

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

ONE

MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2007

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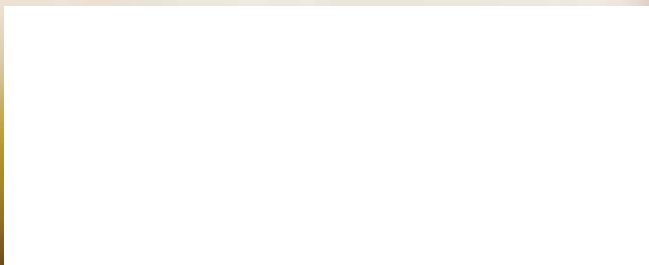
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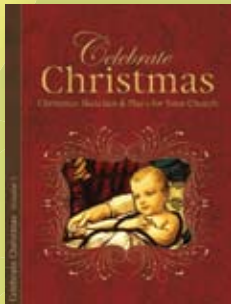


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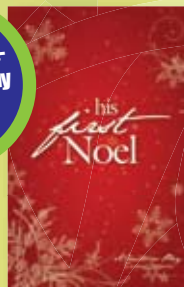
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ONE MAGAZINE

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

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8



12



36



44



47

ARTICLES

- 5 WHO ARE THESE GUYS ANYWAY?
- 6 GO FLY A KITE!
- 8 THE CALL
- 10 YOUR CHURCH CAN GROW!
- 12 WHERE DOES A WIFE GO?
- 14 EQUIPPING 21ST CENTURY PASTORS' WIVES
- 16 FINISHING WELL
- 18 WORKIN' THE FRISCO LINE
- 24 MISSION POSSIBLE
- 31 FOUR FOR THE PRICE OF ONE
- 32 FINDING YOUR HERITAGE
- 36 WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
- 38 BOTTLENECKS, TRAFFIC JAMS, AND DETOURS
- 42 THE GO CHURCH NETWORK
- 48 C.E. AND THE LOCAL CHURCH
- 50 THE NEW KIDS
- 52 LIVING BENEATH YOUR MEANS
- 54 EARTH'S HANDICAP, HEAVEN'S HANDIWORK

NEWS

- 21 NEWS AT FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE
- 44 NEWS AROUND THE WORLD
- 46 INTRODUCING NEW MISSIONARIES
- 47 REMEMBERING MALCOLM FRY
- 49 REBUILDING HISTORY
- 57 NEWS ABOUT THE DENOMINATION

COLUMNS

- 4 FIRST GLIMPSE: THE CHURCH IS ON FIRE!
- 26 WITH GRATITUDE
- 46 INTERSECT: WHERE IS THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING?
- 53 IN REVIEW
- 58 ONE TO ONE: UNCLE BILL

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Keith Burden MANAGING EDITOR: Eric Thomsen ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Ken Akers, David Brown, Larry Hampton, Ida Lewis, Ray Lewis, Deborah St. Lawrence, Bert Tippet, Jack Williams LAYOUT & DESIGN: Randall House Publications DESIGN MANAGER: Andrea Young DESIGNERS: Suzanne Franks, Mary Ann Cook, Amanda Everson PRINTING: Randall House Publications

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ERIC THOMSEN
MANAGING EDITOR

FIRST GLIMPSE

THE CHURCH IS ON FIRE!

WITH CAUTIOUS STEPS AND A DEVIOS grin, I crept silently down the parsonage hallway toward the bedroom where my dad lay sleeping—exhausted by a pastor’s typical busy Sunday morning.

Like a cat poised to leap, I crouched on all fours, gathered my nerve, and launched into action. Lowering my shoulder, I crashed through the bedroom door bawling at the top of my six-year-old lungs, “The church is on fire! The church is on fire!”

I could not have imagined the reaction in my wildest dreams. The blanket-covered lump sprang to life and my wild-eyed father—hair sprouting in all directions—shoved me aside and left the bedroom on a dead run. Horrified, I stood rooted to the spot as I heard the front door slam and my father’s voice shouting for help.

I should have run while I had the opportunity.

Dad’s face was purple when he stalked back into the bedroom. He didn’t say a word, just crossed his arms and glared. Mustering all of my courage, I offered a sickly grin, and sputtered weakly, “April Fools?”

To his credit, he didn’t kill me. I’m sure he considered it.

The incident is just one of the laundry list of memorable moments in the life of this preacher’s kid...like the time a trucker’s CB radio blared loudly through our church organ while Dad was preaching about “hearing God’s voice.” Or the fateful Sunday when I decided it wasn’t fair for one person (the

church treasurer) to get all of that offering, and I helped myself. Those rich experiences in the parsonage taught me many lessons about life and even more about ministry. I learned that...

- **Preachers don’t get time off.** Dad was on call, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. From the arrival of a new baby to marital spats to the death of one of my “adopted grandmothers,” his job was never done. I can still remember Dad shaking his head in disgust when a well-meaning deacon remarked, “Preacher, you’ve got it made; I wish I could work five hours a week.”

- **Preachers shoulder the load.** The spiritual health of a congregation does not ride lightly on the shoulders of the man of God. I heard the prayers, saw the agony, and witnessed the frustration that goes along with shepherding a church.

- **Preachers don’t get praised.** I’ll never forget the time a deacon cornered me after church. “Boy, your dad’s doing a good job. I’d tell him, but I don’t want him to get the ‘big head.’” If he only knew how much those words would have meant.

October is National Pastor’s Month. Why not take the opportunity to show your pastor how much you appreciate him? If he’s doing a good job, tell him. If things are not going so well, throw your arm around his shoulder and let him know you will stand with him through thick and thin. Take him to play golf. Give him a weekend away with his wife. Let him know you care. □

LETTERS

I just wanted to write a quick note and let you know how much I enjoyed your article about immigration and the church’s role in this “hot” issue. I live in Denver, CO, where there is a huge influx of illegal immigrants, and I have been frustrated with the situation recently. However, when I read your article, it was a good reminder of how we are supposed to reach out as a church and witness to these people, instead of pushing them away.

Keep up the good work!

Nathan Atwood, Denver, CO

Greetings and congratulations! You folks hit a home run with the most recent issue. It sparkled with crisp excellence and represented my beloved Free Will Baptist family the way I prefer. The article about Roger Reeds was as classy as he was. I remember well a weekend when he was speaking at our church. It was a cold, rainy Sunday afternoon, and he, my son Bert (who was only about six or seven at the time), and I spent Sunday afternoon on the living room floor playing with a race-car set. I was amazed that a person of his importance enjoyed this as much as Bert and I did.

He was relentless in the success of Randall House and advancing the cause of Jesus Christ.

Tim Jordan, Enterprise, AL

I wanted to send just a word of appreciation for the articles in *ONE Magazine* concerning the “emerging church.” In our time people are doing their best to find answers to the dilemma churches face in seeking to reach people. The emerging church is a broad subject with many variables and many convoluted ideas. I appreciate Kevin’s handling of this matter with precise insights and the ability to provide a concise view in such a small amount of space.

Len Blanchard, Marietta, GA

I tried to write Dr. Picirilli using the e-mail address in the magazine, but the message kept returning to me. I have two items he might need for the historical collection [“Making History,” June/July 2007, pg 52]. Do you have another address for him?

Jean McCraney, Red Bay, AL

To Our Readers: You can reach Dr. Robert E. Picirilli at picirillir@bellsouth.net.



WHO ARE THESE GUYS ANYWAY?

By MATT MARKINS

I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER SITTING with him at a picnic table in the park each Thursday during the summer following my senior year. We studied First Timothy, and he took time to explain the book verse-by-verse. We finished just in time for me to leave for college.

I met another during college. I remember sitting at Cracker Barrel enjoying flaky biscuits and steaming

coffee while he explained the elements that go into preparing a sermon. And when I called him late one night after a rough week, he promptly invited me over. I headed to his house at 10:00 p.m. While others were getting ready for bed, he took time out of his exhausting schedule to counsel me.

I've heard story after story. Some visit the hospital daily. Others disciple entire families after leading them to Christ. Still others cry with hurting people, confront sin in love, and restore broken lives in the process—even when it hurts.

Who are these people? **PASTORS.**

THE MONTH OF OCTOBER is set aside to honor pastors. October 15 has been designated National Pastor Appreciation Sunday. If your pastor goes above and beyond the call of duty in his dedication to the Lord and his love for the congregation, consider giving him something that says, "Thanks. We love you, and we know how much you care."

They love. They live. They care. This is your opportunity to tell your pastor you notice. □

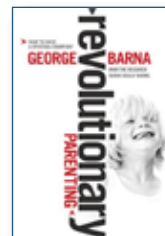
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GO FLY A KITE!

By Matt Crain

A few years ago, I was suffering from extreme physical, mental, and spiritual exhaustion. As a young man in my first full-time pastorate, I was meeting myself coming and going. I was unaware, of course, of just how badly this affected my family and me. I rationalized that I had always been busy and made it through just fine. Besides, I reminded myself, idle hands lead to a wandering heart. The busier I was, the better the chances of walking a straight path that would please the Lord.

One day I dropped off some building materials for a Habitat For Humanity house in our community. Afterward, I found myself talking with a couple of fellow ministers about pastoring, family life, the community, and so on. Suddenly, a Presbyterian friend turned to me and said, "Matt, you are entirely too busy. At the pace you're on, you won't last 10 years in the pastorate. You need to learn the right way to fly a kite."

"Fly a kite?" I wondered what that had to do with me.

"If you want to fly a kite," he continued, "there are a couple of different ways to attempt it. The first is to run like a crazed madman across the fields trying to generate enough wind to lift the kite. This will keep you busy, and others will think you are doing a great job at flying the kite, but in reality, you are only dragging it fast enough to keep it from crashing. You cannot run very long, however, before you will tire out and the kite will crash anyway. The other way is to construct a good kite, take it to the highest hill you can find, and wait for a strong breeze."

With that he turned to me, smiled, and said, "Matt, you know we love you, and we know God will do great things through you; but can I just say—you are looking awfully winded these days. That kite represents your ministry. Is the ministry flying with Holy Spirit power, or are you just running awfully fast?"

Several years have passed since that moment of wise intervention, and I am learning ways to keep from living life winded and frustrated. If you find

yourself in a similar position in life, soak in a couple of suggestions on how to slow down without feeling as though you are wasting your life.

First, refresh yourself often in the Word of God and prayer. Ben Patterson is right: "prayerlessness is its own punishment." Linger on that statement for a moment. If you are too busy to stop, read, meditate, and pray, you are too busy. Nothing elaborate is needed. Perhaps you can only squeeze 15 minutes from your morning for the Lord. You will find them to be the most powerful 15 minutes of your day if you allow God to make them so.

Second, review your priorities often with your calendar and your checkbook in front of you. We all talk a good game of making good decisions with our resources (time, talents, and treasures), but this ritual will tell you the truth. Ask your spouse and children how things are going. Their honest answers will give you a realis-



*Matthew B. Crain pastors First FWB Church in Johnston City, IL.
Contact Matt at pastormattc72@yahoo.com.*

tic picture of your life. Children, in particular, see things exceptionally clearly.

As a side note, exercise and eating habits have a lot to do with our mental and physical health. I know you hear this all the time, but we really should heed the advice of doctors and elders.

Finally, take time to rest periodically in God's presence. Again, nothing elaborate is needed. Anything from a two-day solo getaway to an afternoon hike with the family, or a cup of your favorite hot drink with a good Christian book can suffice. Just

set the parameters, and allow nothing—not even you—to interrupt it. Remember, time thinking, reading, and praying is not wasted.

Friend, from one kiteflyer to another, do not allow yourself to get caught in the trap the world sets when it comes to time and refreshment. Allow God's Holy Spirit to speak to your heart often, in the quiet place, and see how much more focused and revived you become. May God bless your efforts to wait on His wonderful, powerful, holy wind to lift you up where He desires you to be. □

The Call

We Told Him “YES!”

By Allen Hall

Once upon a time there was an ordinary family that was a very blessed family indeed. They were part of a church where each of them felt important, needed, and loved. To say they were content in their church and ministry would be an understatement. God had placed wonderful people in their lives who not only were friends but dear friends. In fact, they were more like family...



THEN THE CALL CAME. I cannot pinpoint an exact time; the call came over an extended period. Jenny and I heard God's urgings. Sometimes He spoke very softly during our morning devotions; during missionary services He spoke a little louder. The loudest call, however, came while attending youth conferences with our youth groups. Ironically, as we prayed for our young people to surrender their lives to God, God would simply inquire, "How about you?"

As time passed, the call became more urgent and personal than ever. After much prayer (and many confirmations from the Lord) we told Him yes. We knew the time had arrived for our family to lay aside personal desires, place our fears in His hands, and simply do what God had been preparing us to do our entire lives—go to the mission field.

As a family, we agreed that the call was not just to one individual. We determined that wherever God led us, we would minister, work, laugh, cry, pray, and share our ups and downs—together. God's call was a family call.

The Testing

Our determination was immediately put to the test by long months of fundraising. Our family agrees unanimously that nothing we have ever done is more tense than being crammed into a car for hours upon end as we traveled to each new service, especially when we were tired, hungry, or lost! Yet by God's grace we persevered. As the miles, meals, and messages flew by, we watched in amazement as our family grew stronger and closer to one another.

The Blessings

As we conducted each service, it was our goal to demonstrate how every member of the family wanted to find and do God's will. Jenny and I shared testimonies of how the Lord dealt with our hearts as children. Jenny told a children's story, I preached, and Allison and I ended the service by singing, "Is There Anything I Can Do for You?" Our eyes would fill with tears each time we encountered a boy, girl, mom, dad, grandma, or grandpa who heard God's call on his or her life for the first time. What a blessing to witness firsthand.



Another blessing came when God answered our prayer for another couple to go with us. We had prayed earnestly and specifically that the couple would love the Lord and the souls of others, but also for certain talents that would be assets to the mission work.

God called a precious couple who possessed all of the above. Stephen and Lauren Kimbrell were both approaching college graduation. They had already been praying about going to the mission field to help a missionary. We were thrilled when God called them to minister beside us. They have been a blessing to our new church and a greater blessing to our family.

The New Church

We decided the theme for Good News Church would be “Where the Family Worships God Together.” Every week, persons of all ages are encouraged to become active participants in the service. I cannot describe the beautiful voices of this new congregation as they sing old hymns, choruses, and even children’s songs to praise the Lord.

Because our current location does not have a place for Children’s Church to meet, Stephen started “Kid’s Time” during each service. The adults enjoy the lessons as much as the kids. Each week

every child receives a bulletin called “Good News Kids” and a Bible verse to memorize that week for a special prize on the following Sunday.

Through the singing, preaching, and even the announcements, our goal is to make the church, the Bible, and (most important) Jesus relevant to every member of the family. We hope God will use our church to send other missionaries to the field. We also pray God will send people from our congregation to be missionaries as well.

The Conclusion

How awesome to see the hand of God at work! How wonderful to watch a new church spring to life. How exciting to witness the lives of people being changed. How humbling to be the family God called to this mission field. How glad we are that He did and that we said yes. □

*The End... no...
The Beginning!*

Allen and Jenny Hall are home missionaries to York, PA.



Your

Church

Can Grow!

By Jack Williams

FWBBC church growth seminars reach out to local churches.

ONE OF OUR GOALS AT FREE WILL Baptist Bible College is to find ways we can serve local churches and pastors—to do something that helps right now when it matters most. That's why for the past two years Reverend Terry Forrest, coordinator for FWBBC's Pastoral Ministry program, has conducted church growth seminars in conjunction with his efforts to recruit students for the college.

BORN OF NECESSITY

The seminars are *different* and typically last Friday and Saturday. They grew out of real-life ministry experience Forrest gained while pastoring in Arkansas. His Walnut Ridge congregation grew from 120 to 300 in eight years. In Monticello, these growth principles helped start a new church that went self-supporting during the first year. He also served nearly 15 years on the Arkansas State Mission Board.

The incentive to develop these principles used in seminars and taught in the FWBBC classroom came in 1991 when the pastor and leadership at Bethel FWB Church near Ashland City, Tennessee, asked Terry to plan and initiate a program for growth. Bethel's attendance jumped from 115

to 177 during the first year, averaged 260 in Sunday School in 2006, with a high of 510.

THE JERRY AND TERRY SHOW

When a pastor requests a growth seminar, Terry likes to partner with long-time friend Jerry Milom. Jerry is an FWBBC alumnus, a printer, a deacon, and the Sunday School superintendent at Bethel FWB Church where Terry is a member and where he once pastored. Jerry puts together a complete Sunday School campaign and trains the workers. To this point, Terry and Jerry have taught four seminars in Arkansas, Georgia, Virginia, and South Carolina. Terry conducted a solo seminar in Tennessee.

MATERIALS MADE TO ORDER

Forrest designed a specific growth program he calls "A Grassroots Plan for Growth." The plan has become part of the FWBBC course, *PT 233 Church Growth: Theory and Practice*, a requirement for Pastoral Ministry students.

The seminars begin with Terry briefing the pastor on what will take place. Nothing is presented without pastoral approval. The two meet with church leaders to ask for their sup-

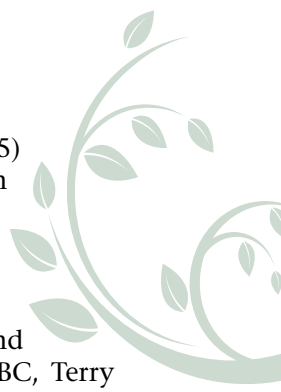
port. On Saturday morning, a Sunday School campaign prepared exclusively for that church is implemented and workers trained.

Terry and Jerry provide a list of suggestions for the pastor and church leaders based on an on-site evaluation of the church's program and facilities. Typically, these suggestions focus on a 15-year plan for growth. If the team stays through Sunday, they take the Sunday School hour (adult classes only) to talk to the congregation about growth.

"This approach is different from others," Terry says, "in that it is multifaceted, sets short- and long-range goals, projects needed space requirements, and is designed to produce low anxiety/low fear among participants. It is based on the assumption that people, including laity, really want to do something for God's kingdom, that they can and will if given the tools and training."

FWBBC GIVES BACK

This is one of the ways FWBBC gives back to the denomination while, at the same time, recruiting students for the college. We're spreading the word about church growth one church at a time. We've found something that



works, and we want to share it with others.

We're doing that in three ways. First, every Pastoral Ministry student gets hands-on experience in church growth. That's also true for other students in ministry-related programs (youth, Christian education, and more).

Second, after we teach students the principles of long-range local church growth, we send them back into our churches with an enthusiasm for church growth and the know-how to be part of the process.

Third, we take the "Grassroots Plan for Growth" directly into Free Will Baptist churches and show leaders how to increase their attendance.

STRAIGHT TALK AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

The "Grassroots Plan for Growth" uses language you can understand and involves four basic steps that can work for any church regardless of size or location:

- *Step One* addresses how to create a growth environment and explains the four tools for church growth.

- *Step Two* develops and trains soul winning/outreach teams, includes pastoral helps, trains shepherding teams to "close the back door," and more.

- *Step Three* sets in place a comprehensive, practical 16-month growth plan with specific goals and measurable results.

- *Step Four* looks at expansion and the bumps to expect along the way, cites 14 outreach tools, and introduces community surveys as a means to locate prospects.

There's more to the program than the four brief outline statements above, of course.

Does it sound interesting so far? Want to know more? Check out the testimonials from pastors and laity where Terry and Jerry have conducted seminars.

Give Terry a call at (615) 844-5202 and talk with him about your growth concerns, or email him at tforrest@fwbbc.edu. Due to his responsibilities as program coordinator and student recruiter at FWBBC, Terry can only accept a limited number of requests to conduct church growth seminars.

IF YOU'RE A PASTOR...

If you're a pastor, we hope this article encourages you and your church to do two things—to launch a church growth campaign and to prayerfully consider supporting Free Will Baptist Bible College with your students and your finances.

If you're a student considering where to attend college, we hope you will pray about attending Free Will Baptist Bible College—we take God's Word and God's work seriously, and we have a place here for you. □

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

REPORT FROM KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE / FELLOWSHIP FWB CHURCH

The greatest thing for me as a pastor was the one-on-one talk with Terry. He is a pastor to pastors. He shared a 10-point strategy for my church. The church growth weekend brought a spirit of revival to our church. We had 11 saved on Friend Day with an attendance of 257. We have also developed "GO," a new visitation program.

-Pastor Jeff Davis

The steps Brother Forrest described were so simple. He really opened our eyes to a lot of growth options.

-Josh McKinney, Young Adult Sunday School Teacher and Youth Director

I thoroughly enjoyed it and am excited about the church growth program Brother Forrest helped us develop. He pointed out our strengths and weaknesses, and gave us encouragement that our church will grow.

-Janice Harrison, Ladies Adult Sunday School Teacher

The first part of the plan was to organize a Friends Day. Sunday School and worship were up (way up), and there were 11 decisions for Christ. He emphasized two things necessary for growth—cost and change. We must pay the cost, and we must change. I'm excited! We see real possibilities for tremendous growth.

-Mike Bays, Deacon

REPORT FROM TURBEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA / HORSE BRANCH FWB CHURCH

After Terry Forrest and Jerry Milom conducted a church growth seminar, we had 67 more in Sunday School on our emphasis day than our average for the last quarter, and almost 80 more in the morning worship service. This came with little effort.

Our people were amazed at the results. I highly recommend every church wanting to reach their community for Christ contact these brethren about a Sunday School campaign and church growth essentials.

-Pastor Mike Edwards

REPORT FROM GREENWOOD, ARKANSAS / FIRST FWB CHURCH

It has been over a year, but what I remember most was their sweet spirit and conviction about souls dying and going to Hell. It was not just a series of things we need to do. I received a real challenge, and a blessing later when I invited folks to church.

-Gerald Thomas, Chairman of the Deacon Board

Terry and Jerry are great guys, and I recommend them. They come in to help the pastor and church. They were well prepared with charts and ways to help Sunday School growth, and how to get people involved in a ministry of our church. Terry gave ideas to the pastor, along with sermon outlines; Jerry focused on the Sunday School superintendent and teachers.

-Pastor Jim Walker

REPORT FROM STATESBORO, GEORGIA / NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP FWB CHURCH

After Terry Forrest preached a revival at our church, I was hyped-up with excitement and invited Terry and Jerry for a church growth seminar. They came and laid it all out. They made it simple to understand. They spoke frankly about what the church needed to do in order to see growth. The program is wonderful. It's the real deal...for it focuses on evangelism and discipleship. But for this program to work, the old essentials must be in place—pastor and people sold on it, and hard work. Terry and Jerry have come up with a program that will work if the people will.

-Pastor Wayne Miracle

Where DOES A WIFE GO?

BY SUZAN T. HUTCHINSON

A WEALTH OF NEED

Imagine with me...the phone rings and you respond, "Hello?"

A quiet voice answers, *"Hello, I'm a pastor's wife, and I wonder—do you know anyone I can talk to? I have some pressing problems and I can't go to just anyone with them. They are, um, you know...personal, private. If the wrong person finds out it could ruin my husband's ministry."*

"Oh, it's not that bad; I didn't mean to imply it is. It's just that...well, I don't have anyone I can turn to—not with things like this. I don't know what to do or where to go. I'm hoping, maybe, you can, you know, give me some names, or tell me what to do, or tell me where I can find support, who I can trust enough to share this stuff inside me. Um, listen, maybe this isn't such a good idea. Thanks anyway..." (click)

If you have Caller ID, will you call her back? If you do, what will you say?

LONELY IN A CROWD

Imagine with me again...you visit a new church. Can you pick out the pastor's wife?

What would you look for? A smile? Children flocking to her side and women seeking her company? Would she be the center of attention? Dressed in the latest style? Every hair in place? Would her children be perfectly behaved and well-mannered? Would her husband dote on her, hug her, and keep her by his side?

Get real! I would look for someone with a hint of loneliness about her, wearing a smile that doesn't twinkle her eyes, engaged in conversation yet slightly distracted. She's alert and guarded, quick to offer a hug but not one to linger. Her children sometimes run in church, she's wrinkled slightly with hair tousled by a child's sticky fingers. She's friendly but not open.

RECOGNIZED BUT UNKNOWN

Imagine a woman filled with insecurities and fears—a pastor's wife. Perhaps in a new city far from friends, family, and all that's familiar. She endures financial struggles. Personal struggles. Conflicts with her husband. Stress at church. Stress at home. Silent pain. Hidden secrets. Do you recognize this woman? Can you tell me her name?

If she called, would you know what to tell her? I have some suggestions....

TO THE ROCK

Tell her she can go to THE ROCK mentioned in Psalms, seek out the Great Physician; make a withdrawal from the Bank of God's Goodness; find comfort in His presence and answers in His Word; find strength in knowing He understands her weakness and hears her every cry; she can turn to her list of friends and seek wise counsel; seek out wives of other pastors and seek their advice and friendship (who better to understand than someone who walks in the same shoes 24/7). She can visit a Christian bookstore and purchase books dealing with the issues at hand; join support groups—online and off—for wives of ministers.

HEART TUGS

As I wrote these paragraphs, my almost-15-year-old asked what the article was about. My reply: "It's about pastors' wives, and how they often have no one to talk to about their problems." He said, "You know you can talk to me anytime." "You can talk to me."

Wow, that tugs at my heart.

You see, I am a pastor's wife—have been for more than 27 years. I know the name of the woman described above. If you are a pastor's wife, you see her every time you look into a mirror.

There have been countless times when I felt I could talk to no one but my husband—no one with whom I could share my hurts, no one I could fully trust, no one who would understand, no one I could confide in.

Have you felt that, too? I sometimes need someone who will not judge, criticize me (or my husband, children, or housekeeping), and accept my quirks and craziness, who will be a friend and help shoulder the load.

I AM ONE; YOU ARE TWO

If I have, and you have—don't you think other pastors' wives have experienced the same feelings and needs?

We want to belong, to share ourselves. We wish to share what makes us who we are and why. Our husbands, children, and families often fill that need within—but what happens when we need more?

Some would flippantly say, "Turn to God." I agree. He should be the first one we turn to.

But, what if He isn't enough? Remember, He created us with an inborn desire to share, to be accepted and loved by our own kind.

God authored the first negative words in the Bible, and they concern relationship. Although God and Adam walked together, God said the relationship wasn't enough. "It is not good that man should be alone..." If God's fellowship alone wasn't enough for Adam, why should we expect it to be enough for us?

I am one. You are two. He makes three (Matthew 18:19,20).

WHAT'S A GIRL TO DO?

So, what's a pastor's wife to do when she needs to open up and share something that's bothering her, a hurt she holds deep within? A disappointment? Grief? Concern? Difficulty? Fear? What does she do when (gasp!) she can't get along with a church member? Who does she turn to when there is marital strife? Where does she go when things turn sour and she's left hiding the bitterness?

Someone once told me, "Your job is to smile at all times and keep a stiff upper lip." I did that for years, but it's really hard to smile with a stiff upper lip. Don't believe me? Find a mirror and try it.

TRUST AND OBEY

The unique position of a pastor's wife can quickly become confusing. In an attempt to protect ourselves and those we love, we keep silent, hiding and hoping things will get better. They don't, and hiding our feelings is certainly not the advice we would give someone who comes to us for counseling. Pastors' wives know far too well that it's hard to trust, especially when we don't know whom to trust, or if we should trust at all.

Here's what I've found to be true: Trust God. Trust His Word. Trust Him to provide friends and confidants. Trust Him to protect you and your confidence. Trust Him to give you strength to reach out, and the ability to accept the help that's waiting. Trust Him to know your needs better than you do. Trust Him to bring you into contact with those you need and who need you.

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

When I told my mom about this article, she wondered aloud "Whom do you talk to?"

I replied, "I talk to you." She quickly countered, "I can listen but I can't understand—I've never been there." She's right. For her to understand, she would have to be a pastor's wife.

I need understanding. I need friendships. I need to "let my hair down" and my human side out from time to time. I need to unwind and unload. So do you. God knows we have need of these things and has provided us with a network of helps and friends to assist in our journey as pastors' wives.

Be proactive. Develop a network of friendships. If you're still in college, develop a good support group because you will need it later. If you're already in ministry, begin a fellowship for pastors' wives in your area. Talk to your state association about providing a Ministers' Wives Retreat.

Herein lies the answer to our question. Where's a pastor's wife to go? God has given us each other. Call me. I'll listen. □

Suzan T. Hutchinson is a pastor's wife. She and her husband Tim live in Dublin, GA.

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Rev. Barry Raper

Program Coordinator of Christian Education and Youth Ministry Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Former pastor at Red Bay Free Will Baptist Church (Red Bay, AL).

For information call 615-844-5290

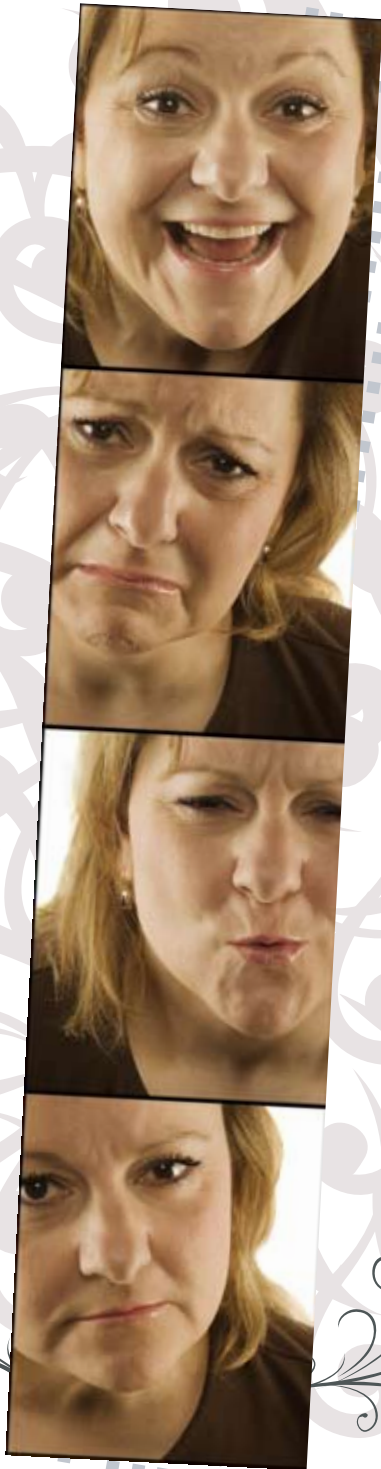


Free Will Baptist
Bible College

Equipping 21st Century Pastors' Wives

FWBBC Reaches Out To Pastors' Wives.

By Jack Williams



“One week I got married and went on my honeymoon; the next I was a newlywed living in a parsonage. Like many others, I had no preparation. I served eight years as a young pastor’s wife in Georgia. Those were great learning years—some lessons came easy, some came hard.”

While those words could have been written by any of several hundred ministers’ wives, they are the testimony of Melinda Pinson, wife of Free Will Baptist Bible College President Matt Pinson. She experienced the uneasiness of moving into a new community, the confusion of learning new names and who is kin to whom, and the realization that she had no formal training for her new role in the church and community.

Mentoring Women

Speaking to a group of 42 people (mostly women) last November, Mrs. Pinson said, “I’ve learned three things about being a pastor’s wife. First, I learned to be content no matter what the situation. Second, I learned adversity is not always a sign that it’s time to pack up and move. Third, I learned to love all of God’s people, and the importance of mentoring another woman.”

Twelve years after her moment of truth as a rookie pastor’s wife, Melinda was finally in a position to help young women starting out in pastoral ministry with their preacher husbands. What she did with that opportunity began with September questions and ended three months later with a special night celebrating the unique calling of pastors’ wives.

10-Week Seminar

Thanks to the cooperation of Reverend Terry Forrest, program coordinator for FWBBC’s Pastoral Ministry Department, and a grant from a Christian foundation, Mrs. Pinson set in motion a 10-week seminar series in September 2006, a seminar designed with the 21st century pastor’s wife in mind.

The resulting project was named, “Equipping 21st Century Pastors’ Wives.” The long-running series met on Thursday nights from September 7 through November 16, closing with an appreciation dinner that changed the landscape for an excited group of pastors’ wives.

Thursdays with the Girls

Everything about the seminar was free—child care, door prizes, refreshments, and, best of all, speakers who understood what it meant to live in a parsonage knowing that every Sunday was a final exam.

Appreciation dinner
brings together
attendees and guests.



Mandy Johnston (L) and
Melinda Pinson display
door prize.

The weekly get-togethers were designed to put pastors' wives at ease and allow them to meet as equals on their turf. The atmosphere was welcoming, with a come-as-often-as-your-schedule-permits attitude. Thirty-six area pastors' wives and FWBBC students said "Yes" to the concept and showed up for the opening session: "Taking Care of You: The Emotional Needs of the Pastor's Wife."

Each week creative and knowledgeable speakers, eager listeners, and intriguing subjects huddled for two hours (6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.) in Thigpen Theater on the FWBBC campus. Veteran Free Will Baptist pastors' wives led the sessions—Mrs. Debbie Burden, Dr. Shirley Thomas, Mrs. Sandy Atwood, Mrs. Wanda Powell, Mrs. Donna Forrest, Mrs. Jena Simpson, Mrs. Marjorie Workman, Mrs. Brenda Evans, Mrs. Phyllis York, Mrs. Linda Gladson. They laughed, they cried, they remembered, they learned.

Every seminar was different—Finances and Time Management, Safeguarding the Home, Dealing with Criticism and Adversity, Mothers Working at Home/Outside the Home, the Ministry of Hospitality...and more. Each session focused on the real-life experiences of women who had been there and had come back to tell their stories.

Never Alone

When the November celebration dinner arrived, most of the 36 women who started in September were still together. They had shared their lives, their fears, their hopes. They had become friends; they were one in purpose. They knew they were not alone.

Terry Forrest addressed dinner attendees briefly. "This program has been a dream of mine for a long time. Every man who steps forward and answers the call to the ministry is a hero. I'm impressed by the caliber of women who serve alongside these men."

How Did We Do?

As the evening progressed, seven pastors' wives and FWBBC women students gave testimony to the effectiveness of the seminars:

"I wish I'd had something like this before I got married. A pastor's wife needs to know that she's not alone."

—Mrs. Donetta Rogers, pastor's wife

"I listened to the speakers tell about the mistakes they made, and I want to learn from your mistakes! I also learned that being submissive is more difficult than talking about it."

—Mrs. Jennifer Altom, youth pastor's wife

"The choice of topics was excellent. So were the fellowship and the door prizes."

—Mrs. Debbie Dankson, pastor's wife

"A lot of my fears about being a pastor's wife have been toned down. I learned something new every time I came."

—Leslie Meadows, FWBBC student (now graduated and Mrs. James Judkins)

"What I liked best was that I got to listen instead of doing the talking. The most important thing I learned was to accept change and be grateful."

—Mrs. Allysa Harvey, wife of children's minister (now missionary to creative access areas)

"I learned that God has a ministry for me, even though I'm married to a pastor."

—Mrs. Mandy Johnston, FWBBC student's wife

Lasting Impact

Melinda Pinson wrote in advance to those who planned to attend the seminar and said about the speakers, "They are Free Will Baptist women just like you. They will be talking about issues that impact you, your husband, your family, and your church."

She was right. The 21st Century Pastors' Wives Seminar changed 36 women, and it could change many times that number.

For you see, the seminar did not end at the celebration dinner. Several of the series presentations will be available on DVD later this fall. More information about the seminar DVD will be posted on the FWBBC website at www.fwbcc.edu.

We wish every Free Will Baptist pastor's wife could have attended the life-changing seminar and enjoyed the fellowship. That wasn't possible, of course. But you can still do something special for your pastor's wife. A gift copy of the *Equipping 21st Century Pastors' Wives Seminar* may be just what she needs.

A woman of God stands beside the pastor in your church. We at FWBBC honor her and salute her. □

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



For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6 – 8).

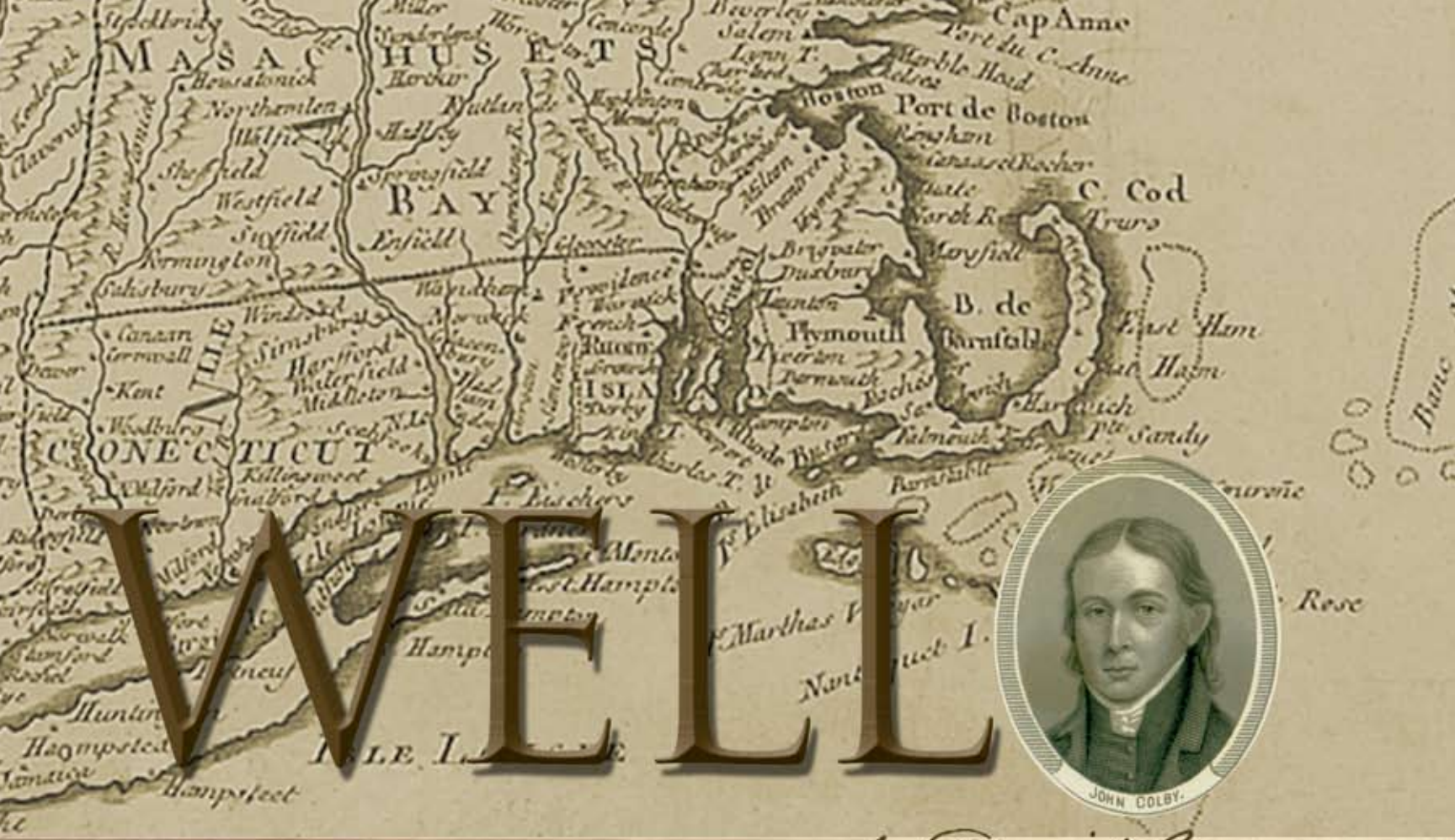
At the end of his life, Paul said, "I finished well." The reason Paul could finish well was because Jesus had already finished well. On the cross Jesus said, "It is finished!" He had completed what the Father sent him to do. Because of Jesus, you and I can finish well in Christ's work.

What a tragedy to see Christian men and women live a lifetime for Christ and accomplish great things in life and ministry, only to find themselves bitter, critical, and cynical in their last years and days. We will be remembered most by how we finish.

All I wait for is my Saviour's command, and my soul will then leave this body." These were the last words spoken by Elder Benjamin Randall. He died October 22, 1808, at age 59. In less than 30 years, he saw the fledgling denomination grow to number nearly 100 churches and 5,000 members. He had personally started 51 of these churches, the beginnings of the Free Will Baptists in the North. During his last three years (1805-1807), in poor health and feeble, he traveled over 2,000 miles a year preaching in over 200 public meetings. In a letter dated May 1808, four months before his death, Randall wrote, "I am a poor, worn-out servant; and here I sit and see my flesh gone and my bones project, and rejoice that I have worn out in so blessed a cause. Though I know it would be blessed to depart, yet I think I would be willing to stay on these low grounds until I wore out life after life in such blessed employment. I think now, if I had only my lungs and voice, however weak my body, I would blow the gospel trumpet until I died in the blessed work. Pray as the Spirit directs, for your poor, unworthy Benjamin. I die, your servant for Christ's sake, Benjamin Randall."

He finished well!

John Colby was not strong, and the fatal disease of consumption began to develop in his body in March of 1817. He returned to his father's home and improved enough to preach and travel south



by David Crowe

to a warmer climate. He got as far as Norfolk, Virginia, on October 31, and stayed in the home of Mr. Fauquier, a deacon in a Baptist church. He continued to fail rapidly, but was twice carried to church and preached before he died November 23, 1817, not yet 30 years of age. His grave rests near the entrance of that church in Norfolk, and is marked by a plain marble slab. John Colby was described as "singular, gifted, faithful, persuasive, amiable, and emotional." He impressed all who knew him and was a most beloved disciple of Christ.

He finished well!

David Marks lay on his deathbed at 40 years of age, his body worn and racked with pain. He had traveled, exposed himself to the elements of nature, and literally preached himself to death. From his deathbed he said to his mentor, Charles Finney, "Take me to the meeting-house and let me give one more talk before I die." They propped him on the pulpit, and he preached one last time in the chapel of Oberlin College. He died one month later on December 1, 1845. Charles Finney preached his funeral and said, "David Marks is probably the greatest Free Will Baptist that has ever lived." Having studied those before him and those since his death, I would be inclined to agree.

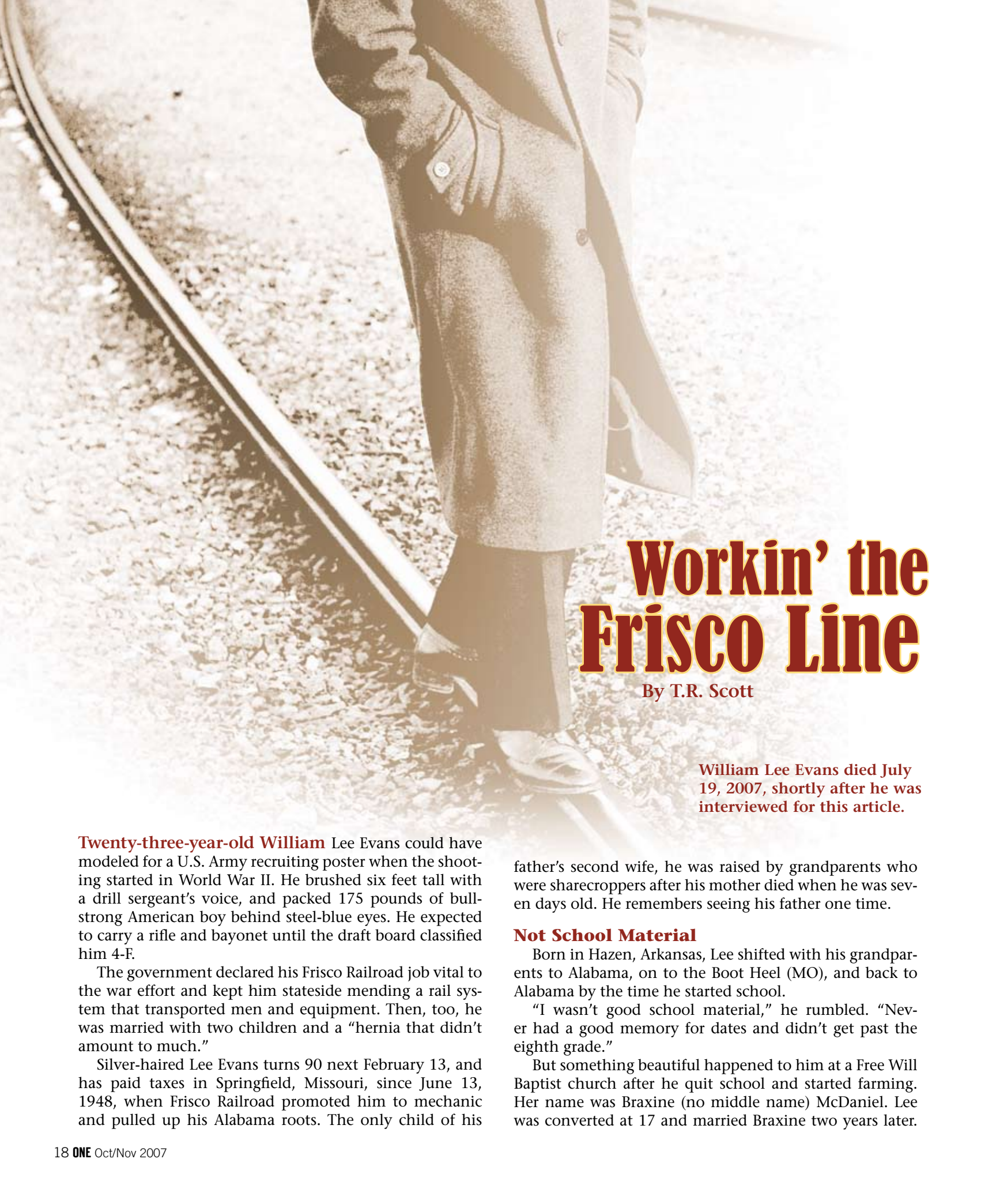
He finished well!

Joseph Parker ministered in North Carolina for 64 years, starting nine churches in five counties. When the Calvinist movement swept through the state in the mid 1700s, most Free Will Baptist churches were swept up in it. The few remaining churches that continued as Free Will Baptists were those started by Joseph Parker and his cousin William. Those few churches grew, and Free Will Baptists have a strong presence in North Carolina and many other Southern States today. Joseph Parker had a long and successful ministry, and he was faithful until death.

He finished well!

May God give me the grace, strength, wisdom and courage to FINISH WELL! □

David Crowe is the director of church growth for the Home Missions Department.



Workin' the Frisco Line

By T.R. Scott

William Lee Evans died July 19, 2007, shortly after he was interviewed for this article.

Twenty-three-year-old William Lee Evans could have modeled for a U.S. Army recruiting poster when the shooting started in World War II. He brushed six feet tall with a drill sergeant's voice, and packed 175 pounds of bull-strong American boy behind steel-blue eyes. He expected to carry a rifle and bayonet until the draft board classified him 4-F.

The government declared his Frisco Railroad job vital to the war effort and kept him stateside mending a rail system that transported men and equipment. Then, too, he was married with two children and a "hernia that didn't amount to much."

Silver-haired Lee Evans turns 90 next February 13, and has paid taxes in Springfield, Missouri, since June 13, 1948, when Frisco Railroad promoted him to mechanic and pulled up his Alabama roots. The only child of his

father's second wife, he was raised by grandparents who were sharecroppers after his mother died when he was seven days old. He remembers seeing his father one time.

Not School Material

Born in Hazen, Arkansas, Lee shifted with his grandparents to Alabama, on to the Boot Heel (MO), and back to Alabama by the time he started school.

"I wasn't good school material," he rumbled. "Never had a good memory for dates and didn't get past the eighth grade."

But something beautiful happened to him at a Free Will Baptist church after he quit school and started farming. Her name was Braxine (no middle name) McDaniel. Lee was converted at 17 and married Braxine two years later.



PHOTO: William and Braxine Evans

They missed their 50th anniversary by three months.

The marriage produced two children. Daughter Margaret (Mrs. Ralph Hampton) is library manager at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Son Bill (former Bryan society fullback and now the Reverend Wil-

liam Evans) retired in July 2007 as general director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation.

Riding the Rails

Times were tough and jobs scarce when Lee and Braxine married in 1936. He farmed a few years, then looked for public work.

"I followed a guy to Lumber City (GA) and worked at a sawmill for a year," he said. "He lost his shirt, and I took a job with the Hollis Lumber Company in Mississippi. The foreman was difficult and singled me out publicly for criticism. They told us our jobs had been frozen, and we couldn't quit. But the day I confronted the foreman, I lost the job I couldn't quit!"

Lee caught a train to the Amory depot, arriving at 3:00 a.m. Seeing men loading materials, he gave them a hand with the heavy stuff. They found out he needed work and sent him to a Frisco Railroad clerk. He had a job by noon that he kept 35 years.

"I started as a welder's helper," Lee said. "The welding gang repaired 39-foot rails, building up the ends that wore down. Our job was to prevent railroad emergencies. We worked 10 hours a day, seven days a week, and lived in bunk cars. They'd hook an engine to our bunk car and haul us where the work was."

Lee began operating special equipment...driving Ford tractors and doing ditch work with D-4 and D-7 Caterpillars. Then came the 1948 promotion to mechanic with its stipulation that he relocate to Springfield.

Some Memories Hurt

"I was away from home an awful lot in those days," Lee reflected, "from three to seven weeks at a time. The work never stopped, and we'd rotate men so we could get a few days off. The railroad gave us a pass, and we rode free."

When Lee gestures with his left hand, he displays a railroad reminder. At age 55, he placed his hand under a forklift belt and triggered the starter. The machine stripped flesh from the first joint of his middle finger. A railroad doctor said the end of the finger had to be removed.

"Looked like he used bolt cutters on that finger," Lee said. "He sewed that thing up like a sack of oats, and told me I didn't have to worry about having soft bones."

Braxine's World

To hear him tell it, Lee's wife with no middle name was

"Daddy is very family-oriented. The summer I was to get married, Mother and Daddy talked about going to Canada on vacation. Mother suggested waiting until after the wedding so we wouldn't be rushed. Daddy said, 'No, if we can't all go, then none of us will.'

"Daddy worked for the railroad and was on an expense account when he traveled. He had to pay up front and then turn in his account. Often when he would need to leave town, he was short on cash.

"Bill and I had piggy banks that Daddy fed, so he knew there would be a little money in them. Many times we came home from school to find a note that Daddy had to 'borrow' our money. When he repaid, he always paid with interest. We were glad for him to 'borrow' our money.

"No, Dad isn't perfect, but I'm thankful that God sent me to him. He has always encouraged us to do what we thought God wanted us to do. Though he is almost 90, he is still an inspiration to me."

--Mrs. Margaret Evans Hampton (daughter)

"When Dad came home from the railroad, it was a busy time getting all the work done. An annual chore was stockpiling wood for the kitchen stove. We would borrow a wagon, go to the woods, and haul in logs. Dad would cut and split them into stove wood, and Sis and I would stack it. He was a hard worker, always cheerful and happy. He seemed able to do almost anything and do it well.

"Our biggest project was the house expansion. First, we dug a basement. Even though I wasn't very big, I came home after school and removed small amounts of material each day. We built an addition of three bedrooms and a bath. Dad did most of the work. I was his go-fer and light-holder after dark. During those days, I learned the basics of rough carpentry, plumbing, and electrical work. Dad's approach to most jobs was that he could do it and I should learn.

"We always took two weeks in the summer to travel. By the time I finished high school, we had visited 46 states and Canada. Dad and I had some tension in my teen years but never to the degree experienced by many of my friends. We talk often about those years and rejoice that God gave us mature years where we became good friends."

--William "Bill" Evans (son)

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the perfect girl. Braxine stayed home with the children when they were young. Later, she went back to school, became a practical nurse, and worked for a nursing home.

When Braxine was 55, she passed out, tested herself, and discovered she had diabetes. In time, she required home care, and Lee was her sole caregiver for nine years. It was only after he fell off a ladder and broke an arm, foot, and leg while helping a neighbor pack shingles to the roof that he agreed for Braxine to enter a nursing home. She lived another 11 months.

"Braxine was the most influential person in my life," Lee said. "She was the brains in our house. She always honored me as a husband, but she was the spark plug in spiritual matters, a prayer warrior. I give her credit for our home and our kids."

Grant Avenue Deacon

Not long after the Evans family moved to Springfield, the Grant Avenue FWB Church organized, and they joined the church. Lee was ordained as a deacon in 1952 and remembers more than 50 years of pastors.

He sits on the end of the second pew where he greets members by name and listens to the pastor's sermon. He went on inactive deacon status 10 years ago, because "it was time for the younger men to take charge."

Pastor Cody Freeman said, "Brother Lee continues to be one of our most dependable members. He is always ready to go visiting, and is a source of inspiration to the whole church. He's concerned that he may be slowing down at 89, but during an ice storm last winter, I found him on top of his roof cutting tree limbs. He can outwork men half his age. I wish I had 50 more just like him."

Sold on FWB Foundation

Ten years ago, Lee decided to do something permanent for Free Will Baptist Bible College. He started a gift annuity that provides an annual revenue stream for himself now and will generate funds for FWBBC after he dies.

"I've always supported FWBBC," he said. "I was never a big contributor, just a regular one. I wanted to continue helping them in the future. Then, too, after Bill started working with the FWB Foundation, I wanted to get on board with them also."

He has established six gift annuities through the Foundation. The annuity rates get better each year as he ages, plus he has a fixed income for life.

"These gift annuities make me look smarter than I am," Lee laughed. "I'd advise laymen and preachers, old and young, to invest in the Lord's work financially with the Foundation. It's one of the best things I ever did."

Garden Guru

Lee seldom turns on his home air conditioner, and he still mows his yard. He climbs stairs, has sharp vision, and can hear a quarter drop in the offering plate.

"Oh, I like a good Western movie," he said. "I'll read the newspaper, and I read The Book. But I do a lot of gardening."

His 50-foot-wide garden plot with 45-foot rows produces corn, okra, beans, peas, and tomatoes. By late June, he had canned 21 quarts of snap beans.

Asked what he does with the vegetables, he grinned, "Well, I eat some, I can some, I give away some, and I sell some."

Lee has lived alone 21 years. "One good thing about working for the railroad," he said, "is that I learned how to be alone. When Braxine died, I was already accustomed to being alone."

William Lee Evans is an amazing man who says he's not as ornery as he looks and doesn't blow his own horn. A church full of people in Springfield love him like a father. The only person who does not understand what a treasure he is to the community is the former Frisco Railroad mechanic...who is never alone. □

After more than 30 years in the publishing industry, former magazine editor T.R. Scott enjoys freelance writing.



STUDENTS MINISTER IN URUGUAY AND NEW YORK

THIRTY STUDENTS TRAVELED to Uruguay and New York City during the 2007 spring semester to minister and share the gospel. Nine students served in Uruguay, 21 in New York City. Enrollment Counselor Emilee Puckett accompanied the New York contingency, while Missions Program Coordinator Ron Callaway flew to Uruguay with the South American ministry team.

Asked why they chose to stand on New York City streets for a week wearing red smocks emblazoned with "Prayer Changes Things," FWBBC students agreed that they needed to do something for Christ that required them to get out of their comfort zones. They split up into groups and rode subways to work stations in the Bronx, Harlem, Brooklyn, and several parks.

Miss Puckett said, "We prayed with about 500 people, shared the gospel with more than 300, and led 50 people to Christ."

The nine-member Uruguay team left the USA with a three-fold purpose: to acquaint students with Free Will Baptists in Uruguay, to meet missionaries laboring there, and to allow the Holy Spirit opportunity to speak with students about future service.

Four students remained in Montevideo with Uruguayan families and gave testimonies in Sunday services. The other five rode a bus six hours to Rivera where they stayed with families, learned about the mission field, and gave testimonies. Both groups cooperated to produce a PowerPoint™ presentation about the work.

Ron Callaway said, "The Uruguayans who hosted students in their homes were apprehensive at first, afraid they would be unable to communicate. However, because of our students' willingness to adapt, smile, and live like real Christians out of their comfort zones, the pastors and people are eager to host more students next time."

FLAMES ANNOUNCE SCHEDULE

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE Flames basketball team will play more than 25 games during the 2007-2008 season, according to Coach Rusty Campbell. The team will travel from Florida to Oklahoma for games and tournament play.

At this point in the season, the Flames are scheduled to play 10 home games in the Picirilli Activities Building on the FWBBC campus. To view the Flames' schedule, visit www.onemag.org/flames08.pdf

2007-2008 SCHEDULE

Oct. 30	Tuesday	7:00 P.M.	Bryan College (Exhibition)	Home
<i>Tip-Off Classic—Atlanta, GA</i>				
Nov. 2	Friday	4:00 P.M.	Toccoa Falls College	Atlanta, GA
Nov. 3	Saturday	4:00 P.M.	Atlanta Christian College	Atlanta, GA
<i>North-South Shootout—Florida</i>				
Nov. 8	Thursday	7:00 P.M.	Trinity Baptist College	Jacksonville, FL
Nov. 9	Friday	7:00 P.M.	Trinity College	Tampa, FL
Nov. 11	Saturday	1:00 P.M.	Florida Christian College	Kissimmee, FL
<i>Flames Classic—Nashville, TN</i>				
Nov. 15	Thursday	8:00 P.M.	Ecclesia College	Home
Nov. 16	Friday	8:00 P.M.	Bible Baptist College	Home
Nov. 17	Saturday	4:00 P.M.	Southeastern Bible College	Home
Nov. 19	Tuesday	6:00 P.M.	*Crown College	Home
Nov. 30	Friday	7:00 P.M.	St. Louis Christian College	Florissant, MO
Dec. 3	Monday	7:00 P.M.	Crowley's Ridge College	Paragould, AR
Dec. 4	Tuesday	7:00 P.M.	Rhodes College	Memphis, TN
Jan. 11	Friday	8:00 P.M.	*Kentucky Christian Univ.	Home
Jan. 12	Saturday	3:00 P.M.	*Boyce College	Home
Jan. 15	Tuesday	7:00 P.M.	*Johnson Bible College	Knoxville, TN
Jan. 18	Friday	8:00 P.M.	*Ohio Christian University	Home
Jan. 19	Saturday	4:00 P.M.	*Cincinnati Christian Univ.	Home
Jan. 25	Friday	7:00 P.M.	*Boyce College	Louisville, KY
Jan. 26	Saturday	2:00 P.M.	Shawnee Baptist College	Louisville, KY
Jan. 29	Tuesday	7:00 P.M.	*Crown College	Powell, TN
Feb. 2	Saturday	3:00 P.M.	*Johnson Bible College	Home
Feb. 7	Thursday	7:30 P.M.	*Cincinnati Christian University	Cincinnati, OH
Feb. 8	Friday	7:00 P.M.	*Ohio Christian University	Circleville, OH
Feb. 9	Saturday	7:30 P.M.	Franciscan University	Steubenville, OH
Feb. 16	Saturday	3:00 P.M.	*Appalachian Bible College	Home
Feb. 22	Friday	7:30 P.M.	*Kentucky Christian Univ.	Grayson, KY
Feb. 23	Saturday	8:00 P.M.	*Appalachian Bible College	Bradley, WV
Feb. 28-Mar.1	Th.-Sat.	TBD	Mid-East Region Tournament	Grayson, KY
Mar. 5-8	Wed.-Sat.	TBD	ACCA National Tournament	Bethany, OK
Mar. 11-15	Tu.-Sat	TBD	NCCAA National Tournament	Oklahoma City, OK

* Mid-East Region Game



PROFESSOR NAMED ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR

MR. DAVID M. HAHN, adjunct music professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College, has been named director of the 77-member Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra (NPO), according to Dr. James Stevens, chair of the FWBBC Music Department. Mr. Hahn has been a violinist with NPO since 2004.

"This is the realization of a dream I have had all my life," Hahn said. "I look forward to working with this great committed group of musicians."

The Nashville Philharmonic Orchestra is a volunteer community orchestra. That offers players of differing levels and backgrounds an opportunity to make music together. The NPO performs a diverse mix of repertoire—different genres and styles anchored in the classical tradition.

Dr. Stevens said, "This is a tremendous opportunity for David and an honor for FWBBC to have one of our adjunct music professors honored in this manner."

The orchestra will begin the 2007-2008 season under Hahn's direction.

A freelance musician since 2001 and part of the FWBBC faculty since 2003, Hahn has worked with numerous publishers including LifeWay, Word Music, Brentwood-Benson Music, and has done editing for Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI). He served three years as senior editor at The Worship Company, and has been on staff at churches in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and New York.

David is a tenor studio singer and instrumentalist. He plays guitar, keyboard, and violin. He is a composer, arranger, and producer, and has taught voice for 25 years. He is also a consultant on auditorium sound and lighting. He does music engraving, has performed with orchestras around the nation, and has toured with various ministry teams. Alfred Music recently published Hahn's new choral anthem, "Keep Me Near the Cross."



BRYANT NAMED "OUTSTANDING PASTORAL STUDENT"

REVEREND PAUL R. BRYANT, a 2004 graduate, received the prestigious "Pastoral Ministry Award" during spring commencement exercises at Beeson Divinity School (Birmingham, AL). The award recognizes outstanding achievement in the study of Pastoral Theology and the practice of Christian ministry. Bryant completed the 96-hour Master of Divinity degree at Beeson, a graduate school with 250 master's level students and 40-plus doctoral students.

"My immediate goal is to continue in full-time Christian ministry," Bryant said. "For the past four years, I've served on staff at Madison FWB Church (Madison, AL) under Dr. Richard Hendrix's leadership in the areas of youth and music. In time, I'd like to pastor, and perhaps one day pursue a doctorate."

Bryant led two ministry teams from Madison FWB Church on mission trips this summer. The church's senior high teens traveled to Uruguay while the junior high teens served in special outreach events in Savannah (GA).

FWBBC President Matt Pinson said, "We are so proud of Paul for this significant academic achievement. He has studied hard and continues to be an example of the kind of young men we are training for the Lord's work. We believe that God's hand is on Paul Bryant."

Paul graduated from FWBBC *summa cum laude* in 2004 with a B.A. degree. He was elected Student Body President by his fellow students and was named Most Outstanding Student by the FWBBC faculty.

He is the son of Rev. Randy and Mrs. Diana Bryant. Randy is clerk of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, executive director of the Florida State Association, and pastor of Ryanwood Fellowship FWB Church in Vero Beach, Florida. Diana is president of Florida Women Active for Christ.



GOLF TOURNAMENTS RAISE \$50,000

THREE GOLF TOURNAMENTS in three states over a 10-day period raised more than \$50,000 for the college, according to David Williford, vice president for institutional advancement. The tournaments were played in Missouri, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

"This was a first for us," Williford said. "But thanks to the good turnout and the positive results, we're planning more tournaments during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. If you missed this round, you can join us later this fall or next spring."

Twenty-eight golfers participated in Missouri's tournament on May 14 in Lebanon. Executive Director Gary Fry and Raytown pastor and FWBBC Board of Trustees' member Ken Simpson led the group down the fairway.

Seven days later, Greenville pastor Ed Cook headed up the North Carolina tournament as 11 men hit the links in Ayden. Twenty Tennessee golfers joined David Williford on the Hermitage Golf Course near Nashville on May 24.

Each player was responsible for contacting individuals and corporate sponsors to underwrite the fundraising effort. Along with three other local businesses, FWBBC's primary financial institution, Pinnacle National Bank, sponsored a hole in the Tennessee tournament. Pinnacle is the largest Nashville-based bank in the Greater Nashville area and does business as Pinnacle Financial Partners.

Mr. Williford said, "We spent some quality time with about 60 men in three states. We laughed and enjoyed wonderful fellowship, played a lot of golf, and had more fun than you can imagine while raising money for the college."

Not all the participants walked the greenways. Wayne Spruill, FWBBC's director of institutional research, brought his putter and joined the Tennessee golfers in his motorized wheelchair. He sank his first two shots—the first gave his team a birdie, the second a par.

VANDIVORT NAMED VOLLEYBALL COACH

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE has named Mrs. Deloris Darlene (D.D.) Vandivort as coach of the women's volleyball team, according to Mike Phillips, the college's athletic director. She began her new duties this fall.

Mr. Phillips said, "We're so pleased that D.D. has agreed to lead the women's volleyball program. She has an excellent understanding of the game and a strong athletic background."

Mrs. Vandivort played volleyball nine years in high school and college, and has conducted volleyball camps. She also ran track and taught gymnastics.

"I love the sport," D.D. said, "and I'm eager to begin the training necessary to compete on the collegiate level. We have a good nucleus of returning players from last year's team, and we'll recruit from the current student body as well as incoming freshmen."

Born in California and raised in rural Missouri, Vandivort graduated from Missouri Baptist Hospital School of Nursing in 1988 as a registered nurse and now works at Nashville's St. Thomas Hospital. She worked at FWBBC three semesters as student health nurse before serving as a missionary in Ivory Coast, West Africa.

Mrs. Vandivort has training in classical voice, piano, and percussion. She was a member of the National FFA Chorus and has experience in solo performance, choirs, and small musical groups.

VOLUNTEERS SPRUCE UP CAMPUS

THREE VOLUNTEER YOUTH GROUPS from Arkansas, North Carolina, and Tennessee spent several days in June working on the Free Will Baptist Bible College campus painting, repairing, and cleaning, according to Ernie Thompson, cleaning operations supervisor.

"These were some of the hardest working young people we've ever had on campus," Mr. Thompson said. "They came during a period of hot, dry days, unpacked, and went right to work. It didn't matter what needed doing, they took hold and stayed with the project until it was finished."

The three groups came from First FWB Church (Russellville, AR) with youth leader Allen Pointer, Limestone FWB Church (Limestone, TN) with youth leader Mark Pruett, and Unity FWB Church (Greenville, NC) with youth leader Adam Carnes.

The groups spent long hours painting several campus buildings. They also reupholstered bed headboards, repaired sidewalks, cleaned in the library and administration building, trimmed trees and shrubbery, powerwashed sidewalks and porches, cleaned air conditioner filters and grills, and more.

In addition to their projects at FWBBC, the groups helped out at the Nashville Rescue Mission, assisted with Senior Olympics preparation, assisted Home Missionary Clayton Hampton, and worked at Randall House Publications.

Mr. Thompson said, "We always have great volunteer groups each summer, but this year's volunteers were something special. We thank the pastors, the excellent sponsors, and the youth leaders for their cooperation and leadership."



MISSION: POSSIBLE

ONE ALABAMA CHURCH



THEY DO IT RIGHT!

The group from Forestdale FWB Church, led by Pastor Mike Cox, was a blessing not only to the Good News Church but also to the missionaries. The church group comprised of adults, teenagers, and children arrived in York, Pennsylvania, late Monday night after a very tiring day of traveling. Though they were still, I'm sure, worn out on Tuesday morning, they were full of smiles and willing hearts as they anticipated the day ahead. We could tell a lot of planning and prayer had preceded this trip. The group prepared boxes of church information packets and distributed approximately 700 packets over the two days they were in York. Because of their energetic spirit and genuine compassion for the lost, the people in our area received them very well. We are still following up on all the great prospects.

This great group treated us (the home missionaries) like royalty. They took care of all our meals, paid for our admissions to the "fun" places we visited, and before they left, they presented our church with a check for \$1,000 for our land fund! This was all made possible by their working hard to raise this money over a period of several months. We told them we look forward to their return, but they have to stay longer.

If your group is planning to take a mission trip, call Pastor Mike Cox and the folks at Forestdale FWB Church for suggestions about how you can make your trip a blessing—not only for those involved but to the missionaries as well. They do it right!

Dr. Allen Hall, home missionary, York, PA.

THE GIFT OF THEMSELVES

"Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God" (2 Corinthians 8:4, 5). Paul's description of the churches of Macedonia sums up the attitude of the Forestdale FWB Church from Alabama. The group of 17 adults and young people arrived in New York with the gift of themselves. Bearing their own expenses, they spent the first weekend in June visiting door to door, conducting a youth service on Saturday, providing music, and Pastor Mike Cox preached on Sunday morning. Their efforts resulted in six first-time visitors. Two of the visitors came forward to accept Christ on Sunday evening, and several people who came on that particular Sunday still attend our church.

Perhaps the greatest surprise came when the group presented us with a check for \$1,000 toward the down payment on the property we are purchasing. We are so thankful that Alabama, and especially the Forestdale church, shares a burden for the work of the Lord and the reestablishment of the Free Will Baptist denomination in the state of New York.

Pastor Dana Booth, Rochester, NY.

REACHES FOR NEW HORIZONS

MISSION POSSIBLE 2007

When our church began to pray about taking a mission trip, we had no idea of the divine handiwork about to shape our lives. Many skeptics would question, "Wouldn't it be better to send all that money to the missionary instead of taking an expensive trip?" I have skeptically asked that question myself in the past. After this mission trip, the resounding answer is "GO!" Jesus said in Mark 16:15, "Go ye into all the world..." While we enjoyed the trip and took time to see the sights and have fun along the way, our greatest memories are the heart-touching moments when God opened our eyes to His harvest. We had no big, fancy plans—simply to show up, knock on doors, and host some services.

We arrived at the church in New York with hopes of being used to be a blessing. God quickly began to show us what missions is really about. Jim Martin, assistant missionary pastor, pulled aside his longtime friends (and our youth workers) Neal and Pam Hollis, and told them that it did not matter what transpired in the work or services; they just needed some fellowship. At that moment, we realized that, like Paul, we were being used to encourage some lonely servants of God. One of our most vivid memories is attending the first service when it was just the "regulars" and our group.

Although we had tried to avoid unrealistic expectations, down deep inside we wanted to see something special happen. While our youth group was performing, it did happen—a miracle that brought tears to our eyes. A car pulled into the parking lot. Missionary pastor Dana Booth jumped up and headed to the door to greet visitors. The smiles of the missionaries lit up the room. To see visitors walk in was like winning the Super Bowl.

Sometimes long-standing churches forget that ministry is all about reaching people, and the church becomes about programs, services, upkeep, and activities. Through this mission trip, God reminded us that church is not about us, but about reaching the lost.

It's true. Our missionaries need financial support. May God help them have land and a building in which to meet. If you really want to have your eyes and hearts opened, you must go. Money cannot buy our experience of seeing the work and feeling the loneliness our missionaries face. Even more important, our students will never forget the excitement of watching Dawn and her son Cody walk down the aisle to accept Christ as a result of our effort. That moment made everything worthwhile.

We would like to thank the Booths and Martins in Rochester, New York, and the Halls and Kimbrells in York, Pennsylvania, for their kind hospitality. We went to be a blessing, but we came back home truly blessed.

Pastor Mike Cox, Forestdale FWB Church, Birmingham, AL.



Through this mission trip, God reminded us that church is not about us, but about reaching the lost.



with gratitude

TO RICHARD & CAROLYN ADAMS
BY REV. LARRY A. POWELL, DIRECTOR,
HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

How do you thank friends who have been such a tremendous blessing to Home Missions North America, and thousands of Free Will Baptists? Richard and Carolyn Adams are those friends. They came to National Home Missions 18 years ago with a great desire to be a blessing. Carolyn retired in June. Brother Adams will retire at the end of this year.

IN THE SHADOW

Carolyn often stood in the background, quietly going about her business while Richard conducted his work in pulpits and meetings. She managed correspondence for mortgage notes, receipted thousands of gifts, and made CDs of her favorite songs in order to raise funds for "Build My Church." Carolyn hosted many tours with Richard, traveling the world for Home Missions, and produced mailings for numerous yearly promotions and many other important events too numerous to name. Our staff will miss her smile and cheerful voice in our office. She has been a shining light and an inspiration to us!

FREE WILL BAPTISTS' GREATEST PROMOTER AND FUNDRAISER

Let me share just a few of the ways Dr. Adams has blessed us all. He began by serving nine years on the Home Mission Board. During that time he helped establish the Church Extension Loan Fund (CELFL). Throughout his years as director of development, CELFL enabled hundreds of Free Will Baptist churches to build facilities. The program has grown to \$25 million in Free Will Baptist investments. Brother Adams also coordinated the "Build My Church" endowments, inspiring churches and individuals to give more than \$2 million to the program.

Each year, supporters met Richard and Carolyn at the national convention for the Benjamin Randall Appreciation Dinner and at Pigeon Forge in May for the "Build My Church" retreat. Perhaps the most unforgettable moments for our supporters came while traveling with the Adams on heritage tours into Benjamin Randall country in Boston and New Durham. Thousands of supporters enjoyed fellowship tours to Europe, Alaska, Mexico, and the islands.

Indeed, Adams has been our greatest promoter and fundraiser. His primary motivation has been to help our missionaries plant more churches in North America. Brother Richard is widely known for his preaching, soul winning, and motivational seminars and has spoken at the national convention and other mass meetings.

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS

Thank you, Richard and Carolyn, for your tremendous contributions to Free Will Baptists and Home Missions. This denomination is indebted to you. We cherish your friendship. We praise God for the blessing you have been to so many lives down through the years. □

BUILDING BRIDGES



“But seek ye first
the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness . . .”
Matthew 6:33a

. . . Through Efforts

of a total missionary family ministry. The process of planting churches involves the efforts of every family member. The smiles and laughter of a missionary child can warm the hearts of many. Children enjoy having an active part in inviting others to visit their church and participating in the various church programs.

*Free Will Baptist
Home Missions*



BUILDING B



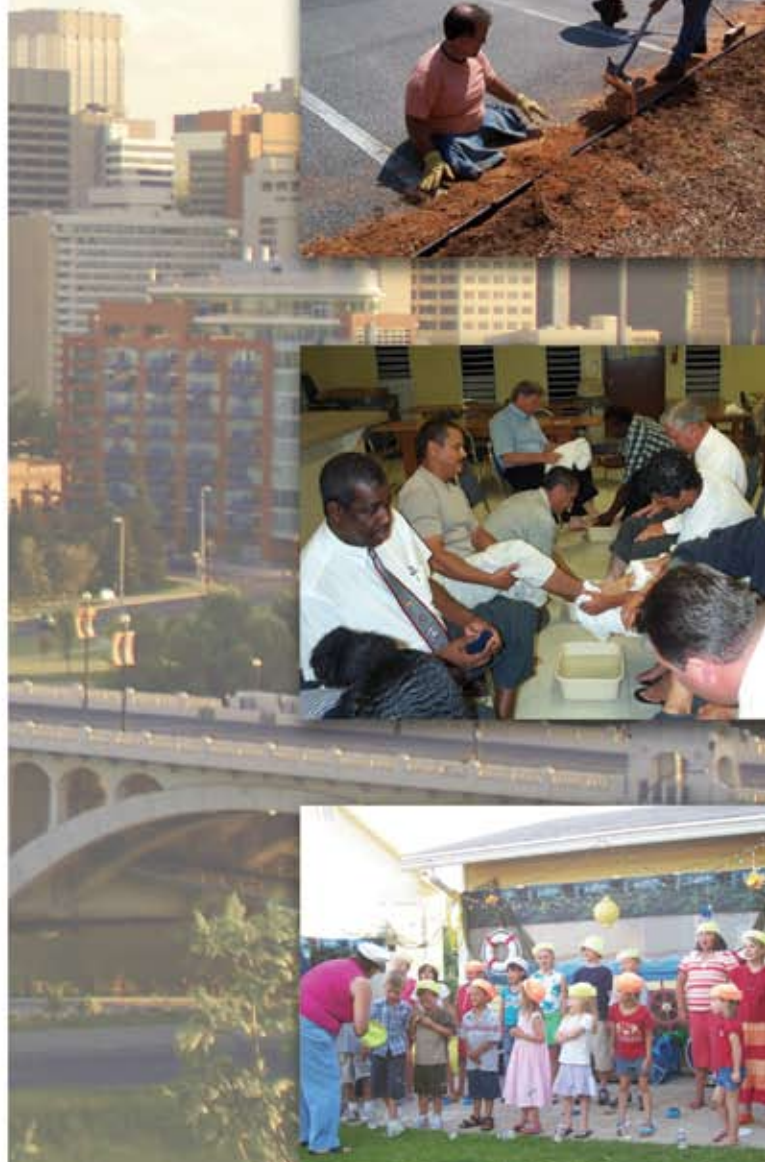
... By Ministering

to the masses worldwide through the chaplaincy in the various branches of military service. Our Free Will Baptist chaplains lend a listening ear to some of the most troubled people in the world. Being there when needed is vitally important. Ministering to children in war-torn areas, leading a soldier to the Lord, ministering through prayer, and leading in baptism are just a few of the ways our chaplains minister for the Lord in the military. They stand at attention to serve the Lord and Free Will Baptists through their respective branches of service.



RIDGES to Families

... By Encouraging
those who attend the new church to be used by God in any way He may direct. Those who attend the churches want to feel that they are contributing to the Lord's work. They represent countless areas of expertise, and giving them opportunities to use their talents for the Lord will help them to feel part of the church plant.



BUILDING BRIDGES to Families with the Gospel of Christ

... By Enabling

the missionary to have the funds to build a meeting place for the new church. Under the umbrella of FWB Home Missions, the Church Extension Loan Fund Investment Program and the Church Extension Load Fund were established to work hand in hand to provide monetary help to the missionary for buying land and building purposes. This program provides a good opportunity to invest money, earn good interest, and help the ministries of National Home Missions.





When Shane and Lupita Wilson were commissioned to start a Free Will Baptist Hispanic Church in north-east Tennessee in May 2002, they had no idea how much God was going to move. Brother Shane says, “The Bible tells us that God is able to do much more than we can ask or even think, and that is definitely the case here.”

In just five years, God has raised up not just one, but four Hispanic mission works in Johnson City, Greeneville, Kingsport, and Bristol. Brother Shane continues, “I firmly believe the Hispanic work is the future of the church in North America. People came to our Johnson City congregation from eight counties, and God began to lay on my heart in 2004 that each of these cities needed their own work and their own pastor.”

God provided the buildings and the pastors. The Johnson City congregation was able to pay off their building in a little more than a year, and they quickly turned their focus to other mission works. They began the next one in Greeneville. Shane invited Luis and Esmeralda Nuñez, friends developed during eight years in Mexico, to help develop the new work. “We sent Brother Luis to our Hispanic Bible Institute in Inman, South Carolina, to get prepared for the Greeneville work. I hated to lose them. They were such a big help to me

in Johnson City, but it was for a greater good.”

The Wilson’s felt that even more Hispanic souls could be reached for Christ by sending workers from the Johnson City Church to the other cities, even though it meant a temporary loss for the Johnson City congregation. “The Central Quarterly of the Union Association picked up the work in Greeneville, allowing me to concentrate on our next project—Kingsport. We had a good number of people already in Kingsport, so starting that mission was not too difficult.”

Again, God supplied the pastor. Miguel and Lorena Marias went to The Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute in Inman, South Carolina, to prepare to serve God full time in the new church. “Brother Miguel and Lorena are ‘home grown,’” says Pastor Wilson. “They were saved, disciplined, and even married in our church! They are doing a great job, and I am amazed at what God has done in their lives in such a short time.”

The Kingsport church soon purchased a building with the help of Home Missions, and the congregation continues to grow. “Our next goal is to pay off the Kingsport building,” Shane says.

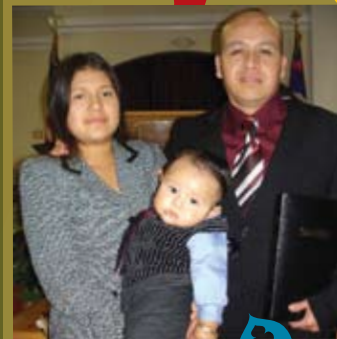
The Wilsons soon realized that the nearby city of Bristol, home to Bristol Motor Speedway and the famous NASCAR race, had no Hispanic work. “There has never been in the

history of Bristol a Bible-believing Spanish congregation until now,” he shares. “There was such a great need.”

After praying about where to meet and who to send to the new field, Héctor and Silvia Pérez answered the call. “Hector and Silvia were saved, baptized, and taught through our ministry. We are praying and supporting them all we can, and the work is flourishing. They currently share a building with another congregation, but I anticipate the day when the Bristol work will also have its own building.”

Shane and Lupita stay busy, sometimes visiting three (and occasionally all four) of the mission works on a given Sunday. They believe their work is not over, but they are getting closer to their goal of four self-supporting, Spanish-speaking churches. Shane says, “We are so thankful for God’s grace and for our supporters who have helped make all this possible. Through their prayers and sacrificial gifts, literally thousands have heard the saving Gospel of Christ in their language in East Tennessee, and many, many have responded making Christ their Savior and Lord.”

These faithful home missionaries started out to begin a single Hispanic mission work, and by God’s grace and direction, four churches are the result. FOUR. Four for the price of one...that’s not a bad deal! □



Finding Your Heritage

Home Missions Introduces the Heritage Book Club:
Silver, Gold, and Platinum Levels

SINCE 2001, HUNDREDS HAVE JOINED THE HERITAGE BOOK CLUB, and thousands of Free Will Baptist reprints have been placed in the hands of Free Will Baptist people. Thus far, the club has been limited to one level of giving, with members receiving one volume of the FWB Heritage Series per year. We presently have six volumes in the collection.

In order to place more Free Will Baptist titles into the hands of our people, we now offer three levels of giving to the Heritage Book Club: silver, gold, and platinum. The levels will allow us to generate more income to the general fund of Home Missions, allowing us to provide more FWB resources to missionaries and churches. While we will continue to produce one volume of the FWB Heritage series each year, we are additionally putting many historic Free Will Baptist titles on CD. It is our goal to complete at least 25 volumes in the Heritage Series Collection and several hundred titles in digital format.

To join the Heritage Book Club, fill out the form and mail to:
Home Missions Department, PO Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

You may also join by calling toll-free at (877) 767-7674
or visiting our website at www.homemissions.net.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CHURCH NAME _____

TELEPHONE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

SIGNATURE _____

Membership Level: (check one) Type of member: (check one)

Silver

Gold

New

Platinum

Renewing

Silver— For a faith promise commitment of \$10 per month, you will receive:

1. Current Volume of The Heritage Series—*Up from the Ashes* (2007)
2. *Free Baptist Cyclopedia* (1889) on CD
3. Opportunity to purchase previous volumes for \$10 each (Volumes 1–5)

Gold— For a faith promise commitment of \$25 per month, you will receive:

Same as Silver, plus...

1. An additional Volume of The Heritage Series—*History of the General or Six Principle Baptists* (1827)
2. Three additional CDs including these FWB titles:
 - *The Hindoo Foundling Girl* (1834)
 - *Missionary Reminiscences* (1885)
 - *Life of Otis Robinson Bachelor* (1904)
 - *Lectures on Systematic Theology* (1890)
 - *Origin of the Free Will Baptist Missionary Work on the Island of Cuba*

Platinum— For a faith promise commitment of \$50 per month, you will receive:

Same as Gold, plus...

1. Two additional Volumes of The Heritage Series:
2. *History of the Free Will Baptists* (1862)
3. *Life and Labors of Rev. Ransom Dunn* (1901)
4. Three additional CDs:
 - *The Free Will Baptist Quarterly* Vol. I & II (1853–1854)
 - *The Free Will Baptist Quarterly* Vol. III & IV (1855–1856)
 - *The Free Will Baptist Quarterly* Vol. V & VI (1857–1858)
5. An original *Morning Star* newspaper dated from the 1800s
6. An additional bonus of a new CD every two months. A total of six new CDs per year.

If you are currently a member of the Heritage Book Club and renew your membership, in addition to the items you will receive for Silver, Gold, and Platinum levels, you will receive an additional bonus in appreciation for your faithful support and contributions. For renewing at the:

- **Silver level, you will receive 1 additional CD containing 2 FWB titles.**
- **Gold level, you will receive 2 additional CDs containing 4 FWB titles.**
- **Platinum level, you will receive 4 additional CDs containing 6 FWB titles.**



GIFTS FOR Benjamin



Page From an Antique KJV Bible (1611)—Each piece features an authentic page from one of the earliest printings of God's Word in English. This is not a reproduction but an original page from a 1611 King James Bible printed before 1650. Each item is carefully hand framed and matted in a 19 by 15-inch black and gold frame. This is a majestic presentation of the inspired Word.



Roll-Up Throw Blanket—A polyester anti-pilling fleece blanket folds neatly inside itself. It secures with a Velcro closure and has an attached handle for easy carry. It's perfect for cool summer nights or picnics in the park.



Grillin' Gift Set—This gift basket bamboo tray holds the following: Gourmet steak rub, onion and chive dip mix, sun-dried tomato dip mix, Barbecue marinade, Roasted chicken seasoning, honey mustard pretzel nuggets, Quatre Peppercorns, Raspberry Iced Tea Mix, Kiwi Lime Iced Tea Mix, Sable & Rosenfeld 12 vegetable antipasto, BB Q Chef's Apron, and four metal skewers.



The Big Chill Lunch Cooler—This gray and blue roomy bag will hold up to six cans of soda and ice. The bag also features an easy tote shoulder strap and a front slip pocket.



Auto Travel Set—The zippered micro-fiber case features dual compartments filled with roadworthy must-haves: tire gauge, mini flashlight, coin holder, voice recorder, universal car starter that can jump most vehicle batteries and more. Extra pockets can hold other travel essentials, and the orange interior lining cautions passing traffic.



Life of Christ Sculpture—This bronze sculpture, Jesus with the Children captures the love Christ displayed toward little ones. The image is exquisitely detailed, cast in resin with a bronze patina finish.



Chill and Grill Outdoor Kit—A heavy-duty polyester bag offers a cooler on top and a portable outdoor grill inside the bottom compartment. The grill includes silver legs, tongs, and airflow slide. Comfort-grip handle and wide shoulder strap. Extra pockets provide more storage.



Afghan—A beautiful 48 by 60-inch afghan proudly displays early Free Will Baptist churches and church planters in full color.

For a Gift of...

\$25
\$50
\$75
\$100
\$150
\$250
\$500
\$1,000

You will Receive...

Lunch Bag Cooler
Roll-up Blanket
Auto Travel Set
Afghan
Grillin' Gift Set
Chill and Grill Kit
Bible Print
Sculpture

FREE WILL BAPTIST HERITAGE TOUR 2008

Discover the Rich History of Free Will Baptists

Each church with the largest offering in its category will earn a trip for the pastor and his wife on a Free Will Baptist Heritage Tour of New England. The trip is scheduled for September 19–22, 2008. Each category is based on the size of the church's Sunday School.

FREE WILL BAPTIST HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT
PO Box 5002 / Antioch, TN 37011-5002
(877) 767-7674 / WWW.HOMEMISSIONS.NET

For more information, contact
Home Missions:
(877) 767-7674.



ADDITIONAL GIFTS

- **The Heritage Tour**—Each church with the largest offering will earn a trip for the pastor and his wife on a Heritage Tour of New England. The trip is scheduled for September 19–22, 2008.
- **Opryland Hotel**—Pastors and their wives of churches that give \$2,000 or more will be treated to two great nights at the famous Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN, including \$200 spending money. The trip is scheduled for September 1–2, 2008.
- **Heritage Tour Canada.** Pastors and wives from churches raising \$10,000 or more will enjoy a seven-day trip to Boston, Bar Harbor, Halifax and Sydney, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Quebec City, Montreal. The trip is scheduled for August 30–September 6, 2008.

TOP GIVING CHURCHES IN 2006

Church	Pastor	Offering
Victory FWB, Hanover, PA	Jason Myers	\$18,547.42
Piney Grove FWB, Guin, AL	Randy Wright	15,000.00
Cramerton FWB, Cramerton, NC	Danny Dwyer	8,625.00
West Tulsa FWB, Tulsa, OK	Daniel Voss	8,500.00
Union Ridge FWB, Sulligent, AL	Tom Scott	8,090.00
Red Bay FWB, Red Bay, AL	Mark McCraney	8,039.00
East Side FWB, Elizabethton, TN	Howard Messer	8,020.00
Townsend FWB, Townsend, DE	Jay Baines	7,816.19
Evergreen FWB, Erwin, TN	Harold Blankenship	7,529.00
Faith FWB, Lavalette, WV	Ray Williamson	6,840.34
First FWB, Gastonia, NC	Randy Sawyer	6,638.00
Cornerstone FWB, Crab Orchard, WV	Roger Tolliver	6,500.00
First FWB, Checotah, OK	Van Washington	5,931.97
Woodbine FWB, Nashville, TN	Tim York	5,622.93
Free Will Baptist Church, St. Croix, VI	Scott Real	4,600.00
Rejoice FWB, Nashville, TN	Cliff Donoho	3,842.00
Cofer's Chapel FWB, Nashville, TN	Mike Gladson	3,833.00
New Oak Grove FWB, Nauvoo, AL	Mickey Crane	3,681.10
Bible Truth Chapel, Spartanburg, SC	Larry Buchanan	3,563.18
Wyandotte FWB, Mansfield, OH	Brian Phillips	3,294.00
Center Point FWB, Birmingham, AL	Glenn Hood	3,035.00
Woodhaven FWB, Woodhaven, MI	Loyd Locklear	3,000.00



Where Are They Now?

By Neil Gilliland

IN HIS CLASSIC BOOK, *The Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster writes in his acknowledgements, “I am struck profoundly by the weakness of words.”

Words are cheap. Words roll off our tongues with such ease. How many times have we stood and sung, “Where He Leads Me I Will Follow” or “I Surrender All”? We simply sing the words on the page—words easily sung, reflecting no more than empty rhetoric.

Men and women confidently echo, “Till death do us part,” as they stand in front of a minister. How frail and anemic those words often seem when the marital waters deepen.

For six ladies, however, those songs and vows were not casual; they meant them. They meant every word.

Six ladies sang “Where He Leads Me I Will Follow” and “I Surrender All”—and did. Six ladies made their vows and never turned back. All six grieved as their husbands journeyed past the Valley of the Shadows. Six ladies: Trula, Glenda, Sarah, Margaret, Lorene, and Billie.

Their names may not be as familiar as Dan Cronk, Bill Fulcher, Archie Mayhew, Dan Merkh, Dr. LaVerne Miley, or Don Sexton, but be assured the ministries of these six ladies were just as vital and vibrant as those of their husbands. They surrendered all and traded the American dream for an international vision. They followed where the Father led, from the savannah lands of West Africa to the plains of India, from the cities and villages of South and Central America to the teeming cities of France. They took meager means and made a home. They cooked thousands of meals, hosted hundreds of guests, nurtured their children, supported their husbands, and did all the things wives do, and more. They taught classes, shared their faith, and touched broken lives and hearts.

In his biography of the Scottish missionary James Chalmers, Richard Lovett writes, “In no department of Christian work is the choice of a life-partner more important than in the mission field. The two have to live together under circumstances that test to the uttermost every weakness of body, of temper, of spirit, of faith. On the other hand, in hardly any other walk of life can a woman by her health, her tact, her sympathetic support, and her wise and zealous co-operation, be such a true helpmeet to her husband.

“The annals of the London Missionary Society are rich in records of the noble and successful and devoted lives of the wives of missionaries. And yet in the vast majority of cases these lives do not make much stir, they seldom receive, except from the few who really know the facts, their due meed [reward] of appreciation and gratitude, and although they are often ‘succourers of many,’ their deeds are not well in the public eye.”

These six ladies not only stood beside their husbands in life and ministry (often with little recognition), but also joined hand-in-hand in ministry. Several years ago at a banquet, Trula shared her admiration of her husband: “Dan always treated me as an equal. There was never a discussion or conversation in which I did not have an equal voice, even about theology.”

If the voices of the husbands of these six ladies could be heard, I am confident they would all agree the greatest asset to their lives and ministries were their wives.

After you finish reading this article please take a moment and thank the Holy One of Israel for these six ladies. Call them by name. Ask the Father to gather them up in His arms and hold them tightly. Pray for the Lord to flood them with His presence and peace. Pray that in those moments of grief and loneliness they will hear the whisper of the Father’s comforting voice. □



1 Pray for Trula Cronk who served in India with her husband Dan. Trula lives in Thailand with her son Randy.

2 Pray for Glenda Fulcher who served in Uruguay and Panama with her husband Bill. Glenda lives in Missouri and cares for her mother.



3 Pray for Sarah Mayhew who served with her husband Archie in Côte d'Ivoire. Sarah lives in California and is battling health issues.

4 Pray for Margaret Merkh who served in Côte d'Ivoire and France with her husband Dan. Margaret lives in Virginia and has on-going health problems.

“They surrendered all and traded the American dream for an international vision.”

5 Pray for Lorene Miley who served with her husband LaVerne in Côte d'Ivoire. She is living and ministering at the Hephzibah Guest-house in New York City.



6 Pray for Billie Sexton who served with her husband Don in France. Billie lives in East Tennessee and is battling on-going health issues.



Neil Gilliland is the director of member care for Free Will Baptist International Missions.

Bottlenecks, Traffic Jams, and De....



BY JAMES FORLINES



OVERWHELMED

...tours

Have you ever felt overwhelmed? Have you observed a system overwhelmed and, no longer adequate to meet the needs for which it was intended?

Just after I moved to Nashville, I became an unwilling participant in this phenomenon. While living south of the city, I often needed to travel north on I-65. Unfortunately, so did thousands of other motorists. And Harding Bridge, our access to I-65, was not prepared for the heavy traffic.

The four-lane bridge was a blessing when it was first built, but now it was a chokepoint. The inadequacies of the bridge caused long delays and a lot of frustration. Growth in the area had far exceeded the bridge's capacity. Even though many people contrived alternate routes, the problem was not solved until the bridge was restructured.

Free Will Baptist growth around the world parallels my Harding Bridge experience. We have more candidates preparing for career missionary service than ever. This "wave" of people has sensed—and is responding to—God's call to go to the unreached. By 2011, many of the 64 candidates actively pursuing career missionary status can expect to be appointed. "The Wave" also includes 84 students in our Free Will Baptist colleges studying missions. An additional 28 applicants (inactive because of health, financial, or other reasons) may rejoin the process when circumstances change. We haven't included the many second-career people who will respond to God's call to go (presently, 14% of our career missionary force). With more than 100 high school and college students serving abroad each year on short-term teams, the flow is likely to gain momentum for years to come.

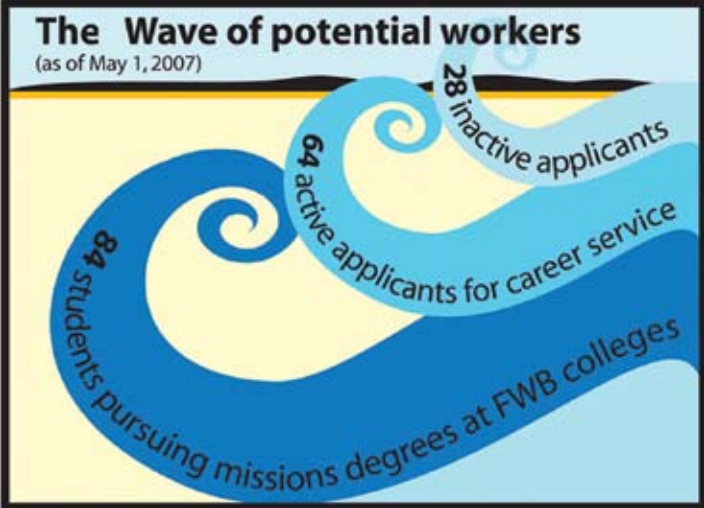
In the next three to five years, if we do not miss this opportunity, when the wave hits foreign shores it will impact new areas, new countries, and new ministries, planting new churches. The potential for immense international expanse is right before our eyes.

As Free Will Baptists, we do have an incredible potential, unprecedented in our history, to shine His Light and declare His Truth among the unreached around the world. Our growth internationally, our partnership with Free Will Baptist national churches around the world, and the call of God creating a "wave" of candidates, all beg us not to miss this moment.

How can we possibly miss this moment?

We can fail to replace a bridge (our funding system) that is no longer adequate for the heavy traffic it is receiving. At the National Association in July, I presented this as the one historic challenge currently facing us as it relates to world evangelism.

We have a very complicated system of supporting international missionaries. Eleven states, recognizing and seeking to alleviate the problem, provided-detours, devising their own plans to support missionaries from their states. Each



James Forlines gave more details of the restructuring system during his report at the 2007 National Association in Little Rock, AR. A video of his full report is available online (www.fwbgo.com).

of these varies in the percentage of a missionary's budget it covers. Some adjust monthly allocations depending on income from other sources, including other state plans. Some missionaries have fared well under their state plan. It has eased a huge burden and been a real blessing. For this, we are thankful and praise God.

However, some states, with many missionaries and few churches, are finding themselves overwhelmed. Many candidates are from areas without a state plan. Most missionaries from states without a plan, or from a state with many missionaries and few churches, face an incredible challenge—how to get funded and to the field. Alternate routes for funding are limited. It is very complicated.

Before state plans, all missionaries traveled and raised cash and monthly support. This also has its challenges: principally, a brutal travel schedule during furlough. One state plan development committee discovered that under the designated giving system, missionaries from their state received funding from an average of 15 states and 120 churches! This support base is incredibly difficult, and expensive, to develop and sustain. True partnerships cannot be maintained with this many churches. At best, missionaries drop in for a service every four to eight years, give

a report, and move on to the next church. People from across the denomination have rightly expressed concern for missionaries' extensive travel demands.

If the current system is challenging to veteran missionaries (and it is), it is almost impossible to maneuver for new appointees. Recent experience demonstrates new missionaries spend as much as two and one-half years raising their support.

For the past few years the Board has focused on seeking God's direction for our Mission in this challenging time. Like the planners trying to resolve the Harding Bridge dilemma, our Board has been responsibly seeking a solution. In December 2005, the Board, staff, and regional directors met for a strategic retreat. The need to restructure the funding system was identified as the Mission's number one strategic priority for the next five years. The Board charged the staff to research and develop an initial plan. In April 2007, the Board unanimously voted to adopt a preliminary plan and timeline for changing the funding system.

Such a monumental change requires godly wisdom. Prayerful consideration led the Board to take a year to seek as much counsel as possible before finalizing anything. Since April, many meetings with missionaries, pastors, state leaders, and other FWB people have been conducted to listen to their suggestions and concerns.

Yes, plans are on the drawing board. A scale model is under construction. As more input is received, the plans and model may change.

What is the current thinking of the Board?

There are two main sections in a missionary's budget: the cost for missionaries just to be on the field and the cost of field ministry.

The first section—costs for missionaries to be on the field—includes salary, insurances, retirement, housing, children's education, etc. It is suggested we establish a fund to underwrite all of the personal costs of all our missionaries. This fund also covers the needs on fields with little or no missionary presence, and all stateside costs. We, as a denomination, take the responsibility to get missionaries to the nations and keep them there.



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About web-based ministry resources and culturally relevant technologies
that communicate God's Word in an ever-changing world."
<http://digitrailblaze.com/> blog by Keith Fletcher

Explores various aspects of life and the home
to discover what truly matters.
<http://homelifematters.com/> blog by Katie Greenwood

Relates to developing programs, ministries, curriculum,
and resources for youth.
<http://outpostx.net/> blog by Danny Conn

Authenticity in Action
<http://mattmarkins.com/> blog by Matt Markins

As Free Will Baptists, we have
incredible potential, unprecedented
in our history, to shine His Light
and declare His Truth among the
unreached around the world.

The second section—costs for missionaries to do ministry on the field—includes such things as national workers, rental of meeting facilities, Bible institutes, evangelistic campaigns, humanitarian projects, and other ministry endeavors. In the current thinking, missionaries raise these funds by establishing a limited number of “partners.” Churches or associations partner with the missionary to underwrite ministry for the missionary’s term.

A number of people have suggested a 100% fund to underwrite everything (such as Southern Baptists do). We believe relationships and partnerships with local churches and district associations are critical and, perhaps, one of the few strengths of our current system. We do not want to lose those.

Questions still need to be asked. Details still have to be worked through. The Board realizes this will take time. A timeline requires a fully developed plan be presented to the Board for approval in April 2008, allowing a full year to work out the details. Education throughout the denomination will be necessary before the road can be opened for traffic. We hope to have a fully functioning bridge (re-structured funding system) in place by January 1, 2010, or, possibly, 2011.

In some ways, it is easier to do nothing. But, like the planners who faced the challenge of easing the bottleneck on Harding Bridge, we know our current system is inadequate to support the growth we believe God is providing. We must act strategically, courageously, and, most of all, together.

I ask you to pray and give feedback, so we can all work together to reach the ends of the earth. ■

James Forlines began his tenure as general director of Free Will Baptist International Missions January 1, 1999.

THE GLOBAL OUTREACH CHURCH NETWORK

IN MARCH 1987, TWO FREE WILL BAPTIST missionaries strained to see through the small window in the doorway of the customs checkpoint separating arriving passengers from those waiting to welcome them. A young pastor was visiting their field for reasons they didn't fully understand. That visit marked the beginning of a process that changed the future for the pastor, his church, and those they touched for numerous years.

I was that pastor. During that trip to France, God deepened my burden for involvement in the work He is doing in France through Free Will Baptists. What I saw was etched in my heart. I returned, determined to learn all I could to lead my church to take the Great Commission personally. That desire fueled the vision and passion that has focused my ministry for the past 20 years, and ultimately charted a path for mobilizing our church and moving me to a full-time mobilization ministry through Free Will Baptist International Missions.

During the 1990s, dozens of FWB churches sent hundreds of pastors and laypeople to participate beside missionaries on our national and overseas fields. This phenomenon is more than a trend engaging just a few Free Will Baptists. While not every church will send members on mission project trips in the next 10 years, many will. I believe it is a window the Lord has opened for this generation to advance church planting movements led by career missionaries. Churches of all sizes, people of all ages and from all walks of life are finding a place of personal involvement in reaching the lost locally, nationally, and globally.

We can accomplish more to fulfill the Great Commission working together than we can independently. We can learn from each other. We can share ideas and resources. We can come together in joint efforts to encourage, support, and assist missionaries and national churches. To a limited degree, this is already happening. But the potential is far greater than we currently experience.

The Global Outreach Church Network (GO Church Network) is in its infancy. The GO Church Network is not an organization; it's a series of connections through which ideas and resources are provided for pastors and

churches focused on missions. The guiding principle of the GO Church Network is missions is not a program of the church—it's the purpose of the church. The objective is to encourage and promote the mobilization of churches and their members to personal involvement in the Great Commission.

Experience shows seven essential areas to mobilizing a local church:

1. **Personalize:** Develop an annual outreach plan promoting every member's involvement.
2. **Connect:** Relationship-building with missionaries promotes effective partnerships.
3. **Learn:** Provide comprehensive, year-round missions education and equipping for outreach.
4. **Pray:** Plan for strategic intercession for the work of the Great Commission.
5. **Give:** Promote generous financial support of Great Commission efforts.
6. **Gather:** Celebrate results and cast vision for Great Commission involvement.
7. **Cultivate:** Fuel leaders' passion for the church's role in the Great Commission.

Information shared through the resources and events of the GO Church Network will focus on these seven areas. More than 250 people—and the list continues to grow—have requested our e-newsletter, sent bi-monthly, free-of-charge to anyone interested in receiving it. Pastors and mission leaders find information to help their churches and associations. As the participation grows, so will the ideas shared.

A booklet series, providing practical help for local church mobilization, is being published. The first, *Planning an Effective Missions Conference*, was released in July 2007, and is available from IM upon request. Titles



BY DOUG LITTLE

projected for release this year include *Mission Trip Planning Guide* and *Developing a Strategic Prayer Ministry*. Proposed additions to the series in 2008 include: *Growing Missions Giving in Your Church*, *Building Partnerships that Work*, and *Strategies for Teaching Missions*. Local church mission policies and leadership structures will also be presented.

Workshops for pastors and mission leaders have been conducted in North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Michigan, and Illinois. These workshops present church mobilization principles and strategies. Future workshops will be held as needs are voiced.

Last October, North Carolina's Blue Ridge Association equipped churches and their members to pray more strategically for missionaries and their work through a prayer summit. Regional prayer summits offer the opportunity to impact many churches at once and can be organized as interest is expressed.

A series of Global Prayer Initiatives is in development. Strategic prayer for each of the four international

regions targeted by FWBIM is addressed. The prayer initiative for the creative access region takes place during the Islamic season of Ramadan. Prayer initiatives for Asia, Europe, and Latin America will also be promoted.

As interest in church mobilization grows throughout our denomination, regional mobilization events sponsored as part of the GO Church Network can dramatically raise the level of readiness of our churches and members to impact a lost world. Free Will Baptist churches, sharing a passion for missions, can exponentially multiply their ministry as this network develops.

The Global Outreach Church Network is in its infancy. But it's growing. And as Free Will Baptists look to fields ripe for harvest, we have every reason to link our hearts, resources, and experiences to finish the task of world evangelization. □

Doug Little is the mobilization director for Free Will Baptist International Missions. To become part of the GO Church Network, contact the mobilization team of FWBIM: Email: go@fwbgo.com or call toll-free (877) 767-7736.

TALK ABOUT JESUS



NANTES, FRANCE—Around 50 people participated in this year's annual JCrois (translation: "I believe it") youth event. Christian teens from St. Nazaire, Nantes, St. Sebastien, Vendee, and many other suburbs and local small towns attended the weekend event hosted by the Nantes FWB Church August 24–26.

Michel Rivier, an evangelist from Lyon, emphasized the theme "Oser parler de Jesus aux gens qui nous entourent" (Dare to talk about Jesus to those around you). Workshops on "How to Know and Use Your Spiritual Gifts," "How to Discern the Will of God," and "How to Start a Discussion" led teens to deepen their personal commitment to Christ, spiritual growth, and witnessing. A worship band, comprised almost entirely of young people, led singing and worship each day.

A small group of college-age students traveled downtown Saturday afternoon to strike up conversations with people. One

young lady conversed with a high-school girl for almost an hour. Encouraged by the response they received, the group is eager to repeat the exercise at future JCrois events.

Several of the students invited their unsaved friends to Saturday's game night. The atmosphere and the friendliness of Christians impressed these young people. According to Cristina Price, "Most of these students entered a church building for the first time and discovered real, live Christians who really weren't so weird after all!"

One teenage girl from St. Nazaire indicated she felt God leading her to work with young people, and to help organize things like JCrois. She wants to share with others what she has been given.

Missionaries and French Christians worked together to make this year's JCrois successful.

CELEBRATING THREE YEARS

COLMENAR VIEJO, SPAIN—The Colmenar Viejo church, led by Cuban pastor Juan Carlos Cabrerias and his wife María del Carmen, celebrated its third anniversary on Sunday, September 9. The service was filled with praise for God's blessings on the small congregation. Spanish pastor José Manuel Parrón of the Esperanza Church in Alcalá brought the anniversary message. The evening concluded with a fellowship time and refreshments for the 40 people in attendance.





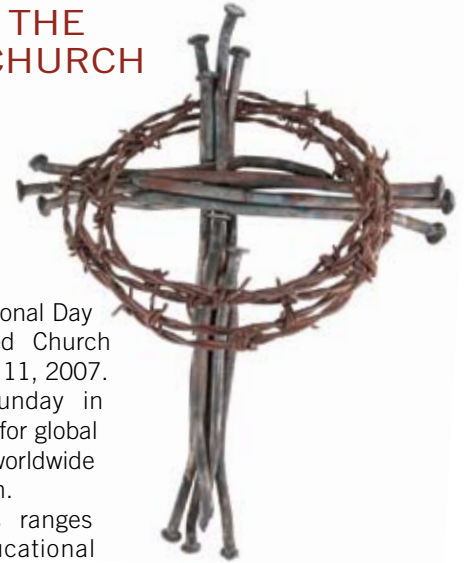
FWB CHURCH BORN IN BULGARIA

SVISHTOV, BULGARIA—Eight people participated in the first worship service of the first Free Will Baptist church in Bulgaria on June 10, 2007. Missionary Tim Awtrey credits contacts made during his and Lydia's earlier ministries in Svishtov with the ability to begin so quickly with a core group of people.

"After many years of dreaming, hoping, and praying, it is great to finally get up on a Sunday morning and have the opportunity to worship in a Free Will Baptist church in Bulgaria!" Tim enthused. "It is still a little baby of a church, but we have great expectations that in time it will grow."

Missionaries often work years to be able to get a small, core group of people together. Tim recently wrote, "We feel particularly grateful to God that the contacts we established years ago helped us to kick off the new church service."

EMPHASIZE THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

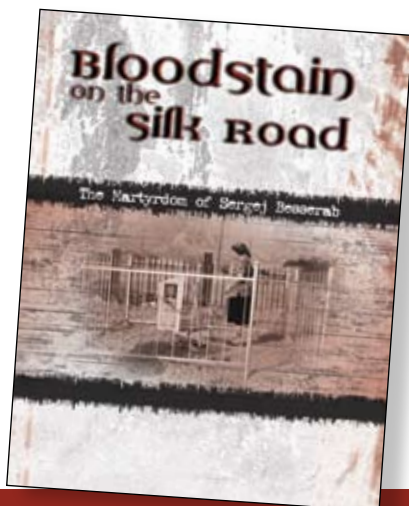


ANTIOCH, TN—The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) is slated for November 11, 2007. Since 1996 the second Sunday in November has been set aside for global intercession for Christians worldwide who are suffering for their faith.

Persecution of Christians ranges from withholding educational and employment opportunities to imprisonment, torture, and murder. Each year Open Doors International publishes a list of the top 50 countries who persecute Christians for actively living their faith.

North Korea remains as the top of the list for the fifth year in a row. Saudi Arabia, Iran, Somalia, and Maldives round out the top five. Vietnam (ranked 8), Uzbekistan (11), China (10), Turkmenistan (14), Cuba (24), India (29), Tajikistan (34), Nepal (34), and Mexico (49, southern state of Chiapas), all have FWB workers or churches or affiliates.

IM encourages your participation in IDOP. Packets of information can be ordered from various organizations including Bible League (bibleleague.org/persecuted), The Voice of the Martyrs (persecution.com), and the official website (persecutedchurch.org).



WHILE IN A TAJIK PRISON, he became a prisoner of Christ. Following his release from jail, he studied the Bible and became convinced he should take the gospel to an unreached town. In Isfara, a city dominated by Islam, he preached the gospel, founded a church, and was martyred.

Watch Sergej Bessarab's compelling story—a story of God's grace at work.

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INTERSECT

WHERE THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Photo: Mark Cowart



“WHERE IS THE PROMISE OF HIS COMING?”

When I was a boy, my dad traveled quite often—always by train—in his business.

Some of the happiest days I recall came when my mother and I would head downtown to Union Station to meet him when he returned. I can't imagine we would have ever forgotten or ignored his coming home.

Sad and Strange

Maybe it's just me, but does it seem to you that Christians have tucked away our Lord's promised return into the back of our theological closets? Recently, I checked some preaching websites that archive sermons from the 1960s and 70s along with current homilies. By my admittedly informal tally, messages on the Second Coming started dwindling in number as the 1980s progressed.

The same trend seems to hold in recent Christian music as well. Check the lyrics to many of the top tunes; you'll likely be hard pressed to find any mention of Christ's return.

This oversight is both strange and sad, given how much the Bible makes of the parousia. It's in each gospel account, Acts, almost every letter, and is the lifeblood of Revelation.

I can't help but think of how it would empower the church to dwell more on seeing Jesus again. We're discouraged over war, crime, economic chaos, and religious turmoil. Yet Paul says Christ's return should “encourage one another.”

Then, too, we grieve over our own lifestyles that reflect more of the culture than Christ. When sinful practices and shoddy living plague God's people, we really do need that “blessed hope... teaching us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions.” Anyone who really looks for Jesus to come “purifies himself even as he is pure,” John says.

What's more, we wring our hands over cold Christians who have no fire, no intensity in their commitment to living as Christ's disciples. A good dose of “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming” would cure some of what ails us.

The Rope Holds

In our self-absorption, our accommodation to pop culture, and our reduction of Christianity to whatever is workable and trendy, we've gutted the hope of Christ's return from our hearts and minds. That hope might not solve all our problems, but it would remind us where our ultimate loyalty must be.

The only lifeline we have attaches to Jesus, and when He comes He'll pull us close to His side for all time. That truth should move us to tug on the rope more than we do.

Maranatha! □

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

HOME MISSIONS Introducing New Missionaries



KENT NELSON, along with wife Jeanna, son Nick, and daughter Anniston, are relocating to **St. Croix, Virgin Islands**. Kent will assume the pastorate of Free Will Baptist Church. Kent has a degree in Pastoral Training and Bible from Free Will Baptist Bible College and attended Southeastern Theological Seminary. He comes to Home Missions from Cross Creek FWB Church in Olive Branch,

MS. The Nelsons are excited about working with the ever-growing church in St. Croix.



MARC NEPPL and his wife Casie will minister as associate missionaries in **Suffolk, Virginia**, assisting David and Charity Sexton in their efforts to plant a Free Will Baptist church. Marc has a bachelor's degree in Bible from Gateway Christian College and served an internship in Bakersfield, California. Neither Suffolk or nearby Portsmouth have a Free Will Baptist church. The fast-growing area has an average of

1,000 new homes built each year, and in 2005, 30 companies relocated to the region. According to the last census, 64% of the population claimed no church affiliation. Pray for the Neppls and Sextons as they plant a church in Suffolk.

Remembering **MALCOLM FRY**



Dr. Fry awards the third place Bible Bowl team from First FWB Church, Johnston City, IL, at the 1976 National Youth Conference in Tulsa, OK. (Left to right) Ralph Colp, Keith Fletcher, Sarah Blades (Fletcher), and Dwayne Smith.

Former CTS Director Dead at 79

DR. MALCOLM CRAIG FRY, former director of the Church Training Service and assistant director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department, died August 24, 2007, following an extensive struggle with Parkinson's disease. He was 79 years old.

A native of Detroit, Michigan, Dr. Fry was a Free Will Baptist minister for 54 years. Converted in 1946, he married Myrtle Mae Downing in 1948, was licensed to preach in 1953, and ordained in 1955. He pastored 25 years in five states—Louisiana, Texas, Arizona, North Carolina, and Tennessee, serving twice as a home missionary.

Malcolm was a denominational pioneer who developed church training materials and Sunday School curriculum. He was a highly regarded meeting planner whose innovative ideas for youth competitive activities sparked the explosion of the Free Will Baptist National Youth Conference. Today, the annual meeting attracts more than 3,000 attendees.

Fry served 18 years with two Free Will Baptist national agencies—the Church Training Service and the Sunday School Department—in a number of roles, including director, assistant director, adult curriculum director, and Writer's Conference coordinator. He launched a new generation of Free Will Baptist writers.

Long-time friend Jack Williams reflected on Fry's career. "It always impressed me that Malcolm gave his life to Free Will Baptists. He could have gone anywhere, done anything, but he gave his life to the denomination."

A prolific Bible teacher, writer, and vocalist, Dr. Fry trained and inspired Free Will Baptist teachers across America, published seven books, recorded three albums, and wrote hundreds of articles in a 35-year journalistic career.

He served two years in Panama with the U.S. Army and six years in the U.S. Air Force.

Always a student and learner with a quick, hungry mind, Malcolm graduated with degrees from four colleges and seminaries, eventually earning the Doctor of Ministry degree at Luther Rice Seminary.

He was preceded in death by his wife Mae and is survived by two sons, Dr. Malcolm C. Fry, Jr. (Christi), of Kingsport, TN, and Rev. Matthew D. Fry (Martha) of Raleigh, NC; two daughters, Mrs. Pamela Mae Vaughan (Mike) of Four Oaks, NC, and Mrs. Rebecca Dawn Gwartney (Curt) of Locust Grove, OK; 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren; two brothers, Richardson Fry of Jerusalem, Israel, and Donald Fry of Weatherford, TX; one sister, Mrs. Ann Knowles of Fayetteville, GA. □

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & THE LOCAL CHURCH

The aim of Christian education is found in Ephesians 4:11-16—"the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

According to Paul, spiritual gifts have been bestowed upon pastors to enable them to equip believers to do the work of the ministry. In other words, the work of the pastor is to prepare church members to use their spiritual gifts.

Numerous church agencies that specialize in various aspects of Christian education help the pastor carry out this aim. Free Will Baptists employ preaching, church music, Sunday School, Church Training, Master's Men, Women Active for Christ, Vacation Bible School, small group Bible studies, Christian schools, camps, retreats, Bible institutes, and children's church in equipping people for service.

In addition to instruction, the church must provide worship and fellowship for its members. These areas of the church program are all preparatory to service. In countless churches, the pulpit ministry is the weakest link in the educational program. Expository preaching is too rarely found in Free Will Baptist pulpits. Yet nothing is more direly needed. A thorough knowledge of God's transforming Word furnishes the understanding church members need to grow in grace.

Many overlook the value of the music ministry. Church music can be most effective in teaching the truths of God's Word. Luther used music to instruct people in biblical truth during the Reformation. He said, "Next to theology, I give first and highest honor to music."

Sunday School is also an effective way to reach the lost with the gospel. It affords an ongoing opportunity to teach the Word of God. Sunday School also provides a place of dedicated service for godly men and women.

Mavis L. Anderson challenges teachers. "You have a high and holy calling! You are laboring with the apostles, prophets, evangelists, and pastors for 'the perfecting of the saints, for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.' You are obeying the Great Commission. You are investing your talent for eternal dividends. 'Walk worthy.'"

Christian education is best accomplished at home. "The church can preach, the schools can teach, but the home must convert sermons and lessons into a way of life," observed Isadore Garsek. Moses gave sound advice to parents interested in fulfilling their duty. His suggestion, found in Deuteronomy 6:6-9, is to make God a part of daily life. CLEAR Devotional and Bible Study Magazines can help you avoid the pitfall of a one-day-a-week religion. □

"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13)

we must continue to "preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom" (Colossians 1:28).

Larry D. Hampton is the adult curriculum editor at Randall House Publications. He and his wife Yvonne live in Nashville, TN.



YOUNG ADULT SURVEY **YOUNG ADULT SURVEY** YOUNG ADULT SURVEY

The Brink, the new young adult line from Randall House Publications, is in the process of developing materials for young adults. You're right. It IS about time. If you are a young adult (18-30), we need your help! We need to know how to get the products we're working on, to you. Go to rhpsurveys.com, and fill out our 3-5 minute survey. By the way, if you know any young adults, pass this link on to them, or call 1.800.877.7030 to request a mailed version of the survey.

Rebuilding History

MASTER'S MEN RESTORES HISTORIC CHURCH ON THE RIDGE

FOR NEARLY 200 YEARS, THE Church on the Ridge has stood above the town of New Durham, New Hampshire, as a monument to the early days of Free Will Baptists.

The simple frame building, constructed in 1819, was home to the congregation started by Elder Benjamin Randall in 1780. The building is the oldest standing Free Will Baptist church in America. It lies just over a mile from the Randall family cemetery where the founder of the Northern Free Will Baptist movement is buried.

Over the years, thousands of Free Will Baptists have visited the historic site to catch a glimpse of their legacy.

In recent years, despite consistent maintenance efforts of First FWB Church in New Durham, the building has fallen into disrepair. The affects of time have caught up with the aging landmark.

Delegates to the 2007 National Convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, voted to fund efforts to restore the Church on the Ridge and to establish a perpetual fund to provide ongoing upkeep. Master's Men Director Ken Akers will work in conjunction with the church in New Durham to coordinate

teams of volunteers to complete the task.

The first step in the process began Saturday, July 28, when a team of volunteers began the arduous task of removing the existing roof, replacing sagging rafters, providing additional framing, and replacing the deck and shingles.

Volunteers also removed the crumbling chimneys and rebuilt the posts of the pinnacles and railing around the belfry. The repairs are the first of many that will take place in the months to come. The full restoration process will include:

- Painting the exterior.
- Painting the interior after repairs to the plaster walls and ceiling.
- Inspecting and replacing faulty wiring.
- Repairing deterioration in the stone foundation.
- Replacing carpet in the foyer, aisle, and on the platform.
- Repairing windows.
- Restoring the Randall cemetery.

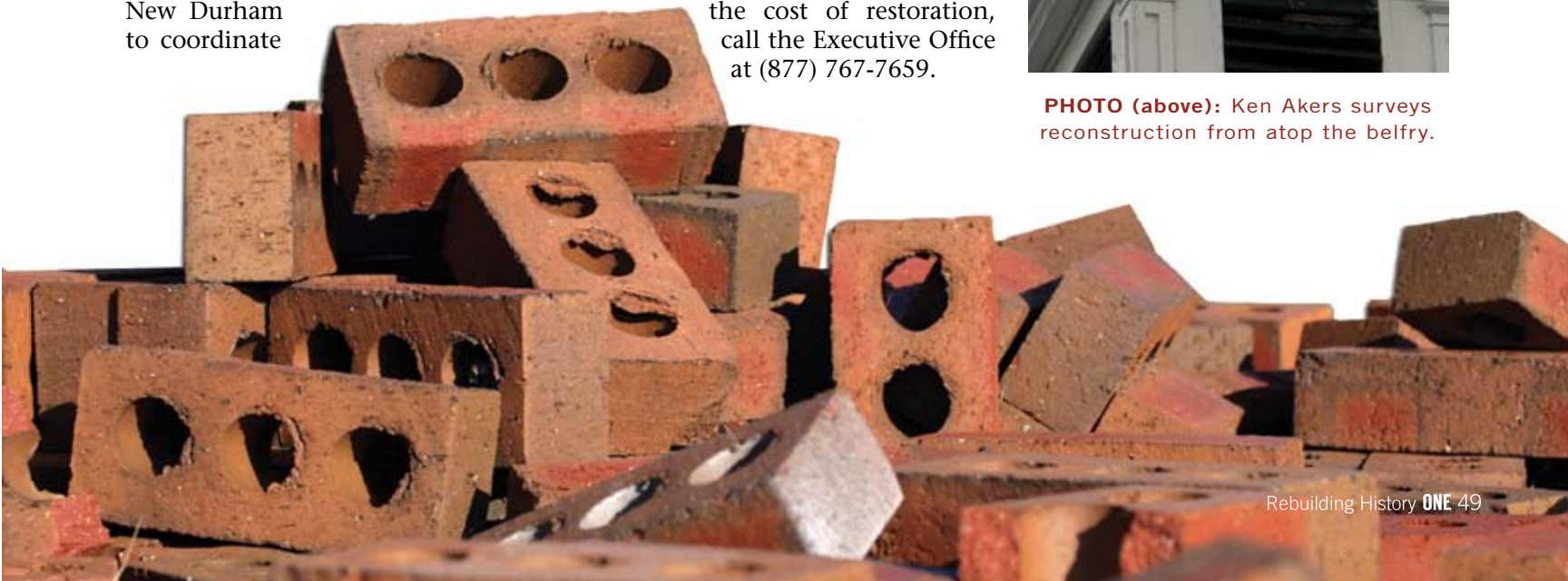
To participate in the restoration of The Church on the Ridge, contact Ken Akers at (877) 767-8039 or visit www.nafwb.org. To help underwrite the cost of restoration, call the Executive Office at (877) 767-7659.



PHOTO (above): A sign above the door of the church identifies the building as the first Free Will Baptist church in America.



PHOTO (above): Ken Akers surveys reconstruction from atop the belfry.



The New Kids

By John Brummitt

WHEN WE THINK OF “RETIREMENT,” our minds turn to grandparents—those sweet men and women who putter around the house and love to tell their kids and grandkids stories about when they were young. Most of us don’t stop to realize that reaching that point takes work and planning. Financial advisors recommend saving at least 10-15% of your annual income to make it possible to continue your current lifestyle into retirement years.

You shouldn’t just “scrape by” during retirement.

At the Board of Retirement, we want to get the word out about how important it is to start saving early and let compounding interest work for your financial stability. This article will highlight participants who understand the importance of planning early. They serve in various ministries throughout the denomination.



“Fail to plan, and you’ll plan to fail. Never think you are too young to start thinking about retirement. The biblical principal of stewardship involves planning.”

JONATHAN BLANKENSHIP, 25, has been employed at Southeastern FWB College for six years. Jonathan was saved in a Free Will Baptist pastor’s home at the age of five and sur-

rendered to God’s call to preach/plant churches at 15. He attended Southeastern FWB College, and continued on as a staff member after graduating. He enrolled in the Board of Retirement in the Fall of 2006. “I have always been a financial planner and when it came to my retirement, the BOR had the best plan to suit my needs for the future. I was glad to contribute to something Free Will Baptists are part of.”

Jonathan and his wife Kathleen are contributing almost 2% of his salary to his retirement plan. When asked about his goals for retirement, Jonathan answered, “First and foremost to meet the needs of my family, but also to continue serving the Lord in my retirement years without financial stress.”



“The earlier you start the better off you will be. Start now; there is no time like the present! Saving anything is better than nothing.”

ANDREW HORNE, 23, an associate pastor at Union Chapel FWB Church, Chocowinity, NC, since 2006, graduated from Southeastern FWB College. “All my life my parents have faithfully served in ministry work. After surren-

dering my life completely to the Lord, I felt as if He was leading me to be in His Ministry also.”

While at Southeastern, the Lord continued to work with Andrew leading him to his present full-time ministry in Chocowinity, North Carolina. “I realized the best opportunity for financial stability was to begin investing as early as possible. My pastor told me about the Board of Retirement. After looking at the options they provide, even an Edward Jones financial advisor told me the BOR was the way to go. Most importantly, I like knowing God’s money is invested in nothing that conflicts with Biblical principles.”

Andrew and his wife Stephanie currently contribute just over 4% of his salary to retirement. “[I want] enough to take care of my needs and my family’s needs when I am no longer able to work for the Lord.”



“Start today! Even if you can only give a small percentage of your income, the money that you save will gain interest and your account will grow—FAST! It is advantageous to have it automatically deducted from your paycheck—what you don’t see, you don’t spend.”

APRIL BYBEE, 25, has been the development assistant at International Missions for the past three years. She graduated from Southern Nazarene University in 2004. “I’ve always been interested in investing money for the future. At the advice of [my] parents, professors, and colleagues, I was persuaded to start investing early.”

April contributes 12% of her salary and her employer contributes an additional 5%. When asked about retirement goals, April answered, “Aside from my desire to be financially sound for retirement years, I want to leave behind a legacy of generosity by giving to ministry, my community, and family.”



“If you think and plan ahead, life can be a lot easier.”

MARY ANN COOK, 24, a graphic designer at Randall House Publications for two years, grew up on a farm in Ohio. She graduated from Pensacola Christian College in 2005. “With my father and grandfather drilling into me the importance of saving, coupled with my college economics teacher, who clearly illustrated to us that ‘time’

is the greatest factor in the interest equation, I was motivated to start saving and investing at an early age.” Mary Ann contributes 5% of her income to retirement; Randall House matches with an additional 5%. “I started saving early so I can travel, take mission trips, and enjoy my family during my retirement years.”



“[After the] information received at National and State [meetings] as well as a testimony of last year’s returns from a member at the local conference, [I decided to join].”

CHRIS TODD, 24, pastor of First Free Will Baptist Church in Greenwood, SC, has been in the pastorate for one year. He began participating in the retirement program in the spring of 2007. “[After the] information received at National and State [meetings] as well as a testimony of last year’s returns from a member at the local conference, [I decided to join].” Chris and his family, Misty (wife), Gloria (4), and Emmitt (1), have been contributing 2% of his salary, and the church matches his contribution. Chris understands that it is important to sacrifice to prepare for the future.



“Life is hard enough without making it tough on yourself as you get older. Plan today!”

CODY ALLEY, 26, graduated from Arkansas State University and is currently attending Liberty University. He has been a pastor in Arkansas for two years. He began to invest in the Board of Retirement after his former pastor, Terry Pierce in Tupelo, MS, strongly

encouraged him to start. Cody states, “I am thankful Terry was looking out for me.”

Cody and his wife Rebecca are currently contributing 6% of his salary into his retirement account. His church contributes an additional 5%. Cody’s goal is to contribute 10% personally. When asked about retirement goals, Cody answered, “To be financially safe. That will give me liberties to continue serving God in many different areas.”

These testimonials should encourage you to get started in your own retirement planning. The Board of Retirement is here to serve those who serve others. Preacher, teacher, missionary, or lay worker employed by Free Will Baptists, start as soon as possible. Remember, “Time is the greatest factor in the retirement equation.” Call the Board of Retirement to enroll in the plan today. □

John Brummitt is the business manager for the Board of Retirement and Insurance. Find out more about the programs offered by the Board at (877) 767-7738.



Means

Living

{LIVING BENEATH YOUR MEANS}

An Essential Life Skill for Retirees!

By Norma Jackson Goldman

We've all heard stories about people who "live above their means," which is a polite way of saying they spend more than they earn. This practice is widespread in America today, with the average person spending \$1.20 for every dollar earned. This pattern of behavior results in massive debt.

As people age, they fall naturally into a pattern of living that doesn't vary a great deal. For example, they eat the same food week by week, dine out at the same frequency, spend the same on clothing, and their driving habits (gas consumption) are pretty much the same. These habits paint a picture of predictable spending. This is true for most people, regardless of income.

Those blessed with good spending habits usually are not found among those who live above their means. In contrast, they have learned to routinely spend less than they earn. It is their habit to save and/or invest, and over time they build up a cash reserve for emergencies (which occur with alarming regularity).

Others, who do not have good spending habits, or who ignored the good advice of godly parents and teachers, find themselves in debt, struggling financially. Learning to adjust your lifestyle to fit your income is not a skill that comes without struggle—trial and error—but it is one of the most valuable life skills a person can learn. In retirement, this skill becomes even more essential. The following principles will help anyone develop this skill.

(1) Create a written spending plan.

Creating and living by a written spending plan (a budget) is a proven formula for financial success. It allows you to measure those predictable expenditures against available income, urging you to make needed changes to reach the financial objective of spending less than you earn. Spur of

the moment temptations will be easier to dismiss, because you've already determined how money will be spent. Whatever the plan, at least 10% of your total income must remain unspent, set aside for future needs.

(2) Practice the art of saying "not now."

Saying no to a purchase today doesn't mean you'll never be able to buy that item; it just means the merchandise will have to wait until it fits into your spending plan. Missing a trip with friends or an extra night at your favorite restaurant doesn't mean you won't be able to enjoy that activity later. It only means you will have peace of mind when some unforeseen emergency arrives, because you saved today.

(3) Make a habit of reviewing priorities.

A careful spending plan establishes priorities—what comes first, what comes next, and so on as you allocate dollars to giving, living expenses, and saving for the future. Review those priorities often because your needs will change during retirement. Escalating costs (who ever imagined gasoline would cost more than three dollars a gallon), a rise in taxes, and increased medical expenses are common examples of how spending allocations change over time.

(4) Re-think housing needs.

Many retirees discover that caring for a large house and yard is a significant challenge in light of health issues. Paying someone else to do the upkeep is often cost prohibitive. It doesn't make good economic sense to keep a big house for the 2-3 times each year when your children visit. A two-story house may wreak havoc on knees and hips in future years! It may be time to purchase a smaller place.

Following these simple principles will go a long way toward reducing living expenses, creating the financial cushion needed for future expenses, and insuring that you are living well beneath your means! □

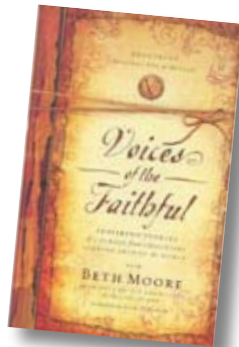
Former magazine editor Norma Goldman enjoys a free-lance writing career in her retirement. She lives in Nashville, TN.

In Review FEATURES

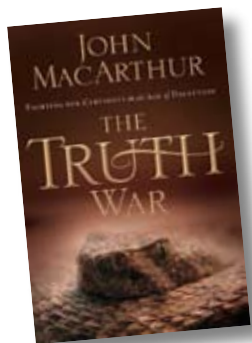
Voices of the Faithful, Inspiring Stories of Courage from Christians Serving Around the World with Beth Moore.
ISBN159145364X

This unusual book contains devotional messages written by almost 300 missionaries. The 366 entries in this volume call believers to a “life of extreme devotion and heroic faith.” These daily messages reveal what God is doing around the world while demonstrating His faithfulness in the face of the uncertainty and danger of this age.

Beth Moore wrote introductions to each month’s devotions; a different missionary serving on an international field prepared each devotion. *Voices of the Faithful* will challenge you to get out of your comfort zone and discover your role in missions.



The Truth War, Fighting for Certainty in an Age of Deception by John MacArthur
ISBN0785262633



Truth has come upon hard times. Multitudes, including unbelievers and Christians, claim absolute truth does not exist.

In *The Truth War*, well-known pastor and Bible teacher, John MacArthur issues a call to arms. He insists, “Truth is always under assault. And it is actually a sin not to fight when vital truths are under attack.”

MacArthur shows the importance of truth and certainty in a postmodern society and sets forth the pitfalls of postmodern thinking. He also examines the Emerging Church Movement, pronouncing it “inherently flawed.”

This book is direly needed in a day when many church leaders are “apathetic about truth and sound doctrine.”

Regaining Balance, 91 Days of Prayer and Praise by Randy Sawyer
ISBN0892655186

Regaining Balance is a devotional journal designed to help readers regain focus and balance in every aspect of life through increased spiritual discipline. This includes such practices as solitude, prayer, meditation, Bible reading and memorization, fasting, worship, accountability, and service.

Each day includes a Scripture portion and a key verse. Sawyer adds a bit of commentary and then outlines “work” (a spiritual discipline) for the reader.

Although *Regaining Balance* is meant to be used for personal devotions, a free, online leader’s guide is available to help pastors and Bible study leaders use this book in a group setting.



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EARTH'S handicap HEAVEN'S handiwork

A TRIBUTE TO
THE MENTALLY
CHALLENGED

by *Cornett Reid*

They had come to say goodbye to their friend who had left them. Supported by caregivers or pushed in wheelchairs, they came one-by-one down the center aisle toward the green casket at the front of the chapel. A one-of-a-kind fellowship of the broken, the mourners were God's special people on parade.

All of them were residents of Clover Bottom Developmental Center in Nashville, a facility serving the needs of people with severe mental and physical challenges. The one they had come to see, their friend whose body lay in the casket, was my uncle, Kenneth Haun, himself a 50-year resident of the Center. Because of a birth defect he lived all of his, nearly 77 years depending on the care of his family and the loyal staff at Clover Bottom.

I watched with amazement as they paid their respects. Some gazed vacantly ahead with no sign of recognition; others sat disfigured with twisted, misshapen bodies in their wheelchairs. Many drooled uncontrollably. They displayed an assortment of wardrobes—everything from stocking caps to dappled scarves and mismatched, worn sport coats.

One lady sat by Uncle Kenneth's casket for a long time, her head swiveling involuntarily from side-to-side. With great effort, she would lift her head, stop its motion, deliberately look at him for a few seconds, and then let her head sink and begin the swivel again. Tears clouded her eyes.

It was my privilege to preach Uncle Kenneth's funeral that day. Here is an abridged version of my remarks.

I want to borrow Jesus' words spoken to the women who grieved for Him as He trudged along the Via Dolorosa toward Calvary. "Weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children" (Luke 23:28). Everything God makes exists to glorify Him—even wrath and weakness of men. From our perspective, nothing could be worse than the murder of the only perfect man who ever lived. Yet even in the death of His Son, God revealed His infinite glory. "Do not weep for me."

In my mind, I hear those words echo from Uncle Kenneth. I am confident that he can now form the syllables perfectly, with full understanding of every word! "Don't cry for me." Why would he say that?

"To Such Belongs the Kingdom"

First and most significant, he is with the Lord, at the Father's side in unimaginable peace and delight. I base this confidence not on feelings, but on God's Word. While it is true no chapter or verse directly asserts that the mentally challenged are in Heaven, it is also true that no chapter or verse explains the Trinity, either. Yet we infer its truth from the teachings of Scripture. I believe the same is true regarding the eternal destiny of infants and the mentally ill.

The Bible teaches that our guilt is two-fold. First, our inheritance in Adam's sin condemns us. Second, we face God's judgment because we sin personally and willfully against Him. While Uncle Kenneth (like all of us) inherited Adam's guilt, it is also the case that (like young children and infants) he lacked the moral capacity to be accountable for willful sins. You and I are liable to God for sins we knowingly commit; Uncle Kenneth knew no such liability.

Christ's death in our place removed the first kind of guilt—the racial guilt we inherit as a result of our depravity. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:22). Paul also taught, "As by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one [Christ's atoning death] the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life" (Romans 5:18).

That's why we believe infants and the mentally ill enter Christ's presence in Heaven when they die. They are not innocent, yet Christ's sacrificial death for all people removes the sin we inherit from Adam. "The angels of these

He was a reflection of providence, an occasion for the goodness of God to be demonstrated through him. His life was a gift from the hand of a loving Father.

little ones always see the face of my Father who is in heaven," Jesus tells us (Matthew 18:10). "Suffer the little children to come unto me; and forbid them not... of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14).

The sins we commit *willingly* bring judgment (Ezekiel 18:4b; Revelation 20:12-13); our only hope is to trust Christ. Those who have the capacity and the opportunity to believe in Him must do so; otherwise we have no righteousness on our own—nothing or no one to answer for us when we stand before the Lord. For us, justification is by faith in Christ alone.

One thing is certain. When we stand before the righteous Judge of all the earth, we can be certain He will do what is right (Genesis 18:25).

On the Loose in Heaven

Uncle Kenneth would say, "Don't weep for me" because he is alive today—not only in our memories—but in reality, in spirit, in that part of each of us that will never die. We do not cry for him because his joy is beyond our comprehension. We are mistaken if we think of his life, or our own, in terms of this existence only. I suspect his joy in Heaven is even greater than those who enjoyed this life in a way

he did not. What freedom! Suddenly loosed, delivered from the bondage he knew here, to think, to know, to comprehend the joys of Heaven. Imagine a blind man who recovers his sight as he stands overlooking the Grand Canyon.

Imagine Kenneth Haun on the loose in Heaven! I'll bet the angels are exhausted already. His first fully rational sensation was to wake in that place of inexpressible delight, united with his family who know him as they never did here. If Heaven had a web-cam, I imagine we'd see him in his right mind (as Scripture says of the Gadarene demoniac healed by Jesus in Mark 5) either running to his heart's delight or marveling at His Savior.

Candy Bars, Bulldozers, and a Goat

God loved Uncle Kenneth, and he shared that love with others. We delighted in the things he enjoyed. He loved his family and animals, especially dogs and his goat. He loved Milky Way™ candy bars, orange sodas, babies, trucks, bulldozers, and road graders; but he didn't love bees or electric fences. He loved to eat and to run. I remember trying to keep up with him down the dusty, gravel road at the farm. He wore my cousin Billy and me out quickly. We would marvel as he kept on running.

The Secret Things Belong to God

We should not weep for Uncle Kenneth, thinking his life was an unfortunate accident, a waste, or a terrible tragedy of fate. He was a reflection of providence, an occasion for the goodness of God to be demonstrated through him. His life was a gift from the hand of a loving Father. How can I make such a claim?

Scripture (and the evidence of history) make it clear that God "worketh all things after the counsel of His own will" (Ephesians 1:11). Whatever happens, nothing just happens! God means to be glorified in all things. "I make well-being, and I create calamity . . . My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose," he assures us in Isaiah. But how exactly does Uncle Kenneth's life, the sudden death of a child, a young man

stricken with cancer, or the overdose of a young addict fit into God's plan? I must confess ignorance here. God doesn't confide those details of His agenda with us. "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor . . . For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen" (Romans 11:33, 34, 36).

I learned a long time ago the principle of Deuteronomy 29:29: "The secret things belong unto the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."

I accept God's sovereign purposes by faith, confessing my smallness, my limited, pitiful comprehension. Unlike many rational people who suffer because of their poor choices, Uncle Kenneth was spared the brunt of sin's ravages. His lack of guile and unpretentious laughter stand in sharp contrast to those who mask their fear, guilt, and pain. In him we found at least one person with no pretense, no airs—someone trying to be who he was not in order to make an impression. He was the most honest person I have ever known or am likely to meet.

Bigger Hearts Mean More Room

He brought out the best in all of us when we listened and cared enough to give him our attention and love. His family and caregivers met his needs for nearly 50 years, and they served Christ as they served him. Those who give their lives to special people, whether they know it or not, glorify God by their dedicated commitment, their labor of love. Families with handicapped or challenged loved ones learn to give in a way others do not. Their hearts are stretched farther, making more space for others.

Ironically, Uncle Kenneth was among the best teachers. Certainly he was the most demanding. He taught all of his caregivers to give unselfishly. And Uncle Kenneth returned that love in ways that were unconventional, yet

rich and satisfying beyond measure. His caregivers were confronted with their best and worst—the best when aiding him in his helplessness, the worst when selfishly turning away in embarrassment.

Pour Yourself Out

Make no mistake. We do not weep for this child of God made in His image, regardless how he looked to us or to others. No, people like Uncle Kenneth do us all a favor when they remind us we are all truly dependent. No one is truly self-sufficient. We won't admit it; he couldn't admit it.

The mentally (or physically) challenged are still people—thinking, feeling, acting beings loved by Christ, the Father, and the Spirit. Scripture reminds us over and over that God resists the proud. He casts down the

In him we found at least one person with no pretense, no airs—someone trying to be who he was not in order to make an impression. He was the most honest person I have ever known or am likely to meet.

mighty, the strong, the self-sufficient; but He gives grace to the humble. He lifts up the poor, the handicapped, the weak, the down-and-out, the unlovely, and the oppressed. He uses the weak things of the world to confound the mighty. He was a friend of sinners. He perfects His strength in those who are weakest. He expects us to do the same. "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves," Paul wrote (Romans 15:1). Isaiah put it like this: "And if thou draw out [pour out] thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity [darkness], and thy darkness be as the noon day: and the LORD will guide thee continually . . . and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not" (Isaiah 58:10-11).

The Truly Handicapped

We should pity ourselves more than Uncle Kenneth. We shouldn't

grieve over chances he never had, but over the ones we ignore, neglect, or take for granted. We should lament our own brokenness, handicaps, and weakness. The *truly* handicapped stumble through life's routines without acknowledging God's grace. In blindness, they refuse to trust Him.

Our question to God should not be an accusation, "How could you let this happen?" but a statement of appreciation, "Why have you blessed me so much in light of how I live?" We should admit with Jeremiah, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22-23, KJV).

God perfected His strength through the weakness of Uncle Kenneth in ways we do not understand. We catch a glimpse of our own character in how we help the weak and needy and hurting.

Uncle Kenneth was Christ to each of us. Remember Jesus' words? "I was sick and you visited me."

The disciples responded, "Lord, when did we see you sick and visited you?" "Truly, I say to you," he answered, "as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:36, 39, 40).

It is time to act on the grace God gives us, trust Him to set us free from our sins, look around and meet the needs of others, and love the unlovely as Christ loved us. Thank you, faithful and merciful God, for touching our lives through your child, Kenneth Ray Haun. To you alone be glory. Amen.

All of us leave this world handicapped, weak, and broken—totally dependent on the God who restores shattered vessels and brings the dead to life. One of my Uncle Kenneth's friends uttered a deep, low groan of grief as he approached the casket. I remembered Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5:4, that while we are still in this "tent," this body, "we groan, being burdened."

But the groaning will not last long. The final word belongs to Christ Himself, and it is not a groan but a shout—a cry of triumph that will raise these mortal tents and replace them with new, glorious structures fit to live with Him forever. □



Tina Tolbert (R) fellowships with conference attendees.



CANADIAN WOMEN ENJOY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FREDERICTON, NB, CANADA—Women from the Atlantic Canada Association of Free Will Baptists gathered in Fredericton June 15-16, for the 20th annual Women's Conference. According to conference organizers Donna and Alexis Crabtree, 128 women representing all 11 churches in the association attended the meeting hosted by Serenity FWB Church.

Tina Tolbert, director of Adult Studies at Free Will Baptist Bible College was the keynote speaker. She spoke three times on the conference theme, "Hiding in Thee," from Psalm 32:7.

This meeting marked the first time the conference had not met at Saint John Valley Bible Camp, a facility owned by the Association. Donna Crabtree said, "The camp was vandalized a few months ago and was not ready for the retreat this year. But God knew in advance where it needed to be."

Conference attendees praised both the conference and Tolbert's presentations.

"I've heard nothing but good!"

"I was challenged and encouraged."

NOMINEES REQUESTED

CAVANAUGH, AR—The 2007-2008 Nominating Committee, which will serve through the national convention in Charleston, WV, is prepared to receive nominees for 2008 convention election, according to Will Harmon, committee chairman.

The board, which includes members Will Harmon (Chairman, AR); David Baker (FL); Rick Cason (GA); Chris Clay (IN); Rick Dement (MO); Dennis Kizzire (MS); and Glenn Poston (TN) will meet December 4, 2007, at the annual Leadership Conference in Nashville, TN, to consider any names they receive. The committee will then compile a report with one nomination for each position to be filled. This document will be presented to the general board and delegates at the convention in Charleston.

The following board and commission positions need to be filled: FWB Bible College Trustees (3), International Missions Board (3), Randall House Publications Board (3), Commission for Theological Integrity (1), Historical Commission (1), Media Commission (1), Music Commission (1), General Board (11), Executive Committee (3) and General Officers (4).

To make a recommendation to the committee, contact:

Chairman Will Harmon, 905 Kerry Lane, Ft. Smith, AR 72916 (479) 649-0082 willharmon@cfwbc.org.

MASTER'S MEN TOURNAMENTS A SUCCESS

National Golf Tournament

MT. JULIET, TN—A record 88 participants gathered just after sunrise on August 2 to compete in the annual Master's Men National Golf Tournament.

The blazing sun baked the greens as temperatures soared into the high 90s. In spite of blistering conditions, the team of Dwyer and Atwell recorded a low score of 61 to walk away with top honors. Norris and Cleveland finished in second place with a 64.

The tournament was followed by a lunch featuring Tennessee Bar-B-Q, sweet tea, and hot cookies (always a crowd favorite). After lunch, trophies were awarded and door prizes were distributed to most competitors. Master's Men extends thanks to all golfers and hole sponsors.



First Place Championship Flight (pictured): Jerry Atwell (L) & Danny Dwyer

Second Place Championship Flight: Jerry Norris & Greg Cleveland

First Place First Flight: Ron Hunter & Matt Mitchell

Second Place First Flight: George & Randy Capps

First Place Second Flight: Byron & Mike Trimble

Second Place Second Flight: David & Johnathan Mills

National Softball Tournament



ANTIOCH, TN—Twenty-eight teams from 10 states participated in the 17th Master's Men National Softball Tournament. Players endured sweltering conditions but enjoyed fierce competition. When the dust settled on the field, Westgate from Westgate FWB Church in Spartanburg, SC, walked away with top honors. Fellowship FWB Church, from Park Hills, MO, placed second.

Master's Men thanks all participants in the tournament. Make plans now to enter your team in the 2008 tournament. For more information about Master's Men sports ministry, visit the website: www.nafwb.org/mm.

First Place Championship Tournament: Westgate FWB, Spartanburg, SC (pictured)

Second Place Championship Tournament: Fellowship FWB, Park Hills, MO

Third Place Championship Tournament: West Wayne FWB, Wayne, MI

Fourth Place Championship Tournament: Goodsprings FWB, Pleasant View, TN

First Place Consolation Tournament: Kirby FWB (Blue Team), Flat Rock, MI

Second Place Consolation Tournament: Lyons FWB, Lyons, GA



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

UNCLE BILL

THE TV SITCOM FAMILY Affair debuted September 12, 1966, and became an instant television classic. The show revolved around Bill Davis, a well paid consulting engineer and single

bachelor living in Manhattan with his butler Giles French. When Bill's brother and sister-in-law died in an accident, their three children—six-year-old twins Buffy and Jody and 15-year old Cissy—came to live with Uncle Bill. The show was one the entire family could enjoy without violence, profanity, or sexual innuendo.

The white-haired Uncle Bill epitomized maturity, patience, and practical wisdom. Regardless of the predicaments in which the children entangled themselves, Uncle Bill helped them get through it...always.

Like any television series, however, the children grew up, the episodes ran their course, and the show eventually went off the air. It's sad to see something good come to an end....

Five years ago, I shouldered the responsibility of leading our denomination as executive secretary. Immediately I began to operate outside of the parameters of my comfort zone and field of expertise. It didn't take long for me to recognize my need for wisdom, the kind you find in folks with white hair.

I found that wisdom (and white hair) in Bill Evans. I watched him closely, especially in directors' meetings. He did not speak quickly. Instead, he listened patiently as others shared their viewpoints. He carefully analyzed and

reflected on their words. At the appropriate moment he would speak, and everyone listened.

He was eminently qualified as a leader in our ranks. Having served as a Free Will Baptist pastor, he understood the financial struggles of front-line Christian workers. He exhibited an incredibly positive attitude and extraordinary resilience by surviving cancer against seemingly insurmountable odds. He successfully navigated turbulent economic waters without losing his sense of humor.

He eventually became my trusted advisor and close personal friend. His door was always open, and he was never too busy to talk or listen. I came to value his broad denominational perspective and levelheaded approach to every challenge and problem. In time, I came to affectionately refer to him as "Uncle Bill."

Bill Evans led our movement as the director of the Board of Retirement and Insurance and the Free Will Baptist Foundation. Our ministers and ministries trusted him with their money—one of the highest compliments and votes of confidence anyone could be paid. He served with honor, integrity, and distinction for many years. He finished well.

By the time you read this column he will have enjoyed two full months of retirement. The ministries he served will continue. He left them in the hands of capable men. I'm sure others will emerge as wise, trusted advisors, but I will miss Uncle Bill. It's sad to see something good come to an end. □

What Kind of a Legacy Will You Leave?



We all have a desire for significance. For many of us, significance comes through creating a legacy during our lives – something for which we will be remembered in the future. A bequest is perhaps the easiest and most tangible way to leave a lasting legacy to Free Will Baptist Home Missions.

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- Specific dollar amount
- Specific asset
- Percentage of your estate
- Residue of your estate



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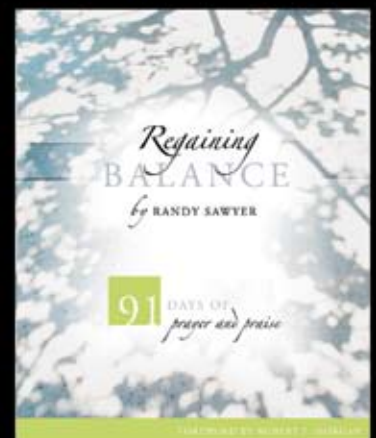
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NOVEMBER 18, 2007

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