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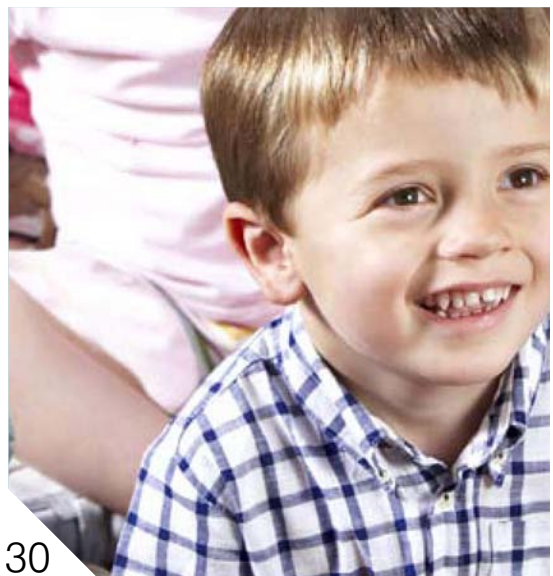
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FIRST GLIMPSE

'Til _____ Do Us Part...



THE ANNOUNCEMENT CAME AS A shock. After 40 years of marriage, former Vice President Al Gore and his wife Tipper were calling it quits. The news created a stir across the nation. Pundits buzzed with excitement, and talking heads speculated about the reasons behind the highly publicized split. In a terse email to friends, the former high school sweethearts stated simply, "We grew apart."

This, from the couple who kissed passionately onstage before thousands of screaming supporters at the 2000 Democratic National Convention prior to accepting the party's presidential nomination. What happened to the passion? What happened to the teamwork, the camaraderie? Could such an apparently strong union dissolve in 10 short years?

Everyone had an opinion. "Maybe it was just time," I heard one so-called marriage expert proclaim in a radio interview. "In fact, maybe it's time to rethink the wedding vows entirely. Rather than saying, 'Til death do us part,' perhaps we should say, 'as long as love lasts.' We just need to face reality. Love fades and people change. Why stay in a relationship that doesn't make you happy?"

Absolute twaddle!

In Genesis chapter two, God established the guidelines for



Photo: Mark Cowart

ERIC THOMSEN
MANAGING EDITOR

marriage (See "A Theology of Marriage," page 10). He is the One who proclaimed, "Til death do you part," and His views on marriage have not changed. He also instructs husbands and wives to honor and respect one another (Ephesians 5:21-25; Colossians 3:17-19), to work together for the glory of God (1 Timothy 3:11-13), to guard the sanctity of marriage carefully (1 Corinthians 7:2-6), and to grow together in their relationship with God (1 Peter 3:7). Sounds like a lifelong quest to me!

And *ONE Magazine* is here to equip you for the journey. From practical tips for keeping your cool when hot under the collar in "How to Fight Fair" (page 13) to practical tips for parenting in "Parenting Playbook" (page 17), this issue of *ONE Magazine* provides today's couple with the defenses needed to survive in a world where the family is under attack.

I can't help but contrast Al and Tipper with my own parents. As I write this, they are celebrating their 46th anniversary over salads and sodas at their favorite restaurant. Has their marriage been perfect? Of course not! Have they been through difficult times? Absolutely. But with God as the center of their marriage, they have remained committed to Him and to one another. So, here's to you, Mom and Dad! Thanks for the great example. **ONE**

2010 CONVENTION COVERAGE TEAM: Victor Albright, videographer; Danny Conn, director, NYC; Sarah Fletcher, editor, WNAC; Ida Lewis, reporter, NAFWB; Travis Penn, photographer; Deborah St. Lawrence, editor, International Missions; Eric K. Thomsen, convention press officer; Jack Williams, reporter, NAFWB.

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LETTERS

Have something to say?

Say it! The editors of *ONE Magazine* look forward to hearing from our readers. Your feedback, comments, and suggestions are necessary and appreciated. Email editor@nafwb.org or send correspondence to:

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

Thank you for including Dr. Reid's article, "The Voice of Those Who Weep," in the June-July issue of *ONE*. Boy, did we need that! I am anxiously awaiting Part 2, as I sensed Dr. Reid had a lot more insight to share on the topic of chronic pain.

Though I personally do not suffer from chronic illness, I have friends who do. As a counselor, I have encountered many who struggle with depression because of chronic illness. I find it troubling that many of these folks do not have support and acceptance in their churches. Some may even separate themselves from organized churches as a result of unmet expectations. For example, if one looks healthy, it is hard for others to accept that you can't volunteer for things such as nursery or children's church.

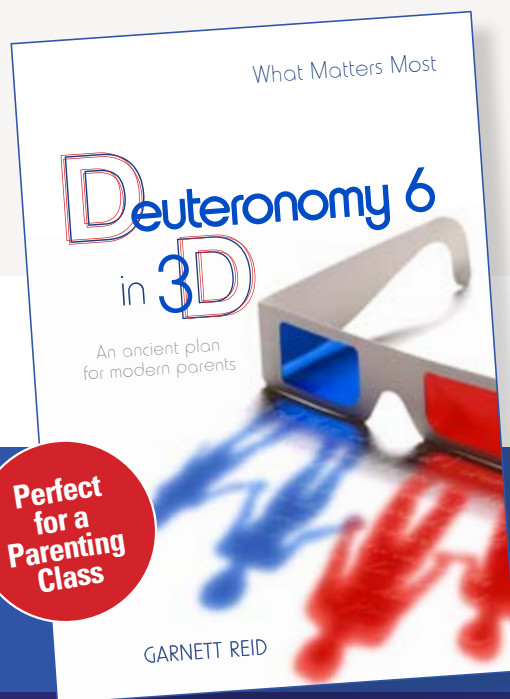
I have three friends who suffer from fibromyalgia; all are smart, delightful women,

grounded in the Word. They have spent their lives actively serving the church and others. Yet, these women in their 40s are unable to say yes to commitments due to their illness. When they politely describe their illness, they often receive less-than-empathetic responses from fellow church members. Other friends struggle with chronic emotional pain, such as depression and various forms of anxiety. They, too, feel subtly criticized for their apparent lack of commitment at church.

In light of Dr. Reid's gracious and personal insights, may we do our best to extend a listening ear to those who struggle—or offer to do them a favor. We will be more like Jesus if we err on the side of extending empathy, compassion, and grace to others. Author Phillip Yancey once described God's grace as "rather audacious." May we be guilty of emulating such grace!

Sincerely, Kam Congleton, MA

TO OUR READERS: Perhaps you know someone who would like to be added to the *ONE Magazine* mailing list. Call 877-767-7659 or visit www.onemag.org for a subscription. The subscription is free, although donations are always accepted and appreciated.



Raising children in the 21st century is a minefield, and many parents are desperate for help in successfully navigating that treacherous terrain.

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D WHAT MATTERS MOST Deuteronomy 6

in 3D

Correcting
Our Vision of the
Family's Future

BY
GARNETT
REID

GRANDCHILDREN CAN DO IT LIKE NOTHING ELSE CAN.

They correct our vision. As a father in the middle of the Baby Boom generation 25 years ago, I confess that I suffered from cultural and social myopia. I was nearsighted. Too often my main concern was the "now," how things looked to people on the outside looking at my family. I wanted them to see me playing my role, earning a living, having my kids under control. We had to look like a normal Christian family, whatever that was.

Now, though, as I write these words, I'm about to baptize one granddaughter, celebrate the fifth birthday of the other, and soon welcome our first grandson to the family. My gaze has shifted forward; I'm looking down the road a lot more these days. What I long to see is my family knowing and loving God long after I'm gone.

Just looking the part of a typical family is not enough. I'm encouraged because our children, who are now in that thirty-something place where I used to be, realize more than I did how vital Christian parenting really is.

The Father Knows Best

So how do parents know what to do? More basic, how do parents know what to *be*? Where do we look for help? Many resources for parenting claim to give correct answers. Some really do that, some don't. Believe me I know well the myriad of parenting ideas and strategies in the marketplace. I surveyed as many as I could when I led a class on the subject in our church a couple of years ago.

As helpful as many are, they all lack one basic essential. None come with the claim of being totally, absolutely right. We need truth about the family and parenting from the One who made us in His own image, *our* Father who designed the family for our good and our joy. God longs for a relationship with us that will restore His image in us, and change us into the people He wants us to be—whole, satisfied, fully alive. This God loves us and wants to fill our families with His love.

Nothing in our lives is irrelevant to this all-embracing love of God. It works its way down and seeks its level in every experience and every relationship we have, particularly in our homes.

Two Times Three in D6

We find this reliable word in God's Book, the Bible. Deuteronomy six in particular is prime ground for finding

parenting priorities that hold true for families in every age. Here two critical concerns seize our attention. *First, God commands that we love Him with all of our being; then He commissions us to share this love with others, especially our children.*

Deuteronomy 6 in 3D examines these priorities from three perspectives—three dimensions, if you will. First, we look at the text of Deuteronomy six itself. When we dig deep into the chapter we find that the very nexus of life is to know God. He demands and deserves our unmixed loyalty. He and no one else fills that huge empty spot in our spirits and lavishes limitless blessing on us when our hearts flame with love for Him.

No Limit

The great *Shema*, “Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one,” alerts us to the fact that only one absolutely powerful, loving being exists in the universe (6:4). And get this: He invites us to know Him in a personal relationship! Life then offers endless possibilities for anyone who will link up with this God.

Glad You Asked

Deuteronomy six continues by challenging parents to nurture covenant loyalty in this relationship to the Lord among coming generations. In planned devotional times, in casual remarks, in simply talking about life in your home—dads and moms, let what you say reinforce how you live before your children. Our first priority must be sharing our faith with our sons and daughters. Then as the initial surge of devotion to God shapes those priorities, we must stay true to Him through the years.

Here, in the context of life’s greatest loyalty and most important relation-

ship, a son asks his father the most critical question of life: “Tell me about this God of ours and what He expects from me” (6:20). Whether you realize it or not, your children have wondered or will wonder the same thing. You need to know the answer when they ask.

Melody and Harmony

The second dimension of *Deuteronomy in 3D* takes a brief look at how the Bible blends these two priorities into a single composition. It’s as if they take the form of melody and harmony. The melody commands us to love God with all our being. The harmony calls us to love our children into a relationship with our God.

Father and Son

One variation on this theme surfaces in the New Testament, however. Because of Jesus’ coming, the devotion to God so prominent in the Old Testament now flows to Him through Jesus. In Mark 22:34-40, Christ Himself makes it clear that the primal command to love God with all our being still applies to people under the New Covenant.

Now we love the Father by loving His Son. What also applies in this age is God’s concern for families who will honor Him above all else. Love the Lord with everything you are, then do all in your power to cultivate that love in your children.

Get Real

Yet unless the profound message of Deuteronomy 6 breaks into our lives and works its way into our affections, it remains just words on a page. Therefore, the third and final dimension of *Deuteronomy in 3D* examines how D6 looks in real life. I hear frustrated parents whose homes seem to be spin-

ning out of control wonder where they should start, what they should do first to get a handle.

The important thing, Mom and Dad, is just to *start somewhere*. Take that first step. The best place to begin is in your own heart. Be sure of your commitment to God. Be sure you are trusting Him and loving Him with all your heart. Then love your children by raising the bar for them. Set a higher standard. Let them know that you love them unconditionally then hold them to what you expect from them. Do your best to nudge—not push—them toward Christ when they are ready. Don’t drive them away from Him and from you by living an inconsistent life, especially in the little things they see in you every day. Be faithful, humble, and transparent.

Make the spiritual seem natural in your home. Practice the spiritual disciplines—pray, read the Bible, sing, serve, testify, and be active in church. And do it with joy! Be sure to parent within the “web” of a local church. We need the connectedness of parents who share our priorities and who can share our laughter and tears. Remember that family restoration is a process. Be realistic in your timetable but expect God to do wonders as you follow His directives.

Of Such Is the Kingdom

No higher level of kingdom work exists than the worship and service we give to Christ in our homes and with our children. The family should run over with and pour out the love of Christ.

I’m excited about baptizing our granddaughter in a couple of weeks. But I’m more excited about how her future will honor the Lord who twice now has given her life. **ONE**

Watch the GENERATIONS

BY RON HUNTER JR.

Let's listen in on a conversation between God and Moses from Exodus chapter three.

The burning bush was nowhere near as amazing as the burning message God delivered to His servant and ... well, all of us. If I can summarize His message, He said, "I AM THAT I AM." And if that were not enough, He pointed out the obvious. He is the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.

He did not stop with these patriarchs but said He wants to be the God of all generations. All generations. People who watched Jacob grow up surely thought God would want nothing to do with this guy. He acted nothing like his dad, and his grandfather would surely have rolled over in his tomb if he only knew.

WHO IS PRIORITY? GRANDDAD OR GRANDSON

Notice in Exodus three, Abraham was the grandfather, but soon Isaac was the grandfather. Each generation prepared for the one coming after them. This preparation is not sequential but concurrent. It happens all at the same time.

Go into any church, walk through the classrooms, and you will note the obvious difference in learning styles. One class may lecture, others discuss, and some use technology while a white board still works for many. Which is right? Maybe we should ask which is wrong? None are wrong if they dig out truth from God's Word based upon their generational learning styles.

My grandfather used a pocket-watch, my generation wears a wrist-

watch and most under age 35 today use the clock on their cell phone. Is it unprofessional not to wear a watch? Secretly I may judge, but if they show up to work promptly and manage their time, what does it matter? In similar fashion, each generation's method of teaching in the church may vary. Our proven and longstanding studies from *Bible Teacher* and *Bible Scholar* convey truth for many seasoned members, while moms and dads opt for discussion with *Fusion*. While I personally prefer a watch with hands, I respect friends whose watches beep with digital numbers.

"All generations" are to be taught a relationship with God. I do not think God has favorites, but Scripture makes it clear that He is angered when we try to prevent anyone, at any age, from having a relationship with Him. The disciples learned that lesson all too well when they were rebuked for preventing the little children from interrupting Jesus. It is God's priority that "none should perish" and "none" in my book covers grandmothers as well as the little ones that leave their handprints on newly painted church walls.

RESPECTING ALL GENERATIONS

So how do we span generations with the truth? Respect. It starts with valuing those who see things from a different perspective. Because we each learn truth differently, we respect various methods as long as the truth is taught. We are all at different places. My generation has a profound respect for those who came before us, but often we fail to show it. We occasionally change everything they did, unintentionally attacking their legacy.

While I have made my dad proud at times, sometimes he wishes I would do things differently. A deep respect creates a bond where he makes me stron-

ger and I contribute to his strength in return. I still remember the first day my dad asked my advice. That validation resulted in a stronger bond as I asked for his advice even more. One thing I have learned about the 20-something crowd is probably true of most every generation. They expect those older to criticize them rather than see the value they can bring. Respect can encourage generational connections.

BLUEPRINT FOR GENERATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Randall House asked some very tough questions about six to eight years ago. Questions like "Why are we losing our teens? Why is gray the predominant hair color of those who attend our conventions and meetings? Why are parents asking the church to do it all? How many people really spend time in God's Word every day? How many parents want another chance with their kids?"

These heart-wrenching questions led us to the cornerstone of all that Randall House does today—a place in Scripture that is often neglected. Few read past Genesis and Exodus in the Pentateuch. I can't blame them with the difficult pronunciations, genealogies, blood, and gore. But buried early in Deuteronomy we find a special command of God. Chapter six introduces God's generational discipleship plan beginning with parents. In our day, the best way for parents to learn is in church and the best way for kids to learn is from a consistent parent's example and teaching with the whole family in church and in God's Word.

Today, Randall House filters everything it does through the lens of Deuteronomy six, where we are commanded to love God, love His Word, and teach our kids to do the same. God desires this love to be impressed, imprinted, and permanently etched on

our own hearts, so we can teach our kids diligently what we practice. It takes church and home. It takes two or three generations working together—all seeking truth in their own learning style but still from God's Word. Randall House is here to build believers through church and home, and it can only be done with all generations working at it.



It takes two or three generations working together

I still prefer my wristwatch with actual hands. My son reaches for his cell phone to tell time. Only time will tell what methods we will use in 20 years. But in the end, we still measure minutes, hours, and days. I could argue with him over the many reasons for wearing a watch, but I would rather spend time building a relationship upon which to point him toward God and His Word.

Randall House is the publisher for all Free Will Baptist generations. Young and old alike are the audiences we serve—grandfathers, fathers and sons; grandmothers, mothers and daughters. Deuteronomy six, a multigenerational passage, gets everyone involved through generational discipleship. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Ron Hunter is general director/CEO of Randall House Publications. He has a Masters of Public Administration in Nonprofit Management from the University of Colorado. He lives in Nashville with his wife Pam and their two children, Michael and Lauren.

Reflections on Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:18-25.

A Theology of Marriage

BY MATTHEW MCAFFEE

MARRIAGE HAS FALLEN ON HARD TIMES, BOTH IN THE BROADER culture and in the life of the church. Divorce continues to impose itself on the church, working to undermine the covenant God intended to be “until death do us part.” Most of us deal with the painful realities of divorce in our local church families.

But rather than introduce a conversation about marriage from the perspective of what is wrong, let’s reacquaint ourselves with the Bible’s grand vision for the marriage covenant instituted at creation and formulate a theology of marriage from Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:18-25.

Origin of Marriage (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25)

The creation of humanity assumes a preeminent position over the rest of the created order. No other creature was created in the likeness of God (1:25). Six of the 31 verses in the first chapter of Genesis concern man and his appointment as caretaker of the earth. The notion of ruling over creation is tied directly to man’s divine image status. God states, “Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion” (1:26a). God created humanity in His own image that he might function as a divine deputy, a creature invested with God’s sanction to rule over creation.

Note the added qualification of “male and female” in the following verse (1:27). The distinction between male and female is intricately tied to God’s image in man. God blessed the newly fashioned couple and included a series of commands: Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, subdue it, and rule (1:28a).

Logically, we can identify a chain of action in which each successive command depends upon the former. For example, the first command to bear fruit combines the intimate union of husband and wife with what that union produces—children.¹ As they join together in fruitful union, the race of humanity multiplies, a process that fills the earth. In this context, the husband and wife essentially subdue all creatures of the earth, fulfilling their obligation to rule over the created order.

Genesis one broadcasts its view of marriage on a grand scale, making the husband and wife the centerpiece of God’s earthly activity. The responsibility invested in the first couple to maintain order in creation parallels God ordering the “formless” and “void” substance in 1:2.

Explanation of Marriage (Genesis 2:18-25)

By nature, Genesis two takes a different, yet complimentary view of the first couple in Eden. The creation of woman is momentarily deferred, heightening the anticipation of her arrival in the world of a lonely man without a suitable companion among the creatures assigned to his care (2:20). In fact, the Lord Himself acknowledges man's loneliness and vows to make a "help meet for him" (2:18).

How do we explain Eve's helper status? The last word of the phrase dictates the meaning of "helper"—she is "corresponding to him." In this sense, Eve is a fellow laborer in the economy of God's rule over creation through humankind, the sole bearer of the divine image. Unlike the animal kingdom, the woman is like the man by design. The Lord takes one of Adam's own ribs and "builds" the woman.²

We find additional insight when the Lord introduces woman to man. For the first time, Adam speaks, announcing with exhilaration, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh." Adam's response, coupled with the Lord's construction of the woman from his rib, further reveals the meaning of their correspondence. They are designed for each other, fashioned of the same substance, yet not entirely identical. God fashions man out of the dust;³ He builds the woman from Adam's rib. Remarkably, the "man" (*ish*) names his newfound companion "woman" (*isha*), explaining, "Because she was taken out of man" (2:23).

The account concludes with two additional comments, the first clarifying the implicit appeal for marriage: "Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother and cling to his own wife" (2:24).⁴ Since it is not good for a man to be alone, he should leave the shelter of his father and mother and shall cling unto his wife.⁵

The narrative highlights the absence of shame amidst their sacred union, despite the fact that they were naked (2:25). In the Old Testament, nakedness evokes shame, making this passage all the more astonishing to the ancients. On one hand, the absence of shame foreshadows the painful realities of sin to follow. On the other, the command for man to leave his parents and cleave to his wife permits us to conclude that the absence of shame within the marital union demonstrates its sanctity.

Theology of Marriage

The Genesis account provides six principles on which to formulate a theology of marriage.

Rule Over Creation

Marriage is the vehicle through which we carry out God's command to rule over creation. Sin entered the world through the devastating downfall of the first couple, yet the advent of Christ and His kingdom inaugurated a restoration to Eden. Within this context, the covenant community must rekindle Eden's vision of marriage and embrace its commission to subdue the earth to the ethic of God's kingdom. As God blesses the holy unions of His covenant members, we are graced with the opportunity to participate in His cosmic rule, being restored to our original design.

Expect Children

Children are the anticipatory blessing of the marriage union. The biblical view does not isolate intimacy from the real potential of having children, the latter being the fruit of the former.⁶

Solution to Loneliness

It is not good for us to be alone. Although Paul allows for the divine call to celibacy (1 Corinthians 7:8), it is the exception, not the rule. In many cases,

Genesis' grand view for marriage has been exchanged for the freedom of youth, redefining marriage as something that stifles individual liberties. Marriage, then, becomes a last resort when we are ready to "settle down."

This propensity to defer marriage poses problems for those who would marry, but have difficulty finding someone willing to "settle down."

Husband/Wife Team

The relationship between husband and wife is complementary. Creation makes it clear that husband and wife share the same physical essence: both possess the image of God and therefore co-administrate His creation. Yet, it also maintains a level of distinction between them: they are created as male and female; man is created from the dust of the ground, woman from man's rib; man names the woman.

Paul appeals to woman's creation from the rib to demonstrate her submission to the husband's spiritual leadership (1 Timothy 2:9-15). These distinctions from creation evidence the complementary roles of man and woman as they work in concert with one another, sharing the responsibility to rule God's creation.

The fall distorted our roles so that we no longer desire to live according to design, resulting in the man's lording authority over his wife and the wife's disdain for her husband's leading role. Redemption seeks to restore the harmony of the first marriage within the context of the church, as believing couples embrace the sheer delight of their God-given responsibilities, both in mutual submission to Christ, the head of the Church.⁷

Leave-and-Cleave Principle

A man should leave family and cleave to his wife. A healthy measure of separation between the son and his parents prevents unwarranted hindrances to

the new couple becoming “one flesh” (2:24). Not complete separation, since extended family plays a vital role in each newly-formed home, but secondary parental ties: a son’s attachment to his mother transfers to his wife; a daughter’s attachment to her father transfers to her husband.

No Shame

Finally, the intimacy of the marital union is without shame. Undoubtedly, the fall corrupted what was once pristine. However, God’s intention for the husband and wife to become “one flesh” is part of the world God called “very good.” Our culture has transformed sexuality into a lucrative commodity, severing it from the private and mysterious closed chamber of matrimony to be peddled abroad for the masses.

The more common and mundane something becomes, the less worth it retains. Simply talking more about

sexuality does not accomplish what was envisioned in Eden. Instead, the church should recapture the shamelessness of marital intimacy (both physical and emotional), secret and mysterious to the public eye, yet completely transparent and fulfilling in the eyes of husband and wife. Everything outside these constraints results in adulterated shame.

The grand vision of marriage from the first two chapters of Genesis offers a starting point for articulating a theology for marriage. It provides the bedrock for all discussions on the matter and deserves special consideration as the church seeks to preserve the glory of marriage in our world beyond Eden.

ONE

ABOUT THE WRITER: Matthew McAfee has taught in the Biblical and Ministry Studies Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College since 2003. He has been on leave since 2006 pursuing doctoral studies. He returns to campus this fall as a full-time instructor and will also serve as campus pastor.

1 We should carefully observe here that the biblical perspective never separates the act of intimacy itself from the bearing of children. In the Bible, children are the direct result of God’s blessing upon the sacred union of husband and wife, not an option up for the consideration of the couple. In other words, sexual union and childbearing are two parts of the whole. The biblical perspective starkly contrasts that of the sexual revolution where these two aspects have been wrongly separated. The advent of modern contraception, most notably the birth control pill in 1960, has been credited by both religious and secular voices as one of the main contributors to such a distinction. See the recent article by Nancy Gibbs, “The Pill at 50: Sex, Freedom and Paradox,” *Time* magazine, May 3, 2010.

2 The word used here in relation to the Lord fashioning the woman from Adam literally means “to build,” and does not occur elsewhere in the creation accounts.

3 The connection between man and the ground finds expression in the similarity of the sound of these two words: adam “Adam” and adama “ground.”

4 Note that “wife” and “woman” translate the same Hebrew word. Hebrew does not distinguish between “wife” and “woman,” perhaps indicating that the general term “woman” simply denotes a woman eligible for marriage.

5 It is interesting that the language of separation is utilized in describing the man’s disposition toward his father and mother. The word utilized here is quite strong, meaning “to abandon, forsake,” as opposed to the equally strong imagery expressed by the word meaning “to cleave, cling to,” often with a sense of intimacy.

6 This reality becomes painfully clear in cases of infertility, preventing a couple from having children. In such instances, the church must exercise gracious compassion toward those couples who are wrestling with the hard realities of infertility.

7 We might also compare the roles of men and women to the Trinity: the Father is well pleased with the Son, the Son submits to the will of the Father, and the Spirit bears witness to the Son. All three members of the Trinity are equally God, while at the same time maintaining distinct roles.

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HOW TO FIGHT FAIR

BY RICHARD ATWOOD



CONFLICT IS COMMON TO ALL marriages. It doesn't mean you married the wrong person. It means you aren't the same.

If you have one remote control and two people, you will have conflict. A lot of men are like me. They don't want to watch what is on TV as much as they want to see *what else* is on. My wife has a hard time keeping up and says, "Is that the same show?" No, that was three channels back!

If you have one thermostat and two people, you will have conflict. My wife likes it a little warmer, and I like it a little cooler. That's why churches should put locks on their thermostats.

If you have one driver and two people riding, you will have conflict. "Watch that dog! Red light, red light, red light! You're going too fast! That quick stop shook my teeth."

If you have one toilet paper holder and two people, you will have conflict. Some like it to roll up from underneath, and most sensible people like it to come over the top. (I guess you see where I stand on that.)

The goal of marriage isn't to be conflict-free, but learning to handle

conflicts correctly. Married couples get into problems when they fight dirty. Here are some ideas on how to *fight fair*.

1. REMEMBER THE GOAL IS NOT TO WIN, BUT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

Some couples enter into each argument with a "destroy the enemy" attitude. They want to win at any cost. "I showed him who was right." They win the battle and lose the war. The loser is either hurt or angry and determines to keep score and win the next fight. The goal should be to deal with the issue, not defeat your mate.



2. DON'T EXPECT MIND READING.

Ladies, many times guys don't have a clue. We are focused on what we are doing and do not pick up on your hints. Tell us plainly what you want.

3. DON'T USE THE "SILENT TREATMENT."

Sure, there may be times when we need to back off and cool down. But few things are more frustrating than a mate who will never talk about a problem. Avoid using silence as a weapon. It could backfire. One couple wasn't speaking to each other, and he moved to the guest room. He had to get up at 5:00 a.m. for a flight but had no alarm clock. He wouldn't give in and ask his wife for help, so he wrote her a note. He woke up at 7:00 the next morning and was ready to confront his wife until he saw her note. "Wake up, it's 5:00 a.m."

When we do confront our spouse with a problem, we should do it with a humble and caring attitude.

4. STICK TO ONE ISSUE AT A TIME.

Some couples start out discussing how to spend a tax refund and end up arguing about vacations, their mothers, disciplining the children, and where to spend Christmas. We call this "kitchen sinking." They drag in every issue but the kitchen sink. Stay on the initial issue.



5. KEEP THE TEMPERATURE DOWN.

Lower the volume. Angry yelling sabotages understanding. I once got so angry at my car that I hit the dashboard. It made a crack about a foot long. Whenever anyone would ride in that car, they would ask about the cracked dashboard.

Some people say they are angry for a short time and get over it quickly. But, just like my car dashboard, the results of that anger last on and on.

6. TRY NOT TO HURT THE OTHER PERSON.

Sometimes, we want to win the argument so badly that we resort to hurting the person we love the most in this world. I cringe when I hear how some married people talk to each other. Here is a great verse for communication with everyone, but especially our spouse: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29). Build up your husband or wife. Don't tear down. Administer grace to the hearer.

The following can be hurtful:

Names: Stupid, jerk, idiot, dummy, loser.

Ridicule and sarcasm : "That was a great burned offer-

ing we had for supper last night."

Labeling: "You always nag."
"You are never thoughtful."

Bitter words: "You've ruined my life." "I wish I'd never married you." "I hate you."

Violence: Never acceptable.

7. FORGIVE

Wrong way to apologize: "Well, I was wrong, but you were wrong, too." That just starts the argument up again.

Right way to apologize: "I was wrong to speak to you that way. I am sorry that I hurt you. Will you forgive me?"

Not forgiving and holding a grudge will hurt both you and your spouse. Grant forgiveness with humility and admit where you were wrong (if you were).

My wonderful wife, Sandy, and I still have occasional disagreements, but we are learning to handle them better. It is much nicer to wake up each morning without any residual rancor from the previous night's spat. We just had to learn to *fight fair* ONE.

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

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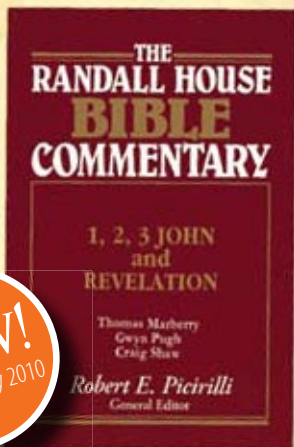
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Unexpected Blessings



By Scott Warren

WHEN WE MARRIED IN JULY of 1995, we never dreamed that we would someday end up starting a new church...especially not one in Salt Lake City, Utah.

When people learn that we moved from Arkansas to Utah to launch a church, they assume it is an oppressive and taxing endeavor spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. In reality, moving here was one of the best things that ever happened in our relationship.

When we arrived in Utah in 2003, it was just the two of us. We knew very few people. While our relationship

was already strong, living in a new place apart from families and lifelong friends gave us a lot of time to spend together. This gave us the opportunity to get to know each other—and ourselves—in a way that we otherwise might not have experienced.

We went on long drives to explore our new surroundings. We enjoyed hiking and camping in the mountains, lingered over breakfast by the river, and screamed our heads off at Friday night hockey games (Staci did the screaming). We might never have found out how much she loved hockey had we not moved here.

These fun “dates” soon became a regular thing in our lives. Because we knew the demands of planting a new church would compete for our time, we established the importance of keeping “us time” a priority.

As the church began to grow, we started to think and talk about adopting a child. For 12 years, our family had consisted of just the two of us, but we felt God leading us to change that.

We met with a local agency to inquire about adoption. So many children need a loving family, and we wanted to be blessed with the child God had specifically for us. With this in mind, we

decided not to specify race or gender preferences with our adoption.

Five weeks later, our little girl, Mia, was born. Nineteen months later, God miraculously provided for us to adopt Mia's brother Jude. Though our family may look different than most, there is no doubt in our minds that these kids were meant to be our kids.

Trans-racial adoption is more common and accepted here in Utah than many other places, and people often approach us with questions about our experience. This has given us many more opportunities to engage people in conversation than we normally would have had. Adopting our children is very much a God-centered story, and

we share it as such. You might even say that Mia and Jude already have their own ministry.

Now that our family has grown, and our church continues to grow, we are so thankful for the habit we formed during our first few years here—the habit of making “us time” a priority. These days, we have to be more deliberate about our date nights, and we maintain one day a week that is strictly a family day.

Living where we live and doing what we do is, at times, demanding and difficult. There are certainly times of spiritual, emotional, and relational stress, but there's definitely nothing else we would rather be doing. Our ministry

is definitely a family affair. You might say it is an unexpected blessing.

A day will come when we hand off the leadership of our church to another family, but we will always be Mia and Jude's mom and dad. We will never regret the quality time spent with them. And when they grow up and start their own adult lives, we will still be husband and wife, thankful for the time we invested in each other during our early days in Utah. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Scott and Staci Warren joined Randy and LeAnn Ledbetter to start Crosspoint FWB Church in Salt Lake City, Utah. Learn more about their church at www.crosspointslc.org.



THOUGH OUR FAMILY MAY LOOK DIFFERENT FROM MOST, THERE IS NO DOUBT IN OUR MINDS THAT THESE KIDS WERE MEANT TO BE OUR KIDS.

Parenting Playbook

An interview with Dr. Richard Ross,
founder of True Love Waits.

Why are you so passionate about helping teenagers and their parents?

Teenagers and those who are important to them have been the focus of my entire life. I became a student minister when I was 19, and my face has been set like flint ever since. The goal of student ministry is students who, for the glory of the Father and in the power of the Spirit, spend a lifetime embracing the full supremacy of the Son, responding to His majesty in all of life, inviting Christ to live His life through them, and joining Him in making disciples among all peoples.

I am passionate about teenagers and their parents because I am passionate about the Son of God. The Father greatly desires that families join Him in making his Son more famous on the earth.

Why did you develop your *Parenting Teens* resource?

I have walked beside parents of teenagers for 40 years. Those who know Christ want parenting insights that are biblical and immediately applicable. But those same parents live with multiple time pressures. I knew they needed a way to see and absorb vital guidance in a time-efficient way. So, we just cut out all the fluff and gave parents concise yet powerful principles and insights.

What do you hope to accomplish with it?

Many churches are assembling parents to study *Parenting Teens* together. That is good news, since parents can learn from each other and leaders can create experiences

that add warmth and insights to the printed page.

Many parents leave the resource in their Bibles after group study. Some want the resource handy for their morning worship, since they are using the 31 daily ways to pray for children. Others want the resource handy in case they run into difficulties related to discipline, communication, or similar issues.

Bottom line, we are praying that *Parenting Teens* will be one of the ways that Christ leads parents to parent well and to become the most important spiritual leaders to their own children.

What are the most important things Christian parents can do to help their children grow to follow Christ?

Praying for children every morning and through the day may be the most important thing parents can do. Children sometimes “receive not because (parents) ask not.”

Praying with children frequently (Deuteronomy 6:7) may be the second most important thing. Children need to hear the depth of a parent’s love for them revealed in those prayers. They need to hear how keenly a parent wants to see spiritual impact radiating out from their lives. They need to hear a parent release them to God’s call and purposes.

Talking about biblical truth and a parent’s own spiritual life in the flow of family life, day-in and day-out (Deuteronomy 6: 7) may be the third most important thing. The wise parent says things similar to “I’ve been looking forward to breakfast, because I want to tell you what the Holy Spirit showed me in Scripture this morning.” Or, “The truth of that sermon hit me hard today. Son, you need to know what I committed to God at the close of the service.”

Modeling faith, morality, and values before children may be the fourth most important thing parents can do. We all have seen great movies that were based on a story.

To use an analogy, the Bible is the story, and a parent's life is the movie based on that narrative of Scripture. Children and teenagers need to know the Bible, but they also need to see the truths of Scripture lived out on the parental "wide screen," right in front of them.

You talk about "heart connection" between parents and teens. Explain that concept.

Relationships are central to making a spiritual impact on children. Children and teenagers tend to embrace parents' faith if parents have heart connections with them.

A heart connection is the "pipeline" that connects the hearts of parent and child. Through that pipeline spiritual impact flows from one generation to the next. Parents who keep that heart connection warm and strong usually see visible evidence that their faith and values are passing to their children. "And he shall turn (connect) the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse" (Malachi 4:6, parenthesis added).

If a parent and teenager grow distant from each other, the probability is the parent will have little spiritual impact,

even if the parent teaches biblical truth and lives out that truth before the teenager. Teenagers tend to reject truth when it comes from someone with whom they have a cold relationship.

How important to a teenager is his or her parent's marriage? Why?

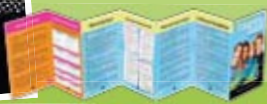
Teenagers tend to embrace the faith of parents in a warm, lifetime marriage. Children and teenagers tend to embrace the faith of parents who surround them with emotional security. Believing the marriage of parents will last is a primary source of that emotional security. Questioning whether the marriage will last robs children of that security. That is one of many reasons God hates divorce (Malachi 2:16).

In this instance, it does not matter whether parents think their marriage will make it. The children come to their own conclusions. When they hear muffled shouts coming from the master bedroom, or they detect icy stares between parents at dinner, or they see touching and flirting become rare, they make their own evaluation about whether the marriage will make it. If teenagers decide the marriage is not well, their emotional security vaporizes, and their be-



"Even atheists want their teens to grow up to be financially stable, part of happy families, and solid citizens.

WHAT DO YOU WANT THAT IS SO DIFFERENT?"



A REVIEW OF PARENTING TEENS BY RICHARD ROSS AND DAVID BOOTH

With that provocative question, *Parenting Teens* (Randall House, 2009) introduces a timely challenge to Christian parents.

Dr. Richard Ross (founder of "True Love Waits" and "See You at the Pole") and David Booth have created a resource designed to come alongside parents with wise counsel about a variety of topics in an easily accessible format. This laminated foldout resource is designed to fit in a Bible or purse and provide quick access to vital parenting information.

In a concise 14 pages, Ross and Booth answer some "big picture" parenting concepts like the true measure of success, the biblical role of parents,

and the power of relationship. Yet, they also address specifics like "How do I lead my teen to Christ?" and how to pray for your teen.

Drawing on decades of youth ministry and parenting experience, the authors urge parents to examine their own walk with the Lord, consider what God wants to do through their teen, and take intentional steps to help their teens to become more Christlike and plug into God's mission in this world.

One inspiring feature of *Parenting Teens* is the authors' challenge to dream about the possible outcome of taking certain parenting actions with intriguing "what if"

statements. For example: "What if you invited the most significant adults in your teen's life to assemble to speak blessings to him or her near high school graduation."

Parenting Teens is not a magic potion that will turn turbulent teen years into smooth sailing. It will, however, open your eyes to parenting in ways that produce eternal dividends. In fact, it may whet the appetite for making the teen years more than just a phase to be survived but a divine opportunity for personal and spiritual growth, for teens and parents alike. At just \$3.99, it is a worthwhile investment for yourself and for the parents in your church.

havior becomes consistent with insecurity.

Parents who have been wounded by a spouse may no longer feel motivation to rebuild romance from the perspective of his or her own needs. But kingdom parents find the motivation to rebuild what has been lost for the glory of Christ and for the good of their children.

When parents are warm and appropriately affectionate toward their spouse in front of the teenager, they take a giant step toward rearing offspring who will embrace the supremacy of Christ.

What are some practical ways parents can encourage spiritual growth in their teens?

Parents can gather the family (Deuteronomy 6:7) for a time of worship, weekly or more often. In addition to prayer and praise, parents can lead a discussion from Scripture built around what they are learning from their own daily time in God's Word. The overflow of a parent's spiritual life is valuable to children and teenagers. Or, parents might use a printed family worship guide church leaders have placed in their hands. Or they might share what they learned from last Sunday's sermon or adult Bible study group.

Monthly or more often, parents can lead the family to do something to serve others in Christ's name. Families can plan some of these outings to address injustice, spiritual poverty, or needs that already have touched the heart of a child or teenager. When families engage in serving others on a regular basis, teenagers form indelible mental snapshots that what matters most is not their temporary fulfillment, but Christ and His mission of redemptive love to others.

Once a year or so, families can go with Christ on missions adventures away from home. Parents may need to partner with church leaders to become knowledgeable about opportunities for families. Some families can consider arranging family finances in order to take a family mission trip in the U.S. or internationally—either their family alone or with other families. Other families can consider giving one day of a typical family vacation to do something of kingdom importance (feed people in the name of Christ, paint a ministry building, etc.). **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Richard Ross is husband to Lajuana and dad to Clayton. He served as youth minister for 30 years and now volunteers with teenagers and parents at Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. Richard is professor to the next generation of youth ministers at Southwestern Seminary.

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WHEN LIFE GETS TOUGH, THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY CALLS ON SECRET RESERVES.

An UNINTENDED Journey

BY KATHY MURPHY

BLAME IT ON MY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHING background (which I enjoyed for several years before joining the Free Will Baptist Bible College faculty). I'd rather join you on a rug for story time than write about it. However, since there is no rug big enough for all of us, we'll try it this way. And what better story to write than love story!

Cafeteria Love Story

The story begins where many love stories do—in a college cafeteria, a young man and woman enrolled in George Peabody School of Education at Vanderbilt University. Both worked on campus and received one free cafeteria meal daily. Janice worked in the cafeteria and checked off student names as they moved through her line.

Tim was quite fond of Janice. That's why he came through the line each day with a mischievous grin and a twinkle in his eye, and provided her with an alias. It was his way of grabbing the attention of the girl of his dreams. While she searched her list for his just-invented name, he would sneak away and enjoy his free meal. It took a few days for her to learn his identity. It took longer for Tim to drum up the courage to ask her for

a date. While Tim did cause a bit of frustration until Janice figured out the name game, I find his story endearing. You see, this is the story of how my parents met.

Tim and Janice started dating and became engaged. Then he shipped out to Vietnam. When he returned home, he was told by his fiancée, "Everything is in order. We're getting married on Saturday." They married and had two daughters, my older sister Christy and me. When I was two, we moved from Newport News, Virginia, back to Nashville, Tennessee, where Mother taught third grade at Woodbine Christian Academy.

A few months later, a drunk driver killed my mother in a car accident, leaving my father to raise two young girls. He did an outstanding job, and I only remember going to church once with my dress on backwards.



You may think this a tragic end to the beautiful love story we began. But you see, the love story is not about my parents. It is about our Savior, and the story continues.

Love Blooms Again

A family friend gave my father the address of a woman who lost her husband in a car accident. She also had two daughters, Robyn and Jennie. So, my father and a Southern Belle from Georgia became pen pals. The story continued to unfold, and Dad remarried. Today, he refers to her as his “mail order bride.”

There were four girls now, and the Lord blessed our family with a brother and a sister, Timothy and Ruth Ellen. If you are doing the math, that is five girls and one boy. We sang our own version of the *Brady Bunch* song. I used to think having six children was exactly what I wanted, however, my husband and I stopped at three. Let's just say we are more than content.

Fast forward to the fall of 2006. It was a stressful time. My husband and I were both making career changes. I was transitioning from elementary school teacher to Teacher Education instructor at FWBCC. He was transitioning from retail sales to law enforcement.

Early on October 11, we received word that my brother Timothy had been killed in a car accident. When the room stopped spinning, I tried to make sense of it. I remember thinking, “Lord, our family has already been through such tragedy. Why Timothy? Why our family? Why my parents?”

The days that followed were dark and difficult. We couldn't imagine how life could continue. But today I can honestly say that God's love, grace, and mercy are

sufficient.

My purpose for sharing the story of my family is to encourage you when life takes you on an unintended journey. The lesson of Isaiah 55:8-9 is that the Lord continues to teach us. It is not our purpose to understand His ways, but to trust His ways.

Long-Range Plans

Consider the life of Joseph. He did not ask to be thrown into a pit by his brothers, even though he played the role of obnoxious little brother quite well. Life dealt him injustice after injustice, yet God was faithful and ever-present in his life. After arriving in Egypt, Joseph earned a position of authority, but life again handed him difficulty when he was falsely accused by Potiphar's wife and imprisoned.

God's ways are revealed through the unintended journeys Joseph traveled. As a boy, he studied while his brothers worked. He later saved the people from famine. God's preparation began long before Joseph faced his hardships. This brings us to when Joseph is reunited with his brothers and an important principle—our reaction to the injustices in our lives.

Do we embrace and forgive one another as Joseph did? Or do we choose anger and bitterness? If God can forgive my sins that nailed Jesus to the cross, surely I can forgive my husband when he hurts my feelings, my friend who betrays my trust, and the drivers who took the lives of my mother and my brother.

How do we continue when life gets hard? We seek guidance in His Word. For you see, before my brother Timothy was born, God knew that a car accident would take his life. Jeremiah 1:5 says, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.”

Just as God knew Timothy in the womb, He knew you. He knows the hardships you have faced and the ones yet to come.

As Daniel purposed in his heart to remain undefiled, we can purpose to live in belief that God's ways are higher than our ways and His love never failing. We trust, we hope, and time reveals His perfect ways.

I am sure my birth mother was a great mother. I probably would've had a good life with her, but I am thankful for the plan God unveiled and the mother He provided for me—the mother I know and love, the mother who raised me and taught me by her example how to be a godly wife and mother. God's plans and timing are far better than any blueprint I might design. I was privileged to have two moms. They were both teachers, and that is a big part of who I am today.

I do not know what causes you hurt or the decisions you face. But I do know God wants us to be hopeful on our unintended journeys. We can be hopeful even when we reach a point that we don't know what to pray. The promise of Romans 8:26 is both comforting and powerful.

Three Little Blessings

When we read God's Word and pray, we recognize God's goodness and His blessings in our lives. Let me tell you about my three little blessings.

My daughter Emily is seven years old and an excellent big sister. I remember her perplexed expression when one day she asked, “Mommy, when I grow up, can I be two things?”

I answered, “Well, of course, Emily, why?” Her response? “Because I really want to be a ballerina and a Cheetah girl.” What does a mother say to that?

Meredith is four and a little quirky. We never know what she is going to say. I could tell you about the time she got the words *grandma* and *groundhog* mixed up, or the time she said there is another Meredith she hears in her head. She thinks it's the devil, so she doesn't listen to him.

"I ONLY REMEMBER GOING TO CHURCH ONCE WITH MY DRESS ON BACKWARDS."

“ I CAN FORGIVE THE DRIVERS WHO TOOK THE LIVES OF MY MOTHER AND MY BROTHER.”

Last week on the way to school, she asked me how God created the world. I told her that God is so powerful all He had to do was speak the words, and the world was created. She sat there for a moment, then I could see a sparkle in her eye, and she asked, “Could God share that power with me?”

And then there is Andrew, named after my brother who was Timothy Andrew. Just as Timothy was the only boy in our family, on my side of the family Andrew is the only grandson of eight grandchildren. He looks like his Uncle Timothy, and we think that is such a blessing. Andrew is not quite two years old, and we can tell he is definitely all boy. I have stories about him, but I am afraid you might call the Department

of Child Services after hearing them.

Leave the Choice to God

I am thankful for the few memories I have of my mother. I am told that I favor her in my appearance and mannerisms, and I cherish that. We have many fond and humorous memories of my brother who was forever trying to scare or gross out his sisters. He made us laugh and could always talk us into scratching his back. Timothy was a kind, big-hearted adventurer, always up for a camping trip or hike.

If I had been in charge, would I have chosen the same plan for my family? Likely not! But I am here, and my Sav-

ior's love has accompanied me. For that I am blessed and grateful.

I wish I could spare you life's hardships, but nowhere does God's Word say we will be spared hurt and heartache. Instead, we are promised hope. As I reconsider Meredith's question, I think God does share His power with us. He gave us the gift of His Word. It is our map, our comfort, and our hope.

Maybe that's what the prophet had in mind when he wrote in Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Kathy Murphy joined the Teacher Education faculty at Free Will Baptist Bible College in 2006.

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One family leaves everything familiar to take the light of the gospel to Native Americans lost in darkness.

THE WAY TO WHITE EARTH

BY GEORGE LEMELIN

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

On May 8, 2003, a new ministry began among Free Will Baptists—a unique and challenging mission to the Native American Tribal People of the North. God had placed a burden for the Ojibwe people on my heart and also the heart of my wife Kathy who embraced this work as her own.

We left Dunn, North Carolina, with our three children and started the long journey to White Earth, Minnesota. Supported only by our church (Fellowship FWB Church), we left with \$2,700 in hand, \$1,500 provided by the church. The children did not fully understand our reason for leaving but followed obediently and did so with adventure and excitement. In time, they too caught the vision of the work and have become a vital part in planting a church among the Ojibwe.



RECOGNIZING THE VALUE OF WORKING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY HAS STRENGTHENED THE INFLUENCE OF OUR MINISTRY TO THE NATIVE PEOPLE.



The Lemelins (left to right): Isaac, Marie, Josiah, Kathy, George.

A FAMILY MINISTRY

As we began the work in White Earth, I soon realized how important it was for the children simply to be good examples. They already had been trained to behave in church and doing so with a yielded heart made it easy to start the work of planting a church.

Josiah and Marie had already accepted Christ as Savior, and Isaac was saved during our first year on the field. Together, God used our family as a ministry team. As the years rolled by, the purpose of each family member became clearer.

Seven years later, they are vital to the work. Kathy, Josiah, Isaac, and Marie teach Sunday School classes. Josiah and Isaac preach for me when needed, lead singing, and run a van ministry with Marie's help. Marie is invaluable as a secretary.

As I look at our family, however, I must say the most important aspect of our maturity in ministry is the heart to serve people who are difficult to serve. Our daughter Marie expressed the following about our work here on the reservation:

"He (God) has turned my heart towards my home and family. He has given me a renewed love and respect for my parents and the vision they have. I am content to help this vision come to fruition. Our vision and goal is to see a thriving, Bible-preaching church, school, and Native American college planted and growing here in the village of White Earth. If the

Lord allows, we would love to see other Bible-preaching churches planted in each of the villages here on the White Earth Reservation, and one day branching out onto other reservations.

This is a multi-generational task that God has given us, and I know it requires willing laborers to complete it. This is not to say that I'm setting my own dreams aside in favor of my parents' dreams. Rather, *their* dream has become mine, and I'm sure it will only become more of a reality as God plants it deeper into my own heart."

Josiah is pursuing law enforcement in the local area, and Isaac seeks a pilot's license so one day we can fly into the remote areas of Canada to the Tribal People of the North. I am grateful to our children! They have suffered with us, labored with us, rejoiced with us, and have filled the responsibilities of ministry faithfully.

A NEW PATH

Establishing Narrow Path Christian School will be the focus of our ministry in 2010. Kathy, Marie, and I will work as teachers in the school until the Lord provides mission teachers. The purpose of the school will be geared toward missions, using A.C.E. curriculum. The school will impact a generation of children, teaching them about God while providing sound academics. Please pray with us about the school and all we can accomplish for the Lord through this ministry.

Recognizing the value of working together as a family has strengthened the influence of our ministry to Native Americans. More importantly, as a father and leader, I believe more than ever that my ministry is to my family first, and I have never allowed the mission work to come between us.

The Lord has been gracious to us, and we are grateful to you, the body of Christ, for praying for us and supporting us in our labor for the Lord among the Native American Tribal People of the North. Thank you for partnering with us. We do not stand alone. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: George Lemelin and wife Kathy are associate missionaries to the Native Americans living on the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota. The tribe has more than 20,000 members. To learn more about their ministry, visit www.homemissions.net.

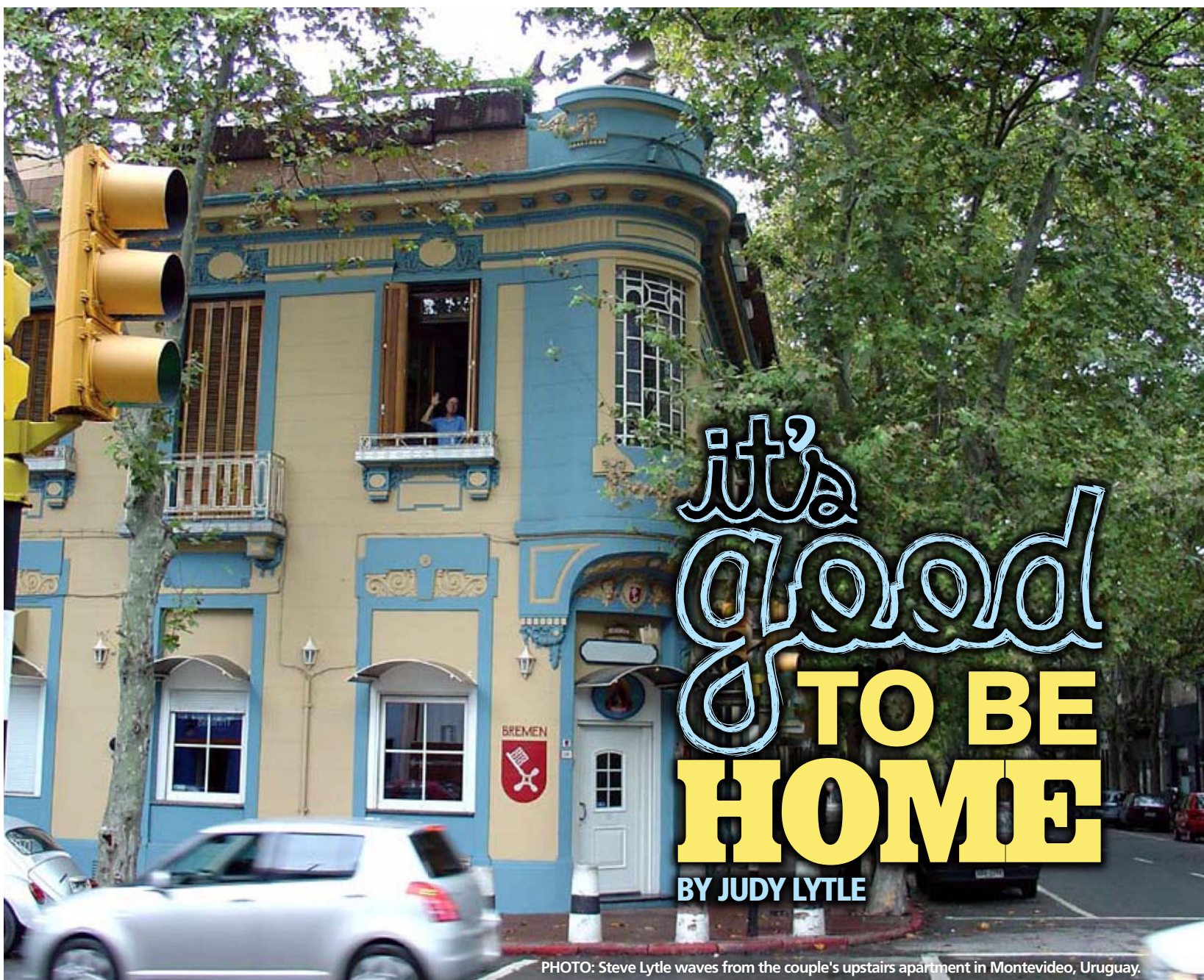


PHOTO: Steve Lytle waves from the couple's upstairs apartment in Montevideo, Uruguay.

WHEN I RETURN TO MY

house after a time away, I usually say, "Ah, it's good to be home." The familiarity is unbelievably relaxing and comfortable. Yet in preparation for our return to the mission field, on December 31, 2008, we sold our familiar home in Nashville and embarked upon a journey we continue to learn about as we go.

Since January 2009, our home has

been in more places than I can count. We stayed with family and friends before leaving the States. When asked where we were living, I would just respond, "Right here." We were in our new home on the seminary property in Panama for about 18 days before traveling to Uruguay where we lived in several different places during a two-month stay. For most of our time in Uruguay, our home was a 15-by-

18 foot efficiency apartment in the heart of downtown Montevideo, a city of about 1.5 million people.

During our ministry in Uruguay we frequently traveled by bus—short rides in the city and long trips to the border town of Rivera. The bus ride to Rivera is about six and a half hours, which gave me plenty of time to think. I remember thinking on one of the return trips, "It will be



Home is where God places us.

classes. That has been another adjustment for me—going from my own house in the States to the small quiet apartment in Uruguay to a large space where the only

good to get home.” Home? Our little, one-room efficiency? Yes, in the short time we were there, that little room became home to us. We were happy there.

Over the past few months God has taught me many lessons. One is that home can be anywhere. We don’t have to have a nice house, beautiful furniture, manicured yard, sunroom, or even family and friends close by to be at home. Home is where God places us. Contentment comes with the knowledge we are in God’s will and are where He wants us to be (Philippians 4:11).

Another lesson I’ve learned is to not cling to anything too tightly. As Job said, “the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord” (Job 1:21). All the things we consider necessary can sometimes become bag-

gage weighing us down on our journey to our eternal home. “More” is not necessarily better.

I found myself falling into the “materialism trap” when I lived in the United States. It is so easy and natural. Do we ever get enough? If it is not a bigger house, it is a new car or nicer furniture, etc. Hasn’t God promised to supply our needs? “Things” don’t bring happiness and can disappear in a blink of an eye. No matter what life brings, God is good all the time.

We returned to Panama, leaving our one room to move into the eight-bedroom house on the seminary property. Yes, I said eight! Before you think I’m completely crazy, let me explain. Our house is a dormitory for seminary students. Six of the bedrooms are dorm rooms with four in use by four young men studying to be pastors or missionaries and two others are used by pastors when they come to help teach



private place is our bedroom and bathroom. Lesson number three: God gives us grace for every circumstance.

I guess the final lesson I’ve learned is that I’m not home yet. What will our eternal home be like? I’m sure it will be better than anything I can imagine or dream! When I get to heaven, I’ll say for the final time, “Ah...it’s good to be home.” And it will be completely and eternally good.

ONE

ABOUT THE WRITER: Judy Lytle and her husband Steve are on special assignment with FWB International Missions at the Chame Seminary. Visit www.fwbgo.com for more information.





LEARN FROM A CHILD

BY GENEVA POOLE

Learn from a child.

Who Me?

Not me, Lord!

Maybe?

Yes!

This child had been in my prayers even before he arrived into our lives. He was cute, cuddly, intelligent, and all of the other adjectives one might add when speaking of a grandchild.

God has used this precious one to teach me quite a few lessons, starting when he was a little tot.

He taught me more about Heaven, the real place where Jesus is! Evidently, the Sunday School teacher gave a vivid lesson on Heaven, which marked this four-year-old. He began to talk about Heaven as the greatest place, and expressed a desire to go there, without delay. It made me want to go with him.

In fact, one day he asked his mother,

“Mommy, why can’t I go to Heaven now?” Another day, he asked why he could not die so he could go to Heaven to be with Jesus.

What did I learn? To my shame, sometimes Heaven is a remote place, and I just do not think very much about going there. Oh, yes, I am a Christian and I work for the Lord, but do I rejoice over the fact Heaven is a real place and I am on my way there? I wonder if my speaking about Heaven will cause others to desire to accompany me to the eternal abode called Heaven.

This same grandson had heard about the need to receive Jesus as personal Savior. In fact, I had done so personally.

One day, he evidently had been thinking. He went to his mother and told her he wanted Jesus to come into his heart. With a rejoicing heart, she led her son to accept Jesus. What a privilege!

What grandmother is not thrilled to know of the salvation of even a four-year-old? The greatest lesson came later.

Once saved, this sweet little boy began working on his two-year-old sister. He approached her saying, "Mel, let Jesus come into your heart." You can probably guess the answer that came quickly from the mouth of the two-year-old. Yes, you guessed it. "No" was her unhesitating reply.


What was good for him, he wanted

for his sister. He did not give up very easily, but each time he received a negative response. Preoccupied, he went to his mother and asked her to tell Mel to let Jesus come into his heart. His mother explained that his sister would accept Jesus like he had done when she understood.

How ashamed I become when I am made aware of the opportunities missed to speak to someone about my Savior. As this four-year-old, I want to have the habit of speaking to people about their need for a Savior.

A few weeks later, he was standing by the crib of his month-old sister. His mother walked by the door, and stopped long enough to check to see what her son was doing. He was

talking to his baby sister. "Stephanie, would you like to go to Heaven?" Just at that moment, Stephanie moved her head. His little heart was thrilled. He ran to his mother saying, "Stephanie wants to go to Heaven. Oh Mommy, Stephanie wants to go to Heaven."

How often I become bogged down with good things that I forget to ask those I speak to, "Do you want to go to Heaven?" 

*Give me a child's heart,
Oh God!*

ABOUT THE WRITER: Geneva Poole and her husband Bobby are career missionaries to Brazil. Read more at www.fwbgo.com.

Capital Gains will go UP in 2011.

If you own stock or investment property and wish to sell, don't wait too long. Capital gains tax rates will increase in 2011. Rather than paying higher taxes on the sale of your assets, consider funding a charitable remainder unitrust to help you bypass taxes while leaving a gift to Free Will Baptist International Missions and providing you income for life.

Benefits include:

- + Avoidance of capital gains tax.
- + Potential for increased annual trust income.
- + Charitable deduction in the year you create the trust.

For more information, call us or visit our website:



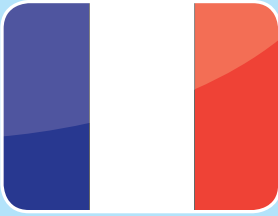
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Don't wait too long!



NEWS

around the world



Châteaubriant, France—Steve and Becky Riggs are working with a diverse group as they seek to plant a church in Châteaubriant, France. Five families are faithfully participating in worship services. Two families are French, one is Ivorian, another is a refugee family from Central Africa, and a single lady is English. The small congregation is the only Protestant church in the city. ■



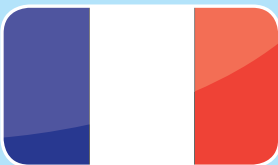
Campinas, Brazil—Fifteen people followed the Lord in baptism May 1, at the São José FWB Church in Campinas, Brazil. Ten of those baptized were from the São José Church, four were from the Ouro Verde Mission, and one was from the Nova América Mission. All three churches are located in the greater Campinas area and have Brazilian pastors. ■



Belo Horizonte, Brazil—A family of four was baptized May 23 in the Belo Horizonte Church. The family had begun attending the Belo Church almost a year earlier. In time, each family member accepted Christ. Jim Sturgill performed the baptisms in one of his last services in the church. ■



Gouméré, Côte d'Ivoire—Thirteen people were baptized at the Gouméré FWB Church in Ivory Coast on April 25. Pastor Gboko Kobenan and Deacon Angui baptized nine people from the Gouméré Church and four from a daughter church in the village of Siago. Those baptized ranged in age from their late teens to an 80-year-old woman. ■



St. Sebastien, France—Many people purchased children's Bible storybooks from the St. Sebastien bookstore in May. The traditional time for confirmation in the Catholic Church brought family and friends to the bookstore seeking gifts. ■



Belo Horizonte, Brazil—Jim and Vicki Sturgill retired from service in Brazil on May 31, 2010. The couple will travel to supporting churches throughout the rest of the year and end their tenure with Free Will Baptist International Missions November 30, 2010. ■



Chame, Panama—

The Chame Seminary property played host to a pastors' retreat May 21-23. All nine pastors attended, and only one was unable to bring his wife. Mike Gladson, pastor of Cofer's Chapel FWB Church in Nashville, TN, presented the majority of the plenary sessions. His wife Linda and Kathleen Willey Peterson were also featured speakers. Five guests from the Free Will Baptist work in Costa Rica attended. A young Costa Rican who studied at the Gwen Hendrix Bible Institute in South Carolina has begun a new work in this nation that borders Panama. ■



Asheville, NC—Louis Coscia, former missionary to Brazil, died at the age of 84 on Sunday, May 23. Louis and his wife Florine served in Brazil from 1963 to 1992. The funeral was held May 27 in Weaverville, NC. ■



10/40 Window—The Muslim world will observe Ramadan, the holiest month in their religious calendar, August 12-September 10. While billions of Muslims participate in the various activities associated with their holy month, millions of Christians engage in strategic prayer for the gospel to penetrate Muslim-dominated areas. Aids for praying with understanding and effectiveness can be found at www.30daysprayer.com. ■

E-TEAM 2010

Nashville, TN—Almost 80 teens and their leaders comprised nine E-TEAMS in 2010. The teams spent almost two weeks in cross-cultural ministry around the world, provided manual labor in community service, distributed evangelistic literature, and cleaned and provided maintenance for churches and Bible institutes. They also saw several people accept Christ as Savior and other rededicate their lives to Him.



Participants for 2010 E-TEAMS were:

St. Croix: Shelby Brantley (GA), Hanna Dunham (OH), Connor Fletcher (AR), Nicole Holt (IL), Dustin Latham (AL), Hannah Locklear (MI), Stef Parton (KS), Jake Scroggins (OK), Joshua Sexton (MI), and leaders Chris and Emily Edwards (SC).

Uruguay: Rachel Adkins (MI), Lauren Bass (AR), Rachel Burns (OH), Caitlin Campbell (OK), Bailey Briggs (TN), Zack Eversole (MI), Frani Feavel (AZ), Jordan Johnston (MO), Matthew Real (KS), and leaders Chris and Tori Sargent (GA).

Ribeirão Preto, Brazil: Justin Browning (TN), Kristen Cannon (IL), Dylan Ray (AR), Joe Lemmon (KS), Sheridan Mraz (KS), Aly Ryburn (AR), Kaylynn Wells (SC), and leaders Charley and Ellen Carmack (TN).

Campinas, Brazil: Amanda Aycock (OK), Trevor Grooms (AR), Bekka Hale (IN), Emily Parrish (SC), Tom Radley (VI), Nathan Skaggs (KY), Emily Wisdom (MO), and leaders Mark and Khristi Shores (NM).

Panama: Kelsi Caudill (TN), Bethany Coats (SD), Molly Kirk (KY), Stacey Kelley (GA), Christian Sloan (OK), Michael Lindsey (OK), Victoria Little (NC), Dustin Moore (MO), Kaylee Ray (AR), and leaders Steve and Lori Torrison (OK/Panama).

Chicago: Zach Evans (OK), Shelby Gibson (OH), Anthony Headrick (TX), Morgan Lomenick (MS), Jacob McMurray (IN), Elizabeth Palmer (KS), Kaitlyn Pool (NC), Kori Stemp (VA), Chelsea Voltz (TX), and leaders Tom and Carol DuBose (AR).

Mexico: Brittany Adams (MO), Kelsey Byrd (GA), Carson Lee Coker (SC), Emily Conner (MI), David Emery (IL), Taylor Greer (VA), Michael Kear (CA), Erin Shusta (AZ), Sarah Vaughn (OK), and leaders Adam and Miriam James (TN).

Cuba: Cheyenne Brooks (KS), Kati Fannin (AZ), Tyler Hefn (MO), Cody Herren (NC), Bethany Hovis (MO), Allison Lewis (IL), Jon Osterkamp (MO), Maria Petty (IL), Davey Reeves (KY), and leaders Dane and Michelle Forlines (TN).

Japan: Paula Bonfiglio (KS), Noah Ellis (GA), Jamie Hammers (SC), Madison Lindgren (CA), Caleb Myers (MO), Tim Radley (VI), Jessica Stacy (KY), Audrey Williams (AL), and leaders Josh and Ashley Bennett (GA). ■

BALANCE

in the Face of Loss

BY NORMA JACKSON GOLDMAN

RETIREMENT YEARS OFTEN PROVE TO BE SOME OF LIFE'S HAPPIEST, MOST PRODUCTIVE TIMES FOR individuals, couples, and their families. As priorities shift and more time can be devoted to mutual interests and family, married couples frequently grow closer. Once the demands of work life and hectic schedules are over, there is an increased emphasis on interaction with close friends and extended family members and the opportunity to enjoy travel, hobbies, personal ministry, and the simple pleasures of life.

An often-overlooked aspect of retirement years, however, is the impact of the loss of loved ones and long-time friends. My own adult Bible study class recently experienced the loss of two much-loved members a little more than three months apart. These losses had a tremendous impact on the group as many faced their own mortality for the first time. Both losses seemed untimely as they were just under retirement age. Both were vibrant, involved, and active with family, friends, and church. It has been somewhat unsettling, which is not only reasonable but likely a good thing. For when unsettled, people have a tendency to give more attention to the deeper, more important issues of life.



Dealing With Loss Is a Process

Learning to process the loss of friends and family members is not easy, but believers have a distinct advantage. First, we have confidence in the future, because we know who holds the future.

Second, we know God has a plan for each of His children, a good plan—to prosper us and give us a future (Jeremiah 29:11). Third, we recognize loss as an opportunity to reflect on where we are in our own faith journey, and to evaluate our priorities of time, energy, and resources.

Finally, His design for life includes valuing and living in the present, even as we experience loss.

Our Future Is Secure

Part of reverencing God is recognizing His sovereignty in all matters of life and death. The One who created us numbered our days; He knows the time we will be called home to begin the new life promised to all who claim Christ as Savior, so we know our future is secure.

But we live in the present. Keeping up with family, friends and being involved in ministry helps us to

God's design for life includes valuing and living in the present, even as we experience loss.



maintain our balance in times of loss.

His Plans Are Good

By this time in life, believers have learned that He can take the worst of situations and make something good of them. Who would have thought the pain and grief of the cross would result in our redemption and a future reunion with God?

We can say with certainty that those who have been taken from us have absolutely no desire to return! Their joy is now complete in Him and ours will be at the right time. But for today, we can rejoice in His

goodness, greet each new day with faith and optimism, and maintain our balance by giving thanks for His gracious provision (Psalm 16:7-9).

Time to Reflect

Losses allow us time to reflect on the contributions of those who have gone before us. Reviewing our own contributions to the lives of others, the causes we hold dear, and the work God has called us to, we can choose to continue our faith walk with greater purpose and resolve, making the most of the time we've been given (Colossians 3:23-24).

Time to Live Fully, in Faith

A lifelong habit of trusting God in every situation, including loss of friends and loved ones, is the essential source of comfort, strength, and resolve and our most vital resource in regaining balance. God wants us to live fully confident in His ability to meet our every need. **ONE**

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



The Voice of Those Who Weep:

Christians and Chronic Illness (Part 2)

BY GARNETT REID

Just who brought it up, I wonder. Did he ask them to help him get there, or did they come to him with the idea? However it happened, the paralyzed man in Capernaum had at least four friends in his support group. They got him to Jesus—even if it was an idea that turned out to be “through the roof”—and Jesus did the rest.

Whether you know it now or later, your calling may be to care for a chronically ill friend or loved one. If that turns out to be the case, here are some tips for you as a caregiver.

Educate yourself about the disease. Know what you and your loved one are facing. But remember, you’re not the doctor.

Be flexible. Many chronic illnesses

result in a roller coaster of emotions for the patient. One day is good, the next miserable. Don’t tell your loved one how she ought to feel.

Expect intermittent bouts of depression. Someone who has never dealt with this issue may experience despair, withdrawal, and even anger in varying degrees.

Understand that illnesses affect people in different ways. If your patient is irritable, just roll with it. Understand that it is the disease being grumpy, not your friend. It’s not personal.

Sense your friend’s “rhythms.” Discern when she is feeling good, when it’s a good time to have visitors, to do things, and when it’s not.

Be available. Loneliness is often a huge issue. She may not ask for help, but don’t force yourself on your friend. And by all means, don’t talk all the time! Say something like, “I’d just like to be with you, if that’s okay.” Then know when to back off, when to leave.

Remember that a person just diagnosed with a chronic illness is adjusting to a “new normal” and seeing life in a whole new light. That adjustment may be difficult.

Be alert to physical issues, depending on the disease. Simple things might cause pain for your friend. You may have to be careful about hugs, handshakes, or just touching.

Your loved one may need for you to go to the doctor with her. You may be the “interpreter” who needs to listen carefully to what the physician says. If so, do your best to get it right.

Except in extreme cases where adverse reactions might be occurring, don’t offer your opinions about medications other than to support what the doctor prescribes.

Be sure your loved one has access to

medical help in emergencies, including electronic devices, a cordless phone, and other electronic devices.

Help with ordinary chores if she desires—laundry, cleaning, child care, cooking, and errands, for example.

Suggest a creative outlet if your friend is up to it. Help her stay involved in life—a hobby, reading, crafts, going for a walk or a drive or other activities.

Don't preach or lecture to her. But if she wants to preach to you, let her.

Do say:

"I'm sorry you are hurting. I'm here for you."

"Tell me how you feel, if you'd like. I want to understand."

"You are a blessing to me."

Don't say:
"I know what you're going through."

"It could be worse."

"Cheer up. You'll beat this."

"My friend had the same thing, and he's okay now."

Both you and your friend need some time alone now and then. Be sure both of you get it.

Have a network of friends you can talk to, people with whom you can share your frustrations. Don't complain to your ill loved one.

Write things down. Keep a notebook or a journal telling your friend's story and your observations.

Remember that this emotional investment can swallow your life. Caregiving can drain every ounce of your energy. You need to take care of your own health for your sake as well as to be able to help your friend.

The Gospels describe a woman with a chronic hemorrhage who found the greatest Caregiver. After years of desperation, she had nothing left except hope in Jesus. She needed nothing else except to touch Jesus. And she found everything she needed in Jesus. By His presence and through His care, the great Caregiver can turn the voice of those who weep into the song of those who rejoice.

God bless you as He loves through your love. **ONE**

INTERSECT: Where the BIBLE Meets Life is a regular column written by Dr. Garnett Reid who chairs the Bible Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Pave the way for the next generation.



Free Will Baptist Bible College works closely with the Free Will Baptist Foundation to help you continue giving to the college long after you are gone. Opportunities include unitrusts, endowments, and gift annuities. Contact the Foundation to learn how you can pave the way for the next generation of students at the college.

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FORGOTTEN But Not Gone

BY DAVID AMBURGEY

GERALD WAS MISSING. I searched frantically for a clue to his whereabouts. I checked the hospitals, local nursing homes, and assisted living center. I called facilities in nearby towns where he had lived previously. As my fruitless search continued, I became more frustrated and frightened, and I also felt a growing sense of guilt.

I knew Gerald was scheduled to move, but when things piled up at church and home, I got behind and completely forgot to check on him. I was ashamed that I couldn't find him, ashamed that it had been so long since my last visit.

Gerald is a 69-year-old man with the mind of a child. He has only two living relatives—a cousin an hour away whom he suspects of stealing from him and a stepsister who wanted nothing to do with him until the sale of his home. In reality, Gerald is alone.

He is a lovable character who can turn into a grumpy, old man in an instant if you offend him, even in some small way. But when you really get to know him, the occasional grouchy demeanor just makes you smile. Gerald is usually bright and cheery, ready to pester you to distraction. For instance, he wants to stick a frog in your pocket (imaginary,

mother, and when she died, he asked me to speak at the funeral. Unable to live alone, he moved in with his 90-year-old stepfather.

When his stepfather died a few years later, Gerald was essentially left alone. For a time he lived in the little house, surviving on TV dinners and cheese Danishes (still his favorite) from the grocery store, but it was evident that he needed help. Before long, he became a ward of the state.

His first stop was an assisted care apartment, but that proved to be the wrong solution, because he was left unattended much of the time. So he moved to a private care facility where he had his own room, limited freedom, and constant care. He lived there happily for some time until an extended recovery from an operation sent him to a rehabilitation center in a neighboring town for six months.

That brings me back to my frantic search. I knew Gerald had been released from the temporary care facility, but I had no idea where he had been placed. Suddenly, it hit me. Perhaps he was still at the rehabilitation center! A quick phone call confirmed my suspicion. Not only did I feel guilty, I felt stupid; but at least I knew how to find him.

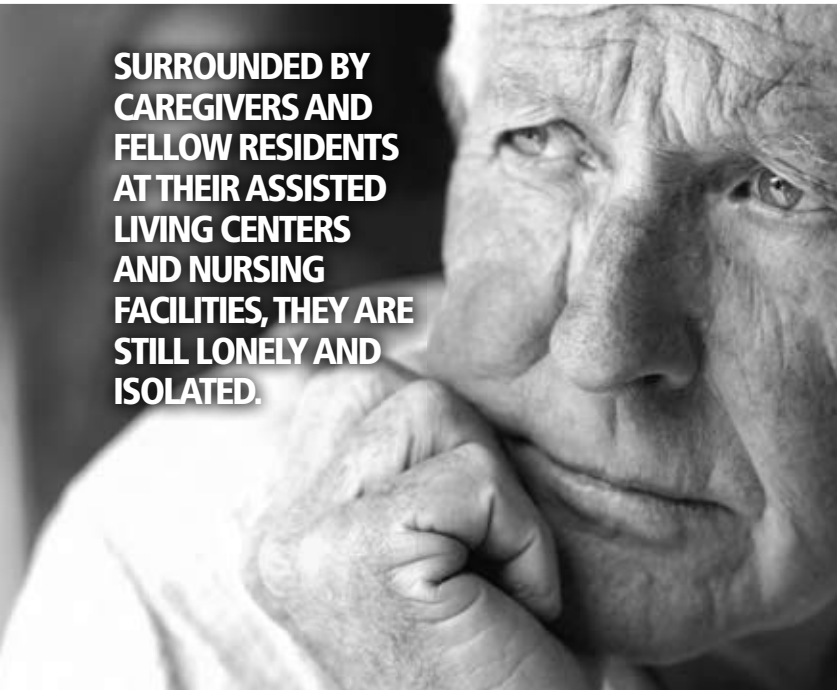
After begging forgiveness from God for my failure, I made immediate arrangements to visit Gerald. He was ecstatic to see me. I apologized for not going to see him for so long. His face wrinkled into a wide, toothless grin, and he told me he wanted to put a frog in my pocket. He said that he was going to tell my wife to whip me with a hot frying pan. In Gerald's mind, there was nothing to forgive. I didn't visit right away...but I did visit!

Sadly, many members of our congregations are forgotten. Surrounded by caregivers and fellow residents at their assisted living centers and nursing facilities, they are still lonely and isolated. Many, like Gerald, have no real family but depend upon their church family for human interaction and friendship. They may not be related by blood, but they are still family. Don't make my mistake and let the pressures of life keep you from the people who need you the most.

When we bury someone, we say that they are gone but not forgotten. We visit their graves frequently and sometimes even talk to them, although they cannot hear us. Maybe it is time to turn our attention to those who long to hear a friendly voice...those who are forgotten but not gone. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: David Amburgey pastors First Free Will Baptist Church in Baxley, GA. He is author of *Soaring With the Eagles* and numerous magazine articles. Learn more about David at www.davidamburgey.webs.com.

SURROUNDED BY CAREGIVERS AND FELLOW RESIDENTS AT THEIR ASSISTED LIVING CENTERS AND NURSING FACILITIES, THEY ARE STILL LONELY AND ISOLATED.



of course). This is comical, especially from a man whose wizened features have begun to resemble an old frog.

From time to time, he smiles a wide, toothless grin and chuckles while asking if your wife has hit you over the head with a frying pan lately, an obvious reaction to re-runs of *The Beverly Hillbillies*. When you know Gerald, you can't help but love him, and you learn to be careful about how you return his playful banter because his child's mind is easily offended.

I first met Gerald five years ago when he sat on the second row of the church I pastor. He wore his one good suit, the same one he wore every Sunday. Gerald lived with his

NEWS

across the nation

Update from Chaplain (CPT) Kevin Trimble, U.S. Army

Every opportunity is a place to minister—all the more reason that the chaplain offers a “Ministry of Presence.” Whether counseling, preaching, teaching, or in a battle planning or deliberate operations group, the chaplain is the voice of morale and morals.

What a privilege it is for me to serve here. I am grateful that I have been placed in a small chapel (actually a dining tent) that most didn’t want. My chaplain partner and I, along with our assistants, move in at 0800 (8:00 a.m.) and change the DFAC (Dining Facility) into a sanctuary, have service, and then move back out again. I feel like a real home missionary!

The first week we saw about 40, a few more the second week, and then I began an outreach plan. After much publicity, signs, and contacts, we had a full house for Easter services. LTC (retired) Oliver North joined us, as well as my own battalion com-

mander, LTC T. Bradley Ninness. It was a privilege to preach to the full house and to serve communion on that special day.

The tent continues to fill each week. Praise the Lord! We thank the Lord for Randall House and the generous gifts from Ron Hunter who provides the *Fusion* devotional magazine each quarter. I hold four Bible Studies using *Fusion* for about 50 people. I have started an anger management class and a marriage enrichment class in addition to my other responsibilities. I’m busy, often tired, but having a wonderful time serving God. I cannot imagine being anywhere else.

I also want to thank Randall House for the gift of the booklet *Simple*. Twenty copies have been distributed to 20 new converts, and we plan a baptism soon. This may be the desert, but God is the fountain of joy, peace, and love. By God’s power, He will be exalted. I thank God for the privilege to serve.

From the Front Lines

Last year I decided to join the U.S. Army. I had a burden to reach the soldiers. I did not choose the chaplaincy, but rather the infantry. I know this sounds strange, but I felt the call to be directly involved in the soldiers’ lives, and it has paid off. I have been in a war zone for four weeks at this writing, and already have seen one soul led to the Lord.

This war—a sore subject with everyone—actually provides many avenues of ministry. The soldiers ask a lot of questions, and it allows for great discussions. In spite of the storms of financial crisis, hardships, and open sin in the world, God is still moving!

I know I will see God do great things this year. I am convinced that He will see a true harvest of souls come to Him during this time, and I am thankful to be where God has placed me.

ABOUT THE WRITER: PFC Benjamin Crabtree is the son of Jeff and Donna Crabtree, home missionaries to Canada.



Introducing New Missionaries



Tim and Amanda York have been called to Buffalo, New York. They will join home missionary Brian Williams and associate home missionary Darin Alvis as team members to plant a new Free Will Baptist church in Buffalo. They will strive to reach the deaf community for Christ while overseeing the discipleship ministries of the new church and ministering to the State University of New York college students.

The Yorks come to Home Missions from the pastorate at First FWB Church in Decatur, Alabama. Tim earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Free Will Baptist Bible College, a Master of Arts in Religion, Evangelism, and Church Planting, and a Master of Religious Education degree from Liberty University. He plans to complete a Master's of Divinity degree with an emphasis in Discipleship Ministries in August 2010. Their ministry to the deaf is a ground-breaking area for Home Missions.

Mark and Danielle McCraney are moving to Castle Rock, Colorado, to team with Donnie and Susan Burke in planting a new Free Will Baptist church. They come to the Home Missions Department from a pastorate in Red Bay, Alabama. Mark graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering. He currently attends Liberty University pursuing a Master of Arts and Religion in Discipleship Ministries.

Castle Rock is located between Colorado Springs and Denver. Only 28% of the residents claim affiliation with any religious congregation. The McCraney's have two sons, Ethan and Lucas.



2011 Deep South Tournament Drop in for some fun.

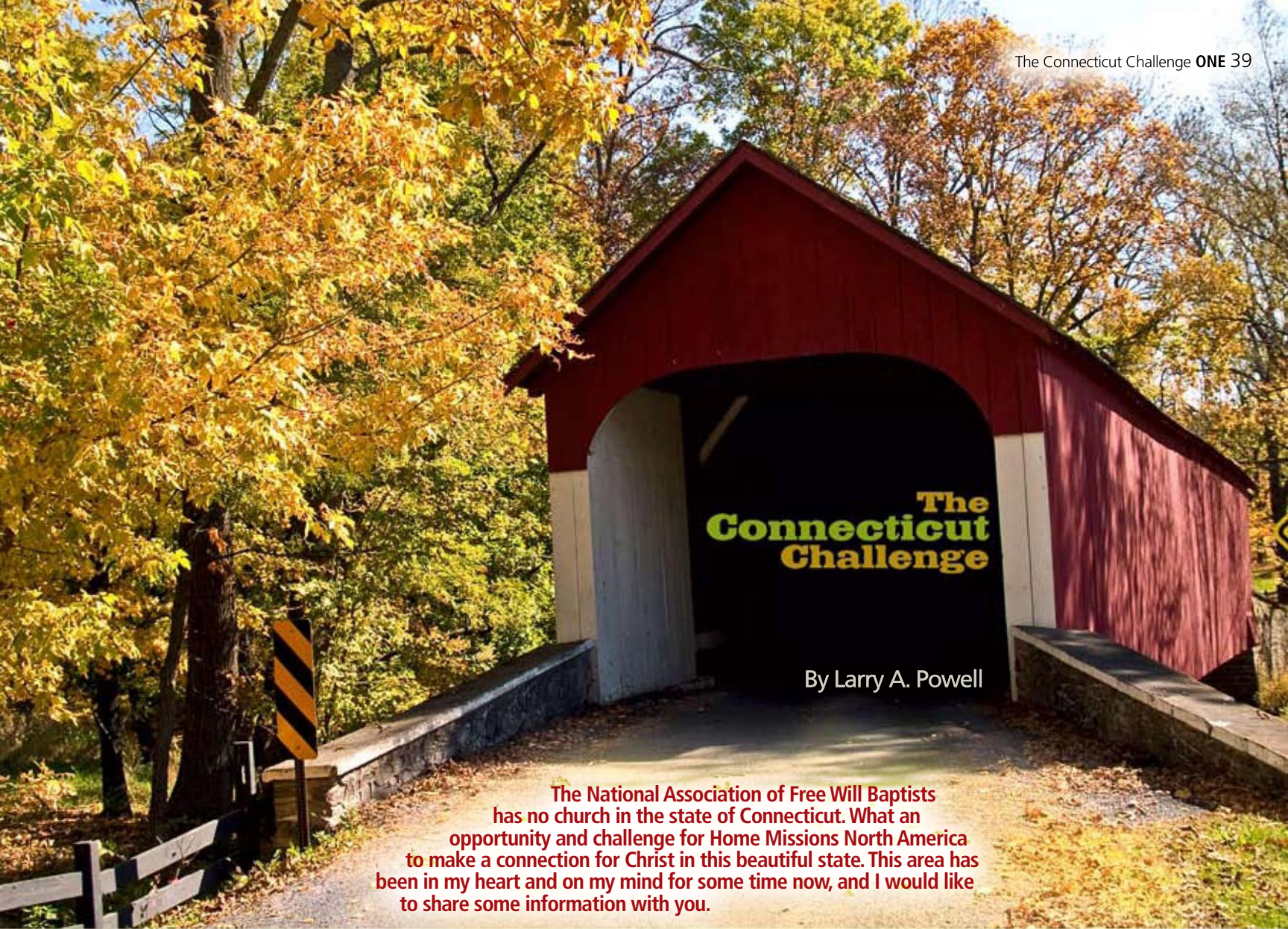


Dothan National Golf Course | March 23-25, 2011

The **Deep South Golf Tournament** is a 54-hole, three-day, two-man scramble sponsored by Master's Men. A bargain at \$325, the tournament fee includes green fees and cart fees, three breakfasts, two dinners, and three nights of lodging. Golfers may play additional rounds for a cart fee. Don't miss this chance to enjoy three unforgettable days of fun, fellowship, and fast greens!



Reserve your spot today: (877) 767-8039 | www.fwbmastersmen.org.
Course information: www.dothannational.com/golf.html



By Larry A. Powell

The National Association of Free Will Baptists has no church in the state of Connecticut. What an opportunity and challenge for Home Missions North America to make a connection for Christ in this beautiful state. This area has been in my heart and on my mind for some time now, and I would like to share some information with you.

Connecticut is bound on the south by the Long Island Sound, on the west by New York State, on the north by Massachusetts, and on the east by Rhode Island. The “nutmeg state” has 169 towns and cities without a single Free Will Baptist church.

The official song of Connecticut is “Yankee Doodle,” a song that we know well. Yet it would be even better to establish a mission church and hear a congregation singing hymns of faith in Christ Jesus. The population of the state is approximately 3.5 million. Connecticut is the fourth most densely populated state in America. The southwestern portion of this wealthy state is a part of the New York Metropolitan area. Along the I-95

corridor, the population is especially dense with 5,000 people per square mile.

The first settlers came with Thomas Hooker seeking freedom of worship and to escape religious persecution. Thankfully, that freedom remains. No passport or visa is needed to cross the state line and begin a new Free Will Baptist mission work.

Connecticut is not the “Bible Belt” of the South. A tremendous need exists for specially equipped and talented church planters to impact this area with the gospel message. Vast numbers claim no religious affiliation at all, and only a small number of churches could be characterized as “Bible-preaching churches.”

Many famous people hail from Con-

necticut: George W. Bush, Mark Twain, and Noah Webster, among others. Millions of people in Connecticut know these famous names, but do they know the One who can forgive their sins and set them free from condemnation and the bondage of sin? The challenge for Free Will Baptists is that they may hear and know and trust our Savior.

If you would like to have more information on this area of ministry, please contact the Home Missions Department toll free: 877-767-7674. **ONE**



ABOUT THE WRITER: Larry A. Powell is general director of the Home Missions Department. To learn more about the ministry of Home Missions, visit www.homemissions.net.

WORK HARD

and Sleep Well

Most Americans let two things slide that are very important to our health and wellness—sleep and exercise. We rarely get enough of either. With our busy lives it is hard to find time to squeeze everything into a day. Yet consider the negative effects of neglecting these two actions.



BY JOHN BRUMMITT

Get Moving

Physical activity is probably the most important part of living a healthy life. The problem is, we rarely find or take the time for it. There are 1,440 minutes in every day. We only need to set aside 30 of them to improve our health. According to a 2000 National Health Interview survey, 64% of men and 72% of women fail to engage in physical activity on a daily basis. Physical activity includes anything that increases our heart rate, from taking a walk to jogging or mowing the lawn. In other words, anything that gets us moving.

The importance of exercise is not to make us look a certain way. Movies and magazines lead us to believe that we need three percent body fat and rock hard abdominal muscles to be in shape. While those are good goals to shoot for, they are not realistic for most of us. We need to focus more on our body image than the image of our bodies. We should exercise to feel better, not just to look better.

If the purpose of working out is to attain a certain look,

we will get discouraged when we don't see quick results. Exercise has positive effects on our entire body: heart and circulatory system, respiratory system, muscular system, skin, and even body temperature. (Raising the temperature of the body during exercise promotes the burning of the toxins in the body.)

Exercising also benefits mental health and stress levels. When we exercise, our body releases chemicals called endorphins, which improve mood and the way we feel about ourselves. Exercising helps manage stress levels as we release built-up tension. There is evidence that regular exercise also helps to ward off depression and anxiety.

Not only does exercise help us manage our mental health it also helps improve our physical health. Exercise helps with weight loss, although without the proper changes in diet, it provides only modest weight loss. Exercise also helps ward off diseases such as heart disease, stroke, type II diabetes, obesity, chronic back pain, osteoporosis, and certain types of cancer. It may also improve our immune system to help ward off colds and viruses.



Keeping our minds and bodies healthy will allow us to go where God gives us opportunities to minister.

by daily activities. Healthy cell growth and tissue repair are two of the main functions that occur during daily down time for adults.

For children, sleep is when the growth hormones are released. These hormones are essential to their mental and physical development. Children who don't get adequate sleep are often cranky, uncooperative, and difficult. So we benefit from their sleep as well.

Sleep is also necessary for our nervous systems. Neurons regenerate and repair themselves while we sleep. Neurons help us function as effectively as possible on both the physical as well as the mental sides. People who are sleep deprived often suffer side effects.

Missing one night of sleep may cause drowsiness and lack of concentration the next day. Successive nights may lead to impaired memory and impaired physical performance. If we still do not correct the problem, we may experience hallucinations, mood swings, and physical symptoms such as loss of appetite, changes in physical appearance, headaches, etc.

Before skipping the gym or staying up to watch late night television, we need to consider the long-term consequences! Keeping our minds and bodies healthy will allow us to go where God gives us opportunities to minister. A little work and sacrifice on the front end goes a long way toward our goals of leading a happy, healthy, productive life. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: A 2004 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, John Brummitt is CFO for the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement. He began working for the board in the spring of 2006. An avid runner and founder of a middle-Tennessee running club, he chairs the wellness committee for the Free Will Baptist National Offices.

Resources:

<http://www.ninds.nih.gov/>

www.sleepfoundation.org

<http://healthysleep.med.harvard.edu/healthy/matters/consequences/>

www.webmd.com/fitness-exercise/guide/exercise-benefits

www.medicinenet.com

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>

WebMD lists 10 important facts about regular exercise:

- 1) Exercise boosts brainpower.
- 2) Movement melts away stress.
- 3) It gives you energy.
- 4) It's not that hard to find time for exercise.
- 5) Fitness can help build relationships.
- 6) Exercise helps ward off disease.
- 7) Fitness pumps up your heart.
- 8) Exercise lets you eat more.
- 9) Exercise boosts performance.
- 10) Weight loss is not the most important goal.

Damage Control

Many of us struggle to get the right amount of sleep. Sadly, if we don't get enough sleep we put our bodies at risk for diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease. On the reverse side of the sleep coin, if we get too much sleep we put ourselves at risk for all the same health problems. In order to function at full capacity, the average adult should get between seven and eight hours of sleep each night. Yet if we average more than nine hours, our health remains at risk.

We need sleep to function properly. While we sleep, our bodies perform maintenance to repair the damage incurred

BROWN

on green BY DAVID BROWN

TEACHING CHILDREN HOW TO HANDLE MONEY

is one of the most important responsibilities we have as parents. Often it is also one of the most difficult duties. Perhaps we fear we have not done a great job ourselves and feel inadequate to teach others; but we must accept this responsibility for the good of our children.

Kids need to understand how a budget works. Older children, especially teenagers are old enough to grasp this concept. A great way to teach this is to give them a budget for buying their Christmas gifts. Give them a maximum amount for all their Christmas gifts. Using this budget, they can put several smaller gifts on their wish list or ask for one large gift.

Another way to demonstrate a budget is to assign an amount for back-to-school clothing. This budget can be designed with incentives. For instance, tell your child that he or she can keep whatever they don't spend. This is a very important concept for kids to understand because this will translate to adulthood. When we set a family budget, our incentive for sticking to the budget is that we can give, spend, save, or invest the leftover money.

Using a school clothes budget also helps you deal with

arguments over expensive shoes or designer clothes. When kids know they can keep what's left of the budget, those costly items are not as attractive as they were before. They also face decisions about how many outfits they can buy.

Set a budget that will allow them to buy seven reasonably priced outfits. They can choose to buy more expensive clothes, but they should be informed that if all they bring home are three or four outfits, they will be responsible for washing them, and a portion of their allowance will be taken to pay for detergent and water.

They will also learn the importance of sale items as they shop. An enterprising teenager may decide to go to a thrift store and purchase used clothes for a bargain and pocket the cash (or better yet, save it for college).

These lessons can have a lifelong effect on spending decisions. We are all held accountable to God and society for how we raise our children. I encourage you to teach your children how to handle finances. They will thank you for it. **ONE**

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



Many people
in recent
days have
suffered
severe losses
as a result of
natural
disasters.

Tornados in Oklahoma and historic flooding in middle Tennessee have impacted many Free Will Baptists. If your county has been declared a federal disaster area, you can file an amended 2009 federal tax return (1040X).

The tax laws will allow you to submit your 2010 casualty loss on schedule A of your amended 2009 return. Individuals in federal disaster areas do not have to reduce the loss using 10% of adjusted gross income (AGI). However any insurance or federal help must be deducted from your losses to determine your unrecovered casualty loss.

The Bicycle Man

BY BILL EVANS WITH BRENDA EVANS

DAWID WOZNIAK BALANCED

his bicycle between us and gleamed at me from his slightly almond-shaped eyes. “Listen to this,” he said and rang the silver thumb-operated bell mounted on the handlebars.

“Nice. Do you use the bell a lot?” I asked.

“Just when I need to let people know I’m coming. Call me Dave if you want to,” he added. “That’s what everybody says ‘cause that other is too hard.”

Though 50, his grin was childlike and edged with delight. He had painted his old bicycle with 26-inch wheels deep red and buffed the chrome to a high sheen.

“That’s where I put stuff,” he said, pointing to the basket attached to the front.

“What kind of stuff?”

“You know, cans and bottles I find... and sometimes figs or persimmons or

walnuts from them.” He pointed to several trees lining the backside of the fenced trailer park that was his property.

For several years, Dawid had collected aluminum and plastic to redeem at a time when California paid premium returns on recyclable items. He canvassed his Baldwin Park neighborhood weekly, then sent the redemption money to the Christian organization where I worked. He also sold fruit and nuts from the trees on his property.

When I talked to Dawid by phone, I had noticed a slight slurring of words as if his tongue was larger than he could fully manage. Our exchanges were simple, but I decided Dawid was a good, uncomplicated man who loved the ministry of our organization. This was the first time I had seen him face to face.

“Here, I want to show you,” he said,

leading me into a small three-room wood building set at the entry to his trailer park. His office was in the front with a motel-like wooden counter and bar stools. A shelf with a chair was behind the bar. Two doors at the back led to the small rooms where he lived.

I was not certain of Dawid’s intellectual capacity. He was short, slight-framed, and tended to the business of a small trailer court, inherited from his parents. From our phone conversation, I gathered that he handled the income and outgo of his own money, understood some basics of property ownership, and filed taxes. But standing by his bicycle, his face guileless and open, he seemed like a child.

Then what about the fact that he had asked me to come see him on financial business? What should I do about that? He had a history of modest regular gifts to our organization, but wanted to contribute more to world



evangelism, he said. He had read about our gift annuity program and wanted me to explain the concept.

Inside the building, Dawid moved behind the counter, pointing to a black two-foot cube—a key-operated safe. He knelt, moved aside a few boxes, and slid a piece of wood along a thin slot. “There. There’s the key. I need you to see that,” he said. I was pretty sure I didn’t need to know where the key to his safe was, but he was certain I did, and that was that.

He slid the piece of wood back in place, slapped his hands together as if to clear them of dust and said, “Let’s go look.” So we walked the perimeter of his trailer park. It was a one-acre square surrounded by an eight-foot

My responsibility is to conduct business according to scriptural standards.

chain link fence and dotted with eight tidy-looking older trailers. Along the back were the fruit and nut trees he had pointed to earlier.

As we walked, I explained the simple concept of gift annuities, what benefited him and what benefited the ministry.

“I want a \$25,000 one of those,” he said as we circled back to the entry.

A young Asian woman pushing a stroller was waiting for Dawid by his office. “Three figs,” she said, “for 75.” They had obviously done business before. Each pale purple fig was plump, almost as big as her fist. The baby fidgeted in his stroller, but waited for the transaction without crying. Dawid took her money, passed her three figs, and she moved away with her infant. “She likes figs,” he said with a grin,

a childlike pleasure returning to his face.

Before leaving, I promised to return later with the gift annuity agreement then asked if I could visit his brother while I was in Baldwin Park. “I’ll tell you where,” he beamed.

As I took the short route to the Wozniak Appliance Store, I rehearsed my three concerns: Was Dawid capable of making a wise \$25,000 decision? Was a gift annuity in his best interest financially? Would his family agree with him on this plan?

Dawid’s older brother was tall, with dark curly hair, and pleasant. I told him my concerns. “Whatever Dawid says is what you need to do,” he said. “He manages his property himself. It

came to him from Mom and Dad, and they trained him to operate and maintain it. He keeps the rent reasonable, has mostly long-term residents, and he knows what he’s doing and what he wants. So do whatever he says.”

I left Baldwin Park and headed west on I-10, glad to be headed home—glad, too, that I had spent that extra time with Dawid’s brother, and especially glad that I had already established guidelines for dealing with people and their money.

There are three major principles that I subscribe to as a fundraiser, principles that donors look for in those who ask us to support their ministry:

1. I will do no harm. Although we’ve heard that this is part of the Hippocratic oath for physicians, it isn’t.

Yet the concept is a valid guide for me. I will be as guileless and open as Dawid and do no hurt to either the donor or his financial resources.

2. I am both accountable to and accountable for.

What I mean is that I am answerable to both the donor and the organization I work for. Ethically, I am bound to act according to the best interests of both. If the organization does not subscribe to exemplary standards and expects something exploitive or unethical, I’ll resign. If the donor expects something unethical from me, I’ll decline my service.

And that brings me to accountable for. Above all, my responsibility is to conduct business according to scriptural standards. I am personally committed to daily deep, practical study of the Word that guides me to truth, justice, fairness in every relationship. This means that when I’m fundraising, I am led by a spirit of service that is uncalculating and open before God and man.

3. I will serve with restraint.

Self-control, whether we are donors or fundraisers, is a biblical principle for doing business. Greed, next to pride, is perhaps our most pernicious and corrupting sin. Suppress it. Disavow it. Lay no guilt trip on donors. Exercise no undue influence. Keep greed out of Christian fundraising.

When I returned to Baldwin Park a few weeks later, Dawid was waiting eagerly to sign the paperwork on his gift annuity, his red bicycle propped by the door of his office. I can only imagine how God used his gift. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Bill Evans, former director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, lives in Cattlettsburg, KY, with his wife Brenda, a retired English teacher. They are proud grandparents of seven.



GET OFF THE SIDEWALK

NEIL GILLILAND

THE HOUSE IN WHICH I GREW

up was probably less than 500 square feet. From the back door of the little, gray-shingled structure stretched four steps that emptied onto a narrow sidewalk. The sidewalk inched its way past two sheds and ended at the outhouse. The sheds were filled with the smell of the earth and garden tools, onions and potatoes, bicycles, baskets, burlap bags, and assorted other treasures. For those of you who are younger or from a more urban background, an outhouse is a little building that is about 50 feet too close to the house in the summer, and around 50 feet too far from the house in the winter.

But what rattles uneasily in my memory is the sidewalk—that little strip of concrete—maybe 24 inches wide.

Mom kept it swept and clean. It was an easy guide if you had to make your

way to the outhouse at night. But it was a tedious place for a little boy to spend hours in wait. You see, when I was little, mom would tell me, “You have to stay on the sidewalk until the morning dew has dried. I don’t want you to get your shoes wet.” Not being the brightest child in the family, I never thought about responding, “My shoes will dry just like the grass” or, “That’s fine. I’ll just go barefooted.” Instead, I sat or paced the sidewalk...waiting.

Do you ever wonder if the other disciples urged the young, brash fisherman Peter to “Stay in the boat Peter. Don’t get your feet wet.”

Do you wonder if some well-intentioned Antioch church member pulled Paul aside and said, “Paul stay here. Don’t get your shoes wet.”

Do you think some parents are saying, “Hey, stay here on the sidewalk. Don’t get your feet wet. It is safe and


dry here on the sidewalk. Wait until the grass dries.” The only problem is, the grass never dries, and their children never get off the sidewalk.

What if Laura Belle Barnard had stayed on the sidewalk? The Free Will Baptist church in India would not have thousands of participants if the Cronks and Hannas stayed on the sidewalk. Last year, the stadium in Côte d’Ivoire and an auditorium in Brazil would not have been filled with believers celebrating 50 years of mission work if the missionaries who shared the gospel in their lands had stayed on the sidewalk.

Your shoes will dry. Better yet, go barefooted. But, get off the sidewalk. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Former missionary Neil Gilliland is a member-care consultant for Free Will Baptist International Missions. Read more about the Mission at www.fwbgo.com.

Free Will Baptists are **leading the way** in **Discipleship**



D6 | conference
Dallas, TX • September 15-17, 2010

Generational faith is absolutely essential as we fulfill the Great Commission. It's not automatic, nor is it easy. That's why I appreciate the strategic vision of the D6 Conference to equip parents and church leaders to think biblically about how we foster Christian faith in the next generation. It's a fresh presentation of a timeless and biblical mandate.—Ken Simpson, Sr. Pastor, Calvary Fellowship FWB Church, Fenton, MO

If you are looking for insight into family ministry professionally and support for what you are doing personally, look no further than the D6 Conference. **It's practical, challenging and encouraging all at the same time.**—Randy Bryant, Pastor, Ryanwood Fellowship FWB, Vero Beach, FL

What an awesome event! Randall House hit a home run with the much-needed D6 conference. We can't wait till next year.

—Will Harmon, Pastor, Cavanaugh Church, Ft. Smith, AR

I have never been so proud to be Free Will Baptist in all of my life.

To see the thinkers and shapers of family ministry gather to talk about the biblical principles of Deuteronomy 6 was almost more than my heart could take, knowing that it was Free Will Baptists who were on the cutting edge of this movement. The whole experience has almost been beyond description in telling those who were not there what happened.—Allen Pointer, Youth Pastor, First Free Will Baptist Church, Russellville, AR

I stood in amazement as I watched the unveiling of the 2009 D6 Conference! What a blessing it was to gather with fellow believers from a variety of backgrounds and denominations who were so hungry for a way to minister to the 21st century family.—Randy Scott, Pastor, Sutton Free Will Baptist Church, Pocahontas, AR

I really enjoyed the D6 Conference. The speakers were outstanding and well chosen. The subjects were vital to today's families and importance of biblical family training was well emphasized. It was exciting to see Free Will Baptists be involved in taking a significant stand against the morally declining families. I'm already planning to attend the 2010 conference.—Paul Keener, Ohio Free Will Baptist Bookstore

The 2009 D6 Conference was both refreshing and empowering. A fundamental shift is occurring in the church and Randall House is leading from the front. Relevant speakers engaged our hearts and minds as they identified the problem of disconnected faith and then equipped us like an army for the frontline battle. I'm looking forward to D6 2010!
—Kent Nelson, Pastor, St. Croix FWB Church, St. Croix, VI

The D6 Conference was a moving reminder of how the church needs to equip parents to teach about God in the home. **Each speaker gave practical tips and formulas for churches to use in reaching the whole family.** It reminded us of the importance of that great institution that God ordained; the home. We heard from some foremost authorities in helping the church to equip Deuteronomy 6 type of parents. I also appreciate that so many good resources were available at the conference, and certainly not the least of these being our very own Randall House Curriculum. **We were inspired, taught, and challenged by the great variety of speakers and sessions.** Thank you to Randall House for taking this bold step and hosting a conference that was crucial to the church and the family. I enjoyed this one and plan to attend next year.—Ernie Lewis, Pastor, Blue Point FWB Church, Ina, IL

D6 stands for the principles found in Deuteronomy 6:4-9

800-877-7030 • D6Conference.com • D6Family.com • RandallHouse.com

The D6 Conference was a great opportunity to learn and experience how to bring parents and children together.

As a dad and a student minister, my world was rocked! I was reminded of what true biblical parenting is all about. It was life changing for me! I highly recommend this conference to church leaders, as well as, moms and dads! Thank you, Randall House, for your efforts to change this generation!—Darin Gibbs, Student Pastor, First FWB Church, Gastonia, 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.



MIKE EDWARDS, SOUTH CAROLINA

WHEN YOU ARE SICK YOU SEE THE DOCTOR. But when people are hurting on the inside, they often need their pastor to lead them through the healing process. Mike Edwards has an affinity for hurting people. A look at Mike's pastoral and leadership traits makes it clear he is able to help those who are or have faced significant hurt in their lives. He is an encourager—a teacher who provides healthy exhortation. His discerning spirit gives clear insight on prescribing ways to help one become stronger and healthier spiritually.

Mike married Karen at age 19, and she is the reason he became a Free Will Baptist. His convictions of our doctrine have provided us with a brilliant pastor. He describes their current dating habits as low-key, consisting of going to either Chick-Fil-A or Zaxby's followed by a walk in the mall. He says, "It's the walks we most enjoy."

He quickly pointed out to me that his wife is his greatest asset and ally. She helped him learn early in ministry how to avoid the tunnel vision of seeing only the church at the expense of the family. The result produced a strong marriage of 27 years and healthy relationships with their three grown children who all love God.

The congregation at Horse Branch FWB Church in Turbeville, South Carolina, has a tremendous leader in Mike Edwards.

Mike Edwards you are a great leader!

Who is your favorite author?

Thom Rainer

What are your favorite books of all time?

My Utmost for His Highest

by Oswald Chambers

Disciplines for a Godly Man

by Kent Hughes

Life Wide Open by David Jeremiah

What are you reading right now?

The Unexpected Journey by Thom

Rainer

The Disciple Making Church By Bill

Hull

Parameters of Light by Elmer Towns

& Ed Stetzer

Paper or Plastic Questions:

Mike prefers the ocean to the mountains, talk radio over music, Pepsi over Coke, and a Mac over a PC.

NEWS at FWBBC

College Graduates 50 in Commencement Exercises

Free Will Baptist Bible College graduated 50 students from 16 states and Japan in commencement exercises on campus Friday, May 7, according to President Matt Pinson. Students completed degrees in eight programs ranging from two-year associate's degrees to four-year bachelor's degrees. Thirty-six percent of the class graduated with honors.

Reverend Will Harmon, senior pastor at Cavanaugh FWB Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas, spoke from Acts 2:17, challenging graduates to answer the question, "What Is Your Big Dream?" He urged hearers to move through the necessary stages of life to fulfill their dreams. Harmon is a 1983 graduate of Hillsdale FWB College. A pastor for 26 years, the past 13 years at Cavanaugh Church, he formerly chaired the Hillsdale Board of Trustees, the Arkansas Executive Board, and was vice chairman of the Board at Randall House Publications.

Kentucky pastor Tim Hall, a FWBBC alumnus, delivered a Thursday evening baccalaureate message laced with humor and practical advice. Hall has pastored First FWB Church (Owensboro) 25 years, and served 11 years as moderator of the Kentucky State Association. He also served on two national boards—the General Board and the Board of Retirement.

Barry Raper, program coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministries, was named Academic Advisor of the Year. The college commends to you and to the work of the Lord the members of the 2010 graduating class.

2010 Graduates With Majors and Honors

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

Rachel Elizabeth Brown
Dearborn Heights, Michigan

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE in BUSINESS DEGREES

Daniel Lee Culwell
Rose Bud, Arkansas
Courtney Lee Edwards
Turbeville, South Carolina
Matthew John Riley
Chicago, Illinois
Bradley Wayne Weeks
Nashville, Tennessee

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE in Early Childhood Degree

Cassandra Elycia Gardner
St. Robert, Missouri

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE in Ministry Degree

Christy L. Carnathan
Tupelo, Mississippi

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE

Alice Marie Caudill
Pierceton, Indiana

ASSOCIATE OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES DEGREES

Jason Eugene McMillion
Aberdeen, Maryland
Lydia Renea Provov
Ashland City, Tennessee

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREES

Kristen Edwards Barrineau ***
Turbeville, South Carolina
Psychology
Kristyn Malloy Baumann ***
Marietta, Georgia
Psychology
Joshua Patrick Burba ***
Nashville, Tennessee
Christian Education
Daniel Reed Busbee
Hawkinsville, Georgia
Business Administration
Allison Brooke Caudill
Paintsville, Kentucky
History
Licensure 7-12;
Elementary Licensure K-6
Kathryn Lynn Cobb
Columbus, Indiana
Business Administration
Missions Emphasis
Rachel Elisabeth Collins **
Harrisonburg, Virginia
Child Development and Learning
Licensure K-6
Allison Carlisle Cox
Beaufort, North Carolina
Psychology
Joshua Allen Crozier
Lancing, Tennessee
Pastoral Training
Megan Ellen Crozier**
Lancing, Tennessee
Early Childhood
Licensure PreK-3

Randi Maria Davis
Florence, Alabama
Early Childhood
Licensure PreK-3
Christopher Dallas Dobbs
Johnston City, Illinois
Business Administration
Eric Michael Drake*
Cedar Hill, Tennessee
General Christian Ministries
Mary Kathryn Driggers ***
Turbeville, South Carolina
Child Development and Learning
Licensure K-6
Debra Sue Elliott
Erin, Tennessee
Business Administration
Leadership Emphasis
Tricia Levon Enger
Pace, Florida
Business Administration
Ryan Andrew Gabriel Gibbs
Nashville, Tennessee
Business Administration
David Allen Gibson
Florence, South Carolina
Business Administration
Missions Emphasis
Valerie Nicole Gibson
Sesser, Illinois
Business Administration
Paul Douglas Gillikin **
Harkers Island, North Carolina
Pastoral Training
Miranda Faith Higgins **
Cookeville, Tennessee

Psychology
Samuel Dean Horne, Jr.
Anderson, South Carolina
General Christian Ministries
Kevin Ilagan Hulguin ***
Norfolk, Virginia
Child Development and Learning
Brett Daniel Inman ***
Lebanon, Missouri
English
Licensure 7-12
Michael Christopher Kernodle
Newport News, Virginia
Pastoral Training
John Henry Landing*
Dearborn Heights, Michigan
Pastoral Training
Jared Austin Owen
ChIPLEY, Florida
Physical Education
Licensure K-12
John Wesley Owen
ChIPLEY, Florida
Exercise Science
Bethany Scott Owens
Garner, North Carolina
Early Childhood
Licensure PreK-3
Elizabeth Ann Pool **
Aulander, North Carolina
Psychology
Jennifer LeAnn Potts
Blytheville, Arkansas
Child Development and Learning
Licensure K-6
Leah Katherine McDonald Speer***

Tokyo, Japan
Music/Performance
William Travis Stewart *
Iola, Texas
Christian Education
Melinda Paige Williams ***
Florence, South Carolina
Psychology

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREES

Matthew Bryan Deckard*
Thayer, Missouri
English
Mahalie Lynn Garrison
Florence, South Carolina
Biblical and Ministry Studies
Missions
Monicabeth L. Horne
Virginia Beach, Virginia
Biblical and Ministry Studies
Missions
Jacqueline Nicole Kennedy
Nashville, Tennessee
Biblical and Ministry Studies
Missions
Jesse Franklin Owens *
Franklin, Tennessee
Biblical and Ministry Studies
Pastoral Training
Katie Nicole Peterson
McDavid, Florida
English

*** Summa cum laude

** Magna cum laude

* Cum laude

Rusty Campbell Named to Enrollment Services Post

Russell D. (Rusty) Campbell, Jr., a member of Free Will Baptist Bible College's Business faculty since 2000, has been named director of enrollment services, according to David Williford, vice president for institutional advancement. Campbell currently teaches Instructional Technology and Microcomputer Applications, and serves as director of Adult Studies for the college.



"He is a perfect fit for this important role that impacts so many current students and prospective students," Williford said. "He understands the academic issues and the financial stress that confront students and their families as they try to balance dreams and reality. Like many of our faculty and staff, Rusty brings energy and a warm smile to the position. He has a proven track record of leadership and innovation—that's a winning combination in today's economy."

Mr. Campbell began his new responsibilities in May, overseeing both the Enrollment Management Team (EMT) and the Financial Aid Office. He brings 15 years of educational experience to the position as both a classroom instructor and architect of

the college's Online and Lifetime Learning programs. He holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from Austin Peay State University and has done additional graduate studies at the University of Nebraska and Tennessee State University.

For the past 20 years, Mr. Campbell has been a referee for collegiate, high school, and middle school basketball games. He also coached the FWBBC Flames men's basketball team in 2006-2007.

He and his wife Beth (a 1992 FWBBC graduate) have been married 15 years and have one child (Barrett, age 4). They attend Bethel FWB Church near Ashland City where Beth teaches children's church and Rusty teaches an adult Sunday School class.

"We're delighted that Mr. Campbell is willing to make this important career shift," President Matt Pinson said. "He is adaptable and flexible, and those qualities will help us in these transition weeks. In addition, he is one of those right-now professionals who combines cutting edge technology with solid management and team building skills. His creative success in building the online program at FWBBC evidences the quality of leadership he brings to this new role." ■

McAffees Return to FWBBC

Reverend Matthew McAfee and his wife Anna will return to Free Will Baptist Bible College this fall to assume key campus roles in both classroom and campus ministry outreach, according to Provost Greg Ketteman.

McAfee has been on leave of absence pursuing doctoral studies in Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the University of Chicago. He has served as part-time FWBBC faculty since 2003.

Dr. Ketteman said, "It is with great joy that we welcome Matthew McAfee back to FWBBC where he will step into a dual role as instructor with the Biblical and Ministry Studies Department and serve as campus pastor, an area where he excels and where his heart is."

Mrs. Anna McAfee, a Magna Cum Laude FWBBC Business Administration graduate in 2000, has been named women's resident director and will provide leadership for young women. The mother of two children is the granddaughter of founding president, Dr. L.C. Johnson, and the daughter of Reverend and Mrs. Terry Beck (Hyde Park Free Will Baptist Church in Norfolk, Virginia). She holds an MBA degree from Trevecca Nazarene University.

"She's an answer to prayer," Dean of Women Susan Forlines

said of Anna McAfee's appointment as women's resident director. "Mrs. McAfee brings the practical experiences of a pastor's wife and mother to the position."

Matthew McAfee is the son of a Canadian pastor. His father, Reverend Oral McAfee, pastors Bristol FWB Church in New Brunswick. Matthew graduated from FWBBC in 1999 with a B.A. degree, completed the M.Div. degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2002, completed an M.A. degree in Northwest Semitics at the University of Chicago in 2008, and will complete coursework for his Ph.D. at the University of Chicago this spring. He served four years as interim pastor at Free Will Baptist churches in New Brunswick and Tennessee, and senior pastor at a Tennessee church. While in Chicago, he has served with Pastor David Potete at Northwest FWB Church.

President Matt Pinson expressed appreciation for the McAfee's timely return to the college: "This couple represents the finest in scholarship and commitment to Christian ministry, an appreciation for the long-held academic and spiritual values at FWBBC, and personal holiness that is lived out in the home and community." ■



PHOTO (L-R): Steven Reeder, Faith Kyburz, David Landers, Beth Brown, Thad Douglas.

Students Elect 2010-2011 Officers

Five undergraduate students at Free Will Baptist Bible College were elected by their peers to serve as 2010-2011 student body officers.

Steven Reeder, junior Missions major from Doe Run, Missouri, was elected president. The vice president is junior Thad Douglas, an Education/History major from Macon, Georgia. Faith Kyburz, a junior Education/Child Development and Learning major from DeSoto, Missouri, will serve as secretary-treasurer.

Sophomore David Landers, a Pastoral Ministry major from Batesville, Arkansas, was elected chaplain and will provide spiritual leadership for the student body. Sophomore Education/Music major Beth Brown from Ashland, Kentucky, will serve as worship leader. ■

Bible Conference/FORUM10 Stirs Campus

The March 7-10 Bible Conference/FORUM10 at Free Will Baptist Bible College delivered on its promise to confront cultural issues of the day in a biblical context and provide practical solutions for pastors and youth ministers to take back to their local communities, according to President Matt Pinson.

More than 500 people participated in the fast-paced, four-day event that featured specialized morning and afternoon workshops focused on why young people are—and are not—leaving the church and how to engage postmodern culture with the gospel.

Dr. Pinson said, “We were delighted with the positive response to the 2010 conference. We tried something different this year—grappling with the nation’s postmodern culture, and bringing specialists to campus who have discovered how to deliver a clear Christian message in a compelling way in today’s crowded marketplace of ideas. It worked! The energy and excitement throughout the conference confirmed that this unique group of speakers connected with our students and guests on issues that matter.”

Washington, D.C., pastor and author Mark Dever headlined the conference, speaking four times on reaching people with the gospel in a postmodern culture and twice on experiencing church growth through church health. Youth ministry specialist Joey Stewart addressed conferees three times, challenging pastors and youth workers to view the family as the best small group and to embrace new family-based paradigms in youth ministry. Thom Rainer, president and CEO of LifeWay resources, rolled out three hard-hitting presentations on why young people are and are not leaving the church and solutions to the problem.

Russellville, Arkansas, youth pastor Allen Pointer grabbed the attention of church leaders and students as he led one FORUM10 plenary session and two culture-confrontational workshops on sexual purity and moral formation in adolescents. Free Will Baptist home missionary Brian Williams (Buffalo, New York) delivered five stirring messages—three expository sermons from the epistle of Jude on “Desperate Times Call for Desperate Measures” and workshops on the abiding relevance of expository preaching and parental engagement in student ministry.

Eight FWBBC faculty members delivered 10 additional workshops ranging from “A Christian View of Entertainment” by English professor Darrell Holley to “Developing Counseling Skills for Church Workers” by Psychology program coordinator Jacqueline Rasar to “Reading and Engaging Youth Culture” by Christian Education and Youth Ministry program coordinator Barry Raper to “Are We Preaching the Gospel?” by professor emeritus Leroy Forlines, and others.

The conference featured performances by the College Choir and small groups Rejoice and New Mercy. A special Wednesday morning Alumni Service with speakers Jimmy Aldridge, Michael Locklear, and Shiloh Hackett honored the classes of 1960 (50 years), 1985 (25 years), and 2000 (10 years). Later that day, the Alumni Luncheon filled the college’s Cumberland Cafeteria with smiling, laughing alumni who enjoyed the warm fellowship and the complimentary luncheon.

Check the college’s website (www.fwbbc.edu) from time to time for upcoming information on next year’s conference scheduled March 6-9, 2011. ■



As I watched the water rise,
I wondered if God would give
me the answer to my question.

Faith in the flood

By Katie Markins

RECENTLY, I FOUND MYSELF ENJOYING A PEACEFUL spring morning. While I leisurely did a few chores around my home, I also enjoyed the company of the Lord. I told Him all I was thankful for. He had blessed me with a godly husband who leads our family to follow Christ every day. We have two sons whose hearts are being shaped by God to love Him deeply.

We had been privileged to build a beautiful home in a neighborhood where dear friends surround us. Life was good. It was easy to offer praise that morning to the One who had provided the blessings. But in the midst of the praising, I had a sobering thought. Would I be so eager to offer praise without the blessings? How would I respond to God in suffering? The question lingered.

Waters Rising

The flood arrived on May 2, after a torrential downpour that pelted Middle Tennessee with 16 inches of rain in 48 hours. My husband was out of town on a business trip, so my boys and I spent the day helping neighbors whose homes were closer to the river move their belongings from their basements to higher ground. Then at mid-afternoon, we received word that the dams upriver had to be opened to relieve increasing pressure. We knew the water was going to come quite high...and fast.

I had packed a small bag earlier in the day just in case. I told my boys to move their things upstairs, and I flew through the house moving all the memorabilia to the second floor. As I worked, the lyrics to a song kept running through my mind. "There's a raging sea right in front of me; once it pulled me in and brought me to my knees. So let the waters rise if you want them to. I will follow You."

We packed our bags and prepared to move to safety, only to discover we were trapped! The only road in and out of our subdivision is considerably lower than ours, and it had already been submerged by several feet of water. We had no way out.

River Rescue

Thankfully, a man who lived upriver was out in his boat looking for stranded people. He found an entire street in need of rescue. One by one, families boarded the small boat, and he carried them to safety while the rest of us anxiously watched for his return. During the 20 minutes I waited, our road disappeared beneath three feet of water. It was an eerie feeling to watch the water creep higher and higher. When I finally looked back at my house from the safety of the small bass boat, I saw the water cross the threshold into my home.

When my boys and I stepped off the boat, we were greet-



Above: The floodwaters recede slowly from the Markins' home. **Right:** Katie points to the waterline on the fireplace hearth.



ed by a concerned family from our church. They offered us a ride to wherever we needed to go. I still haven't asked them what brought them to that very location, although I know the answer and Who sent them. They delivered us safely to my parents' home, where we were reunited with my husband Matt. He had arrived home from his trip and was anxiously awaiting our rescue. We just held each other and cried.

A Dark Cloud Gathers

That night seemed terribly long. I lay in a bed that was not my own and listened to the breathing of my children. My mind flooded with questions and emotions. Had the water stopped rising? How high was it in my house? Did it reach the second floor? I couldn't shake the frightening images from the day. What could I have done differently? I was thankful for the very real presence of the Spirit that night as He drew close.

The next morning, the grief began. I stood shaking as I watched the news, knowing that the river was still rising and would continue for another day. The good life I had known just hours earlier had been swept away with the flood, and I wondered if it would ever be the same again.

I didn't know how to process the loss, so I did the only thing I knew to do. I uttered quietly in tones and groans that only the Father Himself could discern, "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice." My heart did not feel like rejoicing, but I knew that was what He wanted from me, even in the flood.

Starting Over

We returned home by boat three days after the flood to salvage what we could. The waters had receded from the house, allowing us to begin the long recovery process. As we tore away the ruined sheetrock, we were comforted to find the Scriptures we had written all over the studs and framing of the house, reminding us on Whom our home had been built.

At that moment, more than ever, we felt the need to remain on that same foundation. Once again, we wrote passages of Scripture and song lyrics that had carried us through the difficult days following the flood. We clung to passages such as, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21), and, "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever" (1 Peter 1:24, 25a).

One verse in particular seemed to carry me through, and I am having these words penned and framed to be a continual reminder to us and to our children. "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock" (Matthew 7:24-25).

Strength in Suffering

Life was no longer easy. We lost everything on the first floor. We are still displaced from the community we love, living in a home that is not our own. We are unsure of when we will be able to return. We have had to depend on the kindness and generosity of the Body of Christ—including total strangers—just to survive.

Yet in the midst of our struggle, the question came back time and time again. “How will you respond in suffering?” Truthfully, I am still unable to answer that question. I have yet to suffer. Every need has been met. Our home is being rebuilt. We have clothes, food, shelter, fellowship, and laughter with family and friends to keep us going.

Sure, we have experienced great fatigue and stress. But suffering? Not at all! My God still sits on His throne, and in His great mercy, He reached down and demonstrated His love and mercy through the storm. I am at peace, knowing He is at the helm.

“When the oceans rise and thunders roar, I will soar with you above the storm. Father, you are King over the flood, and I will be still and know you are God.” **ONE**

About the Writer: Katie and Matt Markins live in Nashville, TN, and attend Donelson FWB Church. They have two sons, Warren and Hudson.

Our Faith Rises Above the Floodwaters

By Robert J. Morgan, pastor, Donelson Free Will Baptist Church

As the Tennessee floodwaters began to recede, it quickly became apparent that members of the congregation at Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville were among those hardest hit by the flood. Pastor Rob Morgan addressed the situation in the following article, adapted from the May 9 issue of the Tennessean.

WE’LL REMEMBER THIS WEEK AS LONG AS WE LIVE— homes underwater, possessions swept away, neighbors in need, city in crisis. We’ll never forget being mobilized in sudden love.

Government officials, civic organizations, and churches instantly transformed themselves into good Samaritans that would have made the original proud. We’ve lost much, but the waters couldn’t touch the things we cannot lose.

As Jesus reminded us in Luke 12:15, our lives consist not in the abundance of the things we possess. One of the keys to staying afloat is to focus on things we cannot lose. We can remember them by using the acronym PRAISE.

Presence of God. Psalm 46 reads, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Notice the progression: He is a help. He is a present help. He is a very present help in trouble.

Resources of Heaven. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said our Heavenly Father knows our needs. According to the Apostle Paul, God has promised to meet those needs out of the riches of His grace.

Attitude of joy. Jesus said, “You will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.” I am reminded of the words of Ho-

locaust survivor, Viktor Frankl, who lost everything in a Nazi death camp. “The one thing that cannot be taken from us,” he said, “is our right to choose our attitude in any given set of circumstances.” With God’s help we can choose the joy of the Lord, the strength of our life.

Influence. Every good deed, every word of witness, and each act of kindness is part of a chain-reaction that will continue till the end of time. We’re here today because generations before us faced fires, floods, and floggings; and they remained faithful. Our works will follow us, according to the book of Revelation.

Savior. No disaster can take away Jesus and when we have Him, we have all we need. The old hymn put it this way: “His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my Hope and Stay. On Christ the Solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.”

Eternal home. The apostle Peter said, “He has given us new birth into...an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade, reserved in heaven for you.” I can say on good authority that the Celestial City is indestructible. The Crystal River will never flood. The mansions of glory will never catch fire. The foundations will never crumble. We have a city with foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

This week our homes have been damaged, but our hearts have been strengthened. We’ve lost things we cannot keep, but we’ve been reminded of things that we can never lose, and that’s why we can praise God through the flood. **ONE**

NEWS about the denomination

FWB Minister Conducts Memorial Service for West Virginia Coal Miners

Beckley, West Virginia—Reverend James Mitchell, West Virginia State Police Chaplain and ordained Free Will Baptist minister delivered the sermon at an April 25 memorial service honoring the memory of 29 coal miners killed in the April 5 blast at Upper Big Branch Mine located just south of Charleston.

The incident, the worst U.S. mine disaster in nearly 40 years, captured the attention of the nation as rescuers worked desperately to locate the missing miners in the wake of the explosion. The nation grieved when the men were confirmed dead after an agonizing five-day search.

West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin, President Barack Obama, vice-president Joe Biden, and a host of local and state dignitaries attended the service, which was covered by most major news networks and broadcast live on C-SPAN. The officials offered condolences to the grieving families, promising tougher safety standards for the mining industry.

When it was his turn to speak, Chaplain Mitchell delivered a simple, straightforward message of hope in Christ. Viewers from across the nation responded favorably to the message, and one Washington insider said the city was buzzing about the chaplain's message for days after the service, that it was refreshing it was to hear truth spoken publicly and without apology.

Chaplain Mitchell has worked in various capacities throughout his ministry, from youth pastor and music minister to senior pastor, all while serving as a West Virginia State Trooper. He is a certified dog trainer, training K-9 officers for both West Virginia and Virginia law enforcement agencies and the U.S. Army.

To view the memorial service, visit: <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/293173-01>. ■

Family Ministries Celebrates Success in 2009

Greeneville, TN—In spite of economic challenges, 2009 proved to be a fruitful year for Free Will Baptists Family Ministries. The rapidly expanding organization served 1,368 children and families through diverse ministries that stretch across three states and include children's homes, a retirement and assisted-living center, a crisis pregnancy center, and a campground.

The organization saw more than 100 young people accept Christ as their personal Savior, while 85 rededicated their lives to follow Christ, and 102 babies were born to clients of The Hope Center (for moms in crisis). To learn more about Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, visit the website: www.fwbfm.com. ■

Randall House Recognized by PIAS

Four Randall House publications received the Award of Excellence at this year's PIAS Graphic Awards, held in Clearwater, Florida. PIAS, the Printing Industry Association of the South, recognizes the designers of top-quality publications meant for sales, marketing, or educational purposes. A printed piece must earn a certain number of points based on set criteria to receive an Award of Excellence. The Randall House publications recognized at this year's event were *Horizon*, *Direction*, and *The Brink* magazines, as well as *Explorer's Guide*. ■

Master's Men Announces CMI Conference in October

Columbus, OH—Master's Men will host a CMI (Count Me In) conference at Heritage FWB Church in Columbus, Ohio, October 22-23. The conference is designed to encourage and equip men to become spiritual leaders and mentors to other men based on Titus 2:1-10. The cost is \$10 per person and includes registration, dinner on Friday, and breakfast on Saturday morning. Register online at www.fwbmastersmen.org or call 877-767-8039. ■



Who Will Go?

2010 Free Will Baptist Convention, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

The 2010 conference theme, “Who Will Go?” seemed appropriate as Free Will Baptists from every corner of the globe poured into Oklahoma City July 18-21, for the 74th annual meeting of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

At 6,545, the number of attendees was unusually high, nearing record marks set by conventions in Nashville (TN) in 1985, and Little Rock (AR) in 1994. And Free Will Baptists had good reason to gather in the Sooner State.

They Came to Celebrate

Convention attendees joined Free Will Baptist International Missions in celebrating the 75th year of the department’s rich history. This year marks the anniversary of Laura Belle Barnard’s intrepid journey to India as a 27-year-old single woman, a journey that began months before the denomination even organized.

Seventy-five years later, 250 career missionaries have followed her lead, planting more than 1,000 churches across the globe. National pastors and representatives from many of these churches joined their American counterparts in Oklahoma City to honor God’s faithfulness. The celebration included several landmark events.

On Monday, a meeting called simply, “Seventy-Five Years of Faithfulness,” recalled the rich missionary heritage of the denomination and highlighted the personal sacrifice, accomplishments, and faithfulness of men and women who gave their lives for the gospel. “We now call them international missionaries,” said longtime *Contact* magazine editor Jack Williams, during an address to spellbound listeners, “but they were more than that. They were our heroes, our

teachers, our friends—the spiritual conscience of a denomination.”

On Tuesday, “World Celebration 2010” honored more than 50 international guests who, in turn, shared greetings and congratulations from congregations worldwide. Executive Secretary Keith Burden, Moderator Tim York, International Missions Director James Forlines, and International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists President Gerardo Acevedo were on hand to greet each guest and welcome them to the convention.

Throughout the week, a museum-style exhibit took visitors on a journey through missions history with artifacts, personal items, documents, and more. The fascinating displays included Dr. LaVerne Miley’s medical bag, Laura Belle Barnard’s Bible and handwritten notes, and Pop Willey’s holster, journal, and keepsake box.

In conjunction with the anniversary celebration, the Mission released, *Into the Darkness*, a beautiful hardbound volume documenting the 75-year history of Free Will Baptist missions in both pictures and text.

They Came to Walk

Perhaps the most visible portion of the International Missions celebration was the culmination of the 2,500-mile Go10 Walk for the World. For 84 days, nearly 2,000 walkers retraced Laura Belle Barnard’s steps across 14 states, carrying a Tamil (traditional Indian dialect) Bible and passing a well-worn baton from group to group to raise funds for missions. The walk ended at the Tuesday evening National Youth Conference service. A throng of walkers joined the

final leg of the journey through downtown Oklahoma City. They flooded the streets in brightly colored tee shirts and carried large banners.

When the final group of walkers reached the stage, Carlisle Hanna, pioneer missionary to India, symbolically “passed the baton” to recently-appointed missionaries, marking the beginning of a new era in Free Will Baptist missions.

During Wednesday evening’s worship service, convention attendees rejoiced together when Director Joe Wilson announced the effort had surpassed its \$1 million goal, making the Go10 Walk the largest short-term fundraising effort in the history of the Free Will Baptist movement, due in part to a \$500,000 gift of “matching funds” from an anonymous donor.

They Came to Worship

In keeping with the International Missions celebration, each evening service featured a missions emphasis, including greetings to the convention from international representatives of Free Will Baptist churches worldwide.

Convention speakers addressed the theme, “Who Will Go?” based on the prophet’s calling in Isaiah 6:1-8. After Sunday School taught by Thomas Marberry (OK), Bert Tippet (TN) took the pulpit, preaching powerfully in spite of an ongoing battle with an aggressive form of bone cancer. The theme of his message was appropriately, “The Crisis We Must Face.”

Sunday evening, after dedicating the sermon to his grandfather Mac Kinsey, Oklahoma Pastor Jeff Blair spoke on “The Concept We Must Grasp.” Charles Murphy (OK) addressed “The Condition We Must Correct” on Monday night, challenging listeners to eradicate the power of sin in their lives in simple, direct terms.

Karl Sexton, fiery preacher from Virginia, took the pulpit Tuesday night speaking on, “The Call We Must Consider.” He urged listeners to accept the call of God to share

the gospel with the world around them. “I do not fear that the church will not succeed,” Sexton said. “I fear that the church will succeed in things that do not matter.”

The unforgettable Wednesday evening service featured a parade of nations including scores of current and former missionaries and international guests. They were greeted by a thunderous standing ovation. The mass choir, under the direction of Vernon Whaley, performed a unique musical score that incorporated ethnic instruments and musical sounds from around the world before Stan Bunch, Arkansas native and missionary to Panama, spoke on the subject, “The Commitment We Must Make.” Altars filled as the convention came to a close, a fitting conclusion to a week that challenged all attendees to reply to God’s call with, “Here am I, send me.”

Throughout the week, Chris Truett, convention music coordinator, produced an inspiring program featuring a mass choir with more than 100 voices, an orchestral ensemble, and a vocal accompaniment group. Each service included rousing specials and enthusiastic congregational singing.

This year, for the first time, almost 2,000 viewers watched convention services streamed live over the Internet. The Media Commission, which spearheaded the effort, reported that 1,703 viewers from 16 countries tuned in to one or more of the seven services that were broadcast.

Three national agencies and at least a dozen local churches and state associations syndicated the live feed on their own websites. Doug Earls, emcee of Wednesday night’s missions service, reported to the congregation that Pastor Gary Fry, who had been scheduled to lead the service, watched the feed from his hospital bed.

They Came to Work

On Saturday, July 17, 72 participants from Arkansas, Kentucky, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia arrived at the convention a day early. They took to the streets, going door-to-door to distribute thousands of flyers to homes in neighborhoods near ONE FWB Church in Moore, Oklahoma, and Epic FWB Church in Piedmont, Oklahoma. Their efforts marked the fifth year for the annual one-day evangelism and service campaign dubbed Impact.

During the five-year history of the event, nearly 1,500 volunteers have participated. The McCarty family from Ohio has participated every year. “I can’t imagine not doing this!” said Mom Marcia. “We look forward to Impact all year, and it is like a personal revival for our family.”

Not only did volunteers go door-to-door, they rolled up their sleeves and went to work on the campus of Hillsdale





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3.



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Photos:

- 1. The mass choir hits a high note.
- 2. Bert Tippett delivers the Sunday morning message.
- 3. Chaplain Richard Anderson addresses delegates.
- 4. WNAC delegates display rapt attention during the business session.
- 5. Missionary pioneer Carlisle Hanna symbolically passes the baton and a Tamil Bible to the next generation of Free Will Baptist missionaries at the conclusion of the Go10 Walk.

Preceding Page: James Forlines presents Bobby and Geneva a plaque to honor their 50 years of service in the nation of Brazil.

Title Page: A Go10 walker flashes the victory symbol as the group nears the end of the final 10-mile segment.

Free Will Baptist College, preparing dormitories for the upcoming meeting of the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches. Hillsdale President Tim Eaton said, “I thank everyone for taking the extra time to come and help. Preparing for the convention and hosting the National Youth Evangelistic Team and Truth and Peace had stretched our summer staff to their limit. The extra help was very welcome.”

More than 500 registrants from 42 churches participated in the 16th year of Reach That Guy service projects, sponsored by the National Youth Conference. Volunteers logged 2,905 hours of work that benefitted 21 ministries and service organizations across Greater Oklahoma City.

On Wednesday, Reach That Guy sponsored a blood drive to benefit the Oklahoma City chapter of the Red Cross, collecting 94 units of blood from 111 participants.

NYC Director Danny Conn said, “I’ve simply been overwhelmed by the response to Reach That Guy this year. It’s obvious that Free Will Baptists came to work!”

They Came to Do Business

The General Board adjourned just before noon on Monday, June 19, after a four-hour, 43-minute session in the Sheraton OKC Hotel. Nine national boards and four commissions rolled out their reports and proposals for General Board members to review, and when Moderator Tim York’s gavel fell the last time, members had voted to recommend a 2011 denominational budget of just over \$25 million.

They recommended a *Treatise* change from the Tennessee State Association that would add a 10th “Standing Rule” (*Treatise*, page 71) limiting reports by national departments to 30 minutes and commission reports to 15 minutes.

Another proposal recommended raising representation fees for \$100 to \$150 in 2012 to offset increased convention expenses.

A third recommendation asked the National Association to approve a change in the by-laws of Free Will Baptist Bible College and authorizes the Board of Trustees to “approve and review the mission of the college.”

A request from the Executive Committee to meet with the Randall House Board and the WNAC Executive Committee to discuss future convention funding was approved.

In other business, delegates...

Elected 35 national board and commission members, including general officers (4), Executive Committee (3), General Board (11), Randall House Board (4), FWBBC

Trustees (5), International Missions Board (3), Home Missions Board (1), Music Commission (1), Media Commission (1), Commission for Theological Integrity (1), Historical Commission (1).

Approved a \$25 million denominational budget for 2011. (See Convention at a Glance for more details.)

Voted to disburse funds from The Together Way Plan to national agencies according to the following formula: Underwrite the Executive Office Administrative Budget above designated gifts, not to exceed 45% of cooperative gifts. Disburse the balance of cooperative gifts—FWBBC (23%), International Missions (23%), Home Missions (18%), Retirement and Insurance (14%), Master’s Men (14%), FWB Foundation (6%), Commission for Theological Integrity (0.5%), Historical Commission (0.5%), Music Commission (0.5%), Media Commission (0.5%).

Agreed to increase representation fees from \$100 to \$150 beginning in 2012. This marks the first increase in representation fees since 2004.

Requested that the Randall House Board and the WNAC Executive Committee meet with the Executive Committee to discuss future convention funding.

Flinched when Executive Secretary Keith Burden announced that the convention faces a significant financial penalty to Oklahoma City hotels because a number of attendees cancelled room reservations, causing the convention to fall short of the room block commitment.

Registered 6,545 attendees for three concurrent conventions (including 686 ordained ministers, 153 ordained deacons, and 63 licensed ministers).

Examined a 220-page *Digest of Reports* containing reports from 13 national agencies, including projected budgets and annual summaries from agency ministries.

Heard Home Missions director Larry Powell say, “The fastest-growing aspect of the Free Will Baptist work is among Hispanics.”

Welcomed WNAC executive director, Elizabeth Hodges, pastor’s wife and professional educator from Tennessee.

Thanked the Oklahoma State Association for hosting the 2010 national convention. This marked the eighth time Oklahoma Free Will Baptists have hosted the convention, three times in Oklahoma City. Executive Director Mike Wade led Oklahoma to give more than \$50,000 to defray convention expenses.

Learned that 1,469 people now participate in the denomination’s retirement plan. The oldest participant is 87 years old, the youngest 21. The Board of Retirement lists assets of \$39.3 million.

Smiled when General Director David Brown announced

the FWB Foundation is on solid financial footing with \$37.3 million in assets, in spite of a roller-coaster year in the stock market.

Questioned International Missions Director James Forlines for more than an hour Wednesday morning regarding the new funding system and the departure of two career missionaries from the field of Brazil.

Stood to honor Sherwood Lee for 12 years on the International Missions Board, Jim and Vicki Sturgill for 40 years of service in Brazil, and Bobby and Geneva Poole for 50 years of service in Brazil. The International Missions Department presented plaques commemorating their years of service.

Endorsed a change in the FWBCC by-laws that clarifies the duties of the FWBCC Board of Trustees to approve and review the mission of the college.

Responded with interest when FWBCC president Matt Pinson announced a name change feasibility study that

could result in the administration recommending a new name for the 68-year-old institution. A report will be presented to delegates at the 2011 convention.

Sent a clear message to national department directors that their convention reports have become too long. Delegates passed a motion limiting future department reports to 30 minutes and future commission reports to 15 minutes, except in special cases, and that by permission of the moderator.

Pushed past four resolutions Wednesday afternoon, rejecting two directed at national agencies, referring one to Randall House as information only, and objecting to the consideration of another.

Amened loudly when International Missions reported a 300% growth in church attendance on foreign fields in the past decade. Attendance now averages 40,000 per week.

Adjourned at 4:15 p.m. to meet in Charlotte, North Carolina, for the 2011 convention.

2010 CONVENTION AT A GLANCE

2010 Registration Totals

Board/Commission Members.....	44
Licensed Ministers	63
Local Church Delegates	12
NAFWB Attendees	3,139
NAFWB Staff.....	18
Ordained Deacons	153
Ordained Ministers	686
State Delegates.....	65
Total.....	4,180

Combined Total..... 6,545

Speakers

Sunday School	Thomas Marberry (OK)
Sunday Morning	Bert Tippet (TN)
Sunday Evening	Jeff Blair (OK)
Monday Evening.....	Charles Murphy (OK)
Tuesday Evening	Karl Sexton (VA)
Wednesday Evening.....	Stan Bunch (Panama)

2010 Budget

Executive Office	\$740,603
FWB Bible College	\$5,693,155
FWB Foundation	\$481,510
Home Missions	\$5,000,000
International Missions	\$7,800,000
Master's Men.....	\$156,717
Retirement and Insurance.....	\$463,128
Randall House.....	\$4,869,500
Comm. for Theological Integrity.....	\$7,220

Historical Commission	\$3,220
Media Commission.....	\$3,000
Music Commission.....	\$3,875
Total.....	\$25,221,928

Elected in 2010

Executive Committee (2013)

Tim Campbell (AR)
Rick Cash (AL)
David Shores (IL)

General Board (2013)

Alabama: Rick Cash
Arizona: George Harvey, Jr.
Arkansas: Tim Campbell
Assoc. of Mexico: Luis Felipe Tijerina
Atlantic-Canada: Oral McAfee
California: Millard Sasser
Colorado: Mark Thomas
Florida: Donnie Hussey
Georgia: Wayne Miracle
Idaho: Gene Kissinger
Illinois: David Shores

Home Missions (2011)

Bob Lewis (TN)

Music Commission (2015)

Chris Truett (NC)

Historical Commission (2015)

Darrell Holley (TN)

International Missions (2016)

Greg McAllister (CA)
Tom McCullough (MI)
Danny Williams (AL)

FWBCC Trustees (2014)

Jeff Crabtree (ATL-CAN)
Shiloh Hackett (AL)

FWBCC Trustees (2016)

Michael Armstrong (OH)
Billy Hanna (GA)
Terry Pierce (MS)

Randall House Publications (2016)

Tim Eaton (OK)
Tim Owen (FL)
Charles Cook (TN)

Randall House Publications (2012)

Mike Trimble (MI)

Media Commission (2015)

Travis Penn (IL)

Comm. for Theological Integrity (2015)

Craig Shaw (OK)

General Officers (2011)

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



Milestones

A Look Back at the 2010 National Youth Conference

The 2010 National Youth Conference was marked with numerous milestones. These milestones began several weeks before the conference when a record 103 teens participated in Truth and Peace Leadership Conference.

The students met on the Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College campus for 10 days of intensive leadership training before serving as conference staff. The experience equips participants to be more effective leaders and more faithful to God. To learn more about opportunities for the 2011 Truth and Peace conference, visit www.verticalthree.com.

The Youth Evangelistic Team led worship at teen services for the first time this year. The talented high schoolers demonstrated that teens can enjoy an active role in ministry.

Monday evening, the team performed their final program, ending a 2,500-mile tour of ministry to mission churches in cooperation with Home Missions. The 2011 YET tour will include mission churches in New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island.

NYC attendees celebrated the arrival of the historic Go 10 Walk for the World on Tuesday evening, as several hundred participants ended their walk in the convention center. They were the first to hear that the \$500,000 goal had been surpassed. They also heard from veteran missionary Carlisle Hanna and witnessed the commissioning of new missionaries.

Tuesday evening, the teen worship

service topped 2,000 in attendance, with an additional 800 in the children's worship services. Overall, NYC registered 4,119, reaching near-record attendance.

Later that evening more than 2,300 students and adults enjoyed the high-energy humor of Tim Hawkins as he entertained them with humorous parodies of popular songs and other comedy.

Entries were down slightly in the Bible Competition and Music and Arts Festival with 887 entries. Conference attendance, however, is holding strong. Free Will Baptist colleges offered \$115,000 in scholarships this year to competition winners.

The 2010 Revised *Competition Guidelines* and *Bible Competition Study Packs* are now available at 800-877-7030.

Another important element of the National Youth Conference is Reach That Guy. Five hundred-eight volunteers contributed 2,905 hours of community service through 21 local organizations and ministries. Ninety-four units of blood were also collected.

Numbers and statistics cannot adequately describe the impact of the 2010 National Youth Conference. The emphasis on being witnesses for Christ *wherever* will produce eternal results. Join the conference next year in Charlotte, North Carolina, and learn about John Weaver's unique work in Afghanistan. The theme for 2011 will be *Awaken*, based on Romans 13:11.

NYC At-a-Glance

Attendees	2,165
Child Attendees.....	136
Grades 1-3	297
Grades 4-6	367
Grades 7-12	883
Preschool Worship	137
Staff	134
Total.....	4,119

Speakers

Sunday AM, Zack Hinson (OK)
 Sunday PM, Brian Williams (NY)
 Monday PM, Curt Gwartney (OK)
 Tuesday PM, Clint Morgan (TN)

Competition

887 entries
 \$115,000 of Scholarship Awards

Youth of the Year: Mikaela Thompson
 First FWB Church, Mountain Grove, MO

Youth Group of the Year: Fellowship
 FWB Church, Park Hills, MO

Youth Worker of the Year: Darren Walker,
 First FWB Church, Washington, NC

2011 Youth Evangelistic Team

Maggie Barnett (AR)
 Joel Williams (MO)
 Elizabeth Snow (TN)
 Tyler Heflin (MO)
 Caitlin Honeycutt (OK)
 Andrew Pierce (MS)
 Rachel Ayers (AL)
 Matthew Berry (FL)
 Kristin Trussell (FL)
 Dustin Patton (WV)
 Mary Kathryn Ayers (AL)
 Taylor McClure (WV)
 Daniel Snow (Japan)



Shine!

WNAC Marks 75 Years of Ministry

The 75th annual convention of Women Nationally Active for Christ brought 986 women together to celebrate the past and effect changes for the future.

Shining Welcome

Oklahoma women welcomed attendees by serenading the early Tuesday morning audience with their state song, tossing cowboy hats into the crowd. Oklahoma WAC President Tracy Payne expanded that welcome with a humorous Top Ten list of laws to remember while visiting the state. Sooner women also hosted the annual WNAC fellowship luncheon, attended this year by over 400 individuals.

Shining Women

Pastor's wife, educator, and longtime WAC leader Elizabeth Hodges (TN), was unanimously elected WNAC executive director (pictured above). Hodges challenged women to act as "Aarons and Hurs" by supporting her and praying for the success of the ministry. She made a plea for 12 prayer partners from each state who will intercede for her and the ministry of WNAC.

A Monday afternoon presentation, "Shine! Celebrating 75 years of WNAC," honored several little known women active for Christ (hidden jewels) and highlighted the history of the organization, recalling shining moments from three-quarters of a century.

During the business session, the Ex-

ecutive Committee unveiled a new national project. "Shine 75" offers women opportunity to support Free Will Baptist Hispanic educational ministries. With a goal of \$75,000, the 2010-2011 project will split funds equally between the Seminary of the Cross, the Altimira Bible Institute, and the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute.

Four women studying at the Free Will Baptist Bible Institute in Campinas, Brazil, will receive funding from the Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship. In an effort to assist more young women, delegates voted to change the Mary R. Wisheart Student Loan Fund to the Mary R. Wisheart Student Scholarship Fund. A committee will formulate guidelines and report to the 2011 convention.

Women amended the WNAC purpose statement to define its scope more clearly to better resonate with today's women. Women Nationally Active for Christ now exists *to help women fulfill the Great Commission through their God-designed roles in the home, church, community, and world.*

In other business, women retained a delegate system of convention representation and adjusted the deadline for receipt of annual fees and reports in order to coincide with the WNAC office fiscal year.

Delegates reaffirmed the organization's emphasis on missions, prayer, Bible study, and service, and chal-

lenged women to focus on building membership by revitalizing local WAC groups. Resolutions passed encouraging prayer for local, state, and national leaders and for those who stand against Free Will Baptists.

Shining Worship

Worship leader Gina Myers led women in song and Scripture during Tuesday's sessions. Melissa Alvis, daughter of Darin and Joy Alvis, home missionary appointees to Buffalo, New York, shared a musical medley that included "This Little Light of Mine." Jennifer Altom offered a unique perspective on light through, "The Cave People."

During the Tuesday morning worship service, missionary Geneva Poole challenged women to shine as lights in their world. Expounding on Philippians 2:15, the 2010 WNAC theme verse, she urged women to shine by living a clean and pure life, loving people, and sharing His Word.

Luncheon speaker Anita Scott recounted her near death encounter with lightning. Using the newly adopted purpose statement, she offered insights concerning the God-designed roles of women in their homes, churches, communities, and world.

How will women remember the 75th WNAC Convention? Like a diamond whose beauty and quality come from extreme pressure, careful cutting, and polishing. The result? An organization that will shine with sparkling brilliance for decades to come.

WNAC Registration

Attendees	761
Local Delegates.....	27
Missionaries.....	59
National Officers.....	7
Staff	2
State Delegates.....	111
State Field Workers	10
State Presidents	11
Total.....	988

ONETOONE

Seat 14-D

A FEW MONTHS AGO I WAS RETURNING FROM

a business trip. As the boarding process neared completion, it appeared I might have an empty seat next to me. I had just stowed my carry-on bags and fastened my seat belt when I heard a commotion at the front of the airplane. I glanced up to see a man approaching my row. He was a big man. He had two bags and a large cup of Starbucks in his hand.

You guessed it! His seat was right next to mine...14-D. I stood to let him into his seat as he apologized for his tardiness and proceeded to cram one of his bags in the overhead storage bin. Without any warning the bag fell from the compartment. Instinctively, as a reflex action he reached to catch the bag and sloshed coffee all over me...my suit, my face, my glasses, and my hair.

Mustering every ounce of self-control, I took a deep breath, retrieved a handkerchief from my hip pocket, and proceeded to wipe off the coffee, cream, and sugar mixture. We took our seats, as the gentleman apologized profusely. I said politely, "It's okay. Don't worry about it."

In a few minutes we were airborne, and the captain eventually turned off the fasten seat belt sign. "Excuse me," the gentleman in seat 14-D said. "I need to use the restroom." I unbuckled my seat belt and stepped aside as he made his way to the rear of the aircraft. He never came back. I can only assume he found an empty seat at the back of the plane

or was too embarrassed to return to his seat.

I have witnessed similar incidents during my travels over the last eight years. Sometimes the people who were adversely affected by the actions of another have reacted by calling them names, cursing, or making threats. Each time, I prayed a silent prayer. "Lord help me respond appropriately if that ever happens to me." I can only hope the folks who witnessed that mishap that day saw God answer my prayer...especially the man who doused me with coffee.

Chuck Swindoll said, "The remarkable thing is that we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it."

People are watching. They see how you act or react, especially as you encounter unexpected unpleasant situations. If you are a follower of Christ, they may judge all Christians based on your behavior. That is why it is important we monitor our attitude 24/7. You never know when your outward reaction to the person in 14-D may reveal what is inside your heart. **ONE**

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



Photo: Mark Cowart

Gift annuity rates are going up!

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Single Table		Joint Table	
Age	Rate	Ages	Rate
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70	5.8%	70/70	5.4%
75	6.4%	75/75	5.7%
80	7.2%	80/80	6.3%
85	8.1%	85/85	7.1%
90	9.5%	90/90	8.3%

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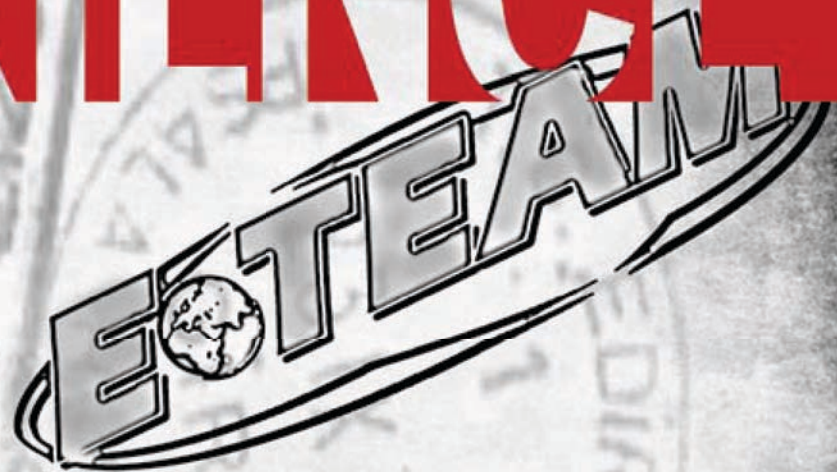


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EXPERIENCE

E-TEAM 2011



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REGISTRATION DEADLINE: October 1, 2010

2010 CHAMPION COMMUNICATORS

FREE WILL BAPTISTS ARE NOT ONLY PLANNING AND HOSTING THE EVENT, WE ARE LEADING FROM THE LABS AND THE MAIN STAGE.



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