

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

ONE

MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2009

www.onemag.org

A Ridiculous Vision

He Has BIG Faith

It's Pronounced CHOW-DAH



IN EVERY DIRECTION

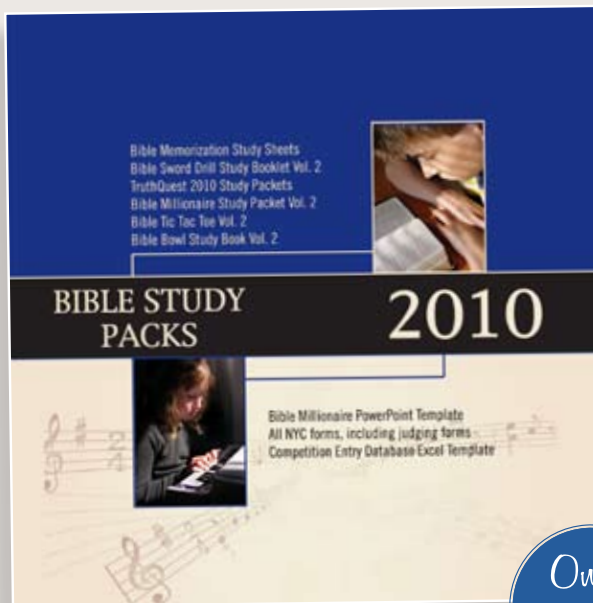
Not child's play.

Building men is not easy. Equip your church for effective discipleship with practical, real-to-life curriculum from the Master's Men* Direction Bible Study Series. Choose from 14 timely topics presented in easy-to-use, reproducible format. A must for small groups taking the next step in discipleship.

MASTER'S MEN | 877-767-8039

www.fwbmastersmen.org

*Studies free with membership. Call for details.



Bible Competition Study Packs CD

Contains:

- Bible Memorization Study Sheets
- Bible Sword Drill Study Booklet
- TruthQuest 2010 Study Packets
- Bible Millionaire Study Packet
- Bible Tic Tac Toe Study Book
- Bible Bowl Study Book

Also includes:

- Bible Millionaire PowerPoint Template
- All NYC Event Forms
- All Judging Sheets
- Competition Entry Excel Database

Only
\$24.99

Randall House
Student & Children's Ministries

800-877-7030

Everything that is needed to study for Bible Competition
except a Bible

Print what you need as you need it
using
Adobe PDF files

ONE

MAGAZINE

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



16



34

ONE MAGAZINE
ISSN 1554-3323
VOLUME 5
ISSUE 6

28



Published bi-monthly by the
National Association of
Free Will Baptists, Inc.,
5233 Mt. View Road,
Antioch, TN 37013-2306.

Non-profit periodical postage rate
paid at Antioch, TN 37011 and
additional offices.

POSTMASTER,
SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
ONE Magazine
PO Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

ARTICLES

- 06 Carrying the Gospel in All Directions
- 07 North: It's Pronounced Chow-dah
- 08 East: More Than Peanuts
- 09 South: At Home in Mobile
- 10 West: Fault Lines in Utah
- 11 Mission: Matchmaking
- 13 A Ridiculous Vision
- 16 Living Water
- 18 Hundred Thousand Dollar Bill
- 19 A Million Miles
- 22 God Is Mighty
- 24 He Has Big Faith
- 28 The Right Band Aid
- 30 Staying Fit in Retirement
- 34 Who Gets Mama's China?
- 37 A New Conversation
- 43 Forum 10
- 44 Dynamic Duo: Bert and Dianne Tippet

COLUMNS

- 04 First Glimpse
- 32 Leader Profile
- 36 Brown on Green
- 39 Intersect
- 64 One to One

NEWS

- 26 News Around the World
- 40 News at FWBBC
- 50 Nominating Change
- 52 News About the Denomination

06



FIRST GLIMPSE

G-Force



Photo: Mark Cowart

ERIC THOMSEN
MANAGING EDITOR

WITH A LOUD HISS, THE LARGE HYDRAULIC DOOR SLOWLY began to close. Brilliant sunshine receded, plunging the cramped space into darkness. Powerful engines stirred to life, pulsating like distant drums in some primordial forest. A puff of tepid air shot from the smooth wall near my head, making me jump and jerk away.

I felt a small hand slip into my own. “Daddy, I’m scared.” Squeezing my daughter’s hand, I replied shakily, “Everything’s going to be okay, Sweetheart.”

I didn’t convince anyone. The adventure that seemed so innocent, so fun had become a nightmare.

A shuddering groan passed through the darkness, and I felt a vague sensation of circular movement. Closing my eyes, I leaned back against the cushions and tried to relax.

Impossible.

The strange sensations continued, and suddenly, the darkness was pierced by screams—shrieks of pure terror. Startled, I tried to raise my head only to discover that I couldn’t move. A giant hand held me pinned to the wall.

A moment later, my daughter’s hand was ripped from mine as I shot upward, coming to rest against the ceiling. The relentless pressure pressed harder and harder, stretching my skin tight against my skull, ripping the air from my lungs. The screams grew louder, and I realized that my voice had joined the chorus. Gritting my teeth, I shut my eyes, held my breath, and prayed for the nauseating nightmare to end.

And then it did.

The motors died. The screams stopped. I slid back down the wall and looked into the petrified face of my daughter. “See.” I smiled weakly. “I told you it would be okay.”

How many times do we let our lives spin out of control, governed by a relentless to-do list, pinned to the wall by a never-ending series of personal and ministry responsibilities. In our quest to lead effective lives for Christ, we forget the importance of developing a clear vision of who we are in Christ and what He wants us to accomplish through us. To our dismay, the adventure of abundant life turns into a nightmare of near misses. We find ourselves screaming into the darkness, “How did I end up here? Stop the ride. I want to get off!”

As you read this issue of *ONE Magazine*, take time to consider. Are you running your life? Or is your life running you? Perhaps it’s time to reevaluate your direction, to develop a new vision. Perhaps it’s time to stop spinning and start living.

When the door opened, I staggered into the sunshine with my fellow adventurers wondering if my own face were as green as theirs.

My wife waited at the end of the ramp with arms crossed, an “I told you so” expression on her face. Glancing over my shoulder, I ruefully shook my head. “Next time, *you* take her on the G-Force Simulator!” **ONE**

ONE Magazine Online

Visit www.onemag.org for weekly news updates, expanded magazine content, Free Will Baptist historical resources, and online archives.

Subscribe to ONE

If you or someone you know would like to receive a free subscription to *ONE Magazine*, call toll-free (877) 767-7659, email editor@nafwb.org, or visit www.onemag.org to use the online subscription form.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Keith Burden MANAGING EDITOR: Eric Thomsen ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Ken Akers, David Brown, Danny Conn, Ida Lewis, Ray Lewis, Deborah St. Lawrence, Bert Tippet, Jack Williams LAYOUT & DESIGN: Randall House Publications DESIGN MANAGER: Andrea Young DESIGN TEAM: Sondra Blackburn PRINTING: Randall House Publications

While *ONE Magazine* is provided to the reader free of charge, tax-deductible donations are both accepted and appreciated. To make a donation, simply send check or money order to *ONE Magazine*, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

PHOTO CREDIT: Sean Warren, Mark Cowart, Eric Thomsen, Kenn Fleming, Istockphoto.com, Stockxpert.com, Designpics.com.

LETTERS

Have something to say?

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

ONE Magazine
Letters to the Editor
PO Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

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

I wanted to write a note of thanks for the recent article about my grandpa, Raymond Riggs, in the August-September issue of *ONE Magazine*. Grandpa was an amazing man, one I look up to as one of my heroes.

The tribute written by Dr. Thigpen was incredibly kind and admirable—one worthy of such a hero as grandpa. While this article may not be read by all of your subscribers, those of us who were privileged to know grandpa pore over those pages. Thanks for helping my family and me remember this man we all could do well to emulate.

Jacob Riggs, Nashville, TN

Recently, a phone call came to the switchboard. The caller introduced herself as an Arkansas mail carrier who found herself reading the *ONE Magazines* she was delivering. When she discovered that the subscription was free, she quickly called and asked to be placed on the mailing list!

Debbie Burden, ONE Magazine database manager, Antioch, TN

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



More on the Web

onemag.org

Visit www.onemag.org to enjoy bonus features, denominational information, Free Will Baptist historical resources, comprehensive magazine archives, and much more. **In this issue**, find creative ideas to let your pastor know you appreciate him: www.onemag.org/thanks_pastor.htm.

elements™

kids worship

New!

Children's Church Curriculum from Randall House!

Only \$199 per year!

The children's church curriculum you've been looking for is finally here! **Elements Kids Worship** provides the essential building blocks you need to be intentional about developing spiritual champions for Christ.

- Correlates with D6 Sunday School Curriculum
- Entirely Downloadable
- Affordable for All Churches!

For questions, call **800.877.7030**

To order, go to ElementsKidsWorship.com





Mission North America

"Carrying the Gospel in Every Direction"

BY LARRY POWELL

"And they went forth, and preached every where..." (Mark 16:20a).

IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS, THE 1996 FREE WILL BAPTIST National Convention voted that the Home Missions Department would be responsible for Free Will Baptist cross-cultural ministry in North America. It is an enormous responsibility we must pursue with diligence.

Every year more than 1.5 million people come from the nations of the world to America. More than 100 million peoples belonging to some 500 ethnic groups with 638 languages are present in our country. More people immigrate to America than any other country in the world. A vast harvest field lies within our neighborhoods. Millions of people are lost in America.

Christianity has been on the decline for 50 years in our country. Things are even darker in Canada and Mexico. As Free Will Baptists, we must renew our evangelistic thrust with fervor. In the Home Missions Department, our focus is "the gospel of Christ for all people in North America."

Church Closings

In the United States, more churches are closing than opening in the Mid-Atlantic area. What line is 50,000 miles long, would stretch twice around the earth, and is growing by a half-mile every day? It is the line of people in the United States who are untouched by our churches. Home missionaries continue to preach repentance and faith in Christ alone for salvation. Evangelism has been and will continue to be our passion.

Changing Faces

Church planters look different these days. They include Slavic, Hispanic, and Korean missionaries. The faces in our mission churches are changing. On any given Sunday, people from 20 different ethnic groups hear the message that Jesus, God's Son, died on the cross to save them.

The Challenge before Us

We must change our thinking about families in our communities. As we reach out to a diverse population, our church planters share Christ with Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans and more. They reach out with a compassionate message to all ethnic groups in the community. God has sent these precious people to our country, and your home missionaries—with zeal and enthusiasm—are exploring how best to share Christ, the only way to God the Father. Please pray they will be supernaturally effective in bringing people into a relationship with Jesus. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Larry Powell is general director of the Home Missions Department. Learn more about the ministry of Home Missions at www.homemissions.net.





It's Pronounced "Chow-dah"

BY BILL REYNOLDS

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE PRIVILEGE GOD has given us to build a Free Will Baptist church in Rhode Island. Spreading the gospel in the Ocean State requires a commitment to building relationships. Most folks around here won't even talk about God with someone they know, never mind a stranger. We have been most successful reaching those with whom we have nurtured relationships of trust and respect. Ninety percent of those who visit our church are friends or relatives of church attendees who invite them. I encourage our church people to look for others with whom they can build a witnessing relationship.

Rhode Islanders can be very discerning as they listen to a sermon. When they have an issue with something I say, they question me. This is a good thing. It tells me they pay attention. As long as I have a biblical answer, their questions are not a problem. When I don't have a biblical answer, I apologize and say something like, "My brain wasn't working when I said that." They accept that. They under-



stand we are not perfect. Of course, I do try to find answers to their questions when possible.

Anywhere you minister, you must be willing to serve people. In the North, that may mean shoveling snow from a driveway. People appreciate a pastor who will help them in the small things as well as the big things.

Each month, we host a fellowship meal at our church. The difference between our fellowship meals in Rhode Island and in other places in the country is the food. Instead of a "pig-pickin," we enjoy clam cakes and chowder. (It's pronounced chow-dah.) Rather than fried chicken, we have lasagna. You won't find catfish in our chafing dishes, but you'll get more than your fill of striped bass! Northerners sometimes get a bad rap about being unfriendly, but if you came to one of our fellowship meals (and we'd love to have you), you would learn quickly that the bad reputation is undeserved.

We appreciate all the generosity with prayers, cards, and support. With your continued help and God's continued blessing, Beacon Free Will Baptist Church will be a light for the Lord for years to come. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Bill Reynolds is a home missionary to North Kingstown, Rhode Island. Read more about the church at www.beaconfreewillbaptist.com.



More Than PEANUTS

BY DAVID AND CHARITY SEXTON

SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA, IS RICH IN HISTORY, AND

the outstretched acres of farmland and country are breathtaking. In addition to Suffolk's strong ties to Colonial American history, the city is also known as the center of the American peanut industry and the birthplace of Mr. Peanut. In the early 20th century, an Italian immigrant opened the Planters Nut and Chocolate Company. The peanut business supported the local economy for many years, and large processing facilities remain in Suffolk today.

Suffolk is known for the Great Dismal Swamp. The wildlife refuge covers 223,000 acres in Virginia and North Carolina. The area is also known for five beautiful golf courses enjoyed by golfers of all skill levels.

However, when we think of Suffolk, we think of more than history, beauty, entertainment, and peanuts. Our hearts cry out for the lost and unreached thousands in the city. God has given us a heart and burden for this city that has never had a Free Will Baptist church. How will they come to know Christ if the gospel never reaches their ears?

Many go about their busy lives without knowing they will face eternity without God. Now, more than ever, a Free Will Baptist church must be built in Suffolk, so the message of salvation can reach the men, women, boys, and girls of the city.



Our family began the church-planting journey in 2008 when we began to raise support for this mission work. Traveling with our children Austen (12), Devan (10), Chasity (8), and Cailey (6) was exciting but difficult

at times. But God is great and greatly to be praised. Within a year, we raised the necessary funds.



During our short time in Suffolk, we have already seen many families come to know Christ. God is blessing our efforts. Seven months after the first service, our average service attendance is 84! We have visited thousands of homes in an effort to reach people with the gospel. Many attractive publications have been mailed to local areas. We set up booths at the annual Peanut Festival and reached out to hundreds with meals after a devastating tornado hit our city in April 2008. We have opened our home for weekly Bible studies, so others can come and grow in the knowledge of our Savior. We have hosted fellowships, cookouts, and mission trips. We recently started a fellowship time for new members called "Pizza with the Pastor" which meets in our home each month. Currently, we are in the process of trying to purchase land near a main highway.

You see, Suffolk is a beautiful place, a great place to live; but to us it is much more. Why start a church in Suffolk? The city is crying out for the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. Will you help us build God's church? Please pray for the "Sextons in Suffolk," as well as the Marc Neppel family (associate missionaries who have joined us in this effort). **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: David Sexton has been in ministry more than 15 years. He holds Bachelor and Master's degrees in Education and Administration. Read more about CrossPointe FWB Church at www.crosspointesuffolk.com.

The Bible tells us in Mark 16:20: “And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”

At Home in Mobile

BY TIM RIGGS

SINCE ARRIVING IN MOBILE, Alabama, in December of 2006, we have tried to be faithful to go forth with the gospel in this area where God has called us. It is not easy, and many do not respond to our invitation to church and the presentation

GOD WILL BE FAITHFUL TO ACCOMPLISH WHAT I CANNOT DO.

of the gospel the way we would like. Enough has happened in the last several months, however, to show us that the Lord has been working with us and confirming His Word. In fact, the Lord constantly reminds me that I am merely a tool for Him to use. I am limited in doing what God has called me to do myself. But, our Great God knows this, and if I will be faithful to His calling and leading, He


will be faithful to accomplish what I cannot do.

I have also noticed that the blessings God gives are often in direct proportion to our faithfulness to get out the gospel everywhere we go on a daily basis.

If we will be faithful to preach the gospel, whether it is in the pulpit, at a stranger's door, in a neighbor's yard, or by a hospital bed, God will send blessings our way. Over the last several months, those blessings have come in various ways. After being in existence for only four months, the Lord provided 6.5 acres of land with two buildings on it. This property is in a wonderful location, right beside the high school where we started having services and only one mile from

our house.

God is blessing us financially, not only through many of you, but also through those God has sent to our church. God blessed us by providing a young couple to help us in this work. Most importantly, God continues to confirm His Word as souls are saved and lives changed.

It is wonderful to know that this indeed is God's work, and that He is not only aware of what is going on, He is in control. If we will do what we can and should do, God has ways of reminding us that He will do what we cannot do. We have His Word on it! 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Tim Riggs is a Home Missionary to Mobile, Alabama.



Fault Lines *in Utah* By Jessica Lewis

I WILL NEVER FORGET THE DAY MY HUSBAND TIM asked me to pray with him about moving to Utah to start a new church. The memory still brings a twinge of anxiety and fear.

I remember arguing with God and weeping. “Why do we have to go now, Lord? I love the people at our church; I am close to my family; I am not equipped.”

Excuses, excuses! Yet when I looked down at my growing belly, I knew we had to go. I couldn’t look at my child in years to come and tell her I was too afraid to do what God wanted.

It is hard to believe we have been in Ogden, Utah, nine years. It has been incredibly rewarding, frustrating, and wonderful. I still struggle with fear and my feelings of inadequacy. I tell myself I am not like my heroes. I can’t seem to battle it out in prayer like Grandma Hollis. I struggle with selfishness in sharp contrast to my mother, Gail, who gives without condition. I yearn to have a heart like Aunt Vickie, who serves with a quiet dignity and never complains. I would love to be more like missionary Sarah Malone, who has given her life for Christ with sweet humility.

Instead, I tend to be stubborn, proud, self-reliant, blunt, sarcastic, and strong-willed. I relate more to James and John—the disciples of Jesus known as the Sons of Thunder. When asked to write an article, these fears and faults quickly overwhelmed me, but God is good. He encouraged me and reminded me of some important things I had forgotten.

God’s beautiful mountains surround me. As I gaze at the peaks of the Wasatch Range, they never cease to remind me of His strength and power. In recent days, however, God has reminded me that a fault line in the earth created these

majestic mountains. Then the second part of Mark 16:20 grabbed my heart. It says, “The Lord working with them...” The passage moved me to tears. My loving Father reminded me that He has always used broken and hurting people for His glory. He loves us in spite of our faults.

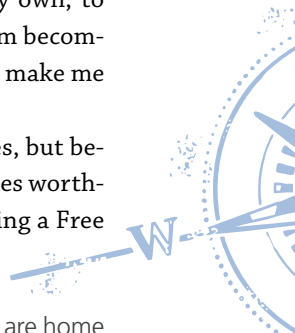
Consider Jesus’ disciples. James and John had anger management issues, and Peter had a big mouth. Thomas had problems trusting others while Nathaniel was arrogant and bigoted. All of the disciples had faults. Yet look how beautifully God used their lives for His glory.

God promises to make us new. Ecclesiastes 3:11a says, “He hath made every thing beautiful in his time...” A diamond isn’t particularly awe-inspiring when first dug from the ground, but when it has been cut and polished it shines. In a similar way, when we give everything to God—including our faults and insecurities—He will make something beautiful.

It is so reassuring to know that God is equipping me for His service. I love that He wants to work with me. I am grateful He has allowed me to be used in my brokenness. I have learned to lean on His strength and not my own, to laugh at my faults, to accept who I am and who I am becoming in Him. I know He is working with me and will make me beautiful in His time.

Ministering in Utah definitely has its challenges, but being in the center of God’s will makes all the struggles worthwhile. I am thrilled to be a part of His plan, planting a Free Will Baptist church in the West. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Jessica Lewis and husband Tim are home missionaries to Ogden, Utah.





Mission MATCHMAKING

BY RICHARD ATWOOD

ON THIS SIDE OF THE COUNTRY, WE FIND NATHAN.

He is a young college graduate who moved from Tennessee to Colorado to help a Free Will Baptist Home Missions church. He hopes to find a good Christian young woman to share his life.

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COUNTRY, WE FIND RACHEL.

She moved from Alabama to New York with her parents to help start a Free Will Baptist church. She hopes to someday find a good Christian young man to share her life.

Fast forward...

My wife Sandy and I visited New York. Rachel's parents, Jim and Syl-

via Martin, are working with Dana and Betty Booth to plant a church in Rochester. We all went out to eat after the Wednesday evening service. Sandy and I were both wishing that our son, Nathan, had been with us to meet Rachel.

When Rachel was getting ready to leave, I grabbed a napkin and borrowed a pen from her father. I asked, "Would you email my son Nathan and say hello? He's a nice Christian."

"Okay," she said, with a question in her voice. My wife and my daughter hung their heads in disbelief that I would do something so embarrassing.

Rachel did, in fact, send a message to Nathan, and he responded. They began talking on the telephone, and then

Nathan went to New York for a visit.

To make a long story short, they met, they liked, and they married! The wedding was held in June. Now, both Nathan and Rachel are helping with the home missions church in Rochester. They teach children's church, drive the church van, and help with the teens.

What is the moral of this story? Go help a home missionary, and good things will happen. **ONE**

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



5,000,000 Steps

to plant churches among unreached peoples.

to challenge teens to greater commitment to missions.

to celebrate the last 75 years of Free Will Baptist missionary efforts.

to raise awareness in young people about the millions without Christ.

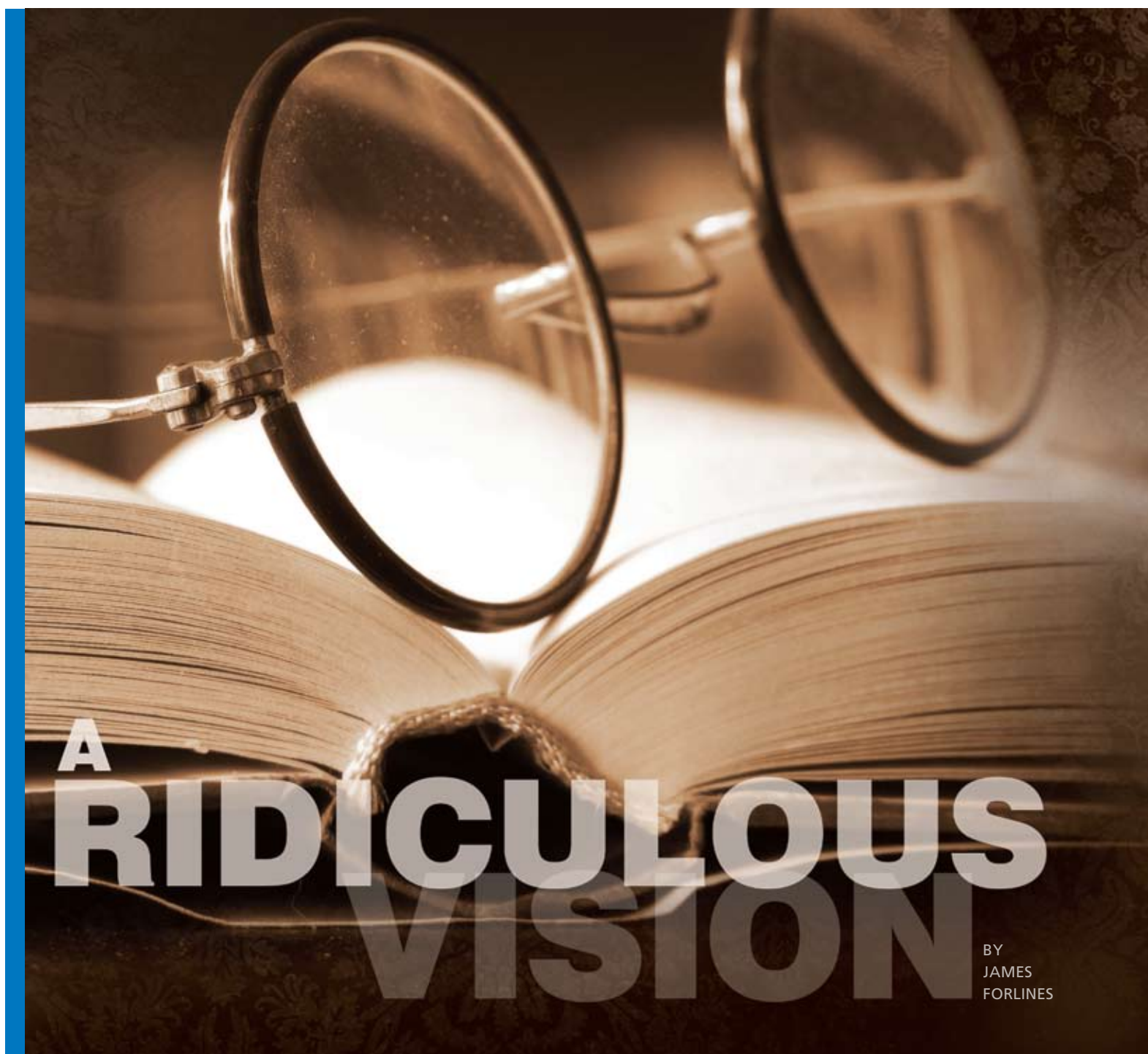


2,500 Miles | \$1,000,000*



Register today. www.go10walk.com.

*Through the generosity of a \$500,000 matching gift.



A RIDICULOUS VISION

BY
JAMES
FORLINES

THE YEAR WAS 1935. THE CITY: NEW YORK.

The *S.S. Potter* rested at Pier 58 in the North River while longshoremen worked to load freight for her next voyage across the Atlantic. Since June 17, her crew had roamed the city, uncertain how long they would wait in port. Once

the ship was loaded, they would hit the seas. Independence Day wasn't far off; certainly, many of the crew hoped to celebrate the 4th in the Big Apple.

A little over three miles away, on West 75th Street, one of the *Potter's* passengers waited patiently at the Hephzibah



Laura Belle in
New York 1935.



Laura Belle
drawing water
in India.

House to board the ship. She was alone. The extravagant fireworks display planned for the 4th were mere sparklers in comparison to her questions about the journey that lay ahead. What would the voyage bring? What difficulties waited? What challenges would she face? What obstacles might come her way? She had no way of knowing. But, with \$85 in her pocket, she was filled with an eternal treasure and hope for the people of India.

Many people have a vision, but never take steps to make it a reality. Trusting in the promise of the God who would be with her to the ends of the earth, Laura Belle Barnard put courageous action behind her ridiculous vision. In the middle of the Great Depression, at 27 years old, having never traveled outside the United States, the single woman from rural, southern Georgia left everything and headed to India.

Next year, 2010, is the 75th anniversary of Miss Barnard's departure for India, and the launch of Free Will Baptist International Missions. Numerous events have been planned to commemorate her step of faith. Some may ask, "Why spend so much energy and effort looking backward? It is just history." However, examples of audacious faith like hers give us courage to look forward to the challenges that lie ahead. May God use such examples to sound the call again, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

North Africa

Yes, God continues to call. And, yes, Free Will Baptist people continue to say, "Here am I, send me."

Satan has held a grip on the peoples of North Africa for centuries. For some countries in the region, the number of Christians does not even register as a percentage. Those who profess Islam number as high as 99.85%.

What would cause a young, Free Will Baptist couple with children to move to such a country? In 2009, that is exactly what happened. In March, the International Missions Board opened *this country with a long-term commitment to reach a targeted people group there. What difficulties wait? What challenges will be faced? This family has no way of knowing. As jars of clay, though, they take hope and healing to the people of North Africa.

Southeast Asia

Approximately 60% of the world's population lives in Asia (over 4 billion people). Hundreds of unreached people groups are scattered across this needy area of the world. Buddhism and Animism have blinded billions to the truth

that could set them free. Entering these countries with a religious worker's visa is impossible. Creative means must be developed to be allowed in the country before you can even think of developing relationships and sharing your faith.

How will Free Will Baptists answer this need? We are now in the investigative process. In August, a young couple moved to Southeast Asia to look for a divine opening and opportunities. The needs are great, both spiritual and physical. Per capita average yearly income in *this country is only \$765.

Some might say this is a bad time to begin such endeavors. Yet, in the middle of the greatest economic downturn in generations, at 28 and 25 years old, having never been to Asia, this couple left everything and headed into the darkness with His light!

Serving as Senders

One of the most exciting developments within our denomination is what is happening among our Free Will Baptist people *outside* of North America. For most of our 74-year history, missionaries were sent almost exclusively from the United States. In 2009, that is no longer the case. Where once we had mission fields, we now have sending countries. Passion for world evangelism is growing throughout our Free Will Baptist family. I urge you to visit our website www.fwbgo.com, click on Video, and watch the segment titled, "Tale of Two Countries." You will be challenged and encouraged to see Brazilian Free Will Baptists respond to the need in the country of Uruguay.

Things have come a long way since July 5, 1935. Much has changed. Only the pilings of Pier 58 remain. Looking out over the North River as it flows by emphasizes the things of this earth always dissolve and decay. But you may also gain the keen awareness that what is done for the Kingdom is eternal. Though Pier 58 is gone, Free Will Baptists rejoice in almost 300 churches in India. They remain!

By the way, Laura Belle and the crew were able to celebrate Independence Day in New York City. Ship records tell us the *S.S. Potter* set sail on July 5, 1935. What began that day will be cause for a greater, broader independence celebration in Heaven. Eternal independence has been gained for thousands upon thousands through the efforts of Laura Belle Barnard and other Free Will Baptist missionaries who followed her with their own ridiculous vision. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: James Forlines has served the denomination as general director of Free Will Baptist International Missions for almost 11 years.

*The specific country is not revealed for reasons of security.

Laura Belle
in
New York
1935.



Laura Belle
with a
wedding
couple.

Living Water... Bottled!

By Kent Nelson



“I DON’T WANT ANY WATER. PEOPLE DON’T GIVE THINGS AWAY FOR FREE. WHERE DID YOU GET IT?”

This was the reaction from a local man when we passed out free bottles of water during a Mercy Ministry project. Due to a rise in vandalism and crime, our communities have become increasingly closed to door-to-door visitation, causing the church to rethink our outreach strategies.

Giving away bottles of water accompanied by information about our church and the gospel helps us tell our community that we care, and so does Jesus. Truthfully, we were asking our own questions. “Will anyone even read the flyers? Are we creating a litter nuisance if people throw them on the ground? Will we be accepted or rejected?”

The questions were answered not long after the outreach started. A lady watching us from her parked car across the streets honked her horn and waved us over. She accepted the water and the gospel flyer. We watched her read the information intently for next 10 minutes. Mission accomplished. A Mercy Ministry project had opened the door for the gospel to be presented.

I agree with James E. White when he suggests in *Rethinking the Church* that it takes seven points of contact before a person will consider coming to your church. Here in the Virgin Islands, we have to make these points of contact in a culturally sensitive way. This culture is in conflict with itself, a fact evidenced by soaring crime rates, increasing cases of HIV, and a growing distrust of local leadership and government. How do we make an impact as a church? In *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis compares the church to sailing ships:

Think of us as a fleet sailing in formation...If the ships keep on having collisions, they will not remain sea worthy very long. On the other hand, if their steering gears are out of order, they will not be able to avoid collisions.

The social problems in the Virgin Islands, as everywhere, stem from sin. The steering mechanism is faulty; it is depraved. Therefore, the foundational response of the church must be to preach the gospel clearly with passion while living out the gospel in the community. A tent revival evangelist from Barbados recently put it this way. “I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is, it is, it is, it is—say it with me one more time—it is the power of God unto salvation!” True social reformation can never take place unless the gospel takes root and bears fruit in the lives of people.

As a church, we must be careful not just to focus on the verbal proclamation of the gospel. Take Lewis’ analogy further. If the ships are colliding (if the social structure is crumbling), then the church must do what she can to keep the ships from falling apart. This is why we engage in Mercy Ministry (a phrase popularized by Timothy Keller in *Ministries of Mercy: The Call of the Jericho Road*) here in St. Croix. We ask the question, “What can we do to strengthen the social fabric that holds together the culture in which we live?”

Currently we are using four types of outreach: Christian education, Mercy Ministry, Focal Point Outreach, and Community Partnerships. The Free Will Baptist Christian School educates 260 students a day from the Christian worldview. Mercy Ministry engages our needy community with random acts of kindness. Our church visitation, called Focal Point, strives to make our church families the focal point of spiritual life in their neighborhoods by strategically focusing on the neighbors of our church families. We have partnered financially and physically with two local organizations, Lighthouse Christian Mission that feeds the homeless, and AYSO Soccer that teaches discipline through youth soccer programs.

Will free bottles of water make a difference? One man rejected cool, refreshing water. Another lady heard and ac-

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL AS WE ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH SERVICE AND LOVE.

cepted living water. We can make a difference through the power of the gospel as we engage our communities with service and love. Please pray for the church in St. Croix as we continue to advance the kingdom in the Caribbean. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Kent and Jeanna Nelson work as home missionaries for the ministries in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Learn more about the work in St. Croix at www.stcroixfwb.com.



Hundred Thousand Dollar Bill

By Howard Gwartney

I HAVE KNOWN BILL CAMPBELL FOR AT LEAST 40 YEARS.

What I didn't know for many years is that he and I attended the same high school and even had the same English teacher (albeit 30 years apart). Bill once came to my home church, Locust Grove FWB Church in Oklahoma, trying to get Green Stamps, of all things, in order to buy an airplane for a mission work in Alaska. (By the way, eventually he was able to buy that plane!) I even had the privilege of taking part in the memorial service for his first wife, Sandra.

For years, this couple worked tirelessly on a voluntary basis for Home Missions as lay ambassadors, helping to establish new Free Will Baptist churches.

After Sandra's death, Bill met and married Roberta (Rosser). During a visit to the new mission work in Arizona, the couple caught a vision to help establish another Free Will Baptist church. Roberta had never seen what a new church has to do to get started. She didn't know that a church plant sometimes has to meet in rented facilities for years before the church can afford to buy property. As she watched us set up "portable church" that weekend, God burdened her heart to do something to help our ministry.

Right off the bat, the Campbells made a sizeable gift to our land fund. Then, they committed to travel for a year to help us raise \$100,000. After

a year, they had reached half of their goal, and Christ's Church Free Will Baptist was able to purchase a 4.82 acre piece of land within a year of the first service!

Bill works for Western Express as a safety officer and travels extensively. When time permits, he and Roberta schedule services in various churches and present the goals for the Arizona church plant. They have decided to travel on our behalf for one more year to complete their original \$100,000 goal.

I won't spoil Bill's remarkable story for you by telling how he came to know the Lord. But, if your church gets a call from Bill Campbell asking if he can come to your church on behalf of home missionaries in Arizona, I can attest that his testimony will both challenge and encourage your church family. The Campbells cover their own expenses, and any offering you receive for the work in Arizona is submitted to the Home Missions Department the day they return home.

We can't thank Bill and Roberta enough for their friendship and faithfulness to the Lord. Their zeal to plant churches across America encourages all of us. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Howard Gwartney is a home missionary to Christ's Church FWB Church in Florence, AZ. Learn more about the church at www.christschurch-fwb.org.



Bill and Roberta are members of La Vergne FWB church, La Vergne, TN.



1,000,000 MILES...

10,000 MESSAGES...

1,000 MEETINGS

BY DAVID CROWE

MANY SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES MARK DIFFERENT PHASES OF LIFE. THEY INCLUDE KINDERGARTEN, first date, first job, high school and college graduations, marriage, first child, first grandchild, and others. Each milestone marks a part of life that has been completed and points to the markers ahead. This process continues until we pass the marker called death and finally see Heaven.

Milestones vary for each individual depending upon opportunities and occupations. This is true of those involved in ministry. As an ordained minister, I have passed many milestones over the last 32 years of my ministry including first sermon, first revival, first pastorate, first funeral, and first wedding.

Earlier this year, while reflecting on the milestones along the way, it occurred to me that, Lord willing, I would pass three very significant milestones this year.

1,000,000 miles. Delta airlines contacted me earlier this year. They informed me that I was only 15,000 miles away from one million miles flown on Delta. (No wonder I know most of the Nashville Delta employees by name.) Delta said that I would join an elite group of travelers called Million Milers and would receive several perks because of my loyalty. As I thought about those million miles on Delta, I began to consider all the miles traveled in ministry. I have flown on at least 10 other airlines besides Delta, logging over 500,000 miles on them, and I have worn out several cars driving thousands of miles to meetings, visiting hospitals and nursing homes, and a host of other ministry-related reasons.

10,000 sermons. I pulled out all my old calendars and journals and realized that if I preach all the services I have scheduled this year, I will have preached over 10,000 times in 32 years of ministry. I know that some of you are thinking that I preached the same 10 sermons 1,000 times each, but that's not true! Those sermons represent a lot of preparation and perspiration. Some time ago, my doctor told me I needed to start walking every day. I tried to tell him that I preach almost every day, and I get between one and two miles per sermon, but he didn't get it.

1,000 meetings. This year I will have preached more than 1,000 meetings in revivals, camp meetings, mission and Bible conferences, youth camps and crusades.

As I considered all the miles, the messages, and the meetings, this thought came to mind. Has it been worth it?

Has it been worth the weariness, the disappointments, the discouragements, and the defeats? Has it been worth the loneliness, the misunderstandings, and the battles? God began to remind me of all the souls saved, lives changed, families brought back together, and Christians encouraged. Then God reminded me of how blessed I am to have been in over 1,000 Free Will Baptist churches, to have met hundreds of missionaries, preachers, and pastors. God has blessed me with the privilege of meeting thousands of Free Will Baptist families across North America. So, has it been worth it? A million times yes!

The Free Will Baptist denomination is blessed with some of the finest preachers, pastors, and missionaries you will find in any group of believers. We have some of the most talented musicians, singers, and teachers you will find within the body of Christ.

At 51 years of age, the largest part of my life and ministry are behind me. I want to make the best of the time God allows me on earth. Like the apostle Paul, my goal is always to press toward the mark. God placed me in the Home Missions Department to minister for more than 14 years thus far. If my life ends today, it has been a great trip with the Lord and with Free Will Baptists! My destination in Heaven is looking clearer and closer each day God leaves me here.

ONE

ABOUT THE WRITER: David Crowe is director of development for the Home Missions Department. Learn more about the ministry of Home Missions at www.homemissions.net.



Is Your Nest Egg Secure?

Are you seeking a more secure retirement outside of the market ups and downs? Consider a gift annuity which provides fixed income for life while supporting Free Will Baptist International Missions.

+Payouts Based on Age

+Tax-Free Income Portion

+Partial Charitable Deduction

Contact the Free Will Baptist Foundation for more information.

foundation@nafwb.org

www.FWBGifts.org | (877) 336-7575



Free Will Baptist Bible College

A Christian Community
of Faith and Learning



40 Major Areas of Study:

Biblical Studies, Biology, Business, English, History, Ministry, Music, Pre-Law, Pre-Nursing, Psychology, Sports Management, Teacher Education, and more. View all available degrees online.



1-800-76-FWBBC | www.FWBBC.edu
3606 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205

*Listed in U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges 2009.

God Is **MIGHTY**

BY RONDA STURGILL



“Let all those that seek thee
rejoice and be glad in thee:
and let such as love thy
salvation say continually,
“Let God be magnified”
(Psalm 70:4).

THE PSALMS INCLUDE SUCH A WIDE ARRAY OF human emotions. It seems that no matter what I’m feeling at the time, I can always turn to the Psalms and immediately find an intimate connection with our Creator. My favorite author of the Psalms is David. What I love most about David is that he is real before God. No pretense. No pride. He simply throws himself before God with a wide-open and tender heart.

David often starts his Psalms with cries to the Lord, pouring out his complaints. Time after time, David unashamedly questions God. “How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? Forever? How long wilt thou hide thy face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? How long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?” (Psalm 13:1,2). David

is an honest man who, at the very core of his heart, trusts in God, yet there are times when David is doubtful. Is God really here for me? If He is, why is He hiding?

Have you ever felt like this? Have you ever doubted God? Have you ever cried out, “Where are You, God?” I have plenty of times. Most recently, my doubts and cries revolved around an invitation I received to speak at a women’s retreat at Yokota Air Force Base in Japan. I was thrilled to receive this invitation and immediately began to pray about what God wanted me to present. God even began to orchestrate the details for two of my friends to come along with me. The three of us were crazy with excitement over this opportunity to minister together as God continued to show us His plans for the conference. There was just one caveat.

The more my gaze shifted from myself to God, the bigger He became and the smaller this issue.

At the age of 18 I was thrown from a horse, an accident that left me a paraplegic. For the past 37 years, I have used a manual wheelchair for mobility. My shoulders are all but given out from years of overuse. With one rotator cuff repair behind me, the other is torn and in need of repair. At the time I was asked to speak at this women’s retreat, my shoulder was extremely inflamed, leaving me in constant pain. It hurt to push my wheelchair around; it hurt to transfer myself from my wheelchair to other places; it hurt to drive my van, and at times, the pain even kept me up at night. As much as I wanted to say yes to the invitation, the thoughts of traveling so far when my shoulder hurt so much were frightening. Surgery was scheduled for a few days after the dates of the trip.

In quiet desperation, I began to cry out to God. “Would You really give me this ministry opportunity, show me what You want me to present, provide for my two friends to go and not allow me to go? Why is my shoulder hurting so much? Do You not want me to go? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart?”

I was really confused about what to do. I did not want to say no, yet I could not imagine saying yes. The poor conference coordinator waited patiently for a definite answer. Was I coming or not?

As I agonized over the decision, I was reminded of how David ended his Psalms. Although David may have started his Psalm crying out to God in complete and utter despair, any reader quickly discovers David’s greater conviction that God is mighty and able to save him. He knew God’s hand

could rescue him from any situation. David ended each heart-wrenching Psalm with thoughts of hope and trust in God’s unfailing love. “But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more (Psalm 71:14).

For the next few days, these words swirled around in my head. Following David’s example, I began to focus on God rather than my painful shoulder. The more my gaze shifted from myself to Him, the bigger He became and the smaller this issue. Just as David made the choice to put his trust and hope in God’s unfailing love, I knew I needed to make the same choice. I knew I needed to say yes to this invitation, and that is what I did. We made our plane reservations, continued to finalize plans for the retreat, and trusted God to do great things.

It seemed to happen very gradually. In fact, I hardly noticed it happening at all. But one day—about a month before we were supposed to leave for Japan—I realized my shoulder was no longer hurting. It didn’t hurt when I transferred out of my wheelchair or drove my car, and it wasn’t keeping me up at night. I had been so focused on planning that I hadn’t noticed the pain was gone. At my last doctor appointment before leaving for Japan, my doctor confirmed that, although I still have a torn rotator cuff, it would not require surgery at this time. Praise God! He is truly mighty.

The retreat was amazing! God’s hand was felt in every detail of the conference. The ladies who attended were encouraged in the Lord and felt refreshed by His presence. We met so many wonderful, dear sisters in Christ. When I think of how close I came to declining the invitation, I shudder at the thought of missing out on all those blessings. I learned that God’s plans are always bigger than our problems. The choice is ours as to where we will focus.

It took me a while to figure out God does not expect us to thank Him for the troubles we’re facing, but we can thank Him for who He is and for the fact that anything is possible with Him. We can thank Him in anticipation of His deliverance (1 Thessalonians 5:18). David knew this, and so can we. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Ronda is the wife of FWB Air Force Chaplain, Lt Col. Tim Sturgill. They have served God and country for 23 years. She is actively involved with The Protestant Women of the Chapel, the military’s version of an international women’s ministry. Ronda is a noted author and speaker. Visit Ronda at www.rondasturgill.com.





**“HE HAS
BIG
FAITH!”**

OCCASIONALLY, WE COME FACE TO FACE WITH GENUINE SPIRITUAL GIANTS—men and women whose faith truly has been tested, who, when threatened with death for the cause of Christ, did not flinch. The following story is about a pastor whose Christian faith nearly cost him his life. I will tell it as he told me, with a few details added from other interviews and newspaper reports on the incident.

PAUL* WAS RAISED IN A MUSLIM FAMILY AND DID not hear the name of Jesus Christ until a friend shared the gospel with him. He immediately accepted Christ as Savior. Soon after his conversion, he felt God’s direction to become a church planter, even though his city is predominately Muslim and openly resistant to Christianity. When I met Paul, he was recovering from injuries sustained in an encounter with Muslims who were determined to stop him from preaching in their city.

All good Muslims go to a mosque to pray on Friday. However, on one such day some Muslims diverted from their

prayers to visit Paul’s house and issue a final warning. They made it clear that if he continued to preach the gospel in the town the consequences would be quite severe for him and his family. They told him the best thing he could do was to take his family and leave the city immediately.

Paul knew the men were not making idle talk. The threats were meant to strike fear in the hearts of Paul, his family, and all believers in the city. He called his family together to pray and seek God’s will. He knew that sometimes fleeing a threat is the right thing to do. However, the family could not gain peace about leaving. Long ago they made the

“SAY THAT YOU REJECT JESUS CHRIST! SAY YOU ARE NO LONGER A CHRISTIAN, OR WE WILL THROW YOU INTO THE FIRE.”

choice Peter and the Apostles made. “It is better to obey God rather than man” (Acts 5:29). With this conviction as their foundation, Paul and his family decided to stay and continue their ministry.

For several weeks nothing happened. Paul’s wife and daughter went to visit family in another city, leaving him and his 17-year-old son (we’ll call him Timothy) at home. Early one Saturday about 1:00 a.m., Paul was awakened by loud voices in the street close to his house. Gradually, he realized the uproar was outside his gate. Frenzied voices were crying out his name, ordering him to come outside. His failure to respond infuriated the mob, so they ripped the gates off the hinges, pouring into the yard and house like running water.

The angry crowd grabbed Paul, tied his hands behind his back, and threw him to the floor. The horde began kicking him and beating him with sticks. One vicious blow broke his left arm. The mob leader demanded a list of all the believers who attended his group. Paul refused the demand—adding fuel to the flames of their anger. Insults were hurled at him with the same viciousness as the blows. “Give us the list or we will kill you,” screamed the mob leader. One man struck Paul several times on the head and face with a stone until he lost consciousness.

Paul’s teenage son ran from the house and tried to call the police after the crowd invaded. Some of the mob turned on him, snatched the phone from his hands, and began to beat him. Before losing consciousness, Paul worried about the Timothy’s safety. He was concerned, not just because of the physical danger, but because his son had been a believer for only one year. Paul wasn’t sure Timothy was equipped to resist such threats. However, God was with Timothy and gave him the strength to face this trial. Later, Timothy told Paul he was not afraid for his own safety, but feared for his father’s life.

The enraged crowd searched the house, gathering all the Bibles, study books, and other literature they could find. Piling everything in the street, they set it on fire. Barely conscious, his body saturated with pain, Paul was dragged into the street and laid near the fire. The torture and threats continued. One of the leaders shouted, “Say that you reject Jesus Christ! Say you are no longer a Christian, or we will

throw you into the fire.”

Incredibly, someone in the hate-filled crowd responded, “Don’t waste your time; he is a Christian. He will never reject Christ...he has big faith.” What a statement! In the face of death, Paul resisted the temptation to deny Christ. And this remarkable declaration was uttered by one of his attackers.


As Paul told his story, I could not help but notice his countenance. A peaceful smile lit his face. A spiritual twinkle sparkled in his eye, as if he saw something beyond the room in which we were sitting. Gentleness infused his words as he described those who persecuted him. I sensed a deep faith words cannot adequately portray or express. I knew I truly was sitting in the presence of a man of big faith.

Could that be said of me if I were to face such a time of testing? Would I be able to stand firm and hear those seeking to kill me say, He has big faith?

Editor’s Note:

Paul continued to suffer abuse and threats as several of the mob persisted in trying to obtain a list of all the believers in the city. Eventually, one of the attackers choked Paul until he passed out. Some thought he was dead, and the crowd dispersed. Police arrived, planning to arrest Paul for inciting a riot but let him go because the jail was locked.

Paul and Timothy made their way to the hospital, and the family reunited in another town. After several weeks of recovery, Paul’s family returned to their town and resumed their ministry. He found his small congregation strong in their faith with new members drawn to the group by their faithfulness during persecution. Paul exulted, “I am so grateful that they have survived the trial of their faith!”

**Although this is a true story, the names have been changed to protect the identity of this courageous worker and his family. He labors in a country with laws in place to prohibit the spread of Christianity. *

ABOUT THE WRITER: C.M. serves in creative access areas of the world where it is often illegal to share the gospel. His name has been withheld for security reasons.

NEWS

around the world



Wilson Joins International Missions

ANTIOCH, TN—Barry Simpson, director of development for Free Will Baptist International Missions, recently announced the addition of Joe Wilson to the IM team. Joe, formerly a pastor in Lebanon, MO, began his assignment in Antioch in June 2009.

“As part of our 75th anniversary celebration in 2010,” said Simpson, “Joe will lead a major initiative with our denomination’s young people. He is taking on a 14-month assignment that concludes after the 2010 National Association in Oklahoma City. We are thrilled to have a creative leader of Joe’s caliber to champion this effort!”

“I am excited and almost overwhelmed by the opportunity God is opening before me to have such a major impact,” Joe said. “There is much to do in little time. I hope people will pray with us for God to give this endeavor His favor.”

Corleys Resign, Begin New Ministry



ANTIOCH, TN—The Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions regretfully accepted the resignation of Mike and Cathy Corley on July 1, 2009. Mike has accepted a position as Director of the Alabama Free Will Baptist Children’s Home in Eldridge, Alabama. In his letter

of resignation Mike wrote, “We are at the point in life where we feel our circumstances have changed significantly enough that we cannot continue to render the full-time efforts required of missionaries living abroad.” Mike also cited his son’s deteriorating health and months of seeking the Lord’s will as factors in their decision.

Mike and Cathy began their service with the Mission at a time when many people are beginning to plan for retirement. The courageous couple was appointed to Russia in 1998, solidifying the Mission’s partnership with Russian Baptist leaders. They helped implement two Bible institute training programs, one in Chelyabinsk and one in Krasnodar.

The flexible couple transferred to Central Asia in 2006 to coordinate Free Will Baptist activities throughout the region. They laid the groundwork for a team of workers and facilitated project implementation for the denomination’s non-governmental organization.

“The Corleys will be greatly missed,” Jeff Turnbough, deputy director of field operations wrote recently. “They leave the Mission,” he continued, “with the same grace, dignity, and excellence with which they have served.”

General Director James Forlines, indicated, “The Corleys have a desire to be involved with the Mission and our partnership with the Russian Baptist Union, and we welcome their continuing involvement.”

Mike and Cathy’s resignation was effective August 1, 2009.



Robert West With The Lord

SMITHFIELD, NC—Robert Glenn West died Friday, August 28, 2009,

from cancer and complications. He was born in Smithfield, NC, on October 23, 1947. He and his wife Pam were appointed to Côte d’Ivoire in 1982 as maintenance missionaries for the hospital in Doropo. They were granted career status in 1995, and began a village ministry in Kafolo in 1999. Near the end of 2002 the Wests were forced to leave the country during the coup d’etat.

They returned to the field the following June joining Jerry and Carol Pinkerton in Abidjan. Finding unstable conditions in the Kafolo area, sensing the inability to physically handle the stress of those conditions, and feeling unsuited for working in the mega-city of Abidjan, they determined they were better equipped for a stateside ministry. They resigned September 30, 2003.

Robert served as a deacon at Unity FWB Church in Smithfield, NC, and worked at the Minshew Funeral Home. Robert and Pam have one daughter, Marie, who lives in Florida.



Alpedrete, Spain—The Alpedrete Church hosted a vacation Bible school July 27-31. *The Crocodile Dock* will be remembered as one of the highlights of the year. A total of 42 children participated during the week, with an average of 30 in attendance each afternoon. Fifty-five people attended the closing ceremony.



Araras, Brazil—The Missions Committee of the International Fellowship of Free Will Baptists met with the Executive Committee July 27-29. Discussion centered on efforts to provide Free Will Baptists in countries outside the States an avenue to cooperate to send missionaries. A proposal will be presented to the general assembly of the International Fellowship next year.



India—A new church opened in Nepal this summer, with 19 families comprising the congregation. Another group of 70-80 people began meeting in North India. This group recently baptized 14 new believers and more people are coming to know Christ.

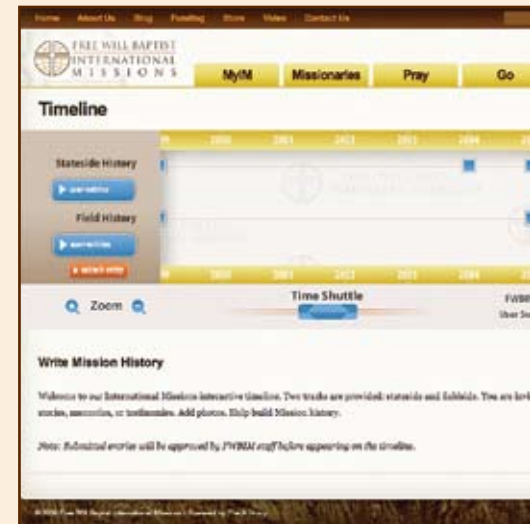


Ribeirão Preto, Brazil—After more than two years of seeking city approval for plans for their new church building, the Marincek Church received approval in July. An engineer is working on calculating the specifications for the foundation, pillars, and cross-beams. When his work is completed, construction will begin.



E-TEAM—Seventy-six students and 18 team leaders went to nine destinations this summer. Teams were exposed to different cultures and were involved in a variety of ministries: handing out tracts, presenting mimes, singing songs, hosting children's festivals, etc. Students touched lives in Brazil, Chicago, Cuba, France, Hokkaido, Mexico, Spain, St. Croix, and Tokyo.

TIMELINE—



Add your missions story to our interactive timeline.

Check out stories from those who have already taken advantage of this feature at fwbgo.com/timeline.



FIXED ANNUITIES: *The Right Band-Aid*

BY JOHN BRUMMITT

AS THE MARKET SEE-SAWS BACK AND FORTH, many people are pulling their investments out and locking them into more secure, fixed-rate options. During the first three months of 2009, fixed annuity sales skyrocketed 74%, according to research association LIMRA. Fixed annuities, however, may not be the best option for everyone and might cause you to miss out on better opportunities down the road.

Fixed annuities are similar to 401(k)s, IRAs, and 403(b)s. They allow for tax-deferred saving, and when you reach retirement age, you can choose to receive your benefit as a monthly payment over a certain number of years, as a guaranteed lifetime payment, or as a lump sum. Fixed annuities, unlike other retirement vehicles, have no contribution limits. They are very helpful for people close to retirement who need to stockpile funds. To put it most simply, these annuities should be used in addition to your retirement plan, not in place of it.

Fixed annuities do have some major disadvantages. The biggest is the lost opportunity for larger growth when the economy is good. Fixed annuities are also subject to hefty fees. Since fixed annuities are sold primarily through insurance companies, agents have to be paid. The consumer is charged a sales commission when purchasing the annuity. Fixed annuities also have exit fees that limit what you can do with your money. Usually, the exit fee is 7% of your total balance for the first year (although it can be as high as 20%). The fee decreases a percent each year for seven to eight years or until it reaches zero. Some fixed annuities also charge an annual fee for holding the contract. In addition, there is a 20% tax on the funds you withdraw and a 10% early withdrawal penalty for those under the age of 59½, courtesy of the IRS.

On the other hand, earnings can be a little tricky, so make sure you read the fine print. Many fixed annuities offer “teaser” rates of five or six percent for the first year. After that, the rate is adjusted annually with a minimum around 2%. This sounds good when everyone else is in the negative. But in order to guarantee the 2%, you have to give up the large gains when the economy is good. With fees locking you in for at least seven years, the fixed annuity is not a smart option if you have more than five years before retirement.

Immediate annuities, like the ones offered by the Board of Retirement, operate differently. They deliver the same payment options when receiving your benefits, but instead of delaying your payment until a later date, the payout begins immediately when you enter the contract. Immediate annuities work the same as fixed annuities on the benefit payout side but allow you to avoid being locked into a fee-heavy fixed annuity as your funds grow. Most immediate annuities operate on a fixed interest rate. The Board of Retirement offers a 5% fixed rate with their annuity options.

By leaving your funds in retirement accounts subject to the ups and downs of the market, you can see greater returns on your investments. When the time is right, convert it to a fixed rate immediate annuity to guarantee a steady

rate of return in your retirement years when stability is more important than growth.

No matter where you invest your funds for retirement, it is always important to research your options to find out what is best for the long term. If the stock market is too frightening, consider investing in long-term CDs, which do not offer tax-deferred earnings but have fewer restrictions than fixed annuities.

Free Will Baptists have two additional options for secure investing: the FWB Foundation and the CELF program offered through Home Missions. Even better, look at investing in short- to mid-term corporate and municipal bonds, which allows tax-deferred earnings. Keeping your options open will benefit your nest egg more than securing it too early because you fear immediate losses.

For more information about fixed annuities vs. immediate annuities, check www.money.cnn.com. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: John Brummitt is business manager for the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement. A 2004 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, John began working for the Board of Retirement in the spring of 2006. Learn more about the Board of Retirement at www.boardofretirement.org.



The Together Way

Gifts to **The Together Way** Endowment are 100% tax-deductible, produce perpetual income, and support all national ministries. Let the Free Will Baptist Foundation help you give to your favorite ministry more effectively.

Because giving is a team sport.



For more information, contact the Free Will Baptist Foundation:
www.FWBGifts.org | (877) 336-7575 | foundation@nafwb.org



STAYING FIT in Retirement

BY NORMA JACKSON GOLDMAN

IT'S HERE FOR SOME AND ALMOST HERE FOR OTHERS—RETIREMENT! At last, your hope of days on the lake, weeks in the mountains and years of enjoyment (with no responsibilities, of course) is reality. But is it reality or a product of wishful thinking? I'm four years into retirement, and while there have been some days on the lake, and a week in the mountains, the part about "no responsibilities" hasn't happened yet!



THROUGH OBSERVATION, I'VE SEEN STRIKING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THOSE WHO THRIVE IN retirement and those who do not. Take a mental inventory of the retirees you know in the areas of spiritual, mental, and physical fitness and test these observations.

The Spiritually Fit

Retirement offers tremendous opportunities to grow and remain spiritually fit, since there are more hours available for service, Bible study, prayer, and ministry to others. But the habits established pre-retirement are likely to remain in place. If you didn't make time for these during your working years, it's likely you'll continue in that pattern unless someone challenges you to do something different. (I hope I'm challenging you!)

It takes the same discipline in retirement to maintain an active prayer life, to read, study, and meditate on God's Word, to make time for others, to share your faith, to serve through your local church, to take part in mission endeavors, and to invest in people's lives.

The Christians I've observed who maintain these disciplines are not only spiritually fit, they are a blessing to those around them. Their contributions of time, talents, and spiritual gifts are a strength and encouragement in their churches, homes and communities.

The Mentally Fit

Lifelong learning characterizes those who remain mentally fit in retirement. One retiree comes to mind. I'll call him Joe. He spent his career building plants for the automobile industry. In retirement, he has overseen five consecutive building projects for his own church, saving the congregation hundreds of thousands of dollars in materials and project management costs. To look at him, you wouldn't think him to be a day over 55. By continuing to use his skills, he's maintained his mental fitness.

One couple who spent their career on the mission field now prepares mission volunteers to be culturally sensitive, how to build relationships as they witness, and how to plant and grow new churches. Their grasp of world evangelization is not based on past experiences, but what they are learning now about South Africa, Brazil, and Muslim-dominated countries.

Those with physical limitations can find ways to use and express God-given talents through prayer ministry, or by calling and writing notes of encouragement to sick and elderly members of their church congregation. Medical experts say that even working puzzles of any kind is good mental exercise.

The Physically Fit

Maintaining a good, healthy diet and a plan for daily exercise helps retirees make the most of their retirement years. While diet and exercise do not cure disease, they are deterrents to most common ailments like diabetes, heart attacks, strokes, and high-blood pressure.

American culture focuses a great deal on food, which presents both pressure and challenges to seniors. Potluck suppers and group outings are generally calorie-laden feasts that tempt us to eat what we normally avoid (sugars, fats and starches) and more than we normally eat. Occasional potlucks are a great way to socialize, but too many add up to trouble!

Interestingly, doctors report that those who stay mentally and spiritually fit also tend to pay attention to physical fitness as well. Do you see the pattern that emerges? Fitness in mind, soul, and body requires a purposeful plan, regular attention, and good choices. How fit are you? **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman enjoys a successful freelance writing career in her retirement. She lives in Nashville, TN.

★ LEADER profile

By Ron Hunter Jr.

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



Joe Grizzle

Norman, Oklahoma, is serious about football, and Joe Grizzle is serious about his role as a pastor. Joe felt the call to preach around age 11. His pastor, Wade Jernigan, arranged for him to preach after he announced his call and before long, at age 19, Joe started a church.

The church grew to an average attendance of 130 in just six years while Joe worked two jobs, one as a pastor and the other as an electrical contractor. During this time his family grew as well. He married Billie Jo and they had two children, Rick and Christine. He says it was tenacity and toughness (two traits he learned from Pastor Jernigan) that kept him going in those early years.

Joe began his college studies at Hillsdale FWB College but missing the pulpit, he left to pastor in Norman. Thirty-two years later, he still pastors the same church, and he is still a student of preaching. Joe's ability to communicate and preach the word in memorable ways has made CrossPointe FWB Church a place where people find hope through Christ. When asked what barriers he has overcome to continue being effective, Joe replied, "I have continued to change my style of preaching using the tools available today to best communicate to people." He went on to say, "If ministers do not transition today, they will lose out and fail to connect with the people."

Joe never compromises the content of the Word as he works very hard each week on the manner of the delivery.

★ About Joe:

Quiet Time Routine: Joe changes his quiet time routine regularly. His quiet time is at night. For 30-45 minutes each night, he often prays through the Psalms or calls out each name in the church directory. Most times, he sits under the stars in his hot tub reading his Bible and praying.

Ideal Date: Married for 46 years, Joe and Billie Jo have always carved out time to spend time together every day. When the kids were young, it was right after they were dropped off to school. Now he and Billie Jo do lunch together every day. Once a year they celebrate a mini-honeymoon often for just a night away.

Favorite Books: Any book of sermons or about sermons and how to communicate better.

Paper or Plastic Questions:

Mountains or Ocean: Mountains

Music or Talk Radio: music

Coke or Pepsi: Coke

Email or Texting: Email

Socks or House Shoes: Socks

Mac or PC: Mac

Joe and His wife grew up in Norman and in church. While Joe may regret never finishing college, what he has learned has transformed him into a professor and mentor for many other pastors. Joe recently challenged other leaders and parents from all over the world at the D6 Conference. **Joe Grizzle you are a great leader!**



Randall House Employee Holds Workshop at Proverbs 31 Ministries Conference in Charlotte, NC.

MICHELLE ORR, Randall House senior acquisitions editor, participated as a speaker at the She Speaks Conference held July 31–August 2. She was also involved in conducting publisher interviews with writers seeking publication. The annual event hosted 600 women from all over the country. "I considered it a privilege to share information on the publishing process and represent Randall House as a growing publisher in the market. I was encouraged to see so many women participate in the event. It was evident that they have a heart for ministry and helping others." ■

Vertical

Vertical Three

EQUIPPING YOUNG BELIEVERS TO STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH—

just like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

There are three areas of responsibility under the umbrella of Vertical Three:

- *Ministry development.* The Bible competition seeks to "hide God's Word" in the hearts of the students to better equip them in their Christian walk. The Music & Arts Festival provides opportunity for students to discover their strengths and interests, then develop those abilities through preparation and evaluation, and finally be challenged to dedicate those talents to God's service and use them in real-life ministry.
- *Service and training.* Truth & Peace, Youth Evangelistic Team, Reach Tht Guy, and Global Purpose Seekers are programs that have been developed to train young people and provide opportunities to put that training into practice. We seek to shape the social consciousness of students to a Kingdom of God perspective.
- *Resources for youth workers.* Youth workers face a variety of challenges. We seek to help youth workers be more effective in their ministries by developing needed programs, providing networking opportunities, facilitating events such as the FWB youth worker Gathering, and disseminating information about useful programs and events.

Youth Evangelistic Team 2010

The following high school students were selected from among the top-scoring individual competition categories at the National Youth Conference. They will be traveling in June to minister in mission churches across Kansas and Colorado under the direction of Jeff and Sherri Sloan.

Audrey Hollified (TN)
 Kevin Strouth (VA)
 Lauren Mitchell (GA)
 Matthew Berry (FL)
 Elizabeth Snow (TN)
 Tyler Donaldson (SC)
 Chesi Spriggs (KY)
 Patrick Easley (MO)
 Beth Ash (AR)
 Tyler Cagle (AL)
 Miranda Thomas (AR)
 John Palmer Rea (IL)
 Ashley Clark (KY) - Intern

Randall House Launches New Children's Worship Program



Randall House has announced the release of a new line of Children's Church curriculum entitled *Elements Kids Worship*. *Elements* is an entirely downloadable curriculum that helps Children's Church leaders give their children

up-to-date, relevant lessons each week. Each month focuses on a different key "element" that kids need to better understand in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Randall House has issued *Elements* to correlate with its current line of D6 Sunday School curriculum. The worship curriculum provides leaders with illustrations, visuals, handouts, music suggestions, sermon text, PowerPoint slides, videos, and a detailed schedule to help leaders put together a service that is most feasible for their worship setting. *Elements* has something for parents too. A podcast is included each week to encourage parents to provide the spiritual leadership their children need.

Elements Kids Worship can be downloaded online. More information about *Elements* can be found at www.ElementsKidsWorship.com.

Who Gets Mama's China?

Decide Now Who Gets **What, When, And**



HOW
BY BILL AND BRENDA EVANS

“WHEN I DIE, I DON’T WANT TO LEAVE A MESS.”

We’ve said that, And perhaps you have, too. One of the easiest ways to create a nightmare for your family is to do no estate planning. At the least, that will leave disorder, and at the worst chaos, anger, and litigation that destroy our families.

So don’t leave a mess. Create an estate plan that considers who gets what, as well as when and how it is passed along. That plan may include a will, trust, insurance contracts or various other legal arrangements that accomplish your goals. We’ll share a simple overview that will help you get started.

WHO is about people. These are the people and organizations you love, are responsible for, and want to benefit. This may include children, step-children, relatives or friends you are caring for, as well as the Christian organizations you love.

One way of thinking about what to do with what you have accumulated is to look at people, possessions, plans, in that order. Always consider the human side first. “Take your heirs’ emotions into account when you divide up the goodies,” advises Janet Morrissey of *Fortune* magazine. And remember, too, that in life you have loved your church and its denominational agencies. In death, you will want to remember those as well.

WHAT is about possessions. By this, we simply mean what you own. That includes real property—home, farm, land, other properties; businesses; bank accounts; investments such as stocks, bonds, CDs; IRAs, 401Ks, or other retirement plans; insurance or notes you hold by contract; personal property such as boats, motor homes, collectibles, machinery, livestock.

List those assets and, as accurately as possible, assign a monetary value to each. As a sidebar on that topic, for the past 15 years we have done an annual net worth statement at the end of each year. In addition to helping with estate

planning, this document shows us whether we are moving forward financially, living frugally or spending too much, doing well (or poorly) with investments, and giving more than a tithe. That record was particularly valuable as we planned for retirement and eventual relocation to another city.

Knowing exactly what you own and how you hold that ownership are both strategic to deciding how you will divide assets among your heirs. For example, items held by contract, such as insurance, can pass on to beneficiaries outside your will and outside probate court.

WHEN is about timing. And to say it plainly, if you don’t already have an estate plan, the time is now. If you are a parent with dependent children and no legal plan, do you know what will happen if both you and your spouse die suddenly? A state agency will decide who cares for them and how your assets are disbursed.

Every state has statutes that mandate how dependents and assets will be handled if we die intestate, that is without a will or other appropriate estate plan. In life, we have decided under God’s direction how we will use and or not use our assets to care for our families. In death, we should do no less.

HOW is about planning. A smart estate plan may be as simple as a will and joint ownership bank accounts. Or it may be as complex as multiple trusts and contracts, wills, partnerships, joint ownership agreements, and various investment arrangements.

Your assets, how you hold their ownership, and how you want to disburse those assets after death dictate the simplicity or complexity of your plan. All of us need a will, some of us already have contractual agreements such as insurance, and many of us should consider certain kinds of trusts as part of our estate plan.

The monetary value of what you own does not dictate whether or not you need a legal plan. We all need a plan

and if we don't have one, the state we live in will provide a plan. In Tennessee, for example, if a husband dies intestate (without a will) any property not held in joint ownership with his wife will be divided by thirds: one-third to her and the remaining two-thirds will be divided among his children. Each state has its own unique, and sometimes inequitable, plan.

Finally a few specific recommendations for how to get your plans in order.

Create a will. Free Will Baptist Foundation now has will packets to guide you, and they are free. Ask for them.

Check all your contractual agreements to make certain that appropriate beneficiaries are listed. This includes insurance, notes, retirement plans, IRAs, 401Ks, and others. Remember that your will does not control these agreements, so be certain everything is in good order, according to your wishes.

Review assignment of ownership for bank accounts and other such agreements. For married couples, we prefer joint ownership, but you decide what best serves your goals. Be certain, of course, that you know what the ownership arrangements you make mean for your surviving spouse or family member.


Consider establishing a trust or endowment at Free Will Baptist Foundation for the charitable gifts you want to make at death. David Brown and his staff offer several options that give you present income along with a tax deduction and then a gift to the organization of your choice at death. Some agreements begin at \$1,000.

Review and update your plan every three to five years. People, assets, and needs change often.

Organize and file relevant documents and inform the executor of your will, trustee of your trust, and others who might need to know their location. Include will, trust agreements, investment documents and account numbers, insurance (home, life, health), Social Security numbers and information, retirement plan documents and account numbers, and tax reports for at least two years. (Tax reports are often invaluable to your heirs since they give a composite view of income from investments and other sources.)

Each of us recently served as executor for estates for which legal documents were missing, disorganized, or difficult to locate. Consequently, we are on a campaign to keep our own legal and financial documents filed in clearly marked folders that are accessible to our heirs.




That's a quick look at avoiding a mess by dealing with who gets what, when, and how. We've promised our sons that we will not leave them in a legal muddle when we die. And we intend to keep that promise.

But about that other mess, that hodge-podge of pure-pack-rat junk, that treasure trove of clutter in our workshop and attic—about that we've made no promise, and we don't intend to. 

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

Honor Thy Mother...

Were your parents faithful givers?
Honor their memory by establishing
an endowment to their favorite
ministry in their name.

-  Create a Lasting Legacy.
-  Enjoy 100% Charitable Tax Reduction.
-  Provide a Perpetual Income Stream
for their favorite FWB ministry.

Contact the Free Will Baptist Foundation for more information:

www.FWBGifts.org | (877) 336-7575 | foundation@nafwb.org



smart giving.



BROWN

on green BY DAVID BROWN

The Merle Haggard Syndrome

SOME OF US MAY SUFFER FROM THE “MERLE HAGGARD syndrome” in making decisions about retirement. One of Haggard’s songs says, “Turn me loose. Set me free somewhere in the middle of Montana. Give me all I got coming to me. Keep your retirement and your so-called social security.”

It is understandable that we want a degree of control in our retirement decisions. Many retirement plans include the “give me all I got coming to me” lump sum or roll-over choice. However, it is debatable whether either choice makes long-term sense for most retirees.

In many ways, taking control of your retirement funds means less freedom rather than more. While it is true that you have the freedom to make your own investment decisions, it means you have to do some research and make wise decisions about how to invest your funds.

Many want to spend their retirement years doing things other than making investment decisions and worrying that the choices will be good ones. Those who manage their own funds must monitor their portfolio constantly to see if they are meeting their objectives.

While some are accustomed to making these decisions, many are not and may be influenced by advisors or brokers who are more interested in a commission than what is the best investment decision for an individual. Poor decisions could jeopardize retirement plans altogether. Chances are that when a couple retires at 65, at least one of them will live 20 to 25 years in retirement. Financial decisions should

be made in such a way that the survivor does not run out of funds.

We may think we would like to control our retirement funds, but if we make bad choices, those investments may control the financial quality of our retirement. Anyone who chooses to make these decisions must do so carefully.

Consider choosing a professional, fee-based money manager or an annuity so you can enjoy your retirement without having to make additional investment decisions. Several types of annuities meet individual needs. By choosing a plan that fits your needs and guarantees a certain level of income, you can spend your retirement years choosing how you want to continue serving the Lord rather than making investment decisions.

Annuity funds provide guaranteed retirement benefits. You can depend on your monthly annuity check as long as you live, without worrying that you may run out of money. Just be sure the company or organization issuing the annuity is sound financially.

“Give me all I got coming to me,” may be good lyrics for a country song, but for most of us, it is not sound retirement planning. While you may have the expertise to manage your funds today, what about later in life? You are much better off to choose a guaranteed annuity if you have any doubt about your abilities in this area. Choose professional management then sit back and enjoy the music—maybe even Merle Haggard. **ONE**

Create a Lasting Legacy

How do you want to be remembered? Create a legacy that lasts with a bequest to Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Your gift will build churches across North America until Jesus returns.

- + Indicate a specific amount or percentage of your estate.
- + The assets remain in your control throughout your lifetime.
- + You can change your bequest if circumstances change.

www.FWBGifts.org | (877) 336-7575 | foundation@nafwb.org

Contact the Free Will Baptist Foundation for a free Wills Guide. Smart Giving.

F W B H M





A NEW Conversation

CHANGING THE CONVERSATION, PART 2
BY JAMES FORLINES

ABOUT THE WRITER: James Forlines is general director of Free Will Baptist International Missions.

IN THE LAST ISSUE OF ONE MAGAZINE, I URGED FREE Will Baptists to consider changing their conversation. I suggested that perhaps we have given too much time and energy to discussing things about which we do not agree, or things we do not have in common. After reading such an article, logical questions include: What then should we be discussing? What things are worth our time and energy?

This article addresses those questions. I am not suggesting the following list is exhaustive but indicates the kinds of communication that will be beneficial, uplifting, and essential as we move forward. We might discover that we have more in common than we thought.

EVANGELISM

Free Will Baptists believe that the truths necessary for us to be in right relationship with God are found in His inerrant Word, the Bible. We all believe:

1. Everyone has sinned and is separated from God
2. Heaven and Hell are real, and they are forever
3. Jesus is the only way to salvation
4. All may come to Him if they accept Christ (a foundational distinctive for Free Will Baptists)

Sadly, many live as if they did not believe these truths. Knowing the truth is no help to a dying world if we do not act on those truths. We may not agree on the best methods of evangelization, but is inactivity not a greater vice? When hundreds of churches do not record a single baptism within a given year, is it not time to establish a culture that challenges and encourages each other to share our faith on a regular basis?

CHURCH PLANTING

From my earliest memories of attending National Associations in the 1960s, Free Will Baptists have been com-

prised of 2,500 churches and 250,000 people. Even a modest 2% growth will double in 35 years. In 1965, if we truly were a denomination of 250,000 people, and we grew by an average of 2% each year, we should have topped 500,000 by the year 2000. At the end of 2008 we would have averaged 585,797 in membership.

This growth simply will not happen without a concerted attempt to plant new churches. I agree with Aubrey Malphurs when he states, "The future of American Christianity is church planting."¹ The Home Missions Department should be lauded and supported generously in its efforts to plant churches in areas of North America with the greatest need and few evangelical churches. But shouldn't church planting be in the DNA of every church?

Richard Atwood is on staff with Home Missions. As a home missionary, his church in Delaware planted a church in a nearby town with little outside help. What if, over the next 10 years, 250 of our churches followed suit? We could experience 10% growth in the number of churches in the next decade.

I believe we could benefit by considering what our colleagues outside North America have done. Cuban Free Will Baptists started in the western corner of their island nation. In spite of limited resources and significant impediments by the government, they have systematically gone from one coast to the other planting churches.

In 2005, Central Asian Paul Hagelgans spoke at a session at the national convention. His passion for church planting shone through when he described the goal of believers throughout Central Asia. Their mantra is, "Every Christian an evangelist; every home a center for evangelism, and every church an organism to plant new churches." Starting with only 318 churches, they planted an additional 427 churches in five years.

What church-planting models are most effective in our culture? This is a conversation worth having. Is it not critical to our relevance as a movement?

HOLINESS IN THE CULTURE

Most of us have seen recent studies that compare the ethical behaviors of evangelicals with those who do not attend church. Sadly, only a marginal difference is demonstrated on key issues such as divorce, pre-marital sex, and honesty in the workplace.

The Church has a rich heritage of confronting culture. Early church history defines a distinct difference in the behavior of those who followed The Way (as it was known). That difference attracted many to the cause of Christ. Do we not agree that this distinction is largely missing in the evangelical church in our culture? What are we to do?

The writer of Hebrews spoke to this issue when he said, “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works” (10:24). Without this conversation, it will be impossible to please God.

DIVERSITY

Let’s jump ahead 15 years and attend the National Association in 2025. As we look around, what do we see? Who is rising into leadership? Do we see diversity in our leadership and the overall makeup of our convention? If not, I wonder if we can expect the power of God to continue on our movement. If we still gaze out over a sea of white faces, can we truly believe we are even reaching our Jerusalem?

I live in Davidson County, Tennessee. Over 100 languages are spoken in the public schools in our county. The same is true in cities and rural communities across the country.

Individually, we maintain a strong element of identity through our national culture and ethnic/cultural heritage. Truly, this is our comfort zone. Early in life it provides the framework we use to assume how human interactions will take place. When we begin to engage those of other cultures, our assumptions are challenged, creating discomfort. But is this not the will of the Father who created all cultures, as well as a foretaste of Heaven? Is it not a way in which this world will see His love for all mankind?

“Believers loving one another intra-ethnically is noteworthy; however, when believers are in loving relationship with each other inter-ethnically, this is an exceptional testimony before the watching world. It is the visible witness our Lord desires. The world sees the transforming power of the gospel when those who are not naturally together are together in Christ. This demonstrates a kingdom character, where interrelationship witnesses to the presence of Christ. The church at Antioch exuded this sort of character—and it

was there they were first known as ‘Christians’.”²

ENCOURAGEMENT

Finally, I urge us to practice encouragement. The book of Hebrews was written to those experiencing intense pressure to go back on their faith. In that context the writer says, “Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.”

This was a common theme in Paul’s writings. When writing to the Thessalonians, he reminded them how he had exhorted them. This word translated *exhorted* is often translated *encouraged*. The following sermon excerpt explores the word exhorted in 1 Thessalonians 2:11.

“The Greek word is *parakaleo*, which literally means ‘to call alongside.’ It presumes that its object is under pressure (fearful, weak, overwhelmed), and it means to strengthen by giving appropriate aid. Ancient Greek authors sometimes used it to describe military reinforcement during battles.

“Biblical encouragement presumes that Christians live under intense pressure—not just the normal pressures of everyday life in a broken world, but also the pressures of serving Christ in a spiritually hostile environment—and therefore need to be spiritually strengthened on a regular basis.

“Biblical encouragement communicates God’s truth and hope in ways that personally strengthen others to follow God’s will for their lives.”³

I’m sure most people would describe their lives as being under intense pressure right now. We all need encouragement. Is that not a conversation we ALL need and would enjoy?

One more thing needs to be said about conversations. It is not possible to have conversations about important things without coming to disagreements. These should not take us by surprise nor cause anxiety. On the contrary, it is a natural part of healthy dialogue. Yes, disagreements are healthy. In fact, silence of dissent, or choosing only to talk with those who narrowly agree with you on all issues is a most certain way to become imbalanced. We need each other. As Proverbs states, “Iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.”

Now, this is a conversation I have been waiting to have. **ONE**

1 [Pouring New Wine Into Old Wineskins: How to change a church without destroying it. Baker Book House. Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1993. P. 13.].

2 [Evangelical Missions Quarterly – April 2009. Vol. 45, No. 2 – Church Planting and Kingdom Building: Are They The Same?, p. 166.].

3 <http://www.xenos.org/teachings/nt/1thes/gary/1thes5-1.htm>.

+ INTERSECT

where the BIBLE meets life

Law with a Lemon Crème Center

A rabbi once told me that the Torah—the first five books of the Bible—is to Jewish people what Jesus is to Christians. It is the essence of life itself. Something of that spirit led A. J. Jacobs to try living out literally the some 700 laws he found in the Bible. He tells the story of his attempt in the book, *The Year of Living Biblically*.

Through a Wide-Angle Lens

At least two huge problems refute the rabbi's claim and thwart A. J.'s cause, however. First, the law (Torah) is not the essence of life and was never intended as such. God Himself is the center of life. Christ is not equal to the law. Rather, the law leads to and serves Christ. The equation Christ = law is not valid.

Second, A. J.'s quest in his book flattens out all biblical law. That is, it assumes that all the laws in Scripture apply equally to all people at all times. This simply is not the case.

If we take a step back and view the law through a wide-angle lens, the issues sharpen into clearer resolution. Please understand. The subject of biblical law involves nuances and complexities impossible to examine in a column or two. Bible students and scholars have debated over these puzzling passages for centuries. Yet the truths the law offers to teach us must override all the trouble it takes to search for them. So look with me briefly through the viewfinder as we try to bring our subject into focus.

Lemon-Layered Law

Picture the whole of Old Testament law as a layered lemon cake with lemon crème in the middle, since I love lemon desserts! The crème center is the moral core of the law, the Ten Commandments. Surrounding this middle are the cake layers, which represent the applications of the moral core in particular life situations. Yet just as the layers share a common flavor with the crème center, so the specific case and ceremonial laws reflect in particular detail the essence of the Ten Commandments: namely, the holy character of God Himself.

Admittedly the illustration isn't perfect, but this point is critical: we must see that these picky, detailed rules in Old Testament law that seem so irrelevant to us linked the lives of the Israelites to the big Ten, the moral core. Their loyalty to all of the law testified that they were the Lord's people.



Photo: Mark Cowart

DR. GARNETT REID

chairs the Bible Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

No Expiration Date

A closer look at our cake recipe shows us that these 10 words, the crème center, reveal the character of God. Because they do, they never change. They always apply to all people and so are never obsolete. To see this relevance, answer these questions that distill the essence of each commandment. Consider your attitudes and actions in their light.

Commandment 1—No Other Gods

Will what I think or do suggest that I have a god other than the Lord?

Commandment 2—No Carved Image

Will what I think or do detract from God's glory by suggesting that God is not greater than or is even less than His creation?

Commandment 3—Not Taking God's Name in Vain

Will what I think or do suggest that God is weak by insulting or reflecting poorly on Him?

Commandment 4—Remember the Sabbath

Will what I think or do deny His creative design and lordship?

Commandment 5—Honor Father and Mother

Will what I think or do disrupt God's design for order and appropriate submission to authority?

Commandment 6—No Murder

Will what I think or do diminish the value of human life or enhance it?

Commandment 7—No Adultery

Will what I think or do violate faithfulness in pledged relationships?

Commandment 8—No Stealing

Will what I think or do injure another person in any way?

Commandment 9—No Lying

Will what I think or do suggest that what I love is false?

Commandment 10—No Coveting

Will what I think or do suggest a wrong heart motivation or wrong attitudes?

These timeless truths all point to the holiness of God. There is no other like Him. All that we think or do should point to Him. That's what the layers of the cake are all about. We'll sample them in our next column. **ONE**

NEWS at FWBBC



FWBBC Announces 2009-2010 Cross-Cultural Specialists

NASHVILLE, TN—Clint and Lynette Morgan will serve as resident cross-cultural specialists at Free Will Baptist Bible College for the 2009-2010 academic year, according to Provost Greg Kette-man. Currently employed by The Hanna Project, a faith-based Non-governmental Organization (NGO), Clint has led humanitarian projects in West Africa, North Africa, and Central Asia. The Hanna Project (THP) promotes education and health projects among some of the world's most needy peoples.

Dr. Kette-man said, "The Morgans bring more than 30 years of international experience to the campus and classroom. They have worked in a wide array of settings from tribal and medical to leadership development and cross-cultural training on three continents. Our students will have an opportunity to interact with some of the most respected veterans of cross-cultural outreach in our denomination."

The Morgans are both FWBBC alumni. Clint (B.A., 1972) completed his M.A. degree at Columbia International University; Lynette earned an R.N. from Belmont University. They served 28 years in Africa beginning in 1976 before transferring to France in 2005. The Morgans have four adult children—Trey, Adam, Aaron, and Autumn.

The cross-cultural program is an effort to promote cross-cultural work among students. The goal is for students to develop a vision for and accept the challenge of global outreach. The Morgans will be on campus one year and then return to their THP duties. During the year, the Morgans will live in campus housing and teach while interacting daily with students. ■



James Stevens Leads Composer's Symposium

NASHVILLE, TN—Dr. James Stevens, chair of the Free Will Baptist Bible College Music Department, was one of seven clinicians selected to participate in the 2009 Composer's Symposium sponsored by Pine Lake Music Company. For more than 35 years, Pine Lake Music has provided choral music, musicals, and collections for churches, as well as sound tracks, sheet music, and artist recordings for individuals.

Dr. Stevens said, "The conference went well, and sponsors asked me to return in the future. I taught Practical Music Theory, Finale for Dummies, and the Essential Skills of an Arranger. I also taught private lessons and participated as a panelist in Master Classes where we listened to music by attendees, examined manuscripts, and critiqued their work."

The symposium met June 15-19 in Decatur, Georgia, and attracted more than 60 composers for the intense, four-day evaluation and professional challenge. This marks the fifth year Pine Lake Music has sponsored the annual gathering.

Other composers joining Stevens as presenters included—Joseph M. Martin, Joel Raney, J. Paul Williams, Pepper Choplin, Mark Cabaniss, and Jean Anne Shafferman.

Stevens said, "The conference was designed to help up-and-coming composers reach the next level in their skills and knowledge of the choral music industry through the teaching of professional composers across the country."

Dr. Stevens has been a member of the FWBBC Music faculty since 2004. During the past year, he has led keyboard workshops at the Free Will Baptist national convention and during Southern Baptist Church Music Week (Ridgecrest and Glorieta), published a piano book of hymn arrangements in Korea, and was the primary speaker at Sunmin Music's Church Music Workshop in Seoul.

PHOTO: (L) Joel Raney, Joseph M. Martin, James Stevens, Pepper Choplin, J. Paul Williams. ■



Jared Owen to Coach Lady Flames Basketball

NASHVILLE, TN—Jared Owen has been named women's basketball coach at Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to Greg Ketteman, provost. The 24-year-old Florida native played two years with the Flames basketball team and served as assistant coach during the 2008-2009 season. In addition to his duties as Lady Flames coach, Owen will also serve as part-time facilities manager for the Picirilli Activities Building.

Dr. Ketteman said, "We have a great deal of confidence in Jared Owen as a campus leader and Christian example. He understands the importance of character as well as athletic ability. He has a heart for the work of God and demonstrates those qualities of strength and compassion that mark a true leader."

The FWBBC senior with an A.A. degree in Mathematics began student teaching this fall and will graduate with a B.S. degree in Physical Education in May 2010. He is active in campus organizations as president of the William Jennings Bryan Society, president of the Exercise Science/Physical Education vocational group, vice president of the senior class, and member of the Student Council.

Owen said, "I'm excited about coaching Lady Flames basketball and look forward to helping the program become a ministry outreach. We have a strong core of returning players as well as several incoming athletes with whom we can start building a competitive team."

He is the son of FWBBC graduate Reverend Tim Owen who pastors Piney Grove Free Will Baptist Church (ChIPLEY, Florida), serves as vice chairman of the Randall House Publications Board, and is a part-time special events coordinator for FWBBC. ■



JETS Publishes Review by FWBBC's Hester

NASHVILLE, TN—*The Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* (JETS) published a 1,500-word review (March 2009 issue) by Dr. Kevin Hester, Biblical Studies program coordinator at Free Will Baptist Bible College, in which Hester analyzes Thomas C. Oden's book, *How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind: Rediscovering the African Seedbed of Western Christianity* (Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 2007, 204 pp., \$19).

Dr. Hester said the book "is born of ecumenical concerns that are both historical and political." Oden's primary thesis is that Africa played a decisive role in the formation of Christian culture, and that Africa is the seedbed of Western Christianity.

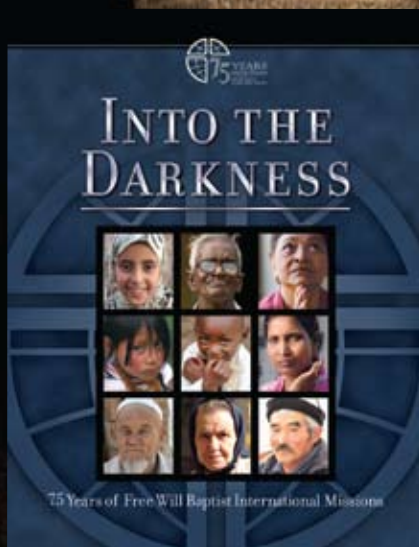
Defining "Africa" in geographical terms, Oden claims that African teachers such as Augustine, Athanasius, Clement, Tertullian, and others have been studied as individuals who were more Greek or Roman rather than as North African intellectual giants.

Hester cites Oden's seven fountains from Africa that contributed to the Western Christian tradition—anticipation of the European university, exegesis of Scripture, basic Christian dogma, conciliar patterns, spiritual formation within monasticism, Neoplatonic philosophy, and application of such skills as rhetoric and didactic Christianity.

Hester concludes, "What Oden calls for is an ecumenism that is ecumenical in the original sense of the word: A church that is united in one Spirit, one faith, and one hope that is not confined to geographical, linguistic, or racial boundaries."

While he praises Oden's 40-page chronology of Christianity in Africa that covers the first millennium, Hester questions the functionality of the literary chronology and the book as a whole which is hampered by the absence of an index, and questions the lack of footnotes referencing sources that could substantiate Oden's claims. ■

Challenge the Darkness



Order your copy today:
www.fwbgo.com
877-767-7736

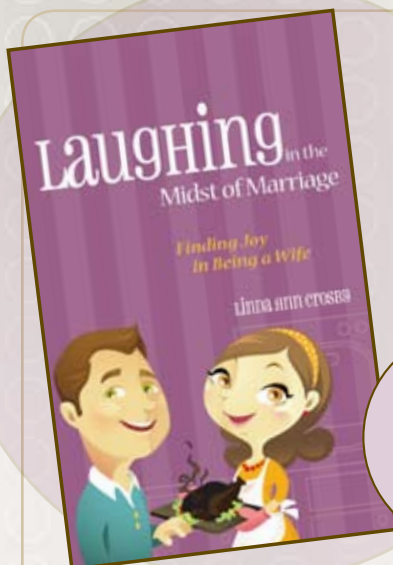
For the first time, read the 75-year story of Free Will Baptist International Missions, from the teeming streets of Calcutta to the dusty villages of Cuba. **Into the Darkness**, a striking coffee-table book contains 196 pages of inspiring stories and previously unreleased photos. Pre-order the beautifully-jacketed hardcover volume for \$49.95.

Also available is a commemorative, limited edition* that features:

- Leather-bound and numbered (no reprints)
- Gold-gilded pages with a ribbon marker
- 32 pages of additional content
- Beautifully gift-boxed
- DVD of historic missions footage
- Exclusive, invitation-only reception with missionaries and international visitors at the 2010 convention in Oklahoma City.

*A portion of the \$500 purchase price is tax-deductible. Proceeds will underwrite the 2010 celebration at the national convention, including hosting international visitors and current and former missionaries.

NEW
RELEASE from
RANDALL
HOUSE



GROUP
DISCOUNT
PRICE:
\$8.99
(discount on
carton of 24)

LAUGHING IN THE MIDST OF MARRIAGE
LINDA ANN CROSBY

PRICE: **\$10.99**
13-ISBN: 9780892655779

- A reminder for wives to laugh and have fun as they live out every rich, poor, sick, healthy, better-or-worse vow.
- 52 short devotionals to help wives place their focus back on God, who is faithful to provide all they need.

**ORDER
TODAY!**

800.877.7030
randallhouse.com

Why are young people leaving the church?

How can we reach postmoderns with the gospel?

Join the conversation at **FORUM10**, a fast-paced, two-day conference for youth workers, students, and church leaders. The meeting is designed to stimulate clear, biblical thinking about why young people are leaving the church after high school. This also involves asking the question why many young people *aren't* leaving the church—what successful churches are doing to keep students faithful throughout their young adult years.

The conversation will be framed in the context of family ministry and the need to question older paradigms of youth ministry in order to move toward intergenerational biblical faithfulness. The conversation arises out of a larger discussion about how we can reach a postmodern generation with the gospel in a way that is faithful to the gospel.

FORUM10 will meet concurrently with the college's annual Bible Conference (March 7-10, 2010), with some sessions geared exclusively to **FORUM10** and others over-

lapping with the Bible Conference. Speakers are ministry practitioners and scholars whose focus is youth and family ministry, intergenerational ministry, and engaging post-modern culture with the gospel.

Mark Dever will talk about how to engage people in a postmodern culture with the gospel. **Allen Pointer** will discuss the moral formation of high school students. **Thom Rainer** will share the results of his research on why young people are (and aren't) leaving the church after high school, and what churches can do to keep them. **Barry Raper** will discuss ministering to students in the context of contemporary youth culture. **Joey Stewart** will talk about new paradigms in youth and young adult ministry. **Brian Williams** will discuss how to engage parents in student ministry.

Join the conversation **FORUM10**



www.fwbcc.edu
1-800-76-FWBBC



BERT AND DIANNE TIPPETT DYNAMIC DUO

ON JUNE 4, 2009, HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE NATION GATHERED ON THE CAMPUS OF FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF BERT AND DIANNE TIPPETT.

One of the premier journalists in Free Will Baptist circles, Bert gave 40 years to denominational publishing, first as publications editor at FWBBC, but also as the official photographer for the national convention and a founding member of the FWB Press Association and *ONE Magazine*.

His wife Dianne worked tirelessly as a member of the FWBBC staff, serving in a variety of roles during her lengthy tenure. Together, the pair made a formidable team—a team that, over time, changed the landscape of Free Will Baptists.

The next six pages give readers a glimpse into the remarkable lives of the Tippetts, as presented by friends and colleagues during the celebration held in their honor.

THE PRO

HE SANG BASS IN THE COLLEGE QUARTET WHEN we met in 1961, but the gleam in Bert Tippett's eye said he had more in the warehouse than on display in the window. The 20-year-old English major was not only president of the student body, he was mighty sweet on the secretary of the senior class—a North Carolina cutie who was an expert shot with a pistol.

Over the next five decades, Bert became a professional in a number of areas. We will look briefly at three of them—The Preacher, The Photographer, The Journalist.

THE PREACHER

Bert answered the call to preach during the October 1961 Missionary Conference. "I had been open to the call since I was a freshman," he said. "I'd hear classmates tell how they fought the call to preach, and I'd walk away thinking, 'Lord, I'm not fighting. Tell me what you want me to do.'"

When he arrived in New Hampshire in 1963 to pastor Twin Mountain Free Will Baptist Church, the Northeast Association licensed him, and ordained him in 1964. That's the only church he pastored in 48 years.

Did I mention he was ordained twice? Northeast Association records were misplaced for a time, and to be sure his ordination was official after joining the college staff,

Cumberland Association repeated the process. So, while Bert does not teach repeated regeneration, he does practice repeated ordination!

He said, "It just takes more for some of us." Perhaps that's why he was baptized twice...but that's another story.

Every preacher has a signature ministry. Bert says his is working with students at Free Will Baptist Bible College, including 12 magic years when he succeeded Bob Shockey



as campus pastor (1997-2008). He became a big brother, friend, and counselor to students. They trust him with their deepest secrets.

Former FWBBC president Dr. Charles Thigpen said, “I don’t know how many times I’ve heard students say, ‘I just can’t wait until Wednesday night to hear Mr. Tippett.’ One thing stands out to me. When students had hospital stays and doctors were reluctant for them to return to dormitories, the Tippetts opened their home to them. I know of no other family who performed such a ministry.”

THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Bert Tippett is the only Free Will Baptist preacher with Secret Service clearance to “shoot” the President of the United States. That occurred when the Grand Ole Opry moved from Ryman Auditorium to the Opry House, and President Richard Nixon appeared on stage that first Saturday night.

Bert had a stage pass to photograph Christian artists for a series of articles Genny Waddell was writing. The Secret Service checked him out and allowed him within five feet of the President with a loaded camera, as President Nixon played “Happy Birthday” to his wife Pat on the piano.

Bert photographed two other U.S. Presidents. He shot President Eisenhower at the U.S. War College, and put Ronald Reagan in the cross-hairs at a printing industry event before Reagan was elected President.

The photography bug bit him as a sophomore in college when his dad gave him a camera. He later spent time with Bob Grannis, “Nashville’s Largest Photographer.” To save the school money, Bert learned to use a darkroom and develop his own film, and took commercial art courses at U.T. Nashville.

For 20 years, he was official photographer for the Free Will Baptist national convention. Hundreds of “Tippett pictures” taken during business sessions, worship services, and candid moments appear in *Contact* (especially the September issues). He was everybody’s favorite shutterbug because he got the lighting right, the angle right, the subject right, and he never, never, never missed a deadline.

When asked to pick his best picture, Bert said, “That’s like being asked to pick your favorite child.” Which is a great answer, unless you know his children—Karen who is beautiful, and Brian who is...well, Brian!

THE JOURNALIST

At age 24, Bert was named FWBBC’s publications editor, where he also served as men’s dormitory supervisor... and taught physical education...and taught journalism, and encountered the prime directive that every employee knows—if you work at FWBBC, you wear many hats.

A journalistic turning point came when he wrote a five-part study series for *Adult Focus*, a CTS publication. Wow, what subjects he addressed:

- God’s Formula for Facing Difficulties
- God’s Formula for Meeting Sorrow
- God’s Formula for Overcoming Fear
- God’s Formula for Overcoming Temptation
- God’s Formula for Constant Joyfulness

If you want to know why Bert Tippett became the most respected journalist among Free Will Baptists, read those five articles written by a young wordsmith just 26 years old.

That same year he wrote an article titled “The Post Boggler” (*Contact*, September 1967), the story of a Marine he met in a worship service at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who was later killed in a plane crash. Nobody writes better human-interest stories than Bert Tippett.

He understands people, how they feel, and why they feel that way. His gripping article in *ONE Magazine* (April-May 2005) titled “Boy on the Bunk” tells about a teenager converted in reform school during one of Bert’s Christian Service assignments.

Bert did it again in a magnificent piece titled “Mapco Ministry” (*Contact*, July 2001) describing a 17-degree morning at a Nashville Mapco Station, a cup of coffee, a disabled daughter, and a pink Mickey Mouse jacket.

But he did more than write upbeat articles. He was an All-Pro news hound who got the facts straight and squeezed them into a bang-bang format. Tippett-crafted news items always included the who, what, when, where, and why details.

He became the voice of reason that students heard on Wednesday night, the eye behind the camera that captured history, the face of journalism that was trusted by editors



College Quartet: (L) Jim Puckett, Jake Creech, Bill McCuin, Bert Tippett.



across the denomination. Here's what I mean....

Between 1965 and 2005, Bert published 230 issues of Free Will Baptist Bible College *Bulletin*, the college's official publication.

He has published more than 800 issues of *Campus News*...started in 1978 when somebody said it would eliminate

chapel announcements.

For 15 years (1970-1985), he served as *Lumen* advisor.

He launched *Alumni News* in 1975. Its successor, *Illumina*, will roll a third issue off the press this fall.

Bert was one of the architects of a tsunami known in evangelical print circles as *ONE Magazine*. It was unheard of that six national publications could cease publishing, combine their resources, and create a single publication...until Bert Tippett and the Free Will Baptists did it. And now everybody wants to know how they did it.

CLOSING REMARKS

One Magazine Editor Eric Thomsen said, "During my college years, Bert Tippett amazed me with his multiple

skills—editor, photographer, designer, speaker and more. I admired the way he juggled a busy schedule and produced high-quality work without abandoning his family or church. He became a role model for my life and ministry.

"That's what I meant to tell him when I walked into his office the day before graduation. But instead, I blurted out, 'Mr. Tippett, I want your job some day!' He smiled and said, 'I just hope you aren't planning to start next week!'"

"More than a decade later, Bert called me and during the conversation, he asked, 'By the way, do you still want my job?' We both laughed. Then he grew quiet. 'Seriously, are you interested?'"

"Although I didn't tell him yes that day, he could not have honored me more. I couldn't imagine following a more consummate professional."

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you Bert Tippett the professional...preacher, photographer, journalist, who for 51 years has been a student, a supporter, or an employee at Free Will Baptist Bible College. If you need a picture, he can take it. If you need an article, he can write it. If you need a sermon, he can preach it. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Jack Williams is director of communications at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

THE CO-WORKERS

WE KNEW THEM FIRST AS ELBERT W. TIPPETT, JR.— though he was Bert from the start, here—and Dianne Manning.

Both of them enrolled in the fall of 1958 and graduated in 1962. In one sense, Bert wasn't from anywhere in particular. His dad, who later became the college's well-loved dietician, was in the Navy, and so Bert had lived in a number of places.



As a freshman he was from Rhode Island, and as a senior from Norfolk. One year he was even from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba! But everybody thought of North Carolina as his home base. Dianne, on the other hand, was one-hundred percent North Carolina, from a sharp bend in U.S. 264 east of nearly everywhere called Pantego, not far from my favorite fishing-hole, Lake Mattamuskeet.

LEADERSHIP RISES

They began to rise above the crowd even when they were students. As a freshman, Bert was an assistant on the staff of the Missionary Prayer Band newsletter. By the second year, Dianne was sophomore class secretary, vice-president of the Polyhymnia Club, and a dorm prayer captain.

As juniors, both were prayer captains and Dianne was class vice-president. Bert was vice-president of the choir, Dianne secretary of the Polyhymnia Club. And—mark this!—Bert was editor of the *Lumen*. Finally, during their senior

year, Dianne was class secretary and Bert was president of the student body. Bert was in the college quartet and was chosen by the faculty as the Most Outstanding Student.

Why do I recite this litany? Because I think it makes a point: leadership will out. Even one's peers know leaders when they see them.

RETURN TO FWBBC

Following graduation, Bert and Dianne married and soon moved off to New Hampshire to pastor the Free Will Baptist church in Twin Mountain. New England was one of those places where he had lived when his father was stationed there, and he was sensitive to the needs of the work up east. Off they went to snowy cold winters and relative isolation from other Free Will Baptists. Among other things, Bert learned how to build a fire in the church's wood-burning heater.

And then their alma mater called, inviting Bert to join the college staff. Let me insert here that there's something of a tradition that the students named "Most Outstanding" often wind up back at FWBBC. So it was in this case. In 1966 he became the editor of our official publications, a position he excelled in and maintained until 2005 when he shifted to director of church relations.

Dianne, having proved her mettle as secretary of many different organizations, likewise has served the college in a number of office positions, including being the unsung hero of mailing list maintenance!

WHAT COLLEAGUES SAY

Since my perspective is that of their co-workers, I've asked around as to what others think about when they think of working with Bert and Dianne. Here are some of them.

These two are team players. They don't push personal agendas—unless you count Bert's well-known love for his Macs. (Don't cross him on that point. He'll laugh when I tease him about his "toy," but he knows very well what it can do.) They're always working for the good of the college, always cooperative, never selfishly looking out for themselves.

They are encouragers, both by just being around them and by their words. Always positive, always with warmth and a smile. They aren't complainers or objectors. They are ready helpers.

You can go to either of them and expect an honest and objective response, and confidentiality if you need it. But if your idea is lame-brained, Dianne will just smile and say she doesn't know; Bert will tell you, but the words will be compassionate.

You can guess where this next compliment came from: "Bert puts out a super product, but he'll do everything he



BERT AND DIANNE HAVE LOVED AND faithfully served not men or an institution all these years but their Lord. They have exemplified for us how to love God and submit to His bidding.

can to bring it in under budget—without sacrificing quality.”

They are both conscientious and capable at their jobs. You don't have to oversee them. They're dependable and resourceful. One interviewee called Bert "Mr. Reliability." The literature he wrote, edited, and produced—often doing all three—represented the college and the Lord well. Nobody hates a typographical error like Bert, and so you almost never found one—or errors of any other kind—in his work.

EXCELLENCE IN CHARACTER

In short, both of them have offered up, on the altar of this ministry we call Free Will Baptist Bible College, the sweet-savor sacrifice of excellence.

Beneath these wonderful qualities lie some important, fundamental things. No doubt others will touch on these, too, but I wouldn't be satisfied if I didn't at least mention some of them, in closing. After all, even though they have excelled in what they've done, it's more important that they've excelled in what they are.

First, Bert and Dianne have loved and faithfully served not men or an institution all these years but their Lord. They have exemplified for us how to love God and submit to His bidding.

Second, they have loved their family. This certainly began with the bond they had with their parents, and they have passed this closeness on down to the next generation, Brian and Karen, and then to their families.

Third, they have loved and been faithful to their church. We've been members of the same church—Cofer's Chapel—for most of our lives, and I can testify to the example they have set there.

Fourth, and back to where we started, they love Free Will Baptist Bible College and manifest that in loyal, faithful service. I want finally to emphasize one more thing about their ministry here. More than anyone else I know, they loved not the institution as some abstraction but the students.

I feel sure they had more students in their home than any of the faculty and staff. Surely Bert has known personally more students than any of us, and counseled them, with the sort of genuine concern for them that caused them

to seek him out even though that counsel was often firmly opposed to the direction they were taking.

A SPECIAL GRACE

So here's to the Lord who made these two choice servants what they are, and here's to Bert and Dianne for letting Him. They continue to set an example for all of us in their own personal lives and present, difficult circumstances.

In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul says something highly complimentary about the way the Macedonians responded to his challenge to give. Bert and Dianne, before our very eyes, have manifested the same wonderful grace: they first gave themselves to the Lord. All the rest has come from that. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Robert Picirilli served 47 years at Free Will Baptist Bible College, retiring in 2002 after times as registrar, academic dean, and dean of the graduate school.

THE CHRISTIAN EXAMPLE



I FIRST MET DIANNE 50 YEARS AGO WHEN SHE became a new student at Free Will Baptist Bible College. I was a newly married senior, and my husband Ralph was a dorm supervisor and instructor. We met again several years later while visiting my brother Bill in New Hampshire. Bert was the pastor at Twin Mountain, and my brother pastored in Littleton. During a sightseeing expedition, Bill took us by the Tippett's upstairs apartment where we saw Bert, Dianne, and their newborn son Brian.

Our next meeting occurred in Nashville when the Tip-

petts joined the FWBBC staff. They lived in Parker Hall (present site of the tennis court). By then, Karen had been added to the family. One day, when Dianne was ill, Bert called to ask if I could care for Brian. While the children played, I put together a meal to share with the family. With few groceries on hand, I prepared meat loaf, pinto beans, and chocolate pie. Although it was meager fare, Dianne accepted it graciously, choosing to see my good intentions rather than the menu.

As the years came and went, Dianne and I became more involved at the college. I'm not sure that anyone can grasp the number of "hats" Dianne wore for the school, but she was faithful, gracious, and sincere in fulfilling each duty. At various times, she served as dorm supervisor, physical education instructor, dean of women, office worker, and chap-erone for traveling groups.

No matter her position, one thing always stood out to me—her genuineness. She always did her best, and she was always herself. She was also a good wife and mother and took her responsibilities at home seriously. Cooperative and considerate, she often went and beyond the call of duty without recognition. Her servant attitude was, and is, a great example to those around her.

After our children grew up and established homes of their own, we confided and celebrated together through each new phase of their lives. We endured the grief of losing our parents together. We shared our concerns when our



IT IS MY PRAYER THAT GOD WILL CONTINUE to bless and use the Tippetts, providing them grace for the days ahead. I only hope that Dianne will never lose the sweet smile that comes so easily.

she visited Free Will Baptist churches and homes across the country. In many areas, Bert and Dianne are regarded as the “face” of FWBBC. I am grateful that we have had such wonderful representatives.

It is my prayer that God will continue to bless and use the Tippetts, providing them grace for the days ahead. I only hope that Dianne will never lose the sweet smile that comes so easily. As God has blessed her, she continues to be a blessing and encouragement. I am so grateful that God allowed our paths to cross. **ONE**

sons faced serious health issues and prayed for each other. Throughout the years, Dianne always helped shoulder my burdens, no matter what I faced.

In time, Dianne became an ambassador for FWBBC, as

ABOUT THE WRITER: Margaret Hampton retired as library manager at Free Will Baptist Bible College in 2008 after serving 37 years at the college.

Get a degree from [the comfort of] your home.

With Online Learning
From Free Will Baptist
Bible College



Free Will Baptist
Bible College

Apply today at
www.fwbcc.edu/onlinelearning
to begin an Associate of Science
(A.S.) in Ministry. *National and regional accreditation approved.

Ideal for:

- Bi-vocational pastors
- Church lay leaders
- Those wishing to complete a degree
- Adult learners needing a flexible schedule

NEWS

about the denomination

2010 Nominees Requested

ANTIOCH, TN—The 2009-2010 Nominating Committee, which will serve through the national convention in Oklahoma City, OK, is prepared to receive nominees for the 2010 convention election, according to Mark McCraney, committee chairman.

The committee will meet December 7, 2009, at the annual Leadership Conference to consider nominations and compile a report listing one nomination for each position to be filled. The report will be presented to the General Board and delegates at the 2010 convention in Oklahoma City. This nominating process has changed, following a decision by delegates to the 2009 national convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. Executive Secretary Keith Burden explains the multi-year process:

“During the 2007 convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, the Executive Committee requested authorization to review the nominating process used during the annual convention and bring back recommendations the following year. Permission was granted.

“Recommendations to clarify the process were submitted in writing to the 2008 convention in Charleston, West Virginia. Since the proposed changes necessitated amending the By-Laws, the matter was tabled until the 2009 convention in Cincinnati, Ohio.

“Delegates in Cincinnati approved the proposed changes to the nominating process and those changes go into effect at the 2010 convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.” [Read more in One to One, page 54.]

The following board and commission positions will be filled in 2010: Free Will Baptist Bible College (3), International Missions (3), Randall House (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). Find the complete election schedule below. To make a recommendation to the committee, contact Chairman Mark McCraney:

Nominating Committee
1303 Highway 24 East
Red Bay, AL 35582
Church Phone: 256-356-9220
sandmc@hotmail.com

2010 Convention Election Schedule

NOT ELECTING: Home Missions
Retirement
Master’s Men
FWB Foundation

ELECTING:

Free Will Baptist Bible College:

Steve Ashby (ineligible for re-election, has served two full terms)
Billy Hanna (GA)
Terry Pierce (MS)

International Missions:

Sherwood Lee (ineligible for re-election, has served two full terms)
Tom McCullough (MI)
Danny Williams (AL)

Randall House:

Tim Eaton (OK)
Tim Owen (FL)
Joe Wilson (TN)

Executive Committee:

Tim Campbell (AR)
Rick Cash (AL)
Fred Hanson (Atlantic-Canada)

Theological Commission: Craig Shaw (OK)

Historical Commission: Darrell Holley (TN)

Media Commission: Travis Penn (IN)

Music Commission: Chris Truett (NC)

General Officers:

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

CONSTITUTION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS, INC.

BY-LAWS

Election of Officers

Section 10. No person shall fill more than one office at the same time, or any office and a place on any standing board, except as he may become a member of the General Board by virtue of his office. No person shall serve on more than one standing board at the same time, except as he may become a member of the General Board by virtue of being chairman of the board of which he is an elected member. No member of the Executive Committee may be a member of any standing board except the General Board.

Section 11. The procedure for the election of officers of the National Association shall be as follows: The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the moderator one year in advance. The committee shall consist of seven members, shall meet at least three months prior to the annual session and present at least one name for each vacant office, excepting the General Board and Executive Secretary. The funding of the committee shall come from the convention fund. A brief résumé shall be submitted with each nomination.

Nominations for the General Board shall be made on Tuesday afternoon of the annual session, and nominations for other offices on Tuesday or Wednesday.

After the committee's report, the floor shall be open for further nominations and the election shall proceed in regular manner.

1. No Nominating Committee member's name shall be submitted for a position being considered by the committee.
2. If a Nominating Committee member is placed in nomination by a third party, then they should immediately resign (not recuse) from the committee or refuse the nomination. Consequently, the national moderator shall appoint a replacement.
3. The Nominating Committee must at all times function as a body. Therefore, all discussions and considerations should be resolved exclusively during committee meetings.
4. Soon after the national convention, a nomination schedule for the upcoming national convention should be published in *ONE Magazine*. In the communiqué the Nominating Committee chairman's address shall be published, and it should be stated that submissions for possible nominees must be in the chairman's hands by a set date before the Leadership Conference.
 - a. These submissions must be made in writing with the résumés attached, or they will not be considered.
 - b. The source of these submissions should be withheld by the chair. In other words, the committee would not know the source of the nominations, but would consider them only on the merit of the person's credentials.
5. The Nominating Committee's recommended nominations will be published in an issue of *ONE Magazine* early in the year.
6. Any other nomination after the December meeting would have to be submitted on the floor of the national convention.
 - a. Anyone could submit a name from the floor, but it must be accompanied by a résumé to be read by the clerk.
 - b. If a nomination is made from the floor, the résumé of the committee's nominee will also be read by the clerk.
 - c. If a résumé is not available, only the nominee's name, occupation, address, and church membership may be stated.

NEWS

about the denomination

Hillsdale FWB College Announces Reunion

MOORE, OK—Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College invites alumni and friends to attend a weekend of celebration October 10 – 11. Planned reunion activities include a softball tournament, alumni basketball game, kid's carnival, choir practice, a talent/variety show, and a "Homecoming Singfest."

Registration will open on Saturday morning followed by lunch and a brainstorming session focused on how former students and supporters can ensure a bright future for the school. The variety show, "Hillsdale's Got Talent," will take place at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, in the Barber Center. On Sunday, alumni are encouraged to worship with the church attended during college before the celebration concludes Sunday evening with the "Homecoming Singfest," starting at 4:00 p.m.

Individual registration is \$20 and includes a t-shirt and lunch. Family registration is \$45 and includes two adult size t-shirts and lunch for the entire family. Register online at www.hc.edu, call (405) 912-9000, or send a check to Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, P.O. Box 7208, Moore, OK 73153. Contact Sherri Sloan at (405) 912-9452 or ssloan@hc.edu for registration questions or additional information. ■

Printing Industry Salutes Randall House



RANDALL HOUSE PUBLICATIONS brought home 11 graphic awards from the prestigious 2009 Printing Industry Association of the South (PIAS) regional competition. The PIAS awards were created to showcase top publishing

companies and their products and are used to encourage industry professionals to serve as models for others by giving recognition for outstanding accomplishments in the graphics communications industry. The awards included one Best of Category and ten Awards of Excellence.

"What a resounding industry endorsement this is for the Randall House team in its goal to continually raise the bar by producing quality publications and design elements for our products," stated Ron Hunter, executive director and CEO of Randall House since 2002. "I'm so proud of our entire team—they made it happen! When the broader printing industry lets us know that what we're creating here is professional grade, it's a big deal for our denomination." ■

Oklahoma Extends Arms of Compassion

MOORE, OK—Arms of Compassion (ACM), a ministry partner of the Oklahoma State Association, recently teamed up with Step into the Water Ministries and Hillsdale FWB College to complete an addition for a Free Will Baptist church in Abbeville, Louisiana. The church, pastored by Bishop Raymond Captville, belongs to the Western Division of Free Will Baptists, sister organization to the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

After a recent purchase of 20 generators, ACM now has fully-equipped disaster response trailers in Blanchard, Tahlequah, and Ada, Oklahoma. Free Will Baptist Master's Men recently donated an additional trailer that ACM hopes to equip for placement in Northwestern Oklahoma. (Sponsors can purchase a generator for \$650, or equip an entire trailer with generators and tools for \$5,000.)

ACM is a multi-faceted compassion ministry supported totally through donations. In addition to disaster relief efforts, ACM issues compassion grants to needy families; supports compassion ministries around the world (currently Brazil, Mexico, and Romania); and distributes Journey Packs (blanket, pillow, Bible, and care kit) to children facing significant life challenges.

Director John Hewett has pastored Free Will Baptist churches in Tennessee, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. An ordained minister and a licensed counselor, Hewett holds compassion conferences and helps churches and organizations with disaster relief training. For more information, visit www.armsofcompassion.org. ■

Master's Men Sponsors Tournaments

ANTIOCH, TN—Twenty-three teams representing eight states participated in the 2009 Master's Men National Softball Tournament, August 7-8. The fast-paced tournament was played on fields in Antioch, TN, in sweltering summer temperatures.



Master's Men Director and Tournament Organizer Ken Akers quipped, "We picked a couple of hot days for the largest gathering of Free Will Baptists outside of the national convention. Seriously, I appreciate everyone who took time out of their busy schedules to support the ministry of Master's Men. The theme for the weekend could have been, 'We didn't come to lose!' as there was a record number of extra inning games. Congratulations to our winners."

CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

- 1st place (pictured above), Kirby Red, Huron Township (MI)
- 2nd place, Northridge, Dayton (OH)
- 3rd place, Farmington (MO)
- 4th place, FWB Chapel, Sulligent (AL)
- Consolation Bracket 1st place: Mt. Olive, Guin (AL)
- Consolation Bracket 2nd place: Zion Hill Green, Millwood (GA)



ACROSS TOWN, 60 golfers from seven states gathered at Pine Creek Golf Course for the 7:30 a.m. shotgun start as the 2009 Master's Men National Golf Tournament got underway. The golfers enjoyed hot, humid conditions and soft greens producing low scores. The team of Mike Gladson and Jerrod Pilgrim from Cofer's Chapel FWB Church (TN) walked away with top honors after shooting a low round of 64. ■

Volunteers Complete Phase Three of the Ridge Church Project

DURHAM, NH—Phase three of the Ridge Church Renovation was completed August 17-21. Project Coordinator Ken Akers said, "We had a great team of volunteers to complete this important part of the project. They painted, patched, sanded, and worked hard to complete our project goals."



During phase three, most volunteers turned their attention to the interior of the church, patching the plaster and painting the walls. Others finished work on the exterior, completing work on the bell tower that had begun during previous phases of renovation.

Since the Ridge Church project began, volunteers have repaired the sagging roof structure, replacing joists and worn shingles; removed and replaced peeling paint on the building's exterior; removed two deteriorating chimneys; reinforced the structure of the bell tower, and repaired drainage problems under the church.

The congregation, which began meeting in 1793, completed the current building in 1820, making it the oldest FWB church structure in existence. Delegates to the 2007 national convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, voted to help the New Durham congregation (which no longer meets in the Ridge Church) maintain the aging structure in light of its historical significance.

Volunteers who would like to participate in future phases should contact Ken Akers at ken@nafwb.org, call (877) 767-8039, or visit www.fwbmastersmen.org. ■

ONETOONE

A Step in the Right Direction



Photo: Mark Cowart

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

THE PROCEDURE FOR ELECTING OFFICERS OF THE National Association is listed in the By-Laws of the *Treatise*. While the process was adequate to accomplish the task, it was not detailed enough to prevent flaws and abuses that allowed inequality.

During the 2007 convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, the Executive Committee requested authorization to review the nominating process used during the annual convention and bring back recommendations the following year. Permission was granted.

Recommendations to clarify the process were submitted in writing to the 2008 convention in Charleston, West Virginia. Since the proposed changes necessitated amending the By-Laws, the matter was tabled until the 2009 convention in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Delegates in Cincinnati approved the proposed changes to the nominating process and those changes go into effect at the 2010 convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. That process, as it now appears in the *Treatise*, is detailed on page 51 of this issue of *ONE Magazine*.

Details regarding the submission of nominations for positions to be elected at the 2010 convention can also be found in this issue of *ONE*. Some may find this process complicated or difficult to understand. Therefore, I have written the following simplified summary—

A Nominating Committee member will not allow his name to be placed into nomination for any position. If he accepts the nomination, he will resign from the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee functions only as a body. Outside discussions among committee members are to be avoided.

The nomination schedule for the upcoming national

convention will be published each year in the October-November issue of *ONE Magazine*. The name and contact information for the chairman of the nominating committee will appear with this schedule. Nominations accompanied by a brief résumé must be submitted in writing exclusively to the chairman on or before November 30.

A list of the Nominating Committee's recommendations will be published in the April-May issue of *ONE Magazine*.

Nominations may be submitted on the floor of the national convention. However, these nominations must be in writing, accompanied by a brief résumé and read by the clerk.

Is this a perfect process? Probably not; however, it is an improvement. Why?

The process becomes more objective for the Nominating Committee members.

It eliminates gratuitous endorsements for candidates on the floor of the convention.

Nominees are more likely to be considered on the basis of their qualifications.

Delegates are better equipped to make informed decisions.

Free Will Baptists understand denominational work is serious business. We believe the matter of selecting individuals to serve in leadership positions on boards and commissions deserves our best effort. We can do better. Hopefully, this new process is a step in that direction. **ONE**

Caught in the Capital Gains Trap?

Reduce taxes and increase income while providing perpetual support for Free Will Baptist Home Missions with a charitable remainder unitrust with the Free Will Baptist Foundation. Customize the unitrust to fit your needs:

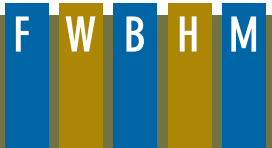
- + Create Lifetime income.
- + Avoid capital gains taxes.
- + Enjoy favorably-taxed income.
- + Reduce estate tax and settlement cost.
- + Provide meaningful support for one or more Free Will Baptist ministries.

Contact the Foundation to learn more about charitable remainder unitrusts.

smart giving.



www.FWBGifts.org | 877-336-7575
foundation@nafwb.org



 **access**[™]
downloadable curriculum

Download lessons instantly

Studies based on topical application

Studies range from 4-6 weeks

Perfect for Sunday night or mid-week

Very affordable! Lessons range from \$16 to \$20

AccessBibleStudies.com



Carrying the Gospel in Every Direction



MISSION: NORTH AMERICA

“And they went forth,
and preached everywhere”
Mark 16:20a



Please support the Ministries of the
Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department
by giving to the
Mission: North America Offering
on **November 22, 2009**