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ONE

MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2012

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Learning From Ova

Much has happened since May 25, 1904. That's the day when longtime—and I mean really longtime—Free Will Baptist Ova Nunnelee was born in the town of Potter, a quiet country crossroad along the Arkansas/Oklahoma border. The cheerful centenarian recently celebrated her 108th birthday with friends and family at her daughter's home in Silver City, New Mexico. To put her amazing lifespan in perspective, consider just a few of the things that have happened since Ova's birth.

Theodore Roosevelt was President (following the assassination of William McKinley in 1901), and 18 different Presidents have followed during her lifetime (so far). She survived the Great Depression and a procession of wars: WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf War, the invasion of Afghanistan, and most recently, the war in Iraq.


Although electrical power had been introduced to cities in the late 1800s, it certainly wasn't common—especially in places like Potter. It wasn't until the Rural Electrification Act in FDR's New Deal that electricity arrived in Rural America. The first mass-produced automobile, the Model-T Ford, was introduced when Ova was five. And though Ova never owned an automobile, according to DOT statistics, Americans today drive 136 million cars, 110 million trucks, and approximately one million buses—a total of 247 million registered vehicles.

Ova saw family dinners give way to diners, which, in turn, evolved into a multi-billion dollar fast-food industry. Technology exploded—washing machines, radio, black and white television, color television, eight-tracks, cassette tapes, microwaves, cable television, satellite television, Beta, VCRs, CDs, DVDs, and HDTV. The manual typewriter was replaced by the electric, only to be replaced by the personal computer. The Internet brought the entire world to our desktops, and today, most Americans carry handheld mobile devices that allow them to communicate anywhere, anytime.

Just think of it—Ova is one of a handful of Americans who was alive when the hapless Chicago Cubs baseball team last won the World Series (1908). Cubs win! Cubs win...just not the World Series.

Yet, when Ova glances back through years, it is not the inventions, the wars, or the changes in technology that stand out. It is her family...and what a family! She and husband Dewey—a widower with two children—had seven children of their own. Eighty-eight years after her wedding day, Ova boasts 22 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren, 65 great-great-grandchildren, and one great-great-great-grandchild.

All four of the surviving children—now in their late 70s and 80s—have been married more than 50 years themselves. Perhaps they learned from their parents, who were happily married 62 years, seven months, and 11 days before Dewey passed away in 1987. "I wish just the same for my own children," Ova recently said during an interview, "long lives and to just continue being happy, enjoying each other, and their own families."¹

That's good advice, Ova! And at 108, people should listen! 

ERIC THOMSEN, MANAGING EDITOR

¹ Special thanks to Donna Clayton Walker, author of, "Eye to the Past, Joy in the Present," published by *Silver City Sun News* for allowing me to quote from her article. For a full-length article about Ova's life, visit: <http://www.scsun-news.com>.

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Letters: Have something to say?

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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.

I want to commend you on the latest issue of *ONE Magazine*. It was good throughout, but I found “You Never Know” (First Glimpse) and “Ordinary People Living Ordinary Lives” particularly insightful. In “You Never Know,” it was encouraging to be reminded that despite all my successes and failures as a youth minister, it is always God who brings the increase.

In “Ordinary People,” Mrs. Goldman addressed the issue of lay ministry clearly and concisely. I have been emphasizing this concept in our youth group for some time now, and last Wednesday I began by reading this article from *ONE Magazine* aloud to them, and following it with discussion. I pointed out that while we all see ourselves as ordinary people, if we allow God to work in and through us, He can do extraordinary things indeed. In fact, those that we look to as heroes of the faith are just ordinary people in a close relationship with an extraordinary God. This is an essential concept for us to understand and teach in our churches. Thanks for all of your hard work in this ministry.

Phillip Morgan, *Pleasant View, Tennessee*

Love this magazine. I've been following Free Will Baptists since my teenage years in Newport News, Virginia. As a 1966 FWBBC graduate, God adjusted my ministry path in the late 70s to opportunities outside the denomination. However, the magazine has served as my contact point all these years. But nothing has come close to the excellence in publishing since the birth of *ONE*. I read every issue. Enjoy all of it. It often reminds me where I can pray more effectively for Free Will Baptists.

I think the most unique event since the new format has been the recent response of my soon to be 95-year-old mother. She lives in an assisted care facility. With limited physical capacity, she reads every copy cover to cover and told me it was her favorite reading. (I suppose she meant outside the Bible.) Just wanted to share with you the reading pleasure your magazine brings to us "outsiders." Keep up the great work.

Doug Randlett, *Lynchburg, Virginia*

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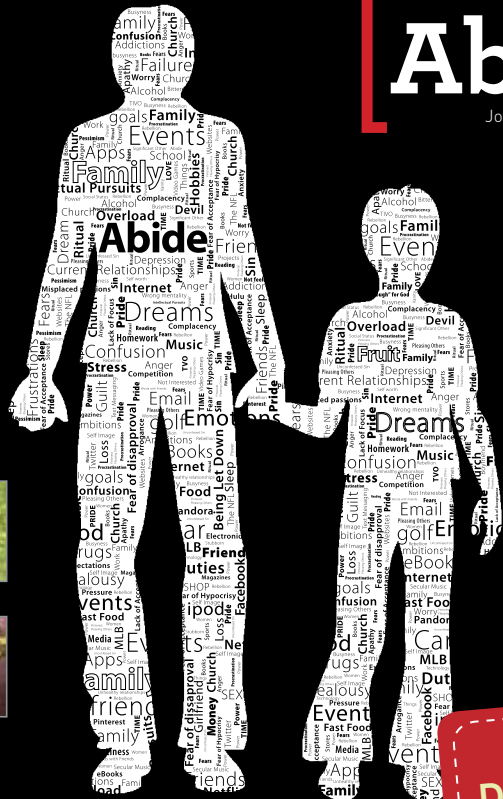


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The blessings and challenges of raising children in a cross-cultural setting...

Third-Culture Kids

BY DANA PORTELL, A THIRD-CULTURE MOM

Rearing children in a cross-cultural setting presents a unique set of challenges as well as many benefits. We were concerned about obstacles like acquisition of a new language and culture, feelings of abandonment or grief at leaving familiar people, and potential loss of identification with American culture. Unexpected and unforeseen challenges arose as well.

Educational Challenges

Our children were in K3 and first grade when we set out on our cross-cultural adventure. While our oldest flourished in the acquisition of this new language and culture, our youngest stopped speaking in any language. He faced verbal and emotional abuse at the hands of a teacher with no patience for foreign children. Since Darren and I attended language school full-time and could not speak the language, we felt powerless to defend our child. Only God's presence sustained this mother's heart through those dark days of language school.

Education has been an unforeseen challenge to our family. Although our children are now in middle and high school, only once have they enjoyed the same school for two consecutive years. We have learned to evaluate educational choices on an annual basis. Our children have been educated in Christian, public, and home school. We appreciate the benefits and acknowledge the challenges that accompany each education choice.

Family Ties

As a family, we committed to keep strong connections with our families stateside. We talked with family members as often as possible via Skype. We were blessed with visits from many friends and family members. Through

our commitment to staying connected with loved ones in the States, our children felt more connected with American culture as well.

Since our adventure began, we have moved 12 times and lived on three continents, with another move planned in the coming months. Stability and cultural identity have been redefined for us. Instead of a geographic home, we identify home based on family, people, and community. We understand the command to be sojourners who are looking for their eternal, heavenly home.

Hello. Goodbye.

For our children, "hello" is the same as "goodbye." They have been learning to say "goodbye" since they were preschoolers. We routinely hosted student teams from the U.S. These students filled our home with life and love for ten full days of excitement, and then they left. We worked with a church that was a haven for college students studying abroad. The students became "family" for a semester, and then they left. Our teammates became "family" for years, and then they left. Our parents visited for a few weeks, and then left. We would return to the States for a year, make friends, join a church family, and then we would leave. We poured our lives into families with whom we shared the love of Christ, and then we left. "Leav-

ing" plays a large part in our lives.

The challenge is to leave well. Our children tend to stay in the game until the final seconds, because we chose to lead them by example in this area. We feel this has been the most beneficial to our ministries—to stay fully engaged until we step on the plane. However, it is hard for the soul. The memories of sitting on too many planes feeling as if the wind had been knocked out of me is as strong as if it happened yesterday. Constant leaving can weary the soul. Only time will tell if we have made solid parenting choices in this area, but we are happy that our children make strong, personal connections with others and remain fully engaged until the last second. God has been faithful in soothing our aching hearts during these times of parting.

Coming "Home"

Returning to their passport culture is a challenge for most children who spend time overseas. Although our children look exactly like everyone else, they are very different culturally from monocultural children. They have learned to be careful when speaking to their peers about the other countries where they have lived. Some peers have told them "go back where you came from, foreigner" or have called them harsh names like "terrorist" for expressing a homesick-



Instead of a geographic home, we identify home based on family, people, and community.



ness for these other countries.

We did not foresee the challenges of rearing our children in a fishbowl. We learned early in our stateside assignment we would never be super-parents pleasing everyone all the time. Initially, we were quite shocked by the open criticism we received from well-meaning people. Eventually, their criticism led us to develop a plan for parenting that allowed us to be consistent in our discipline methods while contextualizing our style to fit the culture of the church. For example, our children learned to say, “Yes, sir” when we traveled in the South, even though it was not required in our home. These lessons were useful tools when we transitioned to overseas cultures with our children.

Maximizing the Benefits

Although the list of challenges for parents of third-culture kids is exhaustive, so is the list of blessings. A few weeks ago, our youngest said to me, “Mom, I think it is so weird that people feel sorry for us because we grew up overseas. Don’t they know that we have the best life ever?”

I feel our children believe this to be true for two reasons. We have intentionally focused on maximizing the benefits of life overseas instead of maximizing the challenges. We, as parents, deeply believe and express verbally this life to which God called us is far sweeter than any life we could have hoped or imagined for ourselves.

In the early days of this adventure, we

acknowledged we could do little to minimize the typical challenges our children would face living overseas. Spending all our energy in this area would be futile. We accepted the challenges by trusting God to lessen the difficulties when appropriate and/or to provide His strength and His grace to live through them.

We chose instead to focus our resources on maximizing the benefits. Our children have traveled in the countries we have lived and to surrounding countries as much as possible. Just before leaving our last assignment, we had a car full of girls who were all preparing to return to the U.S. after living in Europe and Africa. As the girls discussed the states to which they were moving, they giggled as they realized



they knew European and African geography very well but could not estimate if Tennessee, Michigan, Minnesota, and California were close enough to see one another often.

When our children see a picture of the Eiffel Tower, their senses flood with the sound of French car horns in traffic, the rumble of the Metro underground, and the smell of fresh baguettes. When they see a film set in the desert, they feel the sting of a sandstorm, they feel the scorching of their skin as the sun beats down, they feel the rhythm of the camel walking up and down the dunes, and they smile at the memories of desert dwellers with warm hearts and quick smiles.

Multi-lingual, Multi-cultural

We have been careful to acknowledge the benefit of being multi-lingual. Our children are fluent in speaking, reading, and writing two languages. In addition, they can read and write in a third language. Our children have friends from all over the world and friends scattered around the world. The richness of their experiences is overwhelming at times.

Our children have been allowed to experience the world on a large scale. Instead of viewing a subject like history with a mono-cultural perspective, our children can see history from an American, European, or African perspective. They have learned to watch the news in a different way than their American peers. They care deeply about the suffering of others because they have been in the homes of the poor and afflicted. Their experiences allow them an empathy with others that can only be gained by seeing poverty and

suffering firsthand.

Our youngest has become an advocate for children in Africa who are oppressed by rebel armies. He spontaneously requested his teacher to allow him time to make a presentation to educate his classmates about these child soldiers. Their life experiences have forever changed them.

Spiritual Growth

The greatest benefit afforded our children is their spiritual experience. Often we feel we have done far less formal spiritual instruction than we would have preferred, but we know they have been afforded a rich spiritual instruction through experiences. Our children have a heart-level understanding of God's character because they have walked dark paths.

In our last overseas assignment, our physical safety was an area of concern. We were serving in a restricted access country, and we were exposed as missionaries. There were moments of panic. But we also knew days and months of inexplicable peace that comes only from placing your hand firmly in His for every step.

Our children had front row seats for that experience. Their peers who were unbelievers confronted them. They felt the uncomfortable tension, knowing we could be expelled from the country at any moment, and they watched other families forced to leave. They experienced what it means to live out our faith clinging to the Unchanging One. They heard us profess with our mouths that the One who lead us in would be the only One to lead us out. They prayed with us as we waited for God's timing and direction. And their faith grew along with ours.

When our youngest tells me we don't have to fear what our next destination holds for us because the same God that is with us here will go with us there, we are grateful he has a heart knowledge of God's faithfulness. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dana and her family have served in restricted access countries, living and sharing their faith in difficult circumstances. They currently live and work in the United States.



How to pray for Third-Culture Kids (TCKs):

- Pray for grateful hearts to appreciate the benefits of overseas living.
- Pray for grace and strength to sustain the challenges of overseas living.
- Pray for adaptation to their passport country. Ask God to give them both willingness and awareness to adapt and for acceptance by their peers.
- Pray for contentment in their passport country.
- Pray they will grow in the knowledge and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Boundaries for the Pastor's Family

BY RICHARD ATWOOD

You may have heard some of these sayings:

You Might Be a Pastor If...

- Taking your wife out to eat involves a Sunday potluck dinner.
- You ever use the phrase "That'll preach!" in conversation.
- You have ever waded in a creek wearing a necktie.
- You have ever been tempted to take up an offering at a family reunion.
- You have ever wanted to give the church soundman some feedback of your own.
- You can find a sermon in every country song.

You Might Be a Pastor's Wife If...

- You've been the alternate pianist whether you play the piano or not.
- Every summer you counsel at camp for your vacation.
- You can pray sincerely for someone's dog.
- People think your husband works only three hours a week.
- You can teach Sunday School and hold a baby at the same time.



Some of these things are funny because they are true. The job of a pastor can be tough, and sometimes, it can be tough on the pastor's wife and family. Don't get me wrong. I'm not whining. I think being a pastor (or pastor's wife) is a great privilege and opportunity. Most pastors (and home missionaries) I know are dedicated and hard working. Most pastors' wives are giving all for the ministry. Many home missionary wives rarely get to be in church on Sunday because they are teaching children or working in the nursery. I know of a home missionary wife who works full time and yet fixes breakfast every Sunday morning for the congregation. Her heart is in the ministry, just like her husband's.

Jesus told His disciples in Mark 6:31, "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat." Let's help the minister's family by setting some boundaries between them and total exhaustion.

Give them a day off. God gave us one day out of seven as a day of rest. For many years, I preached twice every Sunday morning, taught Sunday School, had people over for dinner, and preached again on Sunday night. I'm not complaining. I loved Sundays!

But, I knew I was going to rest on Monday. I think pastors will do a better job the other six days a week if they make sure they take a whole day away from the work. Help your pastor by trying not to call him on his day off. If he is working another full-time job besides being a pastor, give him some space on Sunday afternoons, Saturdays, and evenings.

Encourage them to take a vacation. Pastors need some vacation time each year...and this doesn't mean going to the national convention. Our family always took the week after the convention for vacation. We were already in a different city.

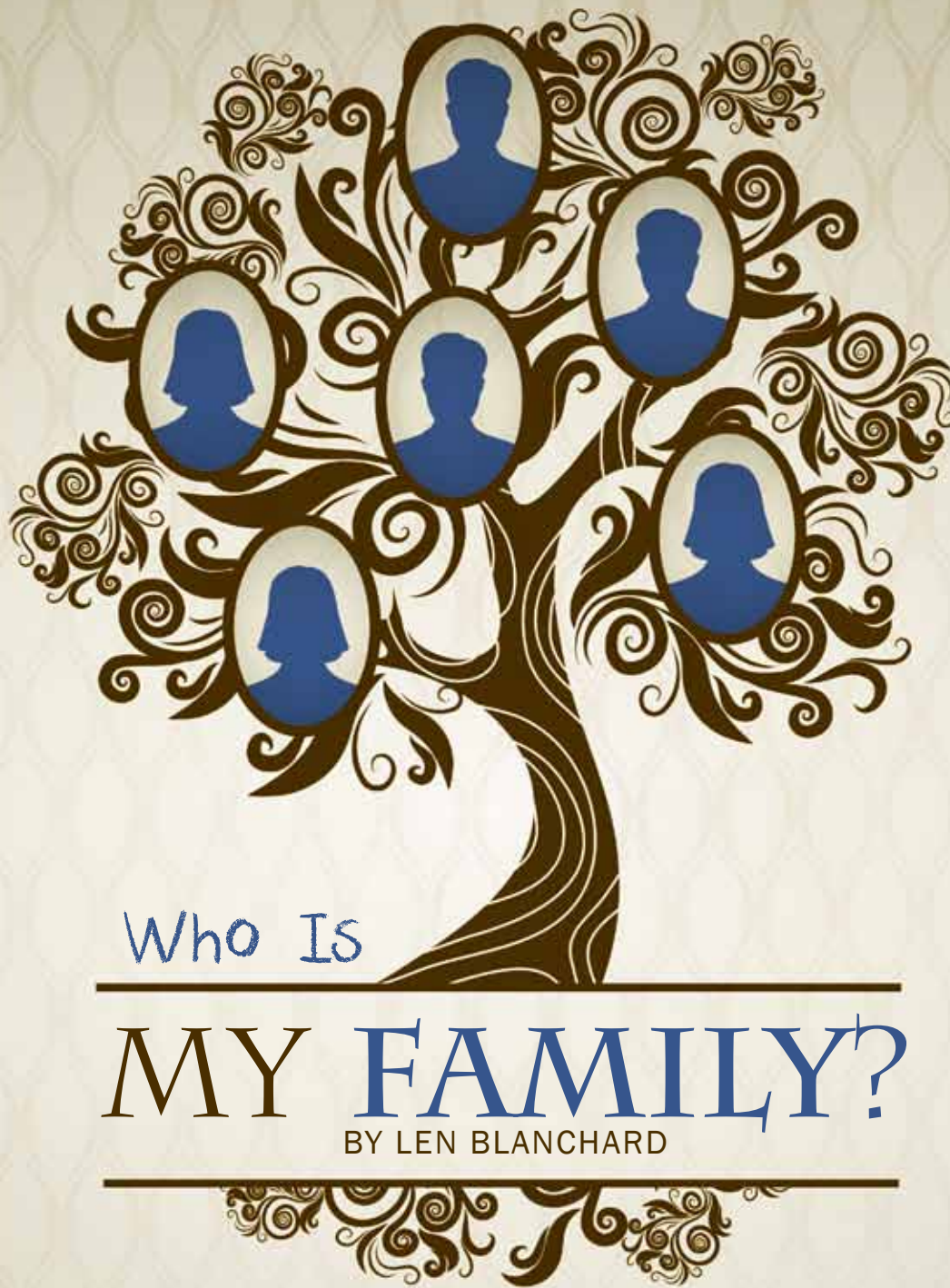
Leave a Message. Let your pastor know that he doesn't have to answer the phone while the family is eating dinner or enjoying family time. Leave a message, and he can call back later.

Guard family time. I think it is nice for all families to eat at least one meal together each day. This is good for pastors, too. We had a family night each week. I didn't take appointments that night. No meetings were scheduled. If someone called with marriage problems, I told them we would talk after church on Sunday. Their problem had been going on for years and wouldn't be solved during my family night. When my three sons were young, we pushed the tables back and wrestled every family night. When they got big enough to beat me in wrestling, we started playing tennis.

Make date night possible. Help your pastor and his wife take time for their own marriage. Offer to keep the kids. Slip him a gift card to a nearby restaurant.

Develop reasonable expectations. The pastor's wife doesn't have to head up every ministry in the church, or even the WAC. Let her serve where she feels gifted. Sure, the preacher's kids should behave, but no children are perfect. Try clenching your fist as hard as you can. You can do it for a while, but you soon have to relax it. The same is true of ministry.

A pastor's job never ends. There is always more work to do. Creating these good boundaries can help pastors (and their families) be more effective and happier. In turn, their churches will be happier. **ONE**



Who Is

MY FAMILY?

BY LEN BLANCHARD

The question of “Who is my family?” is such an important one for today’s Christian. Naturally, we think first of our biological family. My wife Lynda and I have celebrated 40 years of marriage together. Wow! Where has the time gone? (Better yet, how has she managed to survive?) We have three wonderful daughters: Tonya, Rebecca, and Candace. We have two great sons-in-law: Jason and Daniel. And, we also have five magnificent grandchildren: Tyler, Emmi, Jacob, Gabi, and Sarah. They bring out the “woo-hoo” in me. Most important, all of them are saved. They are active in the service of the Lord. Nothing—and I mean nothing—pleases me more.

When contemplating this article, I asked myself what I could possibly write about the family that hasn't been written. I knew I wanted to write from the heart, and I kept returning to one particular thought. When I consider family these days, I consider Christ's words in Matthew 12:46-50, when he described His disciples, His listeners, His followers as His family.



A BOND SHOULD DEVELOP BETWEEN BELIEVERS, AND THROUGH CHRIST, THAT BOND IS AS STRONG AS THE BONDS WITH OUR NATURAL FAMILY MEMBERS (AND SOMETIMES EVEN STRONGER).

I am aware that many commentators believe this passage has to do with Christ's earthly family interrupting His earthly ministry. But, I also believe Christ was telling the world that His disciples are fully equal in their relationship to Him.

One of the great purposes in Christianity is for us to take on fully the life of Christ—Christ in me and me in Christ. If that is true, and I believe it is, then the family of God takes on a

new and thrilling dimension for every believer. When Christ is in total control of our lives, He points to all other believers through us and says, "All of these are my mom and dad and brother and sister, etc." My point is that a bond should develop between believers, and through Christ, that bond is as strong as the bonds with our natural family members (and sometimes even stronger).

Christians are all brothers and sisters in Christ. The love and kinship defy description, and Christian relationships develop that you cherish and adore for a lifetime. We expect this of a natural relationship. Why should we find it strange when we develop deep and loving relationships with God's family? I encourage you to allow the richness of genuine love to flourish within you. You may just find the love of Christ growing to completion.

With that in mind, after asking ourselves, "Who Is My Family?" we should endeavor to bring more and more people into the family of God. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Len and Lynda Blanchard are planting a Free Will Baptist church in Oxford, Alabama, a joint project between Home Missions and the state of Alabama. This is the second church plant for the Blanchards. Learn more at www.homemissions.net.

Leadership Legacy

Detroit native Malcolm Fry was a Free Will Baptist minister for 54 years, pastoring in five states, twice as a home missionary. Perhaps his greatest work, however, came as director of the Church Training Service when he introduced an innovative new program of Bible and fine arts competition to train young people for Christian service. Today, thousands of students gather each summer for competition, outreach, and worship at the National Youth Conference—Malcolm Fry's legacy of leadership.

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Establish a legacy of ministry...

MY TWO SONS

BY KENNETH AKERS

As parents, we invest in our children, hoping and praying something will connect, and they will not make the same mistakes we did.

Throughout my Christian life, I have been involved in youth ministry and missions. I started working with young people even before I was saved and just made the natural transition to youth ministry after. My sons have always been involved in our ministry. When we did teen trips, they tagged along (sometimes to the displeasure of the teens). I have been involved in their lives in every aspect, from school activities to sports, and especially church functions.

When my youngest son Ryan felt a calling to youth ministry, it was no surprise to anyone. He had been immersed in it from the time he was born. Both he and his older brother Brandon had attended youth camp every year since their birth. And my older son Brandon even met his wife there.

It gives me a feeling of deep joy to realize they saw something in their parents' life that gave them a desire to pursue God's calling.

Ryan now serves as a youth pastor in a Free Will Baptist church in Missouri. In addition, he has been involved with Mountain Faith Mission in Haiti and has become director of the orphanage and children's home there. He has led two teams from his church to Haiti to do work projects. When I see him and the love and affection displayed between him and the children in the home, it makes me proud.

My oldest son Brandon has been actively involved in his church and world missions as well. In addition to teaching Sunday School, he works with the outreach ministry and helps with financial classes. He is a Crown Ministry certified financial counselor. God has put missions in his heart as well. He has been involved in works in East Asia and Central Asia, and has led teams to do English classes for the people in those areas.

I know it sounds like I am bragging on my sons. I am. God has blessed me in so many ways, and seeing my sons involved in ministry is one of my greatest blessings. I'm just glad to know they paid attention...at least sometimes! **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Ken Akers is director of Free Will Baptist Master's Men. Learn more at www.fwbmastersmen.org

QUICK GUIDELINES FOR RAISING MINISTRY-MINDED KIDS

- Live a ministry-oriented life-style in front of them.
- Get them involved in service early in their lives.
- Give them challenges they will never forget.
- Provide ministry opportunities that match their skill set.
- Praise them when they succeed, and encourage them when they fail.
- Let them go when God calls them away from you.



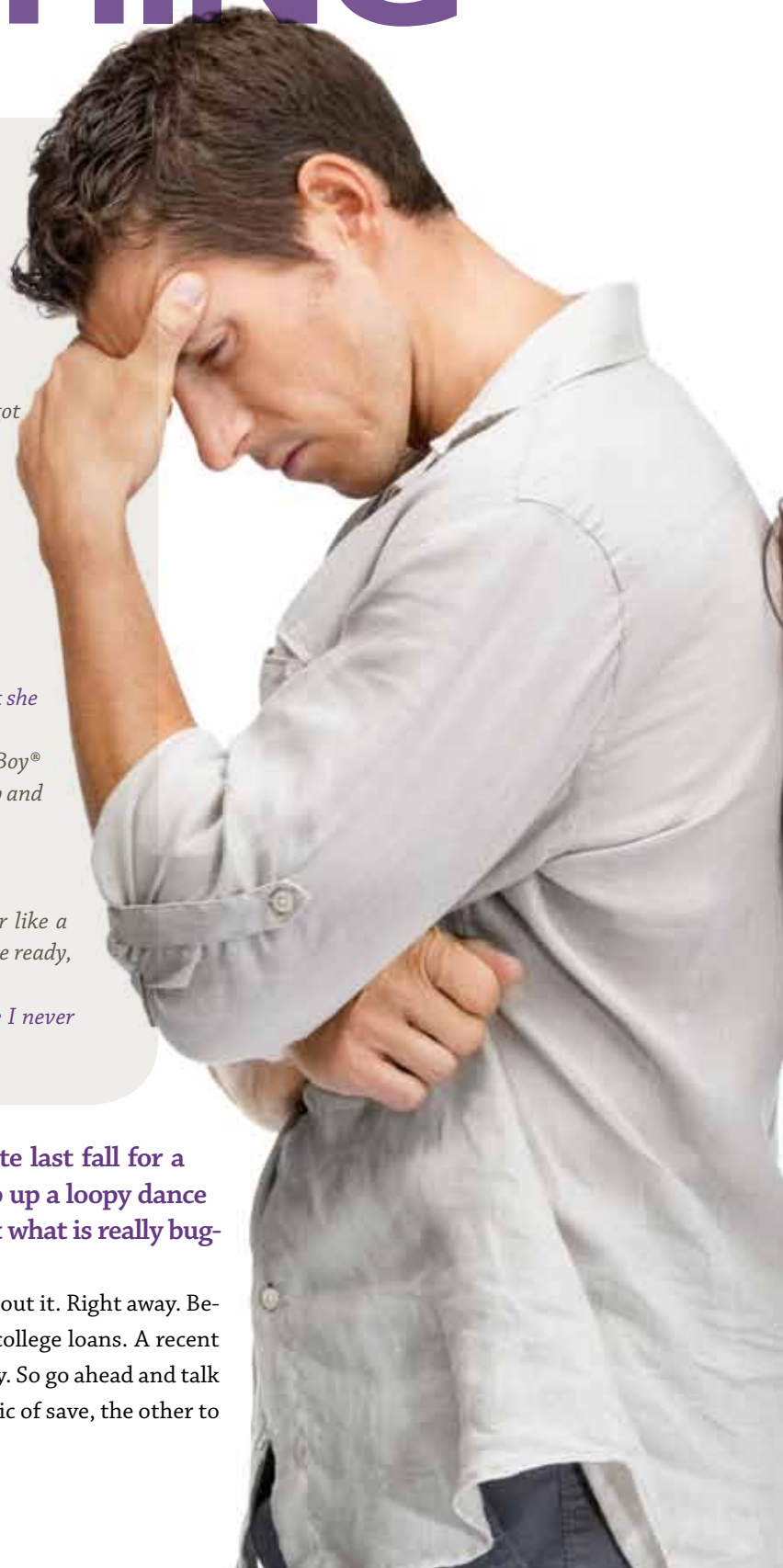
Somebody's Gotta Do **SOMETHING**

BY BILL AND BRENDA EVANS

WILLY: *Janie, where are you?*
JANIE: *In the kitchen.*
WILLY: *What are you doing in there?*
JANIE: *What I usually do in the kitchen, Willy. I'm cooking.*
WILLY: *Well, you don't have to be sarcastic.*
JANIE: *Yes I do, 'cause somebody's got to do something about supper, and as far as I can see, it's me.*
WILLY: *I could cook if I wanted to.*
JANIE: *That's just it. You never want to. Like I say, somebody's got to do something and it looks like it's me.*
WILLY: *Yeah, well, somebody's got to do something about the remote, too.*
JANIE: *What's wrong with it?*
WILLY: *It's gone missing. Did you throw it in the trash?*
JANIE: *No, Willy.*
WILLY: *Well, what DID you do with it?*
JANIE: *I didn't touch it—that's your bailiwick as you would say.*
WILLY: *Well, somebody touched it, and she better figure out what she did with it.*
JANIE: *You had it last. This morning you were in your La-Z-Boy® with your legs crossed like an Indian, your finger going up and down like this.*
(Taps forefinger up and down)
WILLY: *I don't remember that. You're making it up.*
JANIE: *You don't remember because your eyes were glazed over like a zombie. You remember asking "When's my coffee gonna be ready, woman?"*
WILLY: *No, and now I know you're making it up, Janie, because I never call you woman.*

Janie and Willy's wrangle is part of a sketch we wrote last fall for a 12-week course we taught. In it, Willy and Janie keep up a loopy dance about cooking and TV remotes, but say nothing about what is really bugging them most—money.

In marriage, the first rule for dealing with money is to talk about it. Right away. Before fights erupt over bills, tithes, vacations, car repairs, and college loans. A recent study says that couples argue three times a month about money. So go ahead and talk before each partner whirls in his own direction, one to the music of save, the other to the music of spend.



Not every couple talks honestly about money. A survey by the National Endowment for Financial Education reports that 31% of U.S. adults deceive their spouses about money, and 58% hide money from them. Another 53% misrepresent the cost of purchases, and 34% incur debts their mates haven't discovered—yet.

Veronica Dagher, reporter for Dow Jones Newswire warns, however, that hiding money and money problems has gotten a lot harder. The old paper trails could be shredded or covered by a second set of books, but electronic trails are etched onto hard drives. Now, spouses can do a Google search, look at Web-searching history or social networks, or even install a keystroke monitor, among other things, to ferret out money secrets.

Marriage should have a higher aim than mere legality.

It is tricky to deceive these days. And if you are the one deceived, the legality of the methods you use to uncover secrets about your spouse's spending is often still debated. Furthermore, what is legal may not be moral, whether you are the hider or the seeker.

But beyond all that, marriage should have a higher aim than mere legality. Why don't we just go cold turkey and abstain from the sin of deceiving—or being crooked as Brenda's father used to call it. Why not be open, upfront, talk about it, pray about it, and resolve it?

We ought to be virtuous about money. We should have courage to face conflicts and work to resolve them. We need to be one-faced with each other: speak the truth

without evasion, deceit, or meanness. Decide together what is good and right before God regarding money. And, husbands, remember that wives are often more eager than you are to talk it out. So don't just listen, speak up and work together toward mutual solutions.

Of course, talking is not enough. Couples actually have to do something about money. Doing is where the work is—and the reward, too. Jesus said it again and again. Do. Keep. Believe. Obey. Watch. Listen. We don't claim to know everything about marriage and money, but after 50 years we have learned some things. Here are a few crucial ones:

TALK ABOUT WHERE YOU ARE

What does this week, this month, this year look like financially? Are you in deep water? Are you floating with the current, sinking fast, or swimming along just fine? Is money left over at the end of the month, or is month left over at the end of the money?

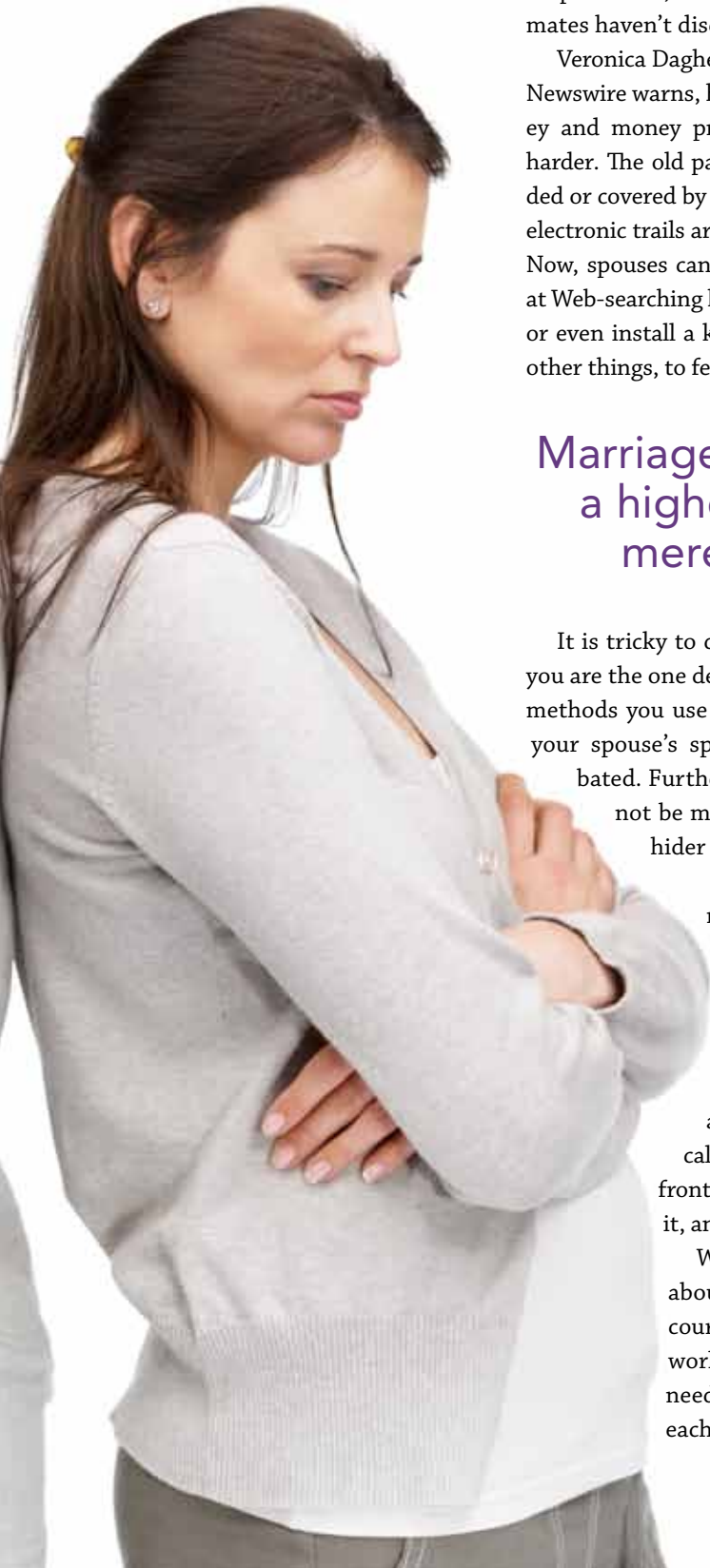
What about next year? Kids don't get cheaper. Tuitions go up. Houses fall down. Cars wear out. Calculate where you think you'll be financially in one year. Will swimming be harder or easier?

What about the golden years? Solomon, the sensible Proverbist, used an ant to inspire us to store up during harvest because winter is coming (6:6, 30:25). Retirement will be golden only if you have planned and saved. If you continue on your current path, will you be prepared?

DECIDE WHERE YOU ARE GOING

Together, establish goals for the future, both short-term and long-term. Think next year as well as the golden years.

For example, one goal is to get out of debt—consumer debt, car debt, and eventually house debt. Aim at fully funding retirement. Talk about the kids' college costs, what you will and will not do to help them with that phase of education. What travel or vacation dreams do you have and where do those fit in without incurring debt—or where they do not?



What about God and your check-book? Look at whether you are “robbing” Him as Malachi says. What are your giving goals for this year and next?

PLAN A ROUTE TO YOUR FINANCIAL DESTINATION

Two steps are obvious. First, make a spending-saving-giving plan that really works, and second, create an emergency fund that is untouchable unless the roof collapses or the HVAC unit dies. Aim for three to six months living expenses. A good place for that fund is a Money Management Trust at Free Will Baptist Foundation. Ours is there.

Remember that restraint today gives your family freedom tomorrow. So what “restraining” steps should you talk about? Buy used, including big-ticket items like vehicles and furniture, and shop 50-75% off racks. Don’t stroll through malls or surf websites for en-

tertainment. Seeing it makes you want it just as smelling Krispy Kreme® donuts makes your mouth water.

Don’t keep a credit card balance. Avoid other money rat holes: extended warranties, timeshares, car leases, home equity loans. Limit restaurant meals. Be wary of college loans that hobble graduates with debt. And don’t give your children everything they want. Practice and model self-restraint. It’s biblical.

Not all couples talk about money. Even fewer do something about it. But looking back over 50 years together, we think talking and doing have been two really good things for our marriage. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITERS: Bill Evans, former director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, lives in Catlettsburg, Kentucky, with his wife Brenda, a retired English teacher. Visit www.fwbgifts.org for more information on planned giving that benefits your favorite ministry.

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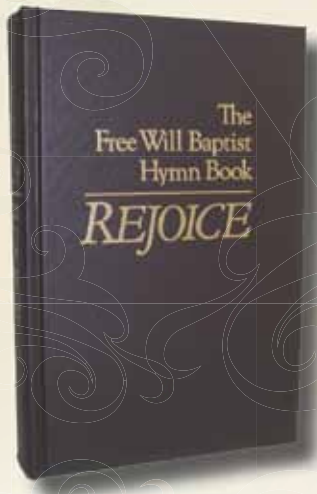
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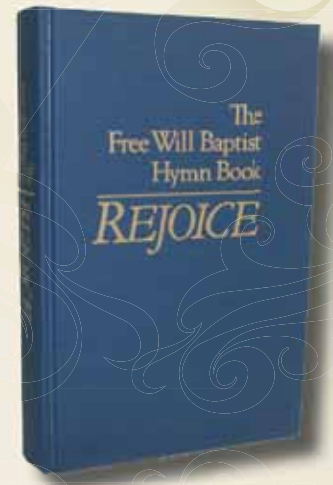
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THE SCANDAL OF SINGLENES

BY W. JACKSON WATTS



I AM NOT ALONE. A 2011 ARTICLE CONFIRMED THE BIAS IN EVANGELICALISM AGAINST HIRING UNMARRIED PASTORS.

Over a year ago, I felt God leading me to pursue a pastorate after having served several years as an associate minister during seminary. Yet after sending out a dozen or more resumés, utter silence was the response. Strong recommendations, advanced theological training, and a clear philosophy of ministry mattered little. Though I was an unmarried, younger man, it still seemed strange to have no opportunities. After all, weren't Timothy and Titus both younger men to whom the apostle Paul (a single missionary) had entrusted much?

In the midst of this disappointing phase, I encountered Erik Eckholm's *New York Times* article^[1]. It told of one experienced pastor unable to find work after a lengthy search. According to Eckholm's research, most evangelical churches will never seriously consider a single pastor for fear that (a) he won't relate well to married couples, or (b) his sexual orientation is in question. Perhaps this represents the concern of Christians about the state of marriage in America. After all, the latest census and recent studies indicate that 51% of American adults are unmarried—the most in history.

Despite these alarming realities, some evangelical leaders including Al Mohler support this evangelical prejudice toward hiring pastors who are married. He, like many other leaders, feels that Scripture, as well as the normalcy of marriage in society, justifies this preference.

However, what does Scripture really say? Is this bias against singles, especially in ministry, justified? Is singleness as scandalous as some imply? I contend that the witness and ministry of the church can be hindered when it ignores, isolates, or belittles faithful singleness in the church.

Biblical Reflections

Biblical accounts of family life certainly challenge the 21st-century evangelical bias^[2]. Consider these provocative episodes related to family and ministry that emerge from the Old Testament: Moses was unmarried until age 40. Abraham and Sarah were childless into their 90s. Ruth initially chose singleness in order to serve her mother-in-law. It appears that both Elijah and Elisha were single.

And Jeremiah was called to be single and preach for 50 years to a non-repentant people. These men and women of God might have a hard time serving and thriving in today's church.

We must remember that expectations for family life should not come from cultural expectations, but from scriptural imperatives and norms. While Scripture has much to say about well-ordered family life, it does not support the biases of

church members and ministers against singles.

In this fallen world, a gospel-centered church will likely consist of singles, widows, and divorcees, in addition to married couples. To act as though singles are somehow second-class Christians is simply not biblical. Further, invoking Scripture to support a "married-only" model for church leadership is odd since Jesus Himself and the apostle Paul fall short of

this standard—ironic since Jesus was the Church’s founder and Paul its greatest missionary.

Consider the facts: Jesus lived a chaste, celibate, single life. When He addressed the topic of family, He stressed the importance of not allowing family to divide loyalty to God. Most famously He said, “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26). He warned that whoever loved their children more than Him could not be his disciple (Matthew 10:37b). He also taught there will be no marriage in the life to come (Matthew 22:23-28).

The Apostle Paul also ministered as a single man. He offers clear words concerning singleness when he states that singles are able to serve God more freely than married people. Paul even calls married Christians to embody “marital forgetfulness” (1 Corinthians 7:29). This does not mean they neglect their spouses, but that they allow the Word and Spirit, rather than the world, to inform the shape of their marriage so they can serve Christ faithfully.

Today’s Singles

Many with concerns about today’s Christian singles would concede their concerns are practical. In other words, they do not deny the biblical affirmation of singleness. They object on other grounds, such as the need for companionship in ministry. They ignore that Scripture upholds both marriage and singleness. And we must heed it. Ignoring Scripture ignores God—the one who understands the Church and human need better than we do.

Hypocrisy plagues the Church’s witness on this issue as well. When churches denigrate or isolate singles, they elicit

critical inspection from the world. If the rumors are true that nearly half of all “Christian” marriages end in divorce, we must not be hasty to crown all married couples with the wreath of wisdom and maturity, while eschewing faithful expressions of singleness.

Unfortunately, many churches potentially exacerbate the problem. They tailor programs toward singles, perpetuating divisions in the church body that Scripture is slow to make. Everyone, regardless of marital status, can distinctly mirror the truth about Christ’s kingdom and contribute to the body. Ironically, this diverse body is also called the family of God as they serve and worship together in the New Testament Church. This should lead us to envision a way of ministering to singles that emphasizes their gifts and calling, as opposed to their marital status.

Can’t the single pastor identify with the growing number of singles as much as the married pastor can identify with couples? Why are singles often encouraged to pursue overseas missions, while ministry at home is simultaneously dismissed. They leave the familiar to minister in a strange land. Yet, the single servant may find himself unacceptable to search committees of evangelical churches!

It seems “the only call of God that Western Christians fear more than the call to missions is the call to a life of celibacy”^[3]. Churches should envision singleness as an asset in ministry, not a hindrance or threat. As one medieval theologian said, celibacy should be seen as “vacancy for God.”

Healthy singles depend wholly on God, not a spouse. The call to chastity is just as radical to the married as the single. The difference is that the former has a context where physical intimacy is appropriate. The latter can remain chaste and celibate by the power of

the Spirit and the accountability of the church, for they are reminded in their singleness that the church is their primary family^[4].

Certainly, many Christian singles are immature. They are often non-committal in relationships. They use disposable income to travel frequently, and thus they are often unreliable. However, even if we assume that all singles are this way, this simply heightens the need for the church to teach and model a biblical view of marriage, and also of singleness. Ignoring the problem will not bring balance to the church. Pastors, teachers, faithful singles, and married couples should befriend, mentor, and love singles as a valued part of the body.

Escaping the Scandal

Is singleness really scandalous? No. When singleness is seen and practiced within the frame of Scripture, it is sanctified. As Stanley Hauerwas says,

Singleness becomes a sign that the church lives by hope rather than biological heirs, that brothers and sisters come not through natural generation but through baptism, that the future of the world and the significance of our future is ultimately up to God rather than us....Ultimately, there is...only one good reason to get married or to stay single, namely, that this has something to do with our discipleship^[5].

This is a helpful reminder for Christians in all walks of life. Beyond this, here are a few practical steps churches can take to embrace a biblical vision of singleness with the appropriate balance:

1. Be cautious about erecting ministry structures and programs that are neither mandated by Scripture, nor supported from scriptural patterns and principles. The Bible does not single out married

couples or singles, except when it provides them the theological basis for their way of life and how to live faithfully. Otherwise, it does not segregate the two in the context of worship or ministry efforts.

2. Pastors should be thoughtful in the way they relate their messages by use of illustrations and application. Many times these are so person-specific that they almost always exclude one particular demographic. Instead, pastors should seek to lay bare the biblical truth in such a way that the Holy Spirit has the freedom of working that truth into every person's life, whether a 25-year old single, newlyweds, or a long-

time widower.

3. Christians should always remember that both marriage and singleness, when practiced faithfully, entail distinct challenges and blessings. This acknowledgement is crucial because it helps the Church to avoid stereotypes and treating people with condescension. It produces sensitivity to the challenges some face, while also recognizing the blessings God bestows.

Despite my difficulties in locating a pastorate, after several months, God placed me in a pastorate in Missouri—even though I was single. Ironically, not long before publication, I married Mckensie Tutor of North Carolina in

holy matrimony. We met a few months before God called me to pastor in Missouri. I did not choose marriage merely because it will benefit my congregation—though it undoubtedly will. I choose it because the New Testament suggests marriage is worth pursuing, bringing its own blessings and challenges. However, Free Will Baptists should strive together to validate and foster healthy marriages, and healthy singleness. Only then can we be consistent with the truth of Scripture. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: W. Jackson Watts is the Pastor of Grace FWB Church outside St. Louis, Missouri, and is a doctoral student at Concordia Seminary. He is co-founder of the website: www.helwysocietyforum.com.

- [1] Erik Eckholm, "Single and Evangelical? Good Luck Finding Work as a Pastor," available at http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/22/us/22pastor.html?_r=3&partner=rss&emc=rss, accessed on 12 May 2011.
 [2] To be sure, under the Old Covenant, procreation enjoys a special part in God's redemptive plan. It is through the women's seed that a redeemer would ultimately come (Gen. 3:15; 12:1-3).
 [3] Andreas Köstenberger, David W. Jones, *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010), 167.
 [4] Barry Danylak, *Redeeming Singleness: How the Storyline of Scripture Affirms the Single Life* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2010), 145.
 [5] Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon, *Resident Aliens* (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989), 66.

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Simple ways to keep family close, even from...

AN OCEAN AWAY

BY KRISTI JOHNSON

IT WAS A SIMPLE JOURNAL.

It arrived in the mail during our first term as missionaries in Spain. The words inside made it special. It was from my mom and aunt, bought and written during their after-Christmas shopping. They let me share in their day by journaling about their experience. Yes, they bought wrapping paper half off. They laughed at our tradition of always going somewhere we've never been before, which happened to be a hardware store that year.

Most importantly, they made me feel like I was a part of their day. Over the years, this journal has made more trips back and forth across the ocean than I can count. Its carefully crafted words have sent birthday greetings,

the emotional stories of the births of our children (Alejandro and Ana), and sad goodbye notes each time we've parted. It has become a treasure for our family.

It was a simple email. Well, thousands of them to be exact. Messages written quickly about our children's latest antics; notes about a recent field trip at school; details of our beginning days of language school or the church plant here in Alpedrete. Or even some like the ones we received recently, which went something like this:

It's hard to believe you are headed back to Spain already. It seems like only yesterday we were going to Charlotte to see you at the National...the suppers together, the golf cart rides, the endless cartoons,

Friday night sleepovers with pancake and bacon breakfasts, the pitter-patter of feet across the deck...precious memories for a Mimi and Pa who love you all so much.

It was a simple digital photo. It was the first one taken of Alejandro. Our teammates owned the only digital camera on our mission field back then. They graciously came to the hospital to take photos of our tiny newborn and sent them to our parents so they could have a glimpse of their new grandson. That photo was just the beginning of many. Throughout the years, those same grandparents have received photos of lost teeth, family vacations, first days of school, and every imaginable event between. They've watched Alejandro and Ana grow through the years...all from the comfort of their very own computer screens.

It was a simple webcam. But soon it became a lifeline to stay connected with family. We opened Christmas gifts together, talked as we had dinner around the table, and

FIVE
ways you can stay connected if you live far away, or right around the corner, from family:

1

Make a commitment to download and send digital photos at least once a week. They don't have to be big events...eating a favorite dessert, reading a book, or just the latest silly face.

2

Connect with Skype. It's free, and kids especially love to talk to family members and see them on the screen.

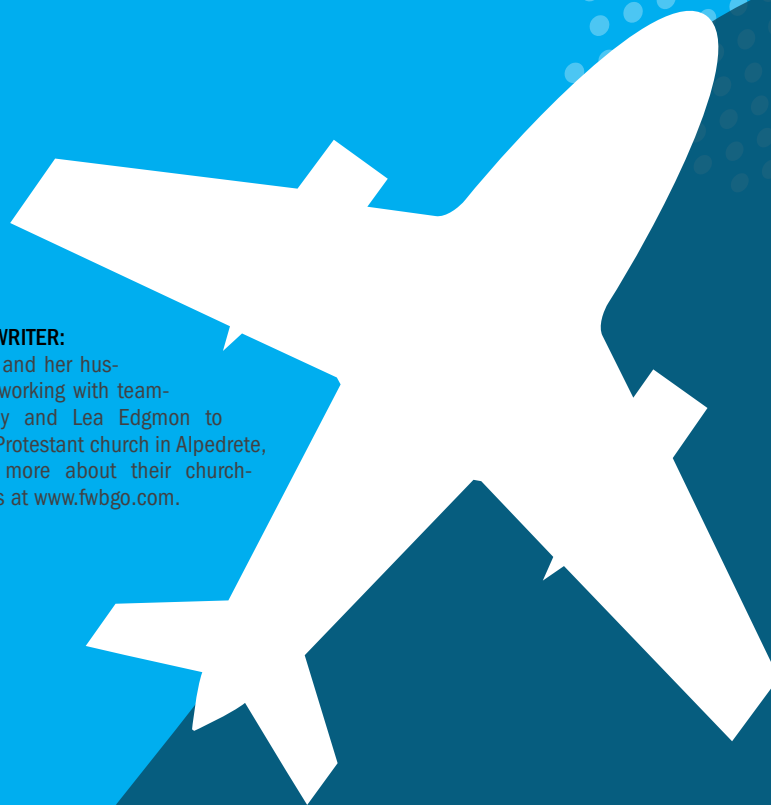
even visited a family wedding by using Skype. Tim's Dad always says that getting to see his grandchildren "in person" (via Skype) has changed everything for him. There's just something about a child looking into that camera with a toothless grin or a new haircut that makes it special.

Our progression over the years from a simple hand-written journal (which we still write in regularly) to more modern means of technology like email, digital photos, and Skype have all proven positive ways to keep in touch with family.

God's call to live far away from home hasn't stopped us from staying connected with our family in the States. He's equipped us with these wonderful ways to be able to do both at the same time. Pixels, JPEGs, and megabytes are just fancy words for "memories" in our book. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER:

Kristi Johnson and her husband Tim are working with teammates Anthony and Lea Edgmon to plant the first Protestant church in Alpedrete, Spain. Learn more about their church-planting efforts at www.fwbgo.com.



3 If you have smaller children, help them make seasonal crafts for family.

If they are older, a hand-written letter is a great way for them to send greetings. There's something special about seeing a child's handwriting and reading a letter written in his/her own words.

4

Let children call their grandparents on the phone. They can tell knock-knock jokes, sing a favorite song, or tell about what they're learning at school.

5

Order photos from online sites to be delivered directly to family members.

That way, they can share them with co-workers and everyone with whom they come in contact. (Grandmothers usually keep a stash of photos in their purses for moments just like these!)

News Around the World



Total Surpasses Record

ANTIOCH, TN—“Praise God from whom all blessings flow,” exclaimed General Director Clint Morgan. “God’s faithfulness is amazing.” On June 28, 2012, gifts received by the office for the 2012 World Missions Offering had exceeded \$845,000. “This is by far the largest WMO the Mission has experienced,” confirmed Director of Advancement Mark McPeak.

One of the goals of the World Missions Offering team this year was to involve 650 churches in participating in World Missions Sunday. More than 700 churches pledged to receive an offering. The amount received by June 13 represents just over 400 churches.

“In some ways we are astounded by what we are seeing with this year’s WMO,” Morgan said. “Yet, at the same time we know this is a direct answer to prayer, and we shouldn’t be surprised at all, because God answers prayer.”

McPeak followed up, “God has truly done great things thus far this year. In large part, it is because people within our denomination listened to God speaking to them, and responded in faith and obedience. We cannot say thank you enough.” ■

Impact Ride 2012 Announced



ANTIOCH, TN—Director of Advancement Mark McPeak recently announced plans for motorcycle rides in 11 states—Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Illinois, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Tennessee—with the intent of

raising money for overseas missionary needs.

Funds raised through Impact Ride 2012 will fund much-needed vehicle repairs or replacements for overseas missionaries. In some countries, missionaries travel extensively over rough roads and bumpy trails to share the gospel and encourage Christians in outlying areas. “We think bikers will be enthusiastic about providing reliable transportation for those who need it most,” McPeak said.

Individuals interested in participating in a ride, supporting a rider, or just learning more should visit International Missions’ website (www.fwbgo.com/impactride) or call the Mission office (877-767-7736). The full news release is also available on the website. ■



Kimberly Johnson Pursues New Path

ANTIOCH, TN—On May 22, Kimberly Johnson, missionary to Brazil, tendered her resignation effective immediately. Kimberly stated that while she felt honored to have represented the Mission and the Lord in Brazil, those opportunities ended and she is beginning a new phase of life. The Oklahoma resident married Henrique, a Brazilian, on May 28. Read the entire story at www.fwbgo.com. ■



Wilson Returns to Church Ministry

ANTIOCH, TN—Joe Wilson, stateside administrator for The Hanna Project (THP), announced his resignation June 4, 2012. He accepted a position with Kirby FWB Church in Michigan. “I’ve loved the years I’ve spent with International Missions and THP. However, my pastor’s heart has missed serving a local congregation of believers,” Joe explained. “At Kirby, I’ll have the opportunity to exercise my pastoral gifts as well as practice, in a local church context, my passion for reaching the world for Christ.”

Wilson transitioned into his THP role on September 1, 2010, and concluded his responsibilities on July 15. Full release available at www.fwbgo.com. ■



France: The annual children's festival held June 9 at the Nantes Church went well. Around 200 children and parents attended in spite of inclement weather, with about 140 staying and watching a puppet show that presented the gospel. On Sunday, June 17, the *JESUS* film was also shown.



Bulgaria: A group of 30 people—including some non-believers—participated in the Svishtov congregation's first retreat, May 24-27. One man heard the gospel for the first time and said he'd like to "talk more about Jesus."



Japan: Mirial Gainer is coordinating a new outreach called Tuesday Friends Café at the Koinonia Church in Hokkaido. Those waiting in the church parking lot for bus pick-up are invited in for coffee, tea, homemade sweets, and conversation. The pastor's wife, Mayumi, was recently diagnosed with colon cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.



Brazil: Brazilian Pastor Walter and his family are relocating to Limeira to plant a new church. His support is a result of a partnership between the Association of FWB Churches in the Campinas area, the First FWB Church of Campinas, the São José FWB Church (Campinas), and the Mission.



Côte d'Ivoire: Verlin Anderson spent four days in Bondoukou teaching people to train others for CHE (Community Health Evangelism). Praise God for those who attended, listened, and learned. Pray they will take the training back to their villages and use it to improve the quality of life and health of villagers, but more importantly, to share the Bread of Life.

Portell Selected for THP Role



ANTIOCH, TN—Darren Portell will assume a position as stateside administrator for The Hanna Project on July 15, 2012. Founded in 2004 as a humanitarian and relief agency, The Hanna Project is a non-governmental organization known by many people as THP.

Darren and his wife Dana have served as field workers with THP since 2002. The Portells have lived in France and North Africa, giving Darren a unique perspective of working with overseas personnel to accomplish the goals of stateside teams.

Darren acknowledged, "We knew when God brought us back from North Africa that He might be redirecting our ministry. Dana and I have spent the last year trying to discover the next step in God's plan for us. We had to give up our plans and desires to see Him leading us to stay in the States for the foreseeable future."

"I believe Darren's administrative giftedness, people skills, and understanding of working overseas provide just the right package of skills for this position at this time," stated General Director Clint Morgan. "We are delighted to have him join the team in this capacity."

THP has completed projects in North Africa, West Africa, Europe, Central America, South America, Asia, and Central Asia. The agency identifies needs among underserved people and focuses on medical, educational, and relief projects. THP sends teams of highly qualified, trained professionals to bring help, hope, and healing while working in concert with in-country partners.

Read the full story at www.fwbgo.com ■



WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?

BY RON HUNTER JR.

When was the last time your GPS was not working, you had no cell signal, and no map in an unfamiliar area? The feeling of the unknown can be a bit unsettling. Many wrong turns result from not having clear instructions or good guidance.

Imagine a scenario where you suddenly have to sit in the cockpit and pilot a plane to a safe landing. You would immediately get on the radio and see if someone on the other end could tell you what to do, where to go, and ask for step-by-step instructions because your life depended on it.

Is a person's spiritual life any less significant? A new believer should not expect any less when beginning his or her journey of faith. Just like flying, you need a destination, a guide, a map, and place to be outfitted for the journey.

One of the most frequently asked questions deals with what type of new convert or new member studies Randall House offers. It has been nearly 20 years since Free Will Baptists published a new convert or new member study. Pastors consistently seek better ways to help people understand their faith, Free Will Baptist doctrine and history, and how to help them become a vital part of the local church. The Great Commission is not limited to outreach or winning someone to Christ. Matthew 28 commands all Christians to disciple the new believers and teach them how to follow God. Where do you begin, and what should you teach?

For the past six years, I have asked numerous pastors if they have developed a study for new believers. Many have adapted by teaching a series of lessons including various topics from multiple books, but none felt that Free Will Baptist doctrine, history, and church polity were adequately covered in what they were teaching. These pastors all wanted a study produced by Free Will Baptists for Free Will Baptists.

Two years ago, I proposed a concept for the *Free Will Baptist Guide for New Believers, Journey of a Lifetime for New Believers and Members* to our publishing board—the group that reviews book proposals. The proposal included surveying numerous Free Will Baptist pastors about the topics they felt needed to be included in the study.

Once the 12 topics were determined, as general editor, I wrote an outline for each chapter, giving the book a hiking metaphor to tie the chapters together. The challenge of the project included finding a different Free Will Baptist pastor to write each chapter. This was no easy task. The pastor had to be able to write credibly about the topic assigned, meet deadlines, and work with the general editor.

Each pastor selected knew he was part of a larger writing group, but no one knew the others involved. Each willingly trusted to be part of something significant as a diverse set of writers with one common goal.

Pastors gladly came together to produce this needed resource to help new believers become mature Christ-followers who will make a difference in their local churches. Readers have access to a free downloadable teacher's guide to assist in teaching the material. New believers feel very much like strangers in a foreign land. The *Free Will Baptist Guide for New Believers* provides what is needed to start the journey of a lifetime. This self-guided resource, combined with an instructional review of each chapter by a pastor or staff member, will show new believers the way in their new lives.

Some pastors will teach this during a small group setting, LifeGroup, or Sunday School. When students work through the lessons, it provides a natural segue to be part of a regular Sunday School class, LifeGroup, or small group. Some will teach all 12 lessons, some will allow the student to do all 12 and only teach specific lessons. Pastors may also lead their entire church through this study as a refresher. Whatever way, the *Free Will Baptist Guide for New Believers* is used, it will help new members, long-standing members, and the denomination go further on this journey. **ONE**

About the General Editor:

Ron Hunter Jr. has been married to his college sweetheart, Pamela, since 1987. They have a son and a daughter, Michael and Lauren. Since 2002, Ron has served as the executive director and CEO of Randall House. Ron's distinct approach to leadership, blending creative style and visionary outlook, has led Randall House into new arenas and ministry directions that include D6 Curriculum and the D6 Conference. He wrote *Toy Box Leadership*, published by Thomas Nelson, which was translated into two other languages. He has written more than 30 articles for eight magazines in addition to the Leader Profile column he writes for *ONE Magazine*. Ron served in ministry in both Florida and Tennessee for 11 years before his present role. He has earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible and Pastoral Training from FWBBC, Masters in Public Administration in non-profit management from the University of Colorado, and currently is working on his Ph.D. in Leadership at Dallas Baptist University.

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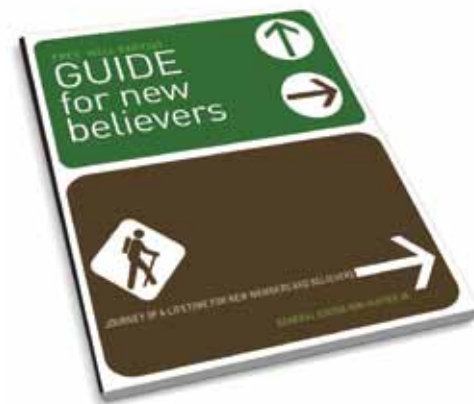
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50th years & 65,000 Lessons Later

BY RON HUNTER JR.

Vision gives direction, sets goals, stretches capabilities, and most of all creates trust in the heavenly Father who calls one to greater accomplishments. Biblically, we find the obvious need for vision as the Bible constantly challenges people to strive for excellence by pressing onward, reaching more, and doing more. Scripture never indicates that it is okay to be stagnant. The early pioneers of Randall House understood big ideas, dreams, and followed God's direction, knowing He would honor faithfulness.

Randall House is celebrating 50 years of ministry after a shaky start in 1962. Why does a denomination need a publishing house? That was the question answered by the leaders and voting body of the National Association of Free Will Baptists when they met in Birmingham in 1957. The minutes reflect their desire to create a department to assist churches with conferences, training, lessons, and other resources. From that convention forward, the vision for Free Will Baptist teaching material and training conferences began to take shape. Using material from other publishers simply taught people to have other beliefs. Free Will Baptist material teaches people to be Free Will Baptist. These leaders knew "What you teach and what you preach determines your belief."

Early attempts to start a publishing house failed as a result of poor business practices, but just when it appeared Free Will Baptists would have to seek teaching and Sunday School materials elsewhere, the state of Oklahoma stepped up and took on the task of producing and selling literature because they felt the denomination needed its own publisher. For four years (1959 to 1962), Oklahoma sustained and

preserved the effort with great success. Then in 1962, at the appropriate time, the state unselfishly returned the publishing ministry to the national Sunday School Board.

Roger Reeds, who served as general director for 32 years, opened the first office at 3801 Richland Avenue in Nashville, Tennessee. This historic home also housed the other national agencies until relocating to Murfreesboro Road in 1965. Early leaders like Jim Lauthern and H. D. Harrison proved to be champions of growing the ministry of Sunday School through training teachers in churches and providing a strong business model for the new ministry. An interesting note: when Jim was hired in 1963, he worked 44 hours a week for \$40. Roger Reeds hired Delbert "Woody" Woods away from the U. S. Treasury Department to create an efficient printing operation that became less and less reliant on outside printers for producing literature.

In 1972, the national convention expanded to become more of a family event. The Church Training Service (CTS) department of Randall House developed a Bible, music, and arts competition that eventually evolved into the National Youth Conference (NYC). The conference attracted over 4,000 young people and sponsors in 2011 and continues to help young people develop their God-given talents for use in their local churches.

In 1978, the Sunday School and Church Training Departments merged into one organization, and growth continued. In 1984, Randall House introduced the Truth & Peace Student Leadership program to teach high school students biblical leadership skills to be used for life. More than a thou-



sand alumni of Truth & Peace serve well in churches, on the mission field, and in the various professions where God has placed them.

The national Youth Evangelistic Team (YET) launched in 1988. The team is selected from among the top-scoring high school students at NYC and travels to churches, camps, and other mission fields to share the message of the gospel through music, drama, outreach, and service.

Randall House encountered turbulent financial challenges in the early 1990s. Dr. Alton Loveless, a Scripture Press veteran and bookstore manager, was hired as the second general director of Randall House. His business acuity provided financial stability for a difficult time. Under his leadership, Randall House began to produce full color covers for all curriculum lines and began a transition into the new world of digital publishing. After nine years of laying a strong foundation, Dr. Loveless retired, and Ron Hunter became the new director in 2002.

Publishing in the new millennium has many new challenges and opportunities. The emergence of the Internet, digital books, and online shopping through outlets such as Amazon has changed the landscape of publishing. A number of denominational publishers have ceased to publish, and others have downsized. Through God's grace, however, Randall House has safely navigated the changing expectations of churches.

Beginning in 2002, Deuteronomy 6—God's idea for generational discipleship—became the driving principle for ev-

erything at Randall House. The launch of CLEAR Curriculum and later the D6 Curriculum incorporated devotional time and family integrated biblical themes with weekly lessons. The digital age makes it possible to provide Bible studies instantly at AccessBibleStudies.com, a fully downloadable children's church at ElementsKidsWorship.com, and a family-integrated worship experience centered around the major holidays of the year with the 607 Experience at D6Family.com/607. In the later part of the decade, Free Will Baptists took the lead within the body of Christ through church-plus-home family discipleship and the establishment of the D6 Conference, where thousands gather each year.

Since 1962, Randall House has produced over 65,000 lessons and continues to write, edit, design, and publish 390 lessons each quarter. Randall House receives over 300 manuscript submissions or book proposals each year and selects 14-16 to publish within the major genres of theology, family and parenting, and Bible studies. Through the last 50 years, well over five generations have used Free Will Baptist materials published by Randall House, and one day your great-great-grandchild may be reading his or her Sunday School lesson published on a tablet (or whatever device is used in 2062). **ONE**

Note: A special thanks to Jim Lauthern and H. D. Harrison for their help in gathering facts for this article. A Free Will Baptist Handbook by J. Matthew Pinson also proved to be a helpful resource for writing.



BY MATTHEW S. BRACEY

It's an election year. Will you vote Democrat, Republican, or independent? Or will you vote at all?

Invariably, discussions of American politics lead to flared tempers. “We should vote for this candidate,” one Christian claims. “No, we should vote that one,” retorts another. Others throw up their hands in frustration and swear off politics altogether. Is this the proper response?

Amidst such clamor and polarization, as Christians, we must look to Scripture as our guide. What does it say about government, politics, citizenship, and voting?

Praise God for Government

The great reformer Martin Luther stated that governing powers exist “by God’s will and ordinance.”¹ It’s true. The Apostle Paul wrote that “there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God” (Rom. 13:1b). Its purposes are clear: to curb wickedness and promote peace.

Even when we don’t understand it, sovereign God Himself institutes governing powers. For Paul, this was Rome. For Luther, Germany. And for us, America.

It’s so easy for us to point out what’s wrong with our government, right? But what about what’s right about it? Consider this: Do we ever hear good news in the media? Hardly. By and large, it’s bad and negative. Yet, we can’t assume that it’s all bad simply because that’s what we see and hear. After all, God did institute it.

Through it, God punishes evildoers, such as murderers, rapists, and thieves through lawyers, judges, and jailers (Romans 13:4). Through it, He watches over us by enacting speed limits and erecting road signs. And through it, He rescues us from burning buildings and desperate car crashes by

the local fire and police departments.

For sure, governing powers do bad things, since the curse on sin has affected those who lead them. Yet, they do great good too. Without government, “wickedness is given free reign,” writes Luther.² Praise God for government!

What does this mean for us? A great deal.

Interpreting Citizenship Through Vocation

Put simply, *vocation* describes that to which someone is called. For Christians, this catchall term refers to any area of life to which God calls us (e.g., 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 7:15-20; 2 Thessalonians 2:14). It includes our professions, yes. But it also includes our families, churches, and schools.

Through the institution of vocation, God calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31). These include all people (cf. Luke 10:29-37). For instance, in families, our “neighbors” are spouses, siblings, and even children. In churches, they include pastors, teachers, and other church members. In professions, they include bosses and co-workers. And in schools, they include professors, fellow students,

and even the administration.

This doctrine is as practical as it is theological:

We can take pride in our vocations. And we need not develop vocational inferiority complexes.

We can eliminate that unbiblical distinction between the “sacred” and “secular.” All callings are holy and sacred, and none are any more spiritual than others, for they are all God’s.³

We can place utter confidence and trust in God who has Himself called us to our respective vocations. This is great news for those entangled in the depths of discouragement, despair, and depression. Because our callings come from beyond ourselves, we can breathe a sigh of relief. The pressure is off.

Finally, we can know that God involves Himself in our lives on a day-to-day basis. Seemingly hidden in the ordinary busyness of everyday life, God is much bigger than we imagined!

Yet, just as vocation encompasses our families, churches, professions, and schools, it also encompasses our nation.

The Ethics of Citizenship

Think about it: We don’t choose the genealogical time or geographical space into which we’re born. No, God chooses that. It’s neither accident nor fortune. It’s God—when and where we’re born. Citizenship is a calling from God.

Are you American? If yes, then God has called you to American citizenship, just as He has called me. This is not by default, but by design. And in it, God calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves. These include fellow citizens, such as that cashier in the grocery store or waiter at your favorite local restaurant. Yet these also include our nation’s civil servants, such as those leaders in the military, politics, and yes, even the IRS.

Through the vocation of citizenship, God calls us to love these neighbors in at least two ways: submission and prayer.

First, God calls us to love our leaders by submitting ourselves to their power. “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers (or governing authorities)” (Romans 13:1a; cf. Titus 3:1), writes Paul. “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man [or human institution] for the Lord’s sake” (1 Peter 2:13), writes Peter.

Just as God institutes governments, He also institutes its leaders. Paul identifies them as God’s agents, ministers, and servants of justice (Romans 13:4, 6). Part of this subjecting means obeying. Jesus puts it this way: “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s” (Matthew 22:21). Peter even identi-

fies such obedience as God’s will (1 Peter 2:15). And to do otherwise is to disobey Him (Romans 13:2).

By obeying America’s laws, we love our fellow citizens. Remember, this is the whole point of vocation—to show Christ’s love to our respective neighbors. For instance, the simple act of stopping at a stop sign and avoiding a collision with another takes on a whole new meaning when viewed in this light.

Second, God calls us to love our leaders by praying for them (1 Timothy 2:1, 2). To do so is “good and acceptable” in God’s sight (1 Timothy 2:3). Paul uses this same phrase in Romans after urging us to present our bodies a living and holy sacrifice, and to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:1, 2). In other words, sacrificial living includes fervent prayer on behalf of our leaders.

Take the early church: Their leaders included the great persecutors, such as Nero, Maximinus Thrax, Decius, Diocletian, and Galerius. If they prayed for their leaders, we can certainly pray for ours. God calls us to it, whether they’re Democrat or Republican, and whether we agree with their policies or not.

**BY OBEYING
AMERICA’S LAWS,
WE LOVE OUR
FELLOW CITIZENS.**

Do you pray for President Barack Obama? Will you pray for whoever wins the upcoming election? For both questions, whatever our political allegiances, we should answer “yes.” God commands it in His Word. And by it, we show Christian love.

God Doesn’t Call Us to Be Jesus. He Calls Us to Be Christians.

Someone once said to me, “You know, the more I think about it, I’m not sure that Christians should concern themselves too much with politics, such as voting. I mean, Jesus didn’t vote, right?” You can imagine my disbelief. After pausing a moment and collecting my thoughts, I replied in kind, yet tongue-in-cheek, “By that logic, we probably shouldn’t marry or own a home either.”

My point was clear enough: The Father called Jesus to live a distinct life. He doesn't call us to live the same life. As a matter of fact, we couldn't if we tried. No, God does not call us to be Jesus. He calls us to be Christians, literally, "little Christs."

This includes taking God at His word in His Word. By design, God has called us to American citizenship. In short, this means we do those things that citizens do. Yes, this includes submitting to government, obeying laws, and praying for leaders. But it includes so much more, like running for local offices, peacefully demonstrating at statehouses and on street corners, attending political rallies, calmly discussing political issues with those around us, and yes, voting in elections.

Plain and Simple

Have you every heard of Thomas Dewey? Perhaps not. He lost the 1948 presidential election to Harry S. Truman. What many don't know is just how close the election was: Had Dewey received one more vote per precinct from the states of California and Ohio, he would have won. Similar examples are sprinkled throughout American history.

Yes, one vote makes a difference. It may seem insignifi-

cant. But it's not—certainly not in the cumulative. And even if it were, God has called us to American citizenship—plain and simple—and thus to vote.

Should we vote? Absolutely! I will, and I hope you will too.

Suggested Reading: Gene Edward Veith Jr., *God At Work: Your Christian Vocation in All of Life* (2002) **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Matthew Bracey, a 2008 FWBBC graduate, writes for the Helwys Society Forum (www.helwysocietyforum.com), a widely read online forum that engages theology, spirituality, ministry, and culture. Having recently graduated from Cumberland School of Law (J.D.) and Beeson Divinity School (M.T.S.), he is currently studying for the Tennessee Bar Examination. He lives in Nashville, TN, with his wife Sarah.

- 1 Martin Luther, *Temporal Authority: To What Extent It Should Be Obeyed* (1523), in *Selected Writings of Martin Luther: Volume 2 (1520-1523)*, Theodore G. Tappert (ed.), J. J. Schindel (trans.), Walther I. Brandt (rev.) (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007), 275
- 2 *Ibid.*, 282.
- 3 Consider these passages as examples of the many professional callings to which God calls His followers: Genesis 41:38-41; Exodus 31:1-11; 35:30-35; 36:1-2 Daniel 2:46-49; Est. 2:17-20; Mark 1:16-20; John 21:1-3; Luke 19:1-10; Acts 8:27; 10:1; 13:7; 18:1-3; Romans 16:23



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PAULITICS

BY ERIC K. THOMSEN

I remember a professor in college warning my classmates and me to be careful when discussing two subjects—politics and women. He warned that these subjects make people angry more quickly than any others. He was right! However, in light of the upcoming election, the subjects of the Christian and his civic duty cannot be ignored.

In Romans 13:1-7, God's definition of Christian civic responsibility is written by the Apostle Paul in the context of the Roman Empire. When Paul penned this letter, the city of Rome had a population that exceeded a million people, mostly slaves. Immensely wealthy, people from across the empire crowded into the city to see its amazing architecture firsthand. They brought with them the religions of their lands, making the city an important crossroad for the gospel.

Paul wrote this epistle to the church in Rome from Corinth in A.D. 57, at the conclusion of his third missionary journey. Although we don't know how the church in Rome started, it had been in existence for some time before Paul wrote this, as Paul stated in Romans 1:8 that the faith of the Christians in Rome was already well known.

Paul did not start the church in Rome. He had never been to Rome prior to writing this letter. Yet, based on his opening statements in the first chapter of the epistle, it seems he wrote to the church to prepare them for a coming visit (1:10). The intention of both epistle and visit was to ground the young church in theology.

Because the Roman church was comprised of both Jews and Greeks, the doctrine of salvation was crucial. Paul covered this subject in the first 11 chapters, explaining salvation—from creation to covenant with Abraham to the importance of faith in the saving work of Christ. In chapters 12-15, however, Paul turned his attention to the results of salvation in the life of every Christian. It is in these chapters that Paul explained the

role of the Christian in relationship to the government.

The Roman Christians lived in a different world than ours. Consider the social situation of the day—absolute, cruel, power-hungry rulers; slavery (at a ratio of three to one); high taxes; and religious persecution nearing its peak. With their difficult situation in mind, the primary principle in this passage—we will call it the Politic Principle—is especially powerful.

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers.”

What a statement. It's unqualified, unlimited, and unconditional. To understand the full impact of Paul's words in Romans 13:1, consider the original language. The phrase translated *every soul* is a Hebrew phrase meaning “every single one of you.”

The emphasis is on individual responsibility. Every Christian has a civic responsibility. The verb translated *be subject* is imperative—the Greek word *hupotasso*, a military term commanding believers to line up and take orders from the higher powers. The text makes no distinction between good rulers and bad rulers, fair laws and unfair laws.

What is the sum truth of this statement—this “Politic Principle”? Christians are called to submit. This has not been difficult to this point in American history, because the laws are just for the most part, rightly representing divine truth. But if we face laws that are unjust and unfair in the future, according to this passage, we must remain submissive. Jesus made this clear when He said, *“Render, therefore, unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God, the things that are God's”* (Matthew 22:21).

The verses that follow clarify the principle further. First, God allows rulers to come to power (verse 1b). He will not be surprised by the results of the coming election, and to act as though He will deeply underestimate His ability. Second, rulers are “ordained” of God as ministers of order (verses 1c, 3, 4a) and governments perform God's justice on earth (verse

IF WE FACE
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4). To rebel against human government is to rebel against God (verse 2a), and such rebellion has dire consequences, both spiritual and man-made (verse 2b). In contrast, obedience to the government results in God's glory (verse 3c).

So, with this Politic Principal in mind, what specific civic responsibilities does the Bible teach us to observe as believers?

Pay Taxes (verses 6, 7). "Pay ye tribute..." I think we can infer from these blunt words that we are to carry out all of the expected civic responsibilities—vote, pay taxes, submit to jury duty, serve in the military, hold political office, and more. Too often, Christians want to "opt out" of civic responsibilities on the basis of their religious standing. I simply cannot find a basis for that in the Word of God. In contrast, Christians should be model citizens. The church should be the example not the scapegoat!

Pray (1 Timothy 2:1, 2a). "I exhort, therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men, for kings, and for all that are in authority."

The most important civic responsibility for the Christian is prayer. Serious prayer. Something that every single believer can do! Without going into a detailed explanation of the various types of prayer listed in this verse—supplications, prayer, intercessions, and giving of thanks—the passage paints a clear picture. Pray, pray, pray. Pray *for* our leaders. Pray *about* our leaders. Pray for wisdom. Pray for spiritual health. Even pray imprecatory prayers—that is, pray for judgment or godly justice.

Above all, pray. Recall the promise of 2 Chronicles 7:14, "*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*"

Live Peaceable Lives (1 Timothy 2:2b). Paul admonished Timothy to live a quiet, peaceable existence. We should make peace, not stir up trouble or make needless protests. We should live quiet, peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty.

Christians affect the society from the inside out by changing the hearts of the people, not the political structure of society.

Let Your Life Speak Loudly (Titus 3:1, 2). "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men."

Paul instructs us to be careful about the manner in which we speak out against leaders. Can we disagree? Certainly. Ask Luther, Calvin, or Huss. Yet we should not speak in a way that demeans the name of Christ in our society.

After considering Paul's political advice, and in light of today's charged political climate, you may wonder, "Can one person really make a difference? Does my vote, my voice, my citizenship count? Can one life really affect the course of society?"

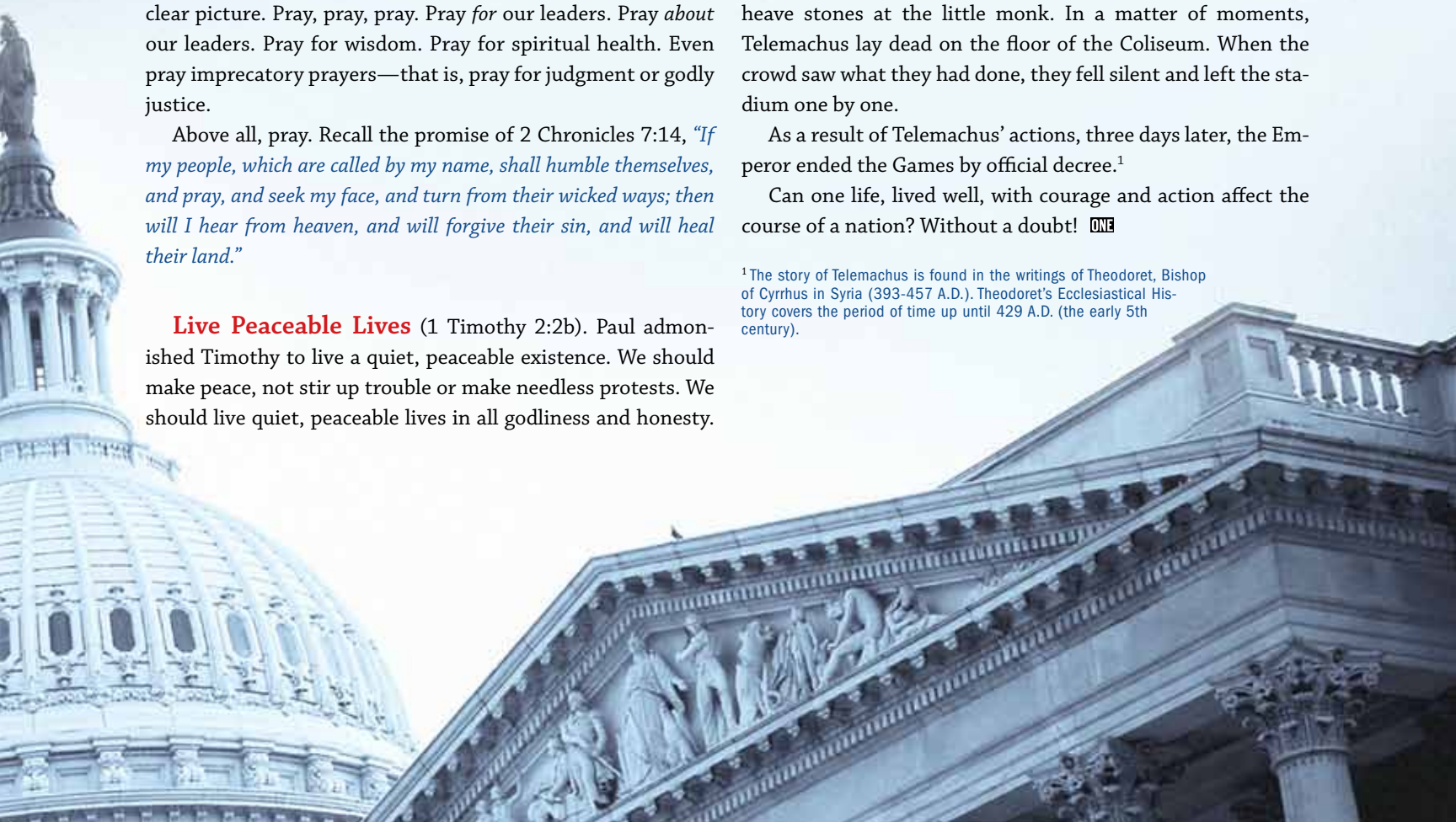
Consider Telemachus the Turkish monk who made a pilgrimage to Rome in the early 5th Century. When he reached the city, he inadvertently followed the surging crowd into the Coliseum. He was horrified to see two gladiators intent on killing each other. He leaped over the wall, and ran between the men, shouting, "In the name of Christ, forbear!"

Ashamed, the gladiators stopped fighting. The crowd, enraged that their bloodlust had been interrupted, began to heave stones at the little monk. In a matter of moments, Telemachus lay dead on the floor of the Coliseum. When the crowd saw what they had done, they fell silent and left the stadium one by one.

As a result of Telemachus' actions, three days later, the Emperor ended the Games by official decree.¹

Can one life, lived well, with courage and action affect the course of a nation? Without a doubt! **ONE**

¹The story of Telemachus is found in the writings of Theodoret, Bishop of Cyrrhus in Syria (393-457 A.D.). Theodoret's Ecclesiastical History covers the period of time up until 429 A.D. (the early 5th century).



Brown on Green >>>

Taxes, Taxes, and More Tax Us Preparing for the end of Bush Tax Cuts

Unless Congress acts before the end of this year, everyone will face huge tax increases. And given the political climate in Washington, it seems unlikely Congress will act. Taxpayers will be impacted in several different areas of the tax code. The current and 2013 tax brackets are listed below. If the cuts expire, the 10% bracket will go away, exposing the poorest Americans to the 15% bracket first. In addition, all of the brackets will move up.

BRACKETS	2013 BRACKETS
10%	15%
15%	28%
25%	31%
33%	36%
35%	39.6%

This bracket creep will affect middle class taxpayers severely. For instance, a couple making more than \$59,300 in 2013 after exemptions and standard deduction will find themselves in the 28% bracket. For 2012, that same couple would have to make more than \$142,700 to hit the 28% bracket.

In addition to the bracket changes, capital gains and dividend taxes will go up as well. The maximum rate for long-term capital gains will go from 15% to 20%. Taxpayers who are currently in the 10% and 15% brackets will go from paying no tax on capital gains to 10%. Dividends will be treated as ordinary income, which means they will be taxed the same as interest income instead of a flat 15%.

The marriage penalty laws will also be repealed; meaning the standard deduction for married couples will go down, adding more pain for married American taxpayers. For higher income taxpayers, itemized deductions and personal exemptions will begin to phase out. In addition, the 2% rollback on Social Security tax is also scheduled for repeal. This too will affect every taxpayer.

The chart below illustrates how taxpayers will be affected at different income levels. A \$266 per month reduction in take-home pay seems like a daunting challenge in this still-recovering economy. Let's hope Congress and the President have the courage to act before December 31. **ONE**

2013 INCOME TAX PROJECTIONS FOR MARRIED FILING JOINTLY WITH TWO CHILDREN UNDER 17

INCOME	ANNUAL TAX INCREASE	MONTHLY TAKE HOME REDUCTION
\$50,000	\$3,203	\$266.91
\$75,000	\$3,703	\$308.58
\$100,000	\$5,470	\$455.83



A passionate cry for hymns—new and old—
that reflect Free Will Baptist theology.

NO ONE WRITES *Apostasy Hymns*

✿ BY MATTHEW PINSON ✿

Southern Seminary Vice President Russell Moore recently wrote that Southern Baptist non-Calvinists could learn something about being Arminian from Free Will Baptist Bible College. He commented, “In chapel, they sang the great old hymns of the faith right along with contemporary hymns from, of all things, the Sovereign Grace church movement of C. J. Mahaney. Pinson told me he agrees with almost all the lyrics of these songs, precisely because they exalt the grace of God in Christ. ‘Besides,’ he said, ‘No one writes apostasy hymns.’”¹

This statement brings up a whole series of questions about our hymnody and its theological content in the modern church. Sovereign Grace songs are attempts at wedding theologically deep lyrics with contemporary tunes. We have eagerly used many of these songs in our worship music at Free Will Baptist Bible College precisely because they unite contemporary arrangements with doctrinally serious poetry. And we think this helps us better embody the Apostle Paul’s teaching that the purpose of the Church’s psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs is to teach and admonish the body of Christ, thereby allowing His Word to dwell in us richly with all wisdom as we sing with grace

in our hearts to God (Colossians 3:16).²

But an Arminian school like ours bumps up against a real problem using Sovereign Grace Music. That is precisely the doctrinal content of those songs. It almost seems as though every other song they publish teaches Calvinistic views of salvation, and that makes it impossible for us to use some of them in our worship.

Resist Empty Genres ✿

But there is another, much more serious issue that arises from this discussion, and that is the general theological vacuity of the run-of-the-mill evangelical praise-and-worship genre—the songs that top the CCLI charts. It’s ironic that, on the one hand, we have Sovereign Grace Music producing songs somewhat more like the praise-and-worship genre stylistically but lyrically more like the grand hymn tradition of the Christian church.

Then on the other hand, most CCLI chart-toppers are all but empty in their theology—maybe helping us sing some with grace in our hearts, but hardly at all helping us teach and admonish each other, thus letting the Word of Christ dwell richly, deeply, copiously in us with all wisdom.

¹ Russell Moore, “Learning from Nineteenth-Century Baptists,” in David Dockery, ed., *Southern Baptist Identity: An Evangelical Denomination Faces the Future* (Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2009), 113-14.

Reform Current Hymnody ❁

But that brings me to my third thought, that the theological content of our hymnody has gradually become less important in the Church's song. It's time we had a reformation in our hymnody, getting back to the biblical vision of theologically rich worship music. One way to do this is to sing new songs like those of Sovereign Grace Music, and simply change some of the lyrics to reflect Arminian rather than Calvinist theology.

This is precisely what I saw had been done by Indelible Grace from a Calvinist perspective. Recently, our campus pastor Matthew McAfee introduced a song in chapel at FWBBC, "Arise, My Soul, Arise." It was that old hymn text by Charles Wesley that was in every Free Will Baptist hymnal until the mid-20th century. And here it was, set to new music by, of all things, a Calvinist publisher, Reformed University Fellowship.

That organization puts out the Indelible Grace albums, setting old hymns, many long fallen out of use, to contemporary arrangements. As we were singing this new song in chapel, I noticed that they had changed Wesley's words, "His blood atoned for all the race" to "His blood atoned for every race," thus adjusting it to their limited-atonement Calvinist theology. (Needless to say, we changed it back to Wesley's original wording.)

This is an interesting example of what could be done to recapture biblical depth in our singing while still singing some new songs, along with the rich music bequeathed to us by the Christian tradition. We could simply take these new songs from the Calvinists—who sometimes seem to be the only people these days interested in theologically rich song lyrics—and adapt them theologically for our

own use.

This would include new tunes with new lyrics from publishers like Sovereign Grace, as well as new tunes with old lyrics from publishers like Reformed University Fellowship, Ligonier, and New Parish Psalms. And I think that's a good strategy, one we've employed at our institution.

Reinforce Free Will Baptist Theology ❁

But there's another thing we could do, and that is bring back hymnody that reflects our own theology and either use traditional tunes, write new tunes for the old texts, or utilize recently written metrical hymn tunes (with permission) from sources like those mentioned above.

I came across just such a hymn—another Charles Wesley text—and it immediately reminded me of what I told Russell Moore that day after chapel about nobody writing apostasy hymns. The hymn I discovered—really it was just the original last verse of a hymn that I'd known all my life—was "A Charge to Keep." Finally, I had found an apostasy hymn!

Yet the last, original verse of that stirring hymn had been dropped or changed in just about every hymnal by the middle of the 20th century, and eventually, as hymnals from some Arminian denominations were revised over the years, they would include the edition which left out or altered the last verse.

Here are the first three verses, found in most modern hymnals and in the 1964 *Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* (Nashville) and 1958 *Free Will Baptist Hymnal* (Ayden):

**A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify,
A never-dying soul to save,
And fit it for the sky.
To serve the present age,**

**My calling to fulfill:
O may it all my powers engage
To do my Master's will!**

**Arm me with jealous care,
As in Thy sight to live;
And O Thy servant, Lord, prepare
A strict account to give!**

Wesley's original final verse gives this sober warning, which can't be found in most modern hymnals³:

**Help me to watch and pray,
And on Thyself rely,
Assured, if I my trust betray,
I shall forever die.⁴**

By rescuing from obscurity older hymns that reinforce our theology, we could go a long way toward recapturing the scriptural desire of our forefathers to use worship music to teach the faith and let the Word of God deeply penetrate our hearts as well as our minds. If the old saying is true that the way most people have learned their theology is from hymns, this is of utmost importance.

This could prepare the way for training up a new generation of songwriters who—drawing on the wealth of the Christian hymn tradition, diligently learning biblical theology, and carefully studying the age-old art of poetry—could write new hymns and spiritual songs and enable the church to continue to "sing to the Lord a new song, and his praise in the assembly of saints" (Psalm 149:1). This is something we are already seeing by writers such as Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend. And I believe our younger generation of Free Will Baptists is uniquely suited—and more ready than you think—for this momentous task. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Matthew Pinson is president of Free Will Baptist Bible College. Learn more about the college at www.fwbbc.edu.

² For an excellent exposition of this passage, and an in-depth approach to the New Testament's requirement for worship music to be theologically rich, see Jeff Crabtree, "Congregational Singing: The Mandate of Colossians 3:16," *Integrity* (Summer 2008), 53-71.

³ This verse is transcribed from my copy of *Zion's Hymns: For the Use of the Original Free Will Baptist Church of North Carolina, and for the Saints of All Denominations* (Pikeville, NC: Elder Daniel Davis, 1854), no. 45. The same wording is found in countless hymnals in the 18th and 19th centuries.

⁴ *The American Hymnal*, a well-known hymnal published in 1913, changed the last verse to the following: "Help me to watch and pray / Be with me in the strife / Thine every word may I obey / And find in thee my life." According to Eric Routley and Peter Cutts, the last verse was commonly changed to read as follows: "And let me ne'er my trust betray / but press to realms on high," "So shall I not my trust betray / nor shall I ever die" and "So shall I not my trust betray / nor love within me die" (*An English-Speaking Hymnal Guide* [Chicago: GIA, 2005], 1). A. M. Townsend's *Baptist Standard Hymnal* (1924) has: "By faith assured I will obey / For I shall never die."

News at FWBBC

Student Body Elects 2012-2013 Officers



Ladies: (L) Audrey Trotter, Bethany Hovis; Men: (L) Cody Truett, Frank Thornsbury, Aaron Pierce

Five undergraduate students at Free Will Baptist Bible College were elected by their peers to serve as 2012-2013 Student Body officers.

Frank Thornsbury, a senior History major from Kentucky, was elected to his second term as president and will preside at both Student Body and Student Council meetings. The vice-president is Audrey Trotter, a junior Child Development and Learning major from Tennessee. Missouri English major Bethany Hovis will serve as secretary/treasurer.

Senior Biblical Ministry Studies major Aaron Pierce from Mississippi was elected chaplain and will provide spiritual leadership for the Student Body. Cody Truett, a junior Theological Studies major from Florida will serve as worship leader. ■

Fifty-Seven Graduate in Commencement Exercises

Free Will Baptist Bible College conferred degrees on 57 students from 16 states and two foreign countries in commencement exercises at Memorial Auditorium on Friday, May 4, according to President Matt Pinson. This was the largest graduating class since 2008. Students completed degrees in multiple programs ranging from two-year associate's degrees to four-year bachelor's degrees. Thirty-seven percent of the class graduated with honors.

Reverend Terry Forrest, pastoral ministry program coordinator, delivered the commencement address on the importance of FWBBC. He challenged graduates to remember three things: what you have seen here, what you have heard, and what you have felt. He brought the crowd to their feet for a standing ovation honoring President Pinson and his family for their sacrifices on behalf of the college. Forrest's youngest daughter Lauren is a member of the 2012 graduating class.

Georgia pastor Billy D. Hanna (First Free Will Baptist Church, Albany) presented Thursday evening's baccalaureate message from Matthew 9:35-38, reminding graduates they were "blessed because they had been introduced to the wisdom of the ages in Jesus Christ." He advocated learning four principles to diffuse the knowledge they received at FWBBC: see as Jesus saw, feel as Jesus felt, pray as Jesus prayed, and do as Jesus did. Hanna, a member of the FWBBC Board of Trustees and 1973 FWBBC graduate, also served 12 years on the Randall House Board.

Ron Callaway, a member of the Theological Studies faculty and Missions program coordinator, was named Academic Advisor of the Year. President Pinson presented plaques to retiring vice president and senior financial counsel Tom Sass for 40 years of faithful service, and to Jack Williams who is shifting to a volunteer/mentor role as director of communications. The college commends to you and to the work of the Lord the members of the 2012 graduating class. ■

2012 Graduates with Majors and Honors

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

Associate of Science Degrees

Katie June Bryan
Mt. Juliet, TN
Biology

Morgan Brittany Fite +
Mt. Juliet, TN
Business

Andre Jabbar Grayson
Birmingham, AL
Business

Kimberly Gail Hagood
Whitesburg, TN
Ministry

Nathaniel Matthew Hagood
Whitesburg, TN
Ministry

Michael Edward Hunt +
Wagoner, OK
Ministry

Michael William Martin
Mantua, OH
Ministry

Jeffrey Kyle Moore
Rogersville, MO
Ministry

Jacquelyn Nicole Owen +
Jacksonville, NC
Biology

Josue Israel Suarez +
Hialeah, FL
Ministry

Jonathan David Weeks
Nashville, TN
Business

Bachelor of Science Degrees

Daniel Craig Armstrong
Wheelersburg, OH
Exercise Science

James Dale Bradford *
Silver Lake, IN
History
Licensure 7-12

Matthew Grady Calhoun
Colquitt, GA
Pastoral Ministry

Christy L. Carnathan **
Tupelo, MS
Exercise Science

Alice Marie Caudill
Pierceton, IN
Psychology

Timothy Randall Clements
Durham, NC
Christian Education

Christopher Mykel Davenport
Chattanooga, TN
General Christian Ministries

Nicholas O'Nale Dennis *
Vilonia, AR
Christian Education

Laura Jean Dooley +
Austintown, OH
Psychology

Thaddaeus Lawton Douglas *
Macon, GA
History
Licensure 7-12

Lauren Leigh Forrest *
Ashland City, TN
Child Development and Learning
Licensure K-6

Alyssa Anne Franks *
Chapmansboro, TN
Child Development and Learning
Licensure K-6

Jack Gilbert French
Knoxville, TN
Youth Ministry

Ricky Lee Hogue
Gastonia, NC
Youth Ministry

Georgia Brenteney Jeffreys **
Red Bay, AL
Youth Ministry

Caleb Elisha Jones
Olive Branch, MS
Business Administration

David Lee Landers
Batesville, AR
Pastoral Ministry

Zachery Paul Maloney
Morehead, KY
Pastoral Ministry

Jaclyn Monique Martin *
Minford, OH
Psychology

Hanna Gabrielle McCuin *
Dodge City, KS
Psychology

Megan Laurel Nelson **
Old Hickory, TN
Child Development and Learning
Licensure K-6

Judson Michael Phenicie
Nauvoo, AL
Pastoral Ministry

Amanda Michelle Reeder
Sainte Genevieve, MO
Child Development and Learning
Licensure K-6

Rebecca Leah Rish
Roann, IN
Child Development and Learning
Licensure K-6

Stephanie Marcum Rowlett
LaVergne, TN
Child Development and Learning

Ashley Nicole Santiago
Hazel Park, MI
Psychology

Hannah Elizabeth Shaffer
Saint George, WV
Music Performance

David Ryan Snow *
Old Hickory, TN
English
Licensure 7-12

Carl Robert Spruill
Virginia Beach, VA
General Christian Ministries

Christopher Glen Talbot
Tecumseh, MI
Pastoral Ministry

Phillip Kyle Tolbert **
Paw Paw, MI
Youth Ministry

Rachel Gracealene Trimble ***
Greeneville, TN
Psychology

Faith Elizabeth Wilkerson
De Soto, MO
Child Development and Learning
Licensure K-6

Bachelor of Arts Degrees
Suzanne Michelle Anderson
Bethpage, TN
Missions

Munkhtulga Baasandamba
Mongolia
Psychology

Douglas Scott Bishop
Japan
Missions

Elijah Gale Carpenter ***
Church Hill, TN
History

Katie Grace Duttine *
Sod, WV
History

Thomas Wayne Howard ***
Troy, MI
English

Jennifer Ashley McGhee
Dayton, OH
Pastoral Ministry

Stephen Wesley Nelson **
New Bern, NC
English

Shawn Matthew Richards **
Ashland City, TN
Missions

Jimmie Donovan Riley *
Clay, KY
Pastoral Ministry

Jason Gentry Willaford **
Jacksonville, NC
Pastoral Ministry

Bachelor of Music Education Degrees
Kimberly Dawn Harden **
Kirksville, MO
Music Education
Licensure K-12

Lacey Jane Price *
Wheelersburg, OH
Music Education
Licensure K-12

*** Suma Cum Laude
** Magna Cum Laude
* Cum Laude
+ Not Present



Students Score Above National Averages on CAAP Tests

FWBBC students achieved above average scores in all areas of the nationally administered Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) for the first time since the test began to be administered at FWBBC in 2001, according to Provost Greg Ketteman.

The national CAAP assessment is given to exiting U.S. college students every year in order to determine proficiency in several key areas of learning. The assessment is especially important in that it displays the student's abilities and knowledge in multiple areas, including those outside their particular field of study. These areas include writing, math, reading, critical thinking, and science.

Dr. Ketteman said, "Success on these exit exams is no accident. These good outcomes are a result of careful planning, quality curriculum and instruction, and students who take learning seriously."

All FWBBC academic programs require students to undergo training in these general areas of study, often referred to as the "general education core curriculum." This area of the college curriculum is designed to "broaden and deepen the general education of the students, to enhance their position as citizens and servants in the world, to cultivate Christian culture, and to develop refinement and social skills."

FWBBC began administering the writing, math, and reading assessments in 2001. The critical thinking assessment was added in 2003, with the science assessment added in 2006. The CAAP assessment was not administered at FWBBC in 2005 due to a change in scheduling of the assessment that year.

With the inclusion of 2011 assessments, FWBBC students' reading and writing scores have been above the national norm for eight and nine of the ten years (respectively) the test has been administered. Critical thinking has been at or above the national average for seven of the ten years the test has been administered. And for the first time since the test began to be administered at FWBBC in 2001, math and science scores were above the national norm.

"The CAAP assessment results are further proof that FWBBC graduates are getting a quality education that prepares them for life and ministry after graduation," President Matt Pinson said. "While the college has for many years been recognized for excellence in biblical higher education and in specific fields of ministry or vocation such as teacher education, history, music, and English, the proficiency of our students on CAAP assessments demonstrates that FWBBC students are responding well to a well-rounded, quality education." ■

Student Satisfaction Survey Gives FWBBC High Marks for Personalized Attention

The Noel-Levitz Student Satisfaction Inventory, conducted nationwide among national four-year colleges, ranked Free Will Baptist Bible College in the top 20% in key areas of college experience and student expectations, according to President Matt Pinson. Some 90% of FWBBC students report that the college met their expectations for a college experience, with 63% reporting that the college exceeded their expectations (compared to 83% and 50% respectively at national, four-year colleges).

Dr. Pinson said, "The areas where we received our highest marks in comparison to other private colleges happen to be the areas we emphasize that distinguish FWBBC from other colleges and universities. These traits make our campus attractive to students and parents who desire excellent academics combined with a deep, personalized investment in the spiritual and academic life of each individual student."

Eighty-three percent of FWBBC students surveyed said they were satisfied with their college experience (compared to 76% of students at other national, four-year private colleges). Asked if they were likely to enroll again if they had it to do over, 83% of FWBBC students surveyed responded "Yes" (compared to 72% of students at other national, four-year colleges).

The nine areas where FWBBC received the highest marks when compared to other colleges and universities that participated in the survey:

- *Caring and helpful staff*
- *Convenient registration*
- *Administrators available to hear student concerns*
- *Campus safety and security*
- *Adequate library services*
- *Excellent personal academic advising*
- *Fair and unbiased faculty in treatment of individual students*
- *Availability of sufficient courses in major*
- *Residence hall staff concerned about the individual*

The student survey also indicated areas where FWBBC needs improvement: better technology, more food selections, and campus maintenance. The first and third areas will be enhanced by relocation to the new campus in Gallatin.

Provost Greg Ketteman said, "This summary of the recent survey confirms what we thought about FWBBC—the vast majority of our students believe they are getting what they came here to find, and our denominational constituency can be assured that FWBBC is a name they can trust with tomorrow and with their children." ■



Finding refuge in the Lord...

You Are Not Alone

By (CH MAJ) Steven Simpson

*Y*ou all face times in life when we feel alone and confused. We may hit a rough patch in our marriages; our children may struggle. Our bills may pile up, or our job may be in jeopardy. It can be frustrating when we can feel as if no one understands what we are going through. Even our prayers can seem like exercises in futility.

Sometimes, we feel like Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane—all alone. Or, we may want to repeat Jesus' words from the cross: "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?"

In our minds, we know God did not really abandon Jesus, and we know by faith He has not abandoned us. But our hearts don't always feel what our minds know to be true.

The good news is that even when we feel abandoned and alone, God is with us every step of the way. He wants to strengthen and encourage us, to console us. He wants to pour His grace on us so we can find strength to live as confident children of God, even in the midst of hardships.

We need to let the good news of God's love and His presence fill our minds and comfort our hearts. Consider the following principles from the Bible.

God loves you. "Yes, God loves me very much." This is the most important truth you can cling to in times of difficulty. Your heavenly Father loves you as much as He loves Jesus (John 17:23). You are the crown of His creation, and He loves you with boundless love (Jeremiah 31:3).

God knows everything about you. He knows when you feel broken, and He wants to help you (Psalm 34:19). He wants to give you the ability to do more than you can even imagine (Ephesians 3:20). One day, God will make all things new (Revelation 21:5). In the New Jerusalem, He will wipe away every tear from your eyes. There will be no more death, mourning, weeping, or pain. Until that day comes, nothing can separate you from His love (Romans 8:39), so trust in God with all your heart (Psalm 62:8). Never forget,

"Christ in you, the hope of glory." That is, Jesus Christ lives in you! You are bound for Heaven, no matter what you are facing right now.

God also calls upon us to help others. Many people are suffering as a result of the current economic climate. Many around us have debilitating diseases or have been wounded in some serious way in their lives. We can bring God's grace to those around us. We can do this by showing compassion for those struggling. We all have a mission to show God's grace to those who are hurting around us.

How blessed we are to have a God who loves us so much. May He bless us all today, especially when we face our own moment of trial and suffering. Be a blessing today by helping someone around you who is not expecting it. You will receive the real blessing when you do. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: CH(MAJ) Steven Simpson is currently serving at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

THE NATIONAL HOME MISSIONS

75TH ANNIVERSARY (1938 – 2013)
Heritage Trip 2013

By David Crowe



In 2013, the Home Missions Department will celebrate 75 years of planting churches and ministering to Free Will Baptist churches in North America. When the department was established in 1938 by the National Association of Free Will Baptists, little did they realize how many churches would be planted, how many souls would be saved, and how many lives would be changed forever!

In those early days, the denomination understood the biblical mandate to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth. As Free Will Baptists, we believe God has given everyone freedom of will either to accept or reject His offer of salvation by grace through faith. This very belief dictates that we must be mission-minded. How can they be saved if they do not hear? How can they hear if no one preaches the Word, and how will they go if no one sends them?

Our denominational leaders also understood that in order to send missionaries around the globe, we needed a strong base. The Home Missions Department was established to plant churches and help strengthen established churches across North America, including the 50 United States, Mexico, Canada, and the U.S. Territories (Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands).

Over the past 75 years the department has been guided by godly men and women and supported by hundreds of FWB churches. Hundreds of churches have been planted

and tens of thousands have been saved as a result of the ministries and outreach of Home Missions. Only in eternity will we completely realize and understand the impact Home Missions has had on our denominations and on the Kingdom of God.

To honor and to celebrate this great milestone, we are planning a 75th Anniversary Heritage Trip for the fall of 2013. Home Missions has taken hundreds of pastors and their wives on Heritage Trips across North America. On this trip, we will visit the northern areas where Free Will Baptists had their beginnings in this country. We will consider the European aspects of our history and how it affected the early days on this continent.

This will be the most comprehensive and detailed Heritage Trip to date. We hope to have more than 50 couples go with us. If you've been with us before, we hope you will go again. We will add visits to some exciting new areas.

Watch for more detailed information about this trip and the itinerary. If you have questions regarding the trip or how to qualify to join us, please call the Home Missions Department. We will be glad to tell you everything we know about the trip. We hope you will join us on this enjoyable, educational, and inspiring Heritage Trip. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: David Crowe is director of development for Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Learn more at www.homemissions.net.

HOME MISSIONS INITIATIVE

BY LARRY A. POWELL

BUILDING BRIDGES

Since all the world is coming to America, North American church planters are learning new and effective methods to build bridges to a diverse community. Our missionaries are introducing the supernatural Christ of the Bible to a society dominated by naturalistic beliefs. Today, perhaps more than at any time in the history of our movement, our missionaries are sharing the love and forgiveness of our Savior with compassion in an increasingly anti-God culture.

RECENT REPORTS

Recently, several of our church planters reported more than a 100—some near the 200 mark—during special outreach efforts. Hundreds of visitors are coming under the preaching of the gospel of forgiveness by repentance and faith in Christ. Free Will Baptist church planters are seeing more being saved and baptized than ever before.

Praise the Lord! They are reaping the harvest across North America. We have a burning desire to win more souls and plant more churches than ever before our Lord returns.

DO THE MAIN THINGS WELL

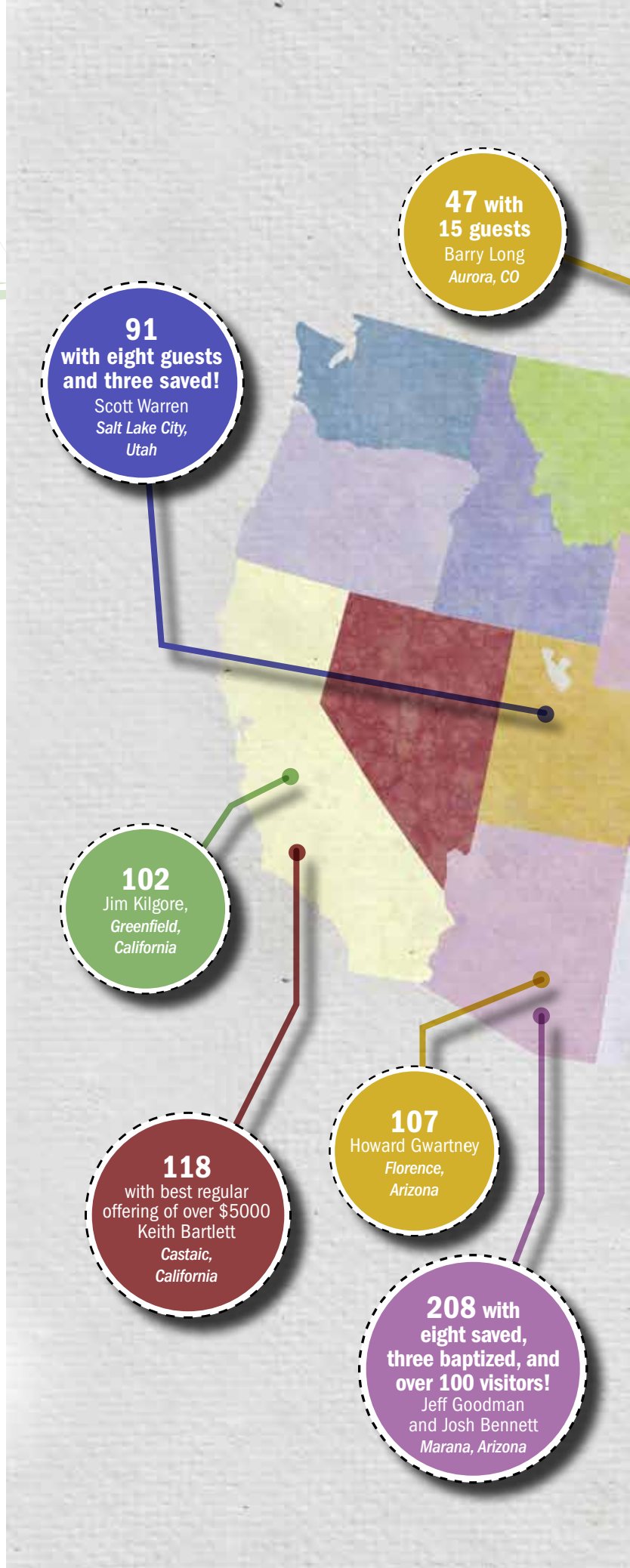
In a recent Home Missions Board meeting, we discussed how to make and keep loyal supporters who will enable us to continue this vital work. Some of the conclusions were: continue appointing hard-working missionaries who will complete successful works; keep the main thing, the main thing and do it well—that is, winning the lost to Christ; start new and exciting mission works that will inspire Free Will Baptists to confidence and support; demonstrate genuine appreciation to our supporters; and stay humble and listen well.

At Home Missions, we certainly don't have all the answers, but we are training and equipping our church planters to win families and make disciples who will, in turn, win more precious souls to Christ. Thank you, Free Will Baptists, for your consistent support of our efforts. **ONE**



ABOUT THE WRITER:

Larry A. Powell is director of Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Learn more: www.homemissions.net.



Great Attendance

for Home Missionaries

Now the Chaplain for the Quebec pro baseball team - Les Capitales
Danny Elliott
Quebec, CN

65 with six inches of snow
Jeff Crabtree
Frederickton, New Brunswick

70 with two new families in new convert class
Dana Booth
Rochester, New York

97: Brian Williams, Darin Alvis, Tim York
Buffalo, New York

First weekly service!
22 with 3 visitors
Daryl Grimes
Erie, Pennsylvania

154 with 14 visitors - 67 visitors in last 3 weeks
David Sexton and Marc Neppi
Suffolk, Virginia

43 with 14 visitors
Jason Weaver-Winchester, Virginia

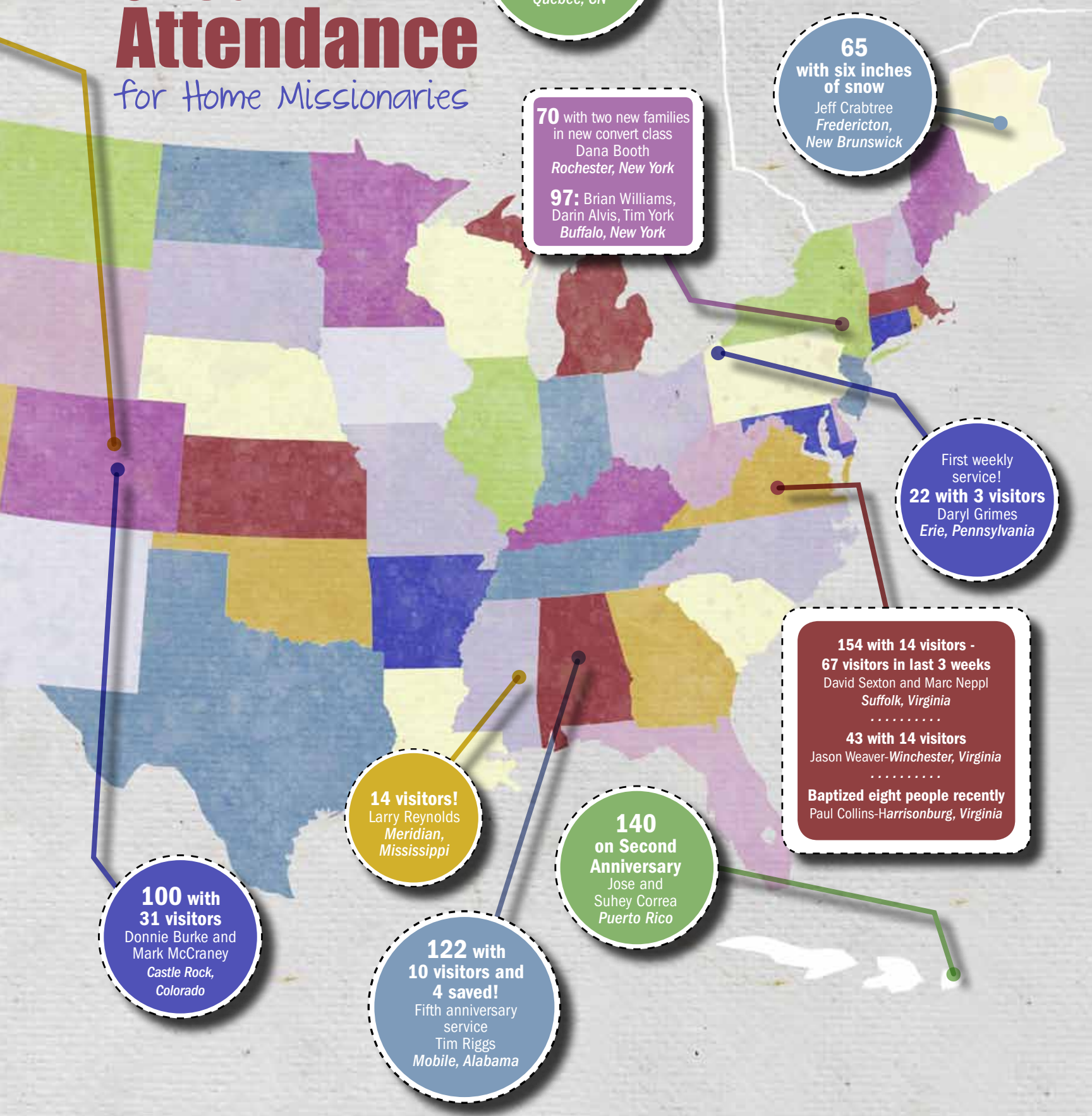
Baptized eight people recently
Paul Collins-Harrisonburg, Virginia

14 visitors!
Larry Reynolds
Meridian, Mississippi

140 on Second Anniversary
Jose and Suhey Correa
Puerto Rico

122 with 10 visitors and 4 saved!
Fifth anniversary service
Tim Riggs
Mobile, Alabama

100 with 31 visitors
Donnie Burke and Mark McCraney
Castle Rock, Colorado





Bull Rider OR BEAR FIGHTER?

By John Brummitt

While browsing Yahoo! Financial a while back, I came across an interesting title: “Bull Rider or Bear Fighter.” It caught my attention so I checked it out. It turned out to be a game—fantasy stocks, much like fantasy baseball or football. But it was enough to get me wondering whether I was a bull rider or a bear fighter when it comes to the stock market.

First, let me explain a bull market and bear market so this article makes sense to everyone. A bull market usually refers to the stock market, although it can be used for anything traded like currency, bonds, and commodities. Bull markets are characterized by optimism, investor confidence, and expectations that strong results will continue. You might fondly recall a bull market as, “the good old days.”

In contrast, during a bear market the prices of securities fall and widespread pessimism causes negative sentiment to be self-sustaining. Investors anticipate losses in a bear market, selling continues, and pessimism grows. You might recognize this as what you hear on the news every day.

The use of the bull and bear need some clarification as well. The terms have to do with how these animals attack their opponents. Bulls charge forward and thrust their horns upward, while bears swipe down with their paws pulling their opponent back. And you thought finance was boring.

So back to my thought, are you a bull rider or a bear fighter? The answer? **You should be both at some point in your life.** When we are young, most of us are bull riders. We know there is a risk of being thrown off, even trampled under the bull, but we are looking for growth in our investments. As we get older, we become less and less willing to “climb on the bull” and ride. Then we become bear fighters, not because we are in a downturned market, although that could be the case, but because we are more pessimistic about the state of a given market.

The thought of being a bear fighter is odd because fighting a bear toe to toe is a losing battle. Most of us are smart enough to simply back away slowly, switching investment allocations from an aggressive strategy to a more conservative strategy, protecting yourself from the downward swipes of the bear’s paws.

The Board of Retirement launched two new investment options in April, Pro-Mix Moderate and Pro-Mix Maximum, giving you a total of four options ranging from bear protection to bull rider extreme. Knowing how much risk and safety you can handle in your investments is the first step in deciding what your investment strategy should be. Before making any decision about your investments, research as much as you can about historical returns and trends in the



market. Talk with your family to determine your tolerance level for loss. Don’t just focus on the reward of riding the large returns of aggressive investments.

Whether you are a bull rider or a bear fighter, remember that both come with their own set of risks. You cannot safeguard yourself against all of them. If you step in to the arena with a bull or a bear, the chance of a little pain and suffering is pretty high, and the longer you stay in the ring, the more likely you are to suffer a setback or two. But the prize for sticking it out is worth the risk if your goal is to accumulate assets. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: John Brummitt graduated in 2011 with an MBA/Finance from Tennessee Tech University. A 2004 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, he has been with the Board of Retirement since the spring of 2006.

Be a Kid Again!

Deep South Tournament | April 3-5, 2013

The Deep South Tournament is a three-day, 54-hole, two-man scramble sponsored by Master’s Men.

A bargain at \$325 (\$300 for members), the fee includes green and cart fees at award-winning **Stonebridge Country Club*** in Albany, GA, three nights of lodging at Wingate by Wyndham, three breakfasts, and two dinners. Don’t miss this chance to enjoy unforgettable days of fellowship, fun and fast greens!

Reserve your spot today: (877) 767-8039
www.fwbmastersmen.org



Course information: www.stonebridgegccc.com

SHARED GOALS IN RETIREMENT:

Are You Still on the Same Page?

By Norma Jackson Goldman



Surprisingly, the Bible is entirely silent on the subject of retirement, except as it applied to Levites. Most Bible accounts of great leaders however, involve tremendous achievements late in life. Moses is a prime example. Though he had a miraculous childhood, his greatest work for God came after age 80! But the place he began is the same place you and I must begin, by asking, “What is God’s plan for me? How would He want me to use my gifts, time, and energy during the years ahead?”

Whoever said failing to plan is planning to fail was absolutely right. The most frightening yet common approaches to retirement is simply to drift. The goal is to stop working, stop getting up early, and stop doing all the things associated with work or career. Without a plan to *start* something, it is clear that confusion and chaos will follow. Where is God in this approach?

Elsie and Ben were exactly in this situation when he retired. Ben was a successful contractor who had spent his entire work life building houses and commercial buildings. He was really good at his work but in his mind (never con-

veyed to Elsie), he felt he would be happiest spending time with her. For the first few weeks, Elsie went along. Every day Ben would ask, “What are we going to do today?” They would plan some small adventure or outing. But as the days wore on, Elsie longed to return to routine, to the activities she found fulfilling. One day, in response to “What are we going to do today?” she announced, “I don’t know what *you’re* going to do, but I’m going to sew.” Dumbfounded and hurt, Ben was forced to work out his own plans and negotiate with Elsie what activities they could do together.

Failing to Communicate: Adjust Plans

A second couple, Robert and Sandy, entered retirement with what he thought was a shared goal of packing up their travel trailer and seeing the world. They would explore other places to live—away from the oppressive heat, traffic congestion, and high living expenses in their city. Early in their marriage, these were shared dreams. Both were working hard, raising a family, and planning for the future.

With great joy, they welcomed grandchildren into the

The union of two people in Christian marriage assumes that plans and goals are shared and compatible with individual aspirations. Achieving the direction and balance that pleases God requires constant communication with each other and with Him. The result is joy and productivity for both partners.

family. For Sandy, everything changed. She no longer wanted to travel, and she couldn't imagine relocating far from her grandchildren. But she failed to communicate this change of heart to Robert, and he failed to ask. Imagine his surprise and deep disappointment when, in the first year of retirement, Sandy refused to travel, refused even to consider relocating.

The Priority of Marriage

The union of two people in Christian marriage assumes that plans and goals are shared and compatible with individual aspirations. Achieving the direction and balance that pleases God requires constant communication with each other and with Him. The result is joy and productivity for both partners.

Rick and Betty have such a story. A graphic artist by trade, Rick was known for using vacation days to go on mission trips. On one special mission trip, he met Betty and recognized her as the life partner he'd prayed for. They worked through the legal processes, were married and Betty came to live in America. In retirement, Rick discovered that the mission field had come to them. Within a few miles of their home, they now minister to several language groups, helping them understand American culture, assisting them with buying and selling, and repairing used bicycles to help with their transportation needs. Rick and Betty's shared goals strengthen their marriage, honor God, and bless others.

Today is a good time to do your own reality check. Are you and your spouse on the same page? **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman enjoys a successful freelance career in her retirement. The award-winning writer lives near Nashville, TN. Learn more about retirement options at www.boardofretirement.com.

Intersect >>>>

Judging "Judge Not" (Part Two)

"You shouldn't judge!" That's the criticism we often get when we offer a differing opinion about what someone says or does. Of course, the person making that charge is himself "judging" our comment that is, in his view, "judging."

That's just one of the implications which arise from taking Matthew 7:1 out of context. When you do so, the passage indicts everybody for saying anything about everything! Here, Jesus mandates, "Judge not, that you be not judged." Last month we determined that Jesus is not talking about merely forming and voicing opinions, or making informed choices based on ethical or logical principles. Instead, He prohibits a harsh, condemning spirit that feels free to speak evil of others.



Collateral Damage

When we are guilty of making mean-spirited, hurtful comments to or about people, several implications present themselves as unintended consequences. In the first place, when we are abusive and judgmental in this sense, we face judgment ourselves: “. . .that you be not judged,” warns Jesus. Our bitter words may come back to us from those we condemn, directly or indirectly. Or we may understand Jesus’ caution as indicating that by this kind of “judging,” we are doing what God alone has the right to do, and in this way we ourselves commit sin. Without question,

We betray our roles as His disciples by failing to love one another when we attack fellow believers with harsh words.

we betray our roles as His disciples by failing to love one another when we attack fellow believers with harsh words.

Another fallout of evil speaking is the obvious conclusion that we are not treating others the way we would prefer they treat us (see Matt. 7:2). Notice again that Jesus is not forbidding His followers from using discernment in making choices. What He is insisting, however, is that we evaluate based on the standard we want others to use in evaluating us. This point is precisely that of Luke 6:37-38, which assures us that if we forgive, we will be forgiven.

Jesus’ parable about the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18 illustrates the lesson. The servant, whose boss had forgiven his enormous debt, was unwilling to apply the same standard of forgiveness to a fellow servant who

owed him a pittance. It’s like a kid on a Little League team whose dad is the coach. The player makes an error or strikes out, and the coach says, “That’s okay, son.” But when another kid does the same, the coach benches him! Or the dad may be harder on his son or daughter than on the other player. Either way, he applies a different standard of “judging.”

Eye Trouble

The Lord’s admonition also instructs us to judge ourselves before we judge others. Before we give our take on a

brother’s need, we’d better deal with our own. Jesus illustrates with an example that no doubt made His listeners chuckle. “Take the log out of your eye so you can see that speck of dust in his eye,” the Lord chides. I well remember driving home from church one Sunday amazed that my neighbor could let his grass get so out of control without mowing it. My wife then punched me in the side as we drove into our driveway. “Uh, what about your grass?” came her not-so-subtle rebuke at the sight of my nearly knee-high stand. Ouch!

Here are a few other applications growing out of Jesus’ words.

One reason this condemning spirit is wrong is because often it is not really “judging” at all; it is pre-judging. We already have our minds made up that we are “against it” without first weighing the facts. The Lord also counsels us not

to judge by appearance, but to “judge with right judgment.” Evaluate carefully, even prayerfully, before you form an opinion.

We should be able, as brothers and sisters, to share valid concerns (though they may be simply opinions) with each other in a spirit of Christian love. But we should be willing to change our opinions if need be when we are confronted with truth. Strong opinions may be appropriate, but only if we subject them to the authority of biblical truth.

We must be careful about what we make absolutes in practice. An absolute leaves no room for disagreement if we accept the authority of Scripture. Some practices are simply not open-ended to change with the winds of culture. But non-absolutes can (and should) be subject to scrutiny, flexibility, even revision as we deem appropriate.

One absolute needing renewed attention is the commitment to live right by the principles of holiness taught in the Bible. Even within that commitment, though, there must be some degree of flexibility, or we will violate that very Word by being rigid isolationists and/or extreme legalists.

Even if we disagree on some of the “non-absolutes,” there is no place in the church for a bitter, harsh, condemning spirit that damages another Christian’s reputation. Matthew 7:12 is the benchmark for this entire context: “So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them.”

None of us have received the final verdict. The last chapter is yet to be written. People can and do change for the worse, and we’d better be ready to help them, to correct them in meekness. But they can and do change for the better, and we need to accept them and love them as Christ does. **ONE**

LeaderProfile >>>

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. By Ron Hunter Jr.

Terry Pierce describes his calling as pastor as a "burning passion to do God's will and compel others to do the same."

The characteristic most evident during this interview with Terry was his love for God as demonstrated by his prayer time. Terry credits Vernon Barker with teaching him how to have a "life-long love affair with the heavenly Father."

Terry and his wife Belyn have three boys, two in college and one in high school. Terry pastors Tupelo FWB Church in Mississippi, and for the past 11 years witnessed God's blessing through the challenges and rewards of growth.

Terry's dad served as a deacon at Waltonville FWB Church where

his mom taught Sunday School and served as church treasurer. After studying business at Free Will Baptist Bible College, God's call directed Terry's leadership and business mindset to complement ministry through planning and organization.

The Tupelo Church cares deeply about people who need Christ. Terry and his staff teach local and global outreach. The congregation supports evangelism in Cuba and actively reaches people in their own community. The church provides an annual Easter egg hunt for over 3,000 people in the community every year. Terry's church attracts people with "hiccups and hurts" who appreciate an authentic pastor presenting grace and forgiveness. **D6**



TERRY, YOU ARE A GREAT LEADER!

Describe an ideal date for you and Belyn.

"Dinner and a movie...or a ball game, especially if we can drive to Memphis and watch the Lakers play."

What is your biggest shortcoming in your leadership style?

"When the kids were small, I did not slow down to enjoy family and life and felt the biblical conviction that ministry success without family success would be empty. Since early in my ministry, family has been my priority, which results in ministry likewise benefitting from this example."

What is your one indulgence?

"Hot fresh Krispy Kreme donut with ice cream on it."

What are the top three books you have ever read (other than the Bible)?

Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis
Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby
Quest for Truth by Leroy Forlines

What are you reading right now?

Evangelism Is...How to Share Jesus with Passion and Confidence by Early and Wheeler
Preaching that Changes Lives by Fabarez and MacArthur
Conformed to His Image, Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation by Kenneth Boa

Tell me your kids' names and a one-word descriptor for each.

Aaron (21) - Passionate
Andrew (19) - Expressive
Adam (15) - Easy-going

Paper or Plastic Questions

>> Mountains or Ocean? Ocean
>> Music or Talk Radio? Music
>> Coke or Pepsi? Sprite
>> Email or Texting? Both
>> Mac or PC? PC
>> Socks or house shoes? Bare feet



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News From WNAC and MM

Explore God's Mighty Hand

WNAC invites women to explore the wonders of *God's Mighty Hand*. Focusing on 1 Peter 5:6-10, throughout the next year, women will look at four aspects of God's hand at work in people's lives. Fall 2012 studies emphasize His humbling hand, exploring the problem of pride, and Christ's example of humility.

During winter months, women will turn to the Old Testament to observe God's caring hand. His care of strangers and slaves, widows, orphans and the fatherless presents a compelling challenge and seeks to clear current confusion concerning the character of the God of the Old Testament.

Spring studies deal with spiritual warfare, exploring God's power and the promise of victory believers can claim over the enemy. Summer 2013 offers an in-depth look at God's gracious hand through the life and writings of Peter.

WNAC offers a complete program for women's ministry in Free Will Baptist churches, regardless of size or demographics. *Treasure*, WNAC's quarterly study guide, provides ongoing women's Bible studies, that serve as the core for its ministries. WNAC also publishes an annual Program and Plan Book filled with helps, resources, and creative ideas for women's ministry leaders. Both of these are available for purchase either online at wnac.org or by phone: 877-767-7662.

In addition, WNAC offers a variety of free resources for women and teen girls through its website, www.wnac.org. WNAC seeks to help women fulfill the Great Commission through God-designed roles in the home, church, community, and world. ■



Master's Men Assumes Ushering Role

Antioch, TN—The Master's Men Department will assume ushering responsibilities at the 2013 national convention in Tampa, Florida, according to Director Ken Akers. The announcement comes on the heels of Billy Walker's retirement as ushering chairman, a position he held for 10 years.

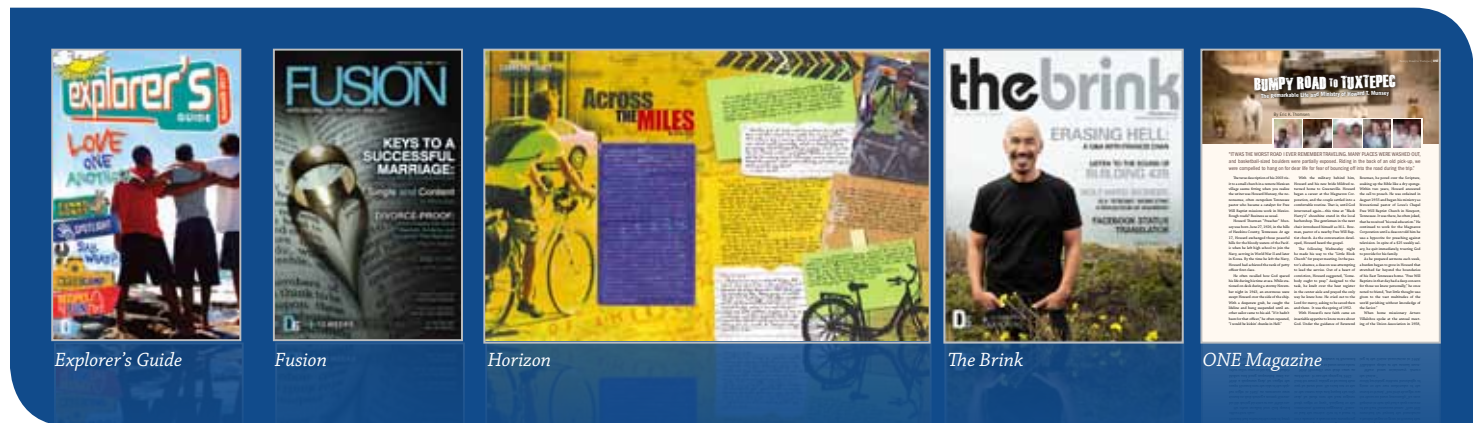
Master's Men Director Ken Akers said, "Since Master's Men has been involved in recruiting and leading ushers in the past, we felt it would be a natural fit to assume leadership of this vital service again. Brother Walker has done a tremendous job for the past several years, and we look forward to maintaining the high level of service he promoted during his time as chairman."

Ushers receive offerings during all worship services and the WNAC business meeting, help pass out reports during convention business meetings, and count delegates during the voting process. Ushers also distribute the convention newsletter after each evening service.

In addition to these duties, ushers assist delegates, provide security, relay messages, and help in emergency situations. Akers continues, "I appreciate all the men that have faithfully volunteered in the past, and I look forward to getting more Master's Men chapters involved in this vital role at the convention." ■

News About the Denomination

Publications Recognized by the Evangelical Press Association



Colorado Springs, CO—The Evangelical Press Association again ranked Free Will Baptist magazines and writers among the elite in Christian publications. *The Brink* devotional magazine received the EPA Award of Excellence, and *Fusion*, the 2011 winner, received an Award of Merit. *Explorer's Guide* also earned an Award of Merit in the youth category, which includes magazines for children, teens, and college students. Randall House D6 magazines were also awarded two Higher Goals Awards in Christian Journalism. *Horizon* was recognized for the Two-Page Spread Design. *Explorer's Guide* received the award for Publication Design.

ONE Magazine received three additional Higher Goals awards. Garnett Reid was honored for his regular column, "Intersect," and Brenda Evans was awarded for her work in the article series, "Is More Really Better." The article, "Bumpy Road to Tuxtepec," by Eric K. Thomsen about the life of Howard T. Munsey, received first place in the personality article category.

The Evangelical Press Association is a professional association of over 300 Christian magazines, newsletters, newspapers, and media outlets throughout North America. Along with offering training and feedback, EPA organizes an annual conference to bring together leaders in the Christian publishing industry and recognize the best of Christian magazine publishing. ■



Free Will Baptist Family Ministries Appoints New Executive Director

Greenville, TN—On May 22, the Board of Trustees for Free Will Baptist Family Ministries announced the appointment of Reverend Frank Woods, as incoming executive director, effective July 1. Woods replaced Dr. James Kilgore, who stepped aside June 30, 2012, after almost 15 years of service.

Woods' association with Family Ministries spans more than 30 years. He served on the Board of Trustees for 12 years—five as chairman. In 2005, he accepted the position of vice president of financial development, and in late 2009, he served as Interim executive director for a period of one year during the extended illness of Dr. Kilgore.

Reverend Woods said, "It is a great honor to be chosen for the position of executive director. I am surrounded by a tremendous staff, and I look forward to building on the strong foundation that Dr. Kilgore and others have laid for the continued success of Family Ministries. We appreciate your continued prayers and faithful support during this transition." ■

Celebrating GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

2012 National Association of Free Will Baptists
Memphis, Tennessee • July 15-18.

Despite the steamy July heat and sweltering humidity rising from the banks of the Mississippi River, attendees at the 76th annual Free Will Baptist National Convention in Memphis, Tennessee—more than 5,000 strong—enjoyed a week of inspiring worship, productive business, and many opportunities for service and fellowship.

The convention theme reflected a simple yet often forgotten truth—*God Is Faithful*. Sermons from convention speakers encouraged listeners to be faithful because God Himself is faithful.

Worship Together

Music Coordinator Chris Truett and the Music Commission produced a series of exciting worship services that featured a 100-voice convention choir, an orchestral ensemble, and vocal accompaniment. This year, the Music Commission tried something new. After Brian Sargent, music minister at Horse Branch FWB Church (SC), led worship on Sunday morning, Joshua Riggs, worship leader at Bethany FWB Church (OK), led con-

gregational worship for each service throughout the remainder of the convention, a change from previous years when each service had a different worship leader. The congregation responded with enthusiastic singing and enjoyed unforgettable musical numbers.

Thomas Bee, deacon and adult teacher at South Highland FWB Church (AL), taught Sunday School from Hebrews 7:1-28, comparing the Levitical priesthood to the priesthood of Christ. He explained why Christ is better, sufficient, and permanent and reminded listeners that His intercession provides the only way to approach a Holy God.

Old Testament Scholar and Biblical and Ministry Studies professor at

Free Will Baptist Bible College, Garnett Reid delivered the Sunday morning message. Using Lamentations 3 as his text, Dr. Reid described the essence of God's nature as it relates to His faithfulness. In return, we should be faithful to Him.

Paul Bryant, pastor of Cross Creek FWB Church (MS), spoke Sunday evening from Hebrews 10:23, after being introduced by his father Randy Bryant, clerk of the National Association. His message, "God Is Faithful to His Promises," encouraged listeners by reminding them that God is true to His Word, in contrast to the human tendency to waver and depend on one's own strength.

On Monday night, Mike Gladson, pastor of Cofer's Chapel FWB Church (TN), spoke on the topic of God's faithfulness during times of testing. He reminded listeners that God sometimes uses trials as a means of bettering His children and emphasized that God did not promise that testing would not come, only that He would provide a means of escape.

On Tuesday, Illinois Pastor Jon Cannon tackled the subject of the believer's faithfulness through persecution. Using 1 Peter 4:12-19 as his text, Cannon reminded listeners that suffering will come, but God will remain faithful, no matter the outcome.

Veteran Illinois pastor and assistant clerk of the National Association, Ernie Lewis delivered the Wednesday evening missions service message

from 1 John 1:5-9. He reminded listeners that God is faithful to forgive. He encouraged the congregation to confess sins, embrace the cleansing power of the blood of Christ, and live holy lives. Amens echoed through the hall when he challenged Christians to fulfill the task of rescuing those perishing without Christ, reminding listeners that the Great Commission charges each Christian to "go ye."

The Memphis convention drew to a close with a final, thunderous congregational song as hands raised and shouts rang out. Texas pastor Mark Headrick captured the moment when he said, "Tonight was the best ending to a worship service I have ever witnessed, and I really didn't want it to end. I'm proud to be a Free Will Baptist. What a great convention this has been!" ■

IMPACTED MEMPHIS

Convention-goers did more than enjoy worship and fellowship. On Saturday, July 14, some 175 volunteers from seven states arrived at the convention a day early. The energetic group met at three churches and participated in service and outreach projects.

Eighty-five volunteers gathered at Cross Creek FWB Church (MS) and went door to door distributing flyers and making contacts for the church. They used innovative methods—buying bottles of water and sodas at gas stations to distribute to people pumping gas, and handing out bottles of water at local parks. They met physical needs as a means to meet spiritual ones, and their efforts pro-

duced positive responses.

"I was surprised by how receptive everyone was," said Kathy Cherry, member of Mineral Springs FWB Church in Oklahoma. "Very few people turned us down."

Cross Creek Pastor Paul Bryant said, "It was amazing to see how God blessed even though we had to change our plans because of rain. He put us in the right places to meet the

right people!" The group distributed 350 bottles of water and made 850 contacts.

Sixty participants met at nearby Oakland FWB Church and distributed 3,500 flyers. Thirty volunteers met at Liberty FWB Church, cleared logs and debris from adjacent property, and cut firewood to sell.

Impact groups came from Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Virginia. "I am so pleased with the turnout and thankful that the rain held off," said Impact Director Ken Akers. "We believe our efforts will make a great difference for the Kingdom. I just hope everyone will get involved next year when the National Association meets in Tampa."

Updates on Impact 2013 will be available throughout the year by visiting the Master's Men website: www.fwbmastersmen.org.

An additional 400 volunteers dispersed across Memphis during the week to participate in daily service projects known as Reach That Guy (RTG). Under the leadership of Memphis home missionary Tim Osborn, they partnered with 10 organizations to provide 1,418 service hours.

RTG teams fed the hungry at Memphis Union Mission, cleaned up the neighborhood around the Salvation



Photo: Executive Secretary Keith Burden enjoys time with his grandchildren.



Army Women's Shelter, and cleared out part of the downtown YMCA that serves underprivileged children. They sorted donations and cleaned Bibles for Missions Thrift Store, cleaned windows, washed sidewalks, finished out drywall, cut grass for seniors, and

worked at a camp for children. On Wednesday, convention-goers lined up to donate blood during the annual American Red Cross Blood Drive.

Reach That Guy, a program of the National Youth Conference fueled largely by students and their spon-

sors, continues to be a vital outreach tool. The program began its ministry in Fort Worth in 1996. For Reach That Guy 2013 updates, visit www.fwbny.com. ■

GOT DOWN TO BUSINESS

General Board 2012

It took the General Board exactly four hours and 33 minutes to hear annual reports from nine national agencies and four commissions as Moderator Tim York navigated the maze of words, videos, and presentations to guide the General Board to a happy adjournment in Ballroom A of Memphis Cook Convention Center on Monday, July 16.

Along the way, General Board members made several recommendations, including a 2013 denominational budget of just over \$24 million, a resolution deploring all forms of racism, and approval of a proposal to change the name of Free Will Baptist Bible College to Welch College. They also recommended an adjustment amending the By-Laws of both The Hanna Project and the Free Will Baptist Foundation, and recommended the dates for the 2018 national convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, be shifted to July 22-25.

Clerk Randy Bryant read the names of 22 appointments to 2013 national committees: Credentials Committee (5), Nominating Committee (7), Resolutions Committee (5), and Obituary Committee (5).

Executive Secretary Keith Burden recommended that the General Board accept the David Marks Heritage Association into membership. The new association located in the Northeast includes three churches and expects two additional churches to join the association after the convention.

The board also recommended a non-refundable, but transferable, first night's hotel room charge effective with the 2013 convention. This is an effort to prevent overbooking by individuals and groups. The non-refundable charge will be assessed at the time of booking.

During Tuesday and Wednesday business sessions, based on the recommendations of the General Board and reports from departmental directors, delegates took the following actions:

Amended...the By-Laws of the FWB Foundation.

Adjusted...the dates for the 2018 convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, to July 22-25.

Reaffirmed...the 1995 Resolution deploring all forms of racism, supported the official statement issued by the Executive Office, and recommended the Bible study *Racism, the Bible, and the Church* from Randall House.

Recommended...that beginning with the 2013 convention, a non-refundable, but transferable, first night's hotel room charge be assessed at the time of booking.

Accepted...the David Marks Heritage Association as a member of the National Association and gave the district association a seat on the General Board.

Honored...Gary Fry, Glen Johnson, and Keith Woody for their service on the Executive Committee.

Thanked...Billy Walker for 10 years of service as convention usher coordinator and his wife Geneva for her volunteer work in registration.

Saluted...Monte McKenzie, Kevin Norris, and Keith Fletcher for their service on the Media Commission.

Heard...Master's Men Director Ken Akers explain five years of extensive restoration at the Ridge Church in New Hampshire and watched a slide presentation of the Master's Men Disaster Response Team ministering in Eastern Kentucky after a tornado hit the area.

Agreed...with FWB Foundation Director David Brown that the word that

Photo: David Shores, Illinois promotional secretary, presides during Tuesday evening worship.



best describes the past 20 years is “miraculous,” noting the department’s assets have grown from \$937,000 to \$41 million. Brown projected that within five years the Foundation will begin providing grants to Free Will Baptist ministries.

Thanked...Ray Lewis for his first 30 years with the Board of Retirement, the past seven as director. Lewis reported \$44 million in assets, 50 new participants enrolled in 2011, and active accounts topping 1,500.

Listened...to WNAC Executive Director Elizabeth Hodges announce that 828 people registered for the 2012 convention. WNAC restructured this year’s program in response to the results of a member survey requesting changes and broader workshop subjects.

Appreciated...efforts by the Media Commission to provide streaming access to convention services, watched by more than 1,200 viewers in nine countries. The commission may consider archiving services and workshops for historical purposes.

Received...copies of two pamphlets from the Historical Commission’s Heritage Series, *Free Will Baptists and Total Abstinence* and *Free Will Baptists and Predestination*, both written by Robert Picirilli.

Acknowledged...the Music Commission’s contributions to the success of the 2012 convention as the five-member commission presented an extensive program involving soloists, worship team, convention choir, small groups, and more. The commission also presented six educational seminars for church musicians.

Prayed...for Moderator Tim York as he began the business session with a devotional sermon from Proverbs 3 urging believers to trust God, walk by faith, and expect a direct path from God’s hand.

Focused...on Executive Secretary Keith Burden’s challenge that although Free Will Baptists have been faithful to fulfill the Great Commission, “*We can do better, we should do better, we will do better.*”

Elected...37 board and commission members, including general officers (4), Executive Committee (4), General Board (11), Randall House Board (3), International Missions Board (4), FWBBC Board of Trustees (3), Media Commission (3), Music Commission (2), Historical Commission (2), Commission for Theological Integrity (1).

Approved...a \$24 million denominational budget: International Missions (\$7 million), Randall House Publications (\$5.2 million), Home Missions Department (\$5 million), FWBBC (\$4.7 million), Executive Office (\$857,000), FWB Foundation (\$521,000), Retirement and Insurance (\$475,000), Master’s Men (\$145,000), Commission for Theological Integrity (\$7,900), Music Commission (\$4,100), Historical Commission (\$3,560), Media Commission (\$3,000).

Voted...to disburse funds from The Together Way Plan to national agencies on the following basis: underwrite the Executive Office Administrative Budget above designated gifts, not to exceed 45% of cooperative gifts. Disburse the balance of cooperative gifts—FWBBC

CONVENTION AT A GLANCE

REGISTRATION

National Association – 3,314

National Youth Conference – 4,174

WNAC – 828

Total* – 5,510

*Individuals. Some attendees register for more than one convention.

SPEAKERS

Sunday School – Thomas Bee (AL)

Sunday Morning – Garnett Reid (TN)

Sunday Evening – Paul Bryant (MS)

Monday Evening – Mike Gladson (GA)

Tuesday Afternoon Preaching Conference

Rick Cash (AL)

Milton Worthington (NC)

Tuesday Evening – Jon Cannon (IL)

Wednesday Evening – Ernie Lewis (IL)

2013 BUDGET

Executive Office – \$857,907

FWBBC (Welch) – \$4,790,793

FWB Foundation – \$521,177

Home Missions – \$5,000,000

International Missions – \$7,000,000

Master’s Men – \$145,443

Retirement and Insurance – \$475,000

Randall House – \$5,217,000

Theological Commission – \$7,900

Historical Commission – \$3,560

Media Commission – \$3,000

Music Commission – \$4,100

Total – \$24,025,880

Convention at a Glance (continued)

ELECTED IN MEMPHIS

General Board (2015)

North Carolina: Billy Keith

Northeast: Jim Nason

Northwest: Brent Nix

Ohio: Edwin Hayes

Oklahoma: Mike Wade

South Carolina: Todd Smith

Tennessee: Glenn Poston

Texas: Keith Woody

Virginia: Glen Johnson

West Virginia: Luther Morgan

Missouri: Stan Bunch - 2014

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Stan Bunch (MO) - 2014

Glenn Poston (TN) - 2015

Mike Wade (OK) - 2018

Todd Smith (SC) - 2018

RANDALL HOUSE

Mark Braisher (OK) - 2018

Mike Mounts (OH) - 2018

Mike Trimble (MI) - 2018

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

Janice Banks (OK) - 2014

Nelson Henderson (AR) - 2018

Mark Price (OH) - 2018

Brad Ransom (OK) - 2018

FWBBC

Will Beauchamp (FL) - 2018

Ken Simpson (MO) - 2018

Mark Stripling (AR) - 2018

COMMISSION FOR THEOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

Kevin Hester (TN) - 2017

(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%).

Thanked...the Tennessee State Association for hosting the 2012 national convention. This marked the second time the convention has met in Memphis—the first was in 2002.

Celebrated...with Home Missions Director Larry Powell when he announced eight new and recent mission projects, three missions reaching self-supporting status, three Hispanic Bible institutes, four Hispanic training centers in the U.S.A., nine military chaplains, and a \$42 million CELF fund.

Marked...the 2012 convention as the 50th year of publishing for Randall House Publications. The department has published 65,000 lessons since 1962 and continues to publish 390 new lessons every quarter. The agency typically publishes 14-16 books each year, but plans to reduce the number of new titles in 2012 and reprint previous Randall House books. Executive Director/CEO Ron Hunter reported increased book sales from the D6 Conference. The agency modernized its production plant with over \$2 million in equipment purchases over nine years.

Cheered...when International Missions announced a record-breaking World Missions Offering topping \$944,000. General Director Clint Morgan thanked Free Will Baptists for stepping up financially at a time when economic factors forced the Mission to keep some missionaries stateside instead of returning to the field.



Amended...The Hanna Project By-Laws as recommended by the International Missions Board.

Agreed...that FWBBC could change its denominational emphasis month from December to February, effective 2013.

Registered...5,510 attendees for the three concurrent conventions, including 605 ordained ministers.

Changed...the name of the denomination's flagship educational institution from Free Will Baptist Bible College to Welch College, following a 25-minute discussion. The name change becomes effective immediately. The name "Welch College" was recommended by the FWBBC Board of Trustees and arose from the life and ministry of Reverend John L Welch (first moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists) and his wife Mary.

Wept...as a plaque was presented to Wanda Spears, widow of Chaplain David Spears who died on Christmas Day

2011. Chaplain Terry Austin spoke briefly about David Spears, reminding attendees that “He touched the lives of people. He never quit.” Chaplain Spears served five combat tours with the U.S. Army. The congregation gave an extended standing ovation.

Presented...plaques to Edwin Hayes for 24 years on the Randall House Board, to Randy Wilson for 12 years on the FWBIM Board, to Debbie Griffin for 26 years of service in Japan, to Stan and Brenda Bunch for 29 years of service in Panama.

Thundered...approval as International Missions General Director Clint Morgan announced that as a result of increased financial support, “Our missionaries can now all go home!” Several missionaries had been kept stateside after the December 2011 board decision.

Bowed...in memory of FWBIM Board member Paul Creech who died after 25 years of service as a missionary in Japan and Ivory Coast, and service on the board.

Honored...Tom Sass for 40 years of service at FWBBC, much of that time as the college’s chief financial officer. The college also displayed a plaque honoring A.C. Allen for 12 years of service on the college’s Board of Trustees.

Stopped...to remember 50 years of leadership provided by Leroy Forlines on the Commission for Theological Integrity. Forlines was elected to the commission in 1962 and served as chairman most of the past five decades. Delegates responded with a prolonged standing ovation when Forlines was presented a large framed print of several pamphlets (pictured below), and his wife Fay received a bouquet of roses. He told delegates: “Old soldiers may fade away, but old theologians don’t.”

Welcomed...a video during the Obituary Committee report featuring names and photos of Free Will Baptist ministers who died in 2011.

Adjourned...At 2:58 p.m. to meet July 21-24, 2013, in Tampa, Florida. ■



Convention at a Glance (continued)

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Eric Thomsen (TN) - 2015

Jack Williams (TN) - 2017

MUSIC COMMISSION

Kevin Justice (NC) - 2014

Doug Little (TN) - 2017

MEDIA COMMISSION

Stephen Lopes (TN) - 2013

Josh Owens (TN) - 2014

Mark Neppi (VA) - 2017

GENERAL OFFICERS

Moderator: Tim York (TN)

Assistant Moderator: William Smith (GA)

Clerk: Randy Bryant (FL)

Assistant Clerk: Ernie Lewis (IL)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mike Wade (OK) - Chairman

Larry Reynolds (MS)

Tim Owen (FL)

Will Harmon (AR)

Ron Helms (MI)

Stan Bunch (MO)

Jeff Davis (TN)

CONVENTION NEWS COVERAGE TEAM

Editors: Eric Thomsen, Jack Williams, Sarah Fletcher, Danny Conn, Stephen Nelson, Deborah St. Lawrence, Phyllis York, and Matthew Collum

Photography: Sandra Akers, Rodney Yerby, Thomas Yerby

Mighty in MEMPHIS

Women Nationally Active for Christ

Over 750 attendees from 22 states and regions explored the mighty hand of God during the one-day WNAC Convention, July 17.

Freehand

Leaders custom-designed the day to address current needs and topics of interest identified through an extensive survey conducted during the past year. The full-day schedule included times of worship, instruction, and interaction. Morning seminar choices offered women guidance for depression, parenting, and time/financial management. Sessions were recorded for those who could not attend.

Business at Hand

The day began with an early morning business session, a schedule change that met with overall positive response. And women came informed. Prior to the convention, WNAC mailed copies of proposed changes to its current constitution and By-Laws to state leaders. During registration, WNAC provided every attendee/delegate a packet containing these proposed changes and other pertinent information.

In her annual report to the convention body, Executive Director Elizabeth Hodges thanked women for their generous gifts to the Lord and His work, but expressed concern for office finances. While outside gifts totaled more than a half-million dollars, supportive giving for the office decreased by nine percent.

Testimonies of His Hand

Guest speaker Terri Roberts of Strasburg, Pennsylvania, shared a wealth of Scripture as she related her

story of God's hand in adversity. "Everyone goes through storms in life," she stated, "but not all storms bear the same intensity." Rainstorms upset our plans, hurricanes catch us by surprise and cause damage, and tsunamis are storms that forever change our lives.

Her tsunamis include breast cancer and the loss of a son whose life ended tragically in the taking of innocent children's lives. "Praising Him through your sorrow," affirmed Mrs. Roberts, "is the key to getting through adversity." Three vital helps include reading/memorizing key verses or anchor Scriptures, using a good devotional resource, and journaling.

During the noon Fellowship Luncheon, Ruth Bivens, longtime missionary to Mexico, shared snapshots of God's hand of protection upon her life. God steered her from bad relationship choices, brought her through illness, spared the life of her son in a diving accident, and miraculously rescued her and husband Bud from a car tumble over a mountainside cliff.

Weaving threads of humor throughout her presentation, she also emphasized the importance of praising God and challenged listeners to call 911 (recite Psalm 9:11) in times of trouble.

Handiwork

Tennessee Women Active for Christ highlighted God's handiwork as they hosted the luncheon event. Tables displayed pearls and irises—Tennessee's state gem and flower. Dinner music from Michael Kear (violinist), accompa-

nied by Susan Forlines, reminded listeners of the difference made by the touch of the Master's hand.

Hand-in-Hand

Healthy attendance at two afternoon sessions, "You Spoke...We Listened" and "Creative Idea Exchange," echoed the growing sentiment that women want a voice and reinforced the organization's commitment to serve more effectively.

Handprints

Leaders challenged women to pray throughout the year for a great movement of God's mighty hand, to observe the hand of God at work among His people, and to encourage one another by sharing handprints—evidences of *God's Mighty Hand* within their lives. ■

MIGHTY MOMENTS

Topped a half-million dollars (\$523,565) in total giving for the year.

Shared plans to offer subscribers a choice of either digital or print copies of *Treasure*.

Approved proposed constitutional changes, with the exception of By-Law Article 2 and Article 7 (deferred to the Executive Committee for further study).

Awarded Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship monies (\$1,389.29 total) to students at the Chame Bible Institute in Panama: Elisa Niz, Cynthia Urriola, Stephanie Concepcion, Baderlin Castaneda, Liz Gonzalez.

Registered 828 convention attendees.

Announced first recipients of Mary Ruth Wisheart Scholarships: Dominique Ward (Southeastern College); Bre Reiersen (Hillsdale College); Jessica Barrow (Gateway College).

Applauded Tennessee Women Active for Christ for their hospitality and hard work in hosting the 77th WNAC Convention.

No Other Name in MEMPHIS

BY MATTHEW COLLUM

The 2012 National Youth Conference blasted out of the Cannon Center in Memphis, Tennessee. Each service began with praise and worship led exclusively—for the first time—by the Youth Evangelistic Team. YET is a team of students chosen from among top scorers at the National Youth Conference. They use their talents to advance the gospel. YET alumni celebrated 25 years with a reunion choir during the Tuesday evening adult worship service.

NYC teen worship speakers challenged students to understand and embrace the uniqueness of Jesus Christ as the only means of salvation. Josh Baer, David Outlaw, Darin Gibbs, and Sean McDowell captivated students as they delivered messages urging them to live for Christ. Tuesday night, Aaron Shust's concert drew over 1,500 attendees who experienced an intimate time with the Lord.

Children enjoyed worship services targeted to their age levels but with the same emphasis on the NYC theme drawn from Acts 4:12—*No Other Name*. Steve and Katie Greenwood and Johnny and Gail Miller tailored high-energy programming with solid teaching to help young students follow Christ.

Nearly 4,200 students and adults attended this year's conference, drawing information from dozens of seminars in tracks for all ages. FWB21, the young adult ministry of the conference, sponsored a groundbreaking panel discussion on racism and evangelism.

With 956 entries, NYC competition provided an excellent representation of the gifts and abilities of Free Will

Baptist young people. The new *Competition Guidelines*, which takes effect in 2013, included several significant changes, including a June 1 event registration deadline.

During the week, nearly 400 students and adults dispersed across Memphis assisting ten different service partners by donating 1,418 hours of time through Reach That Guy.

Participants in the Truth and Peace Leadership Conference once again provided staffing, ensuring that the conference ran smoothly. This year, 103 students from 16 states participated in the program. Their time spent in training at Free Will Baptist Bible College allowed them to prepare and grow before they began work at the National Youth Conference where they served in every area of the convention.

During the Awards Ceremony, the National Youth Conference recognized Jim Lauthern for his many contributions. Truth and Peace Student Leadership Conference and YET were instituted under his visionary leadership, and today thousands of students enjoy the fruit of his labor. ■

NYC STATS

Registration: 4,174
Truth & Peace: 103
Competition Entries: 956

Reach That Guy
Total Participants: 381
Total Service Hours: 1,418
Service Partners: 10
Blood Drive: 58 Units

Youth of the Year: Kaylynn Wells (SC)

Youth Group of the Year:
First FWB Church, Chillicothe, OH

Youth Worker of the Year:
Charlotte Thomas

Buck-A-Week offering: \$2,864.02

2013 Projects: Home missionaries
Tyler and Kellie Penn and the student
ministry at University of Illinois and the
10th anniversary of Jcrois (France).

2013 National YET Team

Zachary Johnston (MO)
Danielle Pate (FL)
Kody Madden (AL)
Emma Jones (TN)
Joseph Summerlin (AL)
Eleanor Conley (MO)
Joshua Sloan (OK)
Hannah Gardner (TN)
Gregory Yacobian (TX)
Rachel Williams (FL)
Bradley Dunlap (OK)
Hope Walker (IL)
Bridget Coffee (KY)





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

One to ONE >>>>

A Family Moment

During summer vacation between my sophomore and junior years in high school, I worked for my dad. He was a carpenter by trade. The skills I learned from him have served me well down through the years as I led two churches through major building programs.

It had been an unusually difficult year for my father. Due to escalating costs of building materials and high interest rates for construction loans, the margin of profit was minimal. He was struggling to make ends meet.

It was an especially hot summer day in Oklahoma. We were building a new house from the ground up. The foundation, floor, and walls had been constructed, and we were installing ceiling joists and rafters. (This was before the day of pre-fabricated trusses.)

I was on the roof nailing the rafters into place. My dad was on the ground, cutting boards as I called down measurements to him. Everything was going fine until it came to the “hip” joints, rafters cut with three different angles. This was a challenge for an experienced carpenter—practically impossible for a 16-year-old boy.

After sizing up the situation, I tried to disguise my uncertainty and described how I thought the rafter needed to be cut. Using the measurements I had given and following my instructions, my dad cut the board and handed it up to me.

It did not fit. In fact, it didn’t come close. Sensing my dad’s frustration, I tried once again to describe how the rafter needed to be cut. Marking the lines with a framing square, he adjusted the saw and followed my instructions. My heart sank as I put the new rafter into place and discovered it too, was unusable.

As I lowered the ill-fitting board to my father, I attempted to give even clearer instructions. But before I could finish, he slammed the board to the ground in disgust and stomped off muttering something about my incompetence. I resisted the urge to retaliate. Rather than have words with my father, I quietly climbed down the ladder, put my nail apron and hammer in the pickup, and walked home.

We didn’t speak to each other that evening. I deliberately slept in the next morning so I wouldn’t have to go to work. Later that day as I ate lunch, I told my mom what had happened. She already knew. Dad had told her the whole story...that he was ashamed of how he acted and felt like he was a failure as a father. She said he cried.

You probably think this is odd, but my dad and I never discussed the incident. We didn’t need to. He knew I was hurt. I knew he was sorry. I went back to work as if it had never happened.

Every family has its “moments.” They were rare in mine. I’ve learned that in close relationships we don’t have to verbalize everything. We just know. And we understand. **ONE**





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