonies about the impact of WNAC upon their lives. Women from Missouri presented a humorous view of what life would be like without WNAC.

Fellowship Luncheon Speaker Carol Pinkerton inspired laughter as she recalled her eventful years as a missionary in Africa and shared her perspective on her recent reentry into American culture. Worship speaker Donna Crabtree shared how God prepared her and her husband Jeff for ministry in Canada. Like a puzzle, each “piece” of their lives strategically fit into place, making the picture clear.

Present. During the convention business session, a new promotional DVD highlighted what today’s women want and need from a women’s ministry. WNAC is listening. A membership study committee offered a host of practical suggestions for improving and expanding present women’s groups.

Auditor Joel Collum addressed the crowd about the organization’s current financial challenges that required elimination of a full-time staff position. He offered suggestions for eliminating the shortfall and boosting financial stability. Delegates accepted the report and approved a streamlined 2010 budget.

Women also viewed “Faces of Christmas Joy 2009” and added two new faces to its leadership when Amy Johnson (IL) and Pam Hackett (SC) were elected to the WNAC Executive Committee as members-at-large.

In other business, women voted to extend the 20/20/20 Building for the Future project until July 2010. They also agreed to award Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarships

to Aida Zhankabayeva (attending FWBCC) and two students attending the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute. Women gave a rising vote of appreciation for Yvonne Hampton’s 22-plus years of service in the WNAC office.

Delegates approved resolutions asking for placement of Gideon Bibles in hotel rooms and recommending women to contact authorities with concerns about crumbling morality. They authorized the WNAC staff and Executive Committee to review the current constitution and by-laws in order to offer recommendations for needed updates and changes.


Ohio Women Active for Christ combined taste and talent in welcoming the event. Women throughout the state made buckeyes (chocolate and peanut butter candies) for everyone who attended the Fellowship Luncheon. Young people from Chapel Hill FWB Church in Columbus, OH presented a dramatic presentation, and Malari Helman of Ohio’s Hillview FWB Church led in worship.

Future. “The future is bright,” Executive Secretary-Treasurer Danita High emphasized during her first annual report. For the first time in several years, WNAC saw numerical growth and a steady increase in inquiries for starting new groups.

Several attendees took note of younger faces on the stage and in the crowd. Others observed a different spirit and an air of anticipation as WNAC celebrates its 75th year in 2010.

“In the months leading up to the 2010 convention,” says Mrs. High, “We will learn from countless others whose legacy leaves a lasting impression on our lives. We will focus our efforts on ministering to the needs of women while providing an array of ministry ideas and opportunities to serve within their sphere of influence and beyond.

“Our vision is to offer a balanced ministry containing both tools for spiritual growth and opportunities to put faith into action. Our name says it well; we must be spiritually strong—*Women Active for Christ.*”

Danita contends that the new ministry focus will require a pioneer spirit and complete dependence upon God’s power. Realizing that support from pastors and church leaders is essential to the organization’s mission, she welcomes input and participation as laborers together with God. 



ONETOONE

So That's What She Meant



SHE CAME HOME FROM SCHOOL BUBBLING OVER with excitement. Her class was participating in a nationwide writing contest. The subject? The Statue of Liberty. The prize? An all-expense paid trip to visit the historic landmark in New York Harbor.

Lots of Big Chief tablets and No. 2 pencils sprang into action. Our daughter did some research, and she was convinced she would produce the winning theme. We tried to encourage

her but were careful not to give her a false sense of confidence. It was apparent that she took the challenge seriously!

After a considerable amount of time and painstaking effort, she proudly produced the one-page masterpiece for us to read. We promised to honor her request, but first ushered her off to bed since it was late and a school night. Later that evening we sat down at the dining room table and read the journalistic efforts of our ambitious third-grader.

As objectively as possible for a proud parent, I gave her work high marks. Her penmanship, content, and sentence structure was neat, clear, and understandable. My wife and I were equally impressed.

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



Photo: Mark Cowart

One thing left us perplexed—the title at the top of the page. It consisted of two capital letters—S. A. What in the world did S. A. mean? Not wanting to awaken our daughter for clarification, we racked our brains for a logical explanation. Statue America? School Assignment? No combination of words seemed to make sense. We were stumped.

At breakfast the next morning, we quizzed our little author about her title. “What do the letters S.A. mean?” we asked. With a note of genuine surprise, she replied matter-of-factly, “My teacher said it was supposed to be an essay!” In characteristic childlike fashion she had sounded out the word and written the letters S.A. It made perfect sense from her perspective.

Like many adults, we tried to make something simple difficult. That seems to happen a lot in families these days. Raising children isn’t all that complicated. It’s really quite simple—not easy, but simple. It’s as simple as loving God with all our heart, soul, and might. Bringing up godly sons and daughters is as straightforward as teaching them the truths of Scripture and modeling those principles before them.

Although the essay didn’t win the grand prize, it did teach us a valuable lesson—good communication includes both talking and listening. As parents we need to work hard at effectively communicating with our children. Some of the messages they send can be understood only as we look and listen from a child’s perspective. After all, they’re worth the effort “for of such is the kingdom of God.” **ONE**

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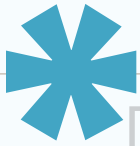
Allen Pointer Youth Pastor, First Free Will Baptist Church, Russellville, Arkansas

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