

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

# ONE

MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2010

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**Blessing**  
**IN MEXICO**

**The Quest for**  
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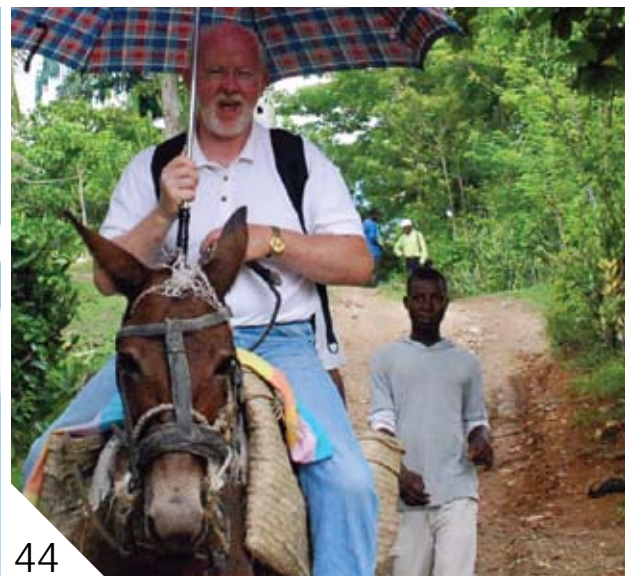
# ONE

MAGAZINE

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



26



44

ONE MAGAZINE  
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## ARTICLES

- 06 The Blessing in Mexico
- 10 Don't Forget the Miracles
- 13 Who We Are
- 14 Why Did I Become a Home Missionary?
- 15 Dialogue with the Director
- 16 Church Planting by Evangelism
- 19 Churches Without Believers
- 20 Evangelism Without Church Planting
- 23 Finding God on Island Time
- 26 Marriage and Family: The Number One Priority
- 27 Impact for Generations
- 28 The Perfect Marriage
- 30 Raising Readers and Text-Free Teens
- 38 Closer Than We've Ever Been
- 40 Home Missions
- 42 Mules and Cadillacs
- 44 Where Satan Dwells
- 50 The Quest for Excellence

## COLUMNS

- 04 First Glimpse: Three-Quarters
- 33 Intersect: Dr. Mary and the Cherubim
- 37 Brown on Green: Dump the Debt!
- 47 Leadership Profile: Adam Carnes
- 54 One to One

## NEWS

- 21 News Around the World
- 34 News at FWBBC
- 48 2011 National Youth Conference
- 52 News About the Denomination

38



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28



# FIRST GLIMPSE

## Three-Quarters



**“I think we’re going the wrong way.”**

“You think?”

My sarcastic reply faded into a wry chuckle, and I glanced up just in time to see my wife roll her eyes dramatically.

The clearly marked path had long since faded into dense underbrush of palmetto, knee-high grass, scrubby live oaks, and briars. The Florida sun seared down, leaving us sweat-soaked as we brushed aside spider webs and fought through overhanging vines on our quest to find “the highest waterfall in Florida.”

The travel brochure made it sound so good. “A brief three-quarter-mile hike will bring you to a picturesque overlook where a bubbling cascade plunges more than 100 feet before disappearing into a natural sinkhole cavern.”

The advertisement made no mention of missing trail markers. Nor did it mention snakes. A large sign near the trailhead informed us that we might encounter up to six species of venomous snakes on our trek. Funny, the warning hardly registered until the trail disappeared.

Just when I was ready to declare the expedition a hopeless loss, the undergrowth cleared, and we found ourselves standing on the edge of a precipice, looking down at the waterfall. It was not the bubbling cascade we expected—more of a muddy trickle scraping defiantly over the edge—but it was a waterfall.

On that humid day in Florida, my family learned an important lesson the hard way. Moving in the right direction is essential!

ERIC THOMSEN  
MANAGING EDITOR



Photo: Mark Cowart

Quotable baseball player and manager Yogi Berra once quipped, “If you don’t know where you are going, you might just end up somewhere else.”

Moving in the right direction is vitally important for the denomination as well. Each year, the October-November issue of *ONE Magazine* gives Free Will Baptist leaders an opportunity to cast vision and define the direction of the Free Will Baptist movement.

As you flip through the pages of this issue, take a deeper look at the vision for Free Will Baptist Home Missions in “Who We Are” (page 13) by Director Larry Powell. Celebrate the growth of Free Will Baptists in Mexico with Thomas Marberry (*The Blessing in Mexico*, page 9). Explore new methods in world evangelism with International Missions Director James Forlines (*Church Planting by Evangelism*, page 16). And hear the passion for family-based discipleship expressed by Ron Hunter, director of Randall House Publications (*Dialogue With the Director*, page 15).

By the way, we found the missing trail marker. It was exactly three-quarters of a mile from the falls, right behind a sign telling hikers what to do if they encountered an alligator in the wild. No wonder we missed it. We were looking for gators. **ONE**

**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](http://www.onemag.org) for a subscription. The subscription is free, although donations are always accepted and appreciated.

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## LETTERS

### Have something to say?

Say it! The editors of *ONE Magazine* look forward to hearing from our readers. Your feedback, comments, and suggestions are necessary and appreciated.

Email [editor@nafwb.org](mailto:editor@nafwb.org) or send correspondence to:

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

YOUR LATEST ISSUE OF ONE [AUGUST-SEPTEMBER] is one of your best. Garnett Reid's article on "Deuteronomy 6 in 3-D" is outstanding. It may be that only those of us with grandchildren can truly appreciate his perspective on looking farther down the road.

**Bert Tippett, Nashville, TN**

I ENJOYED "THE ROLE OF EMOTIONS IN Worship" [June-July issue] very much. I have often told congregations, "Emotion without devotion is commotion."

**Paul W. Lane, Milan, IL**

I READ WITH INTEREST THE "THEOLOGY OF Marriage" article in the August-September issue. Even though I agree with the basic concept, there are some differences of opinion. I was taught that sex was designed both for bearing children and for pleasure. It is a special gift given from God for married couples to enjoy each other's company, but that God does not require all couples to bear children. It is a personal decision.

Couples who are infertile or who marry past childbearing age should not be excluded from the marital act simply because of their inability to bear children. Other choose not to have children, for whatever reason. God does not require them to do so. I do feel that God does expect us to be responsible with our sexuality and not have more children than we can afford to care for.

**Mary McMaster, Wynne, AR**

I AM NOT A MEMBER OF YOUR DENOMINATION, but I like reading your magazine (other denominations' as well). Some articles I find very useful, but in some it is a shame that you give praise to men without praising God who deserves the praise in the first instance. Compare your article "Leader Profile" by Ron Hunter Jr in your magazine of August-September 2010.

**Harold [via email]**

WHILE READING THE ALWAYS WELCOME *ONE Magazine*, I was touched by the article, "The Voice of Those Who Weep," by Garnett Reid. As a caretaker for my beloved husband, who suffered from Parkinson's Disease for 25 years, I turned often to Isaiah 40, and the promise that, "They who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."

I can't tell you how I was blessed by the love expressed by my Christian brothers and sisters with each visit, phone call, or bowl of chicken and dumplings.

**Dot Lockert, Ashland City, TN**

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# The Blessing in MEXICO

BY THOMAS L. MARBERRY

**GOD HAS BLESSED FREE WILL BAPTISTS WITH A LARGE AND GROWING WORK IN MEXICO, BUT THE WORK HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN EASY.**

The churches in Mexico have faced problems of persecution from without and strife and conflict from within. In spite of these difficulties, the work has continued to develop. In good times and in bad, Mexican Free Will Baptists have continued to plant new churches, win converts, train their young people, and advance the work of God in their country. Free Will Baptists around the world owe a great debt of gratitude to the men and women of the Free Will Baptist churches in Mexico for their faithfulness and commitment to Christ.



## THE COUNTRY

Mexico is the second largest country in Latin America behind Brazil. It has a land area of 761,605 square miles or twice the size of Texas. The population is approximately 106 million people, about one-third of the population of the United States. Spanish is the official language. In fact, Mexico is the largest Spanish-speaking country in the world, but there are approximately 50 tribal dialects spoken in addition to Spanish. Mexican Free Will Baptists are actively sharing the gospel with several of these tribal groups. On any given Sunday, Mexican Free Will Baptists will worship in Spanish and at least three tribal dialects.

Mexico is traditionally Roman Catholic; today almost 90% of the people classify themselves as Roman Catholic. However, the constitution guarantees religious freedom, and Protestantism is growing rapidly in many areas. When the first protestant missionaries went to Mexico in the 19th century, they faced serious opposition. Several early missionaries and native believers were killed because of their faith. The situation is much better today. Protestants still face opposition from their society (often from friends and family), but there is no longer any official persecution. In most areas of the country, it is now possible to purchase property and build protestant church buildings.

## FREE WILL BAPTIST HISTORY

The first Free Will Baptist worship service in Mexico was held in Monterrey on the Sunday after Christmas in 1958. Those early efforts led to the founding of the Rose of Sharon FWB Church in Monterrey, in the state of Nuevo Leon. That church still contin-

ues today under the capable leadership of Rev. Hilarino González.

Within a few years, other churches had begun in the states of Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas. Two of the oldest churches still operating today are El Buen Pastor FWB Church located in the high desert of Nuevo Leon in the tiny village of El Canelito. Several early leaders in Mexico came out of this church.

The second is the Eben-Ezer FWB



Church located in the city of Altamira in the southern part of the state of Tamaulipas. This church was also founded during the early days and remains one of the larger churches in Mexico. Rev. Lazaro De La Rosa has served as pastor of this fine congregation for many years.

Since the earliest days, a close working relationship has existed between Free Will Baptists in Mexico and those in the United States. The churches in Mexico have worked in cooperation with the Home Missions Department because that department has the responsibility for planting new churches in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Home missionaries who served in Mexico during the early period included James Timmons, Arthur Billows, Jerry Barron, Dave Cochrane, Harvey Aguirre, and Jim Williams. Rev. Jerry Barron continues to serve as an associate missionary at this time.

Rev. James Munsey served as coordinator of the work in Mexico for several years. He made significant contributions to developing new churches and founding the seminary in Reynosa. Rev. Fred Jones served as president of the Bible Institute in Altamira for 10 years. He helped to train several of the leaders in our Mexican churches.

The Home Missions Department has never assigned a large number of U.S. missionaries to serve in Mexico, sending only one or two American couples at a time. These missionaries have concentrated their time and efforts in training Mexican Free Will Baptists. This strategy of emphasizing teaching and training has been successful. Most Free Will Baptist churches in Mexico were not started by missionaries from the United States but by the Mexicans themselves.

## THE CURRENT SITUATION

Since the founding in 1958, the Free Will Baptist work in Mexico has grown and continues to grow. Two Mexican associations now belong to the National Association. According to the latest figures, these associations include 54 organized churches and 29 missions. Some are located in large metropolitan areas such as Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Monterrey.

Approximately 30 million people live in Greater Mexico City, and Free Will Baptists have four churches in that area. Rev. José Rendon has pastored the church in Netzahualcóyotl for many years. This church has an active outreach program and recently baptized six new converts.

Churches are also located in smaller cities such as Altamira, Ciudad Victoria, and Reynosa. A number are located in small towns and rural areas. Some (like the church in Tecacahuaco, Hidalgo) are located in isolated mountain villages. The goal of Mexican Free Will Baptists is to share the gospel with everyone without regard to their economic status, geographical location, or language.

Worship services in Mexican churches are similar to services in the United States, yet there are some significant differences. The most obvious difference is language. Most of our churches worship in Spanish, although several worship in native dialects.

In most areas of Mexico, the main worship service is not Sunday morning but Sunday evening. A typical worship service lasts about two hours. Mexican services often involve more singing, fellowship, and testimonies than are normally found in services in the United States. District and state meetings are generally well attended. Simply put,

Mexican Free Will Baptists enjoy being together!

## YOUNG PEOPLE

Mexico is a young country; 31% of the population is under age 15. Our churches are young as well. People in their teens and twenties often form the largest groups. Youth camps and youth retreats are held on a regular basis. There are always activities for the youth at state and national meetings. Young people from one church will often make mission trips to help establish new congregations or help build church buildings.

The Free Will Baptists of Mexico operate two educational institutions to provide training for young people. A Bible Institute operates on a beautiful six-acre campus near Altamira in the southern part of the state of Tamaulipas. The Bible institute graduated two students in May and five last December. They began the fall semester with approximately 18 students.

The Seminary of the Cross in Reyno-



sa, just across the border from McAllen, Texas, primarily serves the churches in northern Mexico. They had 10 students last semester; one student, Mariana Garcia Sotelo, graduated in May. Both the Bible institute and the seminary have auditoriums where ladies meetings, youth retreats, pastors' confer-

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ences, and associational meetings are held on a regular basis.

## PASTORS

God has blessed the work in Mexico with a group of very dedicated and committed pastors. Without their leadership the work could never have developed as it has. Few churches have the financial resources to support a pastor and his family full-time. Most Mexican pastors also have some type of secular employment; a few receive some financial assistance from churches, and individuals in the United States. Our pastors are leading existing churches and founding new churches, often at great sacrifice to themselves. They truly give their all to the work.

Both associations in Mexico host annual pastors' conferences that give our pastors the opportunity to receive training and enjoy fellowship with other pastors. These conferences are expensive but very necessary. Mexico is a huge country, and churches are often hundreds of miles apart. These conferences are often the only opportunities pastors have to come together, help, and encourage one another.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women are a great source of strength and stability for the churches in Mexico. They give freely of their time and energy to develop our churches. Women's retreats and conferences are a regular feature of the Mexican work. The ladies held a National Women's Retreat on the Altamira campus April 8-10.

A highlight of the women's ministry occurred in November 2007 when seven ladies from Texas traveled to Monterrey to host a women's retreat

for the ladies from Mexico. Between 100 and 125 ladies participated in the various events, and several husbands went along to help care for the children. It was a special time of fellowship between the ladies from Texas and the ladies from Mexico.

## MISSIONS

Free Will Baptists in Mexico are committed to planting and developing new churches. Several new churches start every year, and there are too many mission churches to discuss all of them. However, let me mention a few.

A new church is being developed on the campus of the Bible institute in Altamira under the leadership of Rev. Felix Escobar. Rev. Julio Garcia recently graduated from the Bible institute in Altamira, and he is going to his home state of Guanajuato to begin a new church.

Two recent graduates of the Seminary in Reynosa, Manuel Alvarez Garcia and Jose Gorgonio Cabrera Valencia, are both starting mission churches in the state of Vera Cruz. They are working now to purchase property and build church buildings.

Rev. Santiago Regalado Ramirez is a veteran FWB pastor in Mexico. For a number of years he led Templo La Hermosa FWB Church in the city of Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon, where he enjoyed a successful ministry.

He felt the leadership of the Lord to leave this well-established work and begin a new mission in the city of Benito Juarez, one of the fastest-growing cities in that region. They have already built their first building and are trying to purchase adjoining property for fu-

ture expansion.

Mexican Free Will Baptists recently began their first mission work in the Yucatan Peninsula in the southern-most part of the country. This will open an entirely new area of ministry for Free Will Baptists. Very few Bible-preaching churches exist in that region of Mexico.

## CHILDREN'S HOME

Free Will Baptists in Mexico recently launched a new area of ministry. In cooperation with Harvest Child Care Ministries of Virginia, they have opened a home for children in the city of Tuxtepec in the state of Oaxaca. One of the poorest areas of Mexico, many children survive on the streets with no real home. With help from churches and individuals in the United States, however, 32 boys and girls now have a stable home with food to eat, clothes to wear, and a caring staff. They have the opportunity to hear about Jesus and become believers. They also have the opportunity to attend school and prepare themselves for the future.

## INTO THE FUTURE

God is doing something special in Mexico, this country with which we share a 2,000-mile border. In many ways, Mexico is different from the United States. The language and culture are quite different and often difficult for us to understand.

Yet, it cannot be denied that the Spirit of God is working in a special way in the midst of circumstances that are often difficult and trying. Pray regularly for the Free Will Baptists of Mexico as they look to the future, to the blessings God has in store for them. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Dr. Thomas Marberry is vice president of academic affairs at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. He served as president of El Seminario Biblico La Cruz (Bible Seminary of the Cross) in Reynosa, Mexico, for nearly a decade. He and his wife Wilma attend Grace FWB Church in Oklahoma City, OK, where they are involved in Hispanic ministry.

# DON'T FORGET THE MIRACLES

BY ALLEN WHITT

*“For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened” (Mark 6:52).*

It happened when I was the pastor of the Sophia Free Will Baptist Church in West Virginia. Sophia is a wonderful church. I had developed a great concern and love for mission work because of the church's rich heritage in missions and mission personnel. (It is the home church of Jim and Vicki Sturgill, my missionary heroes.) My wife Nancy and I had become part of the church family, and it appeared that we might just be there forever.

God had a different plan, and He introduced it to me in an unusual way. The day my life changed directions began as usual with an early breakfast, feeding the animals on the farm, and doing some paperwork as I prepared to attend an important morning meeting in Lewisburg. While driving down the mountain and through our small community, I reflected on our church and how blessed the ministry had been there.

## WHEN GOD SPEAKS

As I drove past an old abandoned storefront, God spoke to me. I remember feeling anxious and unexplainable excitement. I drove just beyond the store building to a wide spot along the road and pulled over. His words kept echoing in my soul, “Buy that building for a church.”

I turned the vehicle around and drove back to the old building. I got out and walked toward the biggest mess I had ever seen. The grass and weeds were almost waist high. Beer bottles, cans, and old batteries littered the entire lot. I looked through the cracked windows and glass door into a wasteland of fallen ceiling, wet carpet, broken floor tiles, and a pool of water that let me know the roof was no good.

I stepped back from the front of the



building and said, “Lord, this would take a miracle.” At that moment, I noticed that the frame of an old light located way above the door cast a shadow of a cross against the building. That was the first miracle.

I drove on to my meeting, and I was both sad and excited. I had promised God that I would always do what He asked me to do, and I knew that, somehow, God would take those bro-

ken down walls and build His church. Sadly, I knew also that we would have to leave our safe haven in the Sophia Church.

When I passed the old store building on the way home, the words of an old preacher came to me. He said, "When you get good and comfortable, God will come and put you to work." He was right! I knew I had to go home and tell Nancy that the Holy Spirit had invaded our comfort zone.

When I walked into the kitchen Nancy was preparing lunch. She looked up with a welcoming smile, and I just let it out with a bang. "Nancy, God wants us to buy the old store building on the way to Meadow Bridge and build a church." The second miracle came when she said, "Okay."

## IRONING OUT THE DETAILS

We told the wonderful people at the Sophia Church what had taken place. They were sad, but they never questioned our decision to do what God said. After all, this was a mission-minded church. I think that beyond their disappointment, they realized that God had chosen their church to prepare us for this work.

We purchased the building and 2 1/4 acres of property, and we began the long process of transforming the old building into a church that would please God. Trymon Messer, former director of the Home Missions Department, suggested that we contact Roy Roach, then chairman of the West Virginia State Association Mission Board. He expressed interest and asked if I could meet with the board at their next meeting at the Loudendale FWB Church. I didn't know it, but the next miracle was on the way. I did not want to go to Loudendale. When I left there 50 years before, I vowed I would never go back.

As young boys, my brother and I

had been abandoned in Williamson, West Virginia. My father took us to a movie theater, dropped us off, and never came back. The authorities placed us in a children's home in Grundy, Virginia. From there we were taken back to West Virginia and placed in the state's foster program.

We stayed in many homes, but the worst was in Loudendale. For years, I tried to forget the memories of what took place there. My pain, I could forget, but when I remembered the things that had been done to my brother, who died in 1969, my hate for those foster parents was as strong as the day I left.

As I drove to the meeting, my nerves were a wreck. When I started up the road that crossed the mountain into Loudendale, my heart began beating so fast I was shaking all over. I held the steering wheel so tightly that my fingers ached. I stopped the car. I didn't know what was happening to me, but all of a sudden, as I stepped out of the vehicle, the same voice I heard in front of the building in Danese said, "Forgive her." I fell to my knees in front of the car, and from the dungeon of unforgiveness, I was set free by the key of forgiving.

As I stood to my feet, God's presence overwhelmed me. At His command the forgiving was easy, but it humbled me to the point of exhaustion to think that God had started the process of building a church to deliver me from the 50-year burden of harboring anger.

I stopped by the home where we had lived as children, and a neighbor told me that the man had died. His wife had moved to Florida and remarried. I drove on to the meeting, and my spirit soared. I knew the state and the national mission boards would accept the project. God was in charge of the details! This great truth became even clearer a short time later when I received a package from Home Missions.

## I FELL TO MY KNEES IN FRONT OF THE CAR, AND FROM THE DUNGEON OF UNFORGIVENESS, I WAS SET FREE BY THE KEY OF FORGIVING.

It contained a letter from the woman whom God had told me to forgive. It included a check for \$100 for the new church. Details!

## HE WILL MAKE A WAY

It seemed as if renovating, cleaning, and repairing the building was more than we could handle. I was not qualified to make the decisions concerning the design of the new interior. We needed someone to help us with these details. You guessed it, another miracle!

I received a call from a man who had once lived in the area but had moved to Tennessee. He was the mission director for Mt. Harmony Baptist church. He asked if it was true that we were about to start a mission church in Danese. When I answered yes, his response was, "Would you let us come and help?"

When his church group arrived, one of the men was a professional builder. He made all the difficult decisions needed to insure that renovation was up to code and pleasant to the eye. The group came back and helped us many times. I have never met people so intent on working for God by helping others. They tore out old walls, built new ones, and did a lot of cleaning. They built the pulpit, stage, and front porch roof. They bought and installed the baptistry. On one trip, they did all the framing for the school interior.

When we purchased the property,

the owner assured us there were no underground fuel storage tanks. He was wrong. We discovered two tanks buried on the front of the property. I called the Department of Natural Resources, and they promptly came and inspected the area where the tanks were located. They informed us that the cost of removing and disposing of the tanks would be \$10,000, and they would secure contractors to begin the work immediately.

Overwhelmed, I prayed, "Lord we need another miracle. We don't have that kind of money." Two days later the DNR officer called and asked if he could meet me at the site. When he arrived I was praying he would not ask for the money up front. After we greeted each other he said, "Mr. Whitt, I did some checking through our office and I found an account earmarked for tank removal. Because there is \$10,000 in the account, there will be no charge to the church for removing the tanks." He was amused by my celebration.

I told the officer that we had found another smaller tank on the opposite side of the building that had been used to store heating oil. He informed me that his department did not remove anything but gasoline storage tanks, and we needed to dispose of this tank however we could.

The next day, as Nancy and I drove



by the building, she noticed a large object protruding from the lower side of the building. You might say the next miracle was sticking right up in the air. The water main running beside the tank had developed a leak, and water had pushed the tank right out of the ground. We called a neighbor who wanted the tank, and he quickly brought a tractor and dragged our problems away at zero cost.

## MIRACLES IN THE MAKING

I can't tell you how many times God has surprised us with divine intervention during the nine-year history of Faith FWB Church. But the greatest of all miracles are the people whose lives have been changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

During those years, we have witnessed the salvation of children and adults. We have experienced the healing power of God. We have seen broken families put back together. We have seen a Christian school built where children can receive godly training. What started in four Sunday School classrooms has grown into a new school building with wonderfully equipped classrooms and a high school gymnasium. During the 2010-2011 school year, the county Board of Education will fund a West Virginia Pre-K class in our school. Awesome!

The church, which began in an old building purchased for \$35,000, has



grown into a beautiful sanctuary, a new school building, a remodeled home, and 21 acres of property, all of which was recently appraised at 1.2 million dollars. To God be the glory!

Next in line, as we continue to share the gospel, is a Christian day care program and an onsite children's home. On the horizon we can see cabins where groups and associations can come to visit, an outdoor amphitheatre to enjoy gospel music in the mountains, and eventually an assisted-living center.

Sure, all these things sound impossible—far too much for a little mission church in Danese, West Virginia, but don't forget the miracles! **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Allen Whitt continues to pastor Faith Free Will Baptist Church in Danese, West Virginia.

# WHO WE ARE:

## Free Will Baptist Home Missions

North America and the U.S. Territories

BY LARRY A. POWELL

Through the efforts of church planters and the tremendous support of Free Will Baptists, God is building a network of churches to reach North America with the gospel of Christ. Free Will Baptists are committed to the truth that Jesus is the way—the only way—to the Father. “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14: 6b).

### The Current Trend of Non-denominationalism

The 21st century has been dubbed the age of non-denominationalism, yet Free Will Baptist home missionaries continue to experience rapid growth in cities across North America. We believe the most rapid growth in our denomination is through new church plants in 26 states, Canada, and Mexico.

Our missionary family is now 215 strong. This number does not include the Free Will Baptist chaplains who



minister to brave men and women in uniform, stationed around the world.

### Who Are We?

When church planters move into a city, they immediately identify themselves. They let the people of the city know that those who come to Christ for salvation must come by repentance and faith for forgiveness of sins. Our church planters are loyal to the doctrine of the faith and practices of the National Association of Free Will Baptists.

### Working Together to Achieve the Goal

We believe we can do more for the kingdom of God by doing it together with congregations of like convictions and commission focus. Existing

churches are forming strategic partnerships with church planters.

This scenario has created many opportunities for churches to get involved, experiencing firsthand the excitement surrounding the birth of a new church. Many states have formed joint projects with Free Will Baptist Home Missions to plant churches in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria—North American missions. **ONE**

**Thank you for your gifts. We pledge to spend them wisely. Our focus remains on winning families to Christ.**



ABOUT THE WRITER: Larry Powell is director of Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Read more at [www.homemissions.net](http://www.homemissions.net).

# Why Did I Become a Home Missionary?

BY GREG FLOARS

**Recently, this question was posed to me, and I began to recall how I came to be a home missionary.**

During a trip to Africa (a location we were considering for prospective missions work), I attended a church service in Nairobi, Kenya. To my surprise, members of the church had just returned from a mission trip to America. Their last stop had been a Detroit airport, where they led 13 people to the Lord.

I will never forget the words the African pastor shared with his church that day. “The once-sending nation (America) has now become a complicated mission field. They have morals and values, but they are warmed by a fire that has long since gone out.” He cried and asked his church to pray for America.

Later, I met with the director of AIM (African Inland Missions). He told me, “If you really love Africa and the rest of the world, then go and reach your own country. Your country is spiraling out of control, and the rest of the world is depending on them.”

Later, at a home missions revival where I had been invited to preach, God gave me peace that planting a church in North America was exactly

It concerns me that so many people in our country don’t know the truth about the Lord. Untold numbers of people in our nation have no idea of what God has in store for those who believe.

Recently, I presented a Bible (her very first) to a 32-year-old woman and read from John 14:31a, “That the world may know that I love the Father.” I want my world to know that I

**It concerns me that so many people in our country don’t know the truth about the Lord.**

what I was supposed to do. I called my wife Lea in the middle of the night to share with her this exciting new direction for our lives.

love the Father, so I go and tell them every day here in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where many still have not heard. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Greg and Lea Floars are joint project home missionaries in Marquette, MI, in a community that once served as an Air Force base. Only one other church is located in their community. To learn more about the Floars and Free Will Baptist Home Missions, visit [www.homemissions.net](http://www.homemissions.net).



# Dialogue with the Director

A REVEALING GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE OF RANDALL HOUSE PUBLICATIONS FROM DIRECTOR RON HUNTER.

## Where is Randall House going?

Like any organization, Randall House sets and moves toward goals, and the goals grow, evolve, and get revised to meet the needs of those we serve. We never lose sight of the fact that we exist to serve churches by meeting the needs of families within the local church. Every product we produce intentionally equips either the leader or teacher and is designed for the appropriate age of those being led or taught. It is a partnership between Randall House and the local church so the church can partner with their families.

Through consistent biblical and doctrinal teaching, the publishing house of any denomination is a primary factor in retention of future generations. You can have Free Will Baptist on your sign, but what you teach in your classroom carries a much greater influence. The sign may help in selection, but the content determines if they stay. Generational Discipleship is a biblical priority teaching all ages to be faithful Christ-followers.

## Who is the Randall House customer?

We are the Free Will Baptist publisher, and our primary audience is our denomination. Randall House's customers are churches and families who come in all ages and diverse philosophical and geographical backgrounds. No publisher other than Randall House produces materials aligning with our Free Will Baptist *Treatise*. We have been asked if Randall House is ignoring our own churches by increasing the customer base beyond our denomination. I quickly reply: when you have a good recipe, two things occur—you want to share it, and people want to try it. Growth occurs with excellent products. A growing product line in the body of Christ provides a validation in what we believe and who we are. It's a great day when Free Will Baptists are afforded the opportunity to "lead" rather than "catch up."

## Who determines what you do next at Randall House?

Much like a pastor who prepares messages to preach, Randall House spends time in prayer, observation, need-assessment, and planning to determine what products launch or remain available. Products take between 9 to 24 months from idea stage to completion. Stewardship protects development dollars by gauging what will and will not be used by our customers. Randall House and our denomination are too large for such decisions to rest on any one person or group. After listening to our customers and lengthy meetings internally, our board of directors determines what makes it to the shelves. When the decision is reached, we understand that not everyone will purchase every product (or attend every event) but expect each church to be discerning about which products meet their needs. It is similar to shopping at the local store. Place into your cart what you desire to use and allow other churches in good standing to do the same.

## What are some trends you see with Small Groups or Sunday School?

Small groups or Sunday Schools remain the primary way people in our churches can bond to the church through relationships with other people in similar life-stages. Small classes structured correctly provide outreach and discipleship. Churches are moving away from elective-based classes on Sunday mornings and more toward a planned teaching from the Word allowing parents and kids to connect. Other publishers have begun to copy what Randall House is doing through D6 curriculum. Success is achieved when Dad and Mom become the daily teachers and examples for their kids. More time will be spent in church helping teachable moments to occur away from church. **ONE**

# CHURCH PLANTING

by Evangelism

BY JAMES FORLINES





**IT HAS BEEN SAID, “BE VERY CAREFUL WHAT YOU DETERMINE AS SUCCESS, FOR YOU WILL EXPEND EVERY ENERGY TO ACHIEVE IT.”** This is a basic universal truth. People desire to be successful. This is especially true of leaders such as pastors, church planters, and missionaries. In our own eyes, the eyes of our colleagues, and especially in the eyes of God, we want to have done well.

So, we need to ask the question as it relates to church planting, “What is success for a church planter?” The answer might seem self-evident . . . planting a church. But do we really believe that planting a church, no matter how it is done, is success?

A series of articles over the next few pages examines the relationship between evangelism and church planting. Tim Keener reminds us that it is possible to have church planting without evangelism. While this might fulfill the objective of planting a church, it makes little impact on the culture, and does little to advance the Kingdom.

An article by Tim Awtrey describes evangelism without church planting. This approach threatens to short-circuit the discipleship process for new converts, and, if continued, brings into question the sustainability of individual life and cultural transformation.

The biblical model makes it clear that the growth of the Christian Faith is accomplished through a systematic plan of planting fellowships of believers [i.e. churches] all over the world

and among every people group. The relationship, then, between evangelism and church planting is clear. Church planting that advances the Kingdom and transforms cultures is done through evangelism.

Church planting describes the whole cycle from seed to maturity. People are called into God’s kingdom, grow, and multiply. Since these goals clearly align themselves with Scripture, we should look forward to God enabling us to be part of the process where churches come into being through evangelism, grow, and then duplicate themselves.

A marked difference exists between churches planted predominantly as a result of evangelistic efforts, and those that come into being and grow through transfer growth. At least six significant benefits can be found to churches built through the conversion process.

**It expands the Kingdom instead of rearranging it.** I recently met with Dennis Pethers, the founder of a ministry known as Viz-A-Viz based in Essex, England. Dennis came to Christ from

a family with no church history at all. Eventually, he went into the ministry and became pastor of a small church of 14 people. As a pastor, he made the decision to reject transfer membership; only those who had been converted as a result of the ministry of the church could receive membership. He acknowledged that this might not seem a good strategy for church growth. However, when the church went from 14 people to 70 (all through conversion growth) in just two years, it became evident his evangelistic ministry was truly expanding the Kingdom, not just rearranging chairs.

In his book *Stealing Sheep: The Church’s Hidden Problems of Transfer Growth*, Australian William Muehlenberg argues that transfer growth is wrong and should be discontinued. In

**People just looking for “another new church” are likely not to have or develop strong relationships.**

a nutshell, he contends that transfer growth gives a false view of the state of the Church; devalues evangelism; promotes individualism instead of body life; and detracts from the kingdom of God by exalting individual ministries.

**It avoids an early collection of the discontented.** Anywhere in the world that evangelical presence is found, an almost certain danger faces a church planter. As word circulates about the new church, eager believers almost always appear out of nowhere. Often, they seem to be just what the church

planter has been praying for—someone to help him start the church. Perhaps it would be good to ask, “If this is such a fine and talented Christian, why is it he is not already serving in another church?”

Often these individuals turn out to be akin to the group which gathered around David in 1 Samuel 22 when he was running from Saul: “And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him.”

Many times, they jump from church to church looking for a place where they can exert influence or fulfill their basic needs for enjoyment of activities, prestige, or power.

If the goal is simply to plant a church, a seductive appeal to accept anyone who comes and is willing to help is undeniable. “Those hasty resolves,” as Matthew Henry would say, “often make for a long and leisurely repentance.” This is far less likely to happen if a passion and strategy to reach the lost through evangelism is the focus from the beginning.

**New converts are energized.** As a general rule, new converts bring excitement rather than disillusionment. A new church filled with recent con-

verts is like an incubator. It is an ideal environment, suitable for the newborn as well as conducive for others to be born. A congregation made up of transfers can feel like a refrigerator where the frozen chosen continue to solidify.

**New converts generally are appreciative and loyal.** All of us remember those God used along our journey to faith. A life-long bond occurs for those who reached out and helped us understand the Truth. Scripture illustrates this in Paul’s farewell to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20. Strong churches are built on strong relationships and trust. In contrast, people just looking for “another new church” are likely not to have or develop strong relationships.

**New converts have connections to people who are lost.** One of the most exciting things about new converts is that, in most cases, their relationships have been predominantly, or even exclusively, outside the church. Evangelism is best accomplished through relationships. As new converts are disciplined, they experience a natural desire to share their faith through those networks of relationships.

**Those who have recently come to faith in Christ understand the value of being outwardly focused.** It is extremely easy for churches and individuals to become inwardly focused. This danger is present, of course, for believers who have recently come to faith in Christ. It is, however, far more likely for a church-hopper to be inwardly focused. Many times, they jump from church to

church looking for a place where they can exert influence or fulfill their basic needs for enjoyment of activities, prestige, or power.

On the other hand, the person who has just felt the load of sin removed is far more likely to exert his influence to encourage others to experience that same joy. This will be reflected in how he approaches prayer, and how he views personal and church financial priorities.

In *The Church on Purpose*, Joe S. Ellis says, “The church is both the product of God’s purpose [evangelism] and the means of achieving it. The church is divinely energized in order that it may accomplish its God-given purpose; and, conversely, it is divinely energized to the degree that it pursues that purpose.”

The gene pool from which a church is birthed will continue to influence its growth, development, and character as it moves forward. A church birthed by transfer memberships of disgruntled worshippers will draw like-minded people, and will lose them as they eventually transfer to newer works. But a church founded with new converts will continue to grow and to reach the lost.

So, what is success for a church planter? Planting a church through evangelism that results in the conversion of the lost! **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: James Forlines is director of Free Will Baptist International Missions. Learn more at [www.fwbgo.com](http://www.fwbgo.com).



# REPRODUCING CHURCHES

## *without* Reproducing Believers

BY TIM KEENER

**This may not come as a** surprise to someone with more horticultural experience than I, but recently I discovered an interesting fact about kiwi plants. Kiwi plants are either male or female, and it requires two plants to produce fruit, a male and a female. Of course, you can grow a single kiwi vine for landscaping or foliage, but without a mate, it is simply sterile.

Like planting kiwis, we can also plant individual churches without them necessarily being reproductive. As one Spanish pastor recently told me while sitting in a café outside of Madrid, “We cannot expect our churches to reproduce if believers are not reproducing themselves.”

How do we plant sterile churches? By missing the essential difference between growth and reproduction. We can get caught up growing in many

ways—attendance, giving, new programs, and even new churches being planted. Sadly, we can do it all without reaching unbelievers (reaching mainly the church), without equipping them to reproduce (the inability to share and argue their faith), and without giving churches the structure

**Too often, we see the church to be more of an end in itself rather than a means to a Kingdom end.**

they need to reproduce (by reinforcing patterns of behavior that are not conducive to reproduction).

But, why would we plant sterile churches? Too often, we see the church to be more of an end in itself rather

than a means to a Kingdom end. This frequently involves being preoccupied with traditions and forms that we culturally identify as “church,” and yet losing focus on the function of the church, which is to be a redemptive vehicle of change in the world.

When we see the church as a part of a larger Kingdom picture, I believe it changes the way we do church planting. The priority of expanding the Kingdom and sharing the gospel message naturally steers us, and the church is poised for reproduction—of both believers and of communities of faith. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Tim Keener recently became the regional director for Free Will Baptist Missions in Europe. To read more about Free Will Baptist Missions, visit [www.fwbgo.com](http://www.fwbgo.com).



# Evangelism Without Church Planting: The Example of Elza

BY TIM AWTRY

**Early one Saturday morning, as I walked down a lonely side street in a city of two million, I heard a voice call out, “Tim, Tim!”** Surprised, I turned to see Elza running toward me. Ten years earlier, Elza had become a follower of Jesus in a Bible study I helped lead as part of a college ministry in Bulgaria. I left the work to continue my education in the States and had not seen Elza in over six years. I immediately recalled, however, what an amazing musician Elza was, and how I always loved to hear her praise God.

We cut through the chitchat, and I asked her how she was doing. Elza knew I didn’t want to hear about the weather or her career; I wanted her to tell me about her relationship with Jesus. Unfortunately, I heard instead that this woman, who just a few years ago was praising God with her music, had drifted from the faith. She was not in church, had a non-Christian boyfriend and hadn’t written any praise music in years.

Pain and sadness burned inside of me. Weeds had choked out this beautiful flower of grace. I learned Elza’s hometown did not have a healthy church—not uncommon in Bulgaria—and a slow process of spiritual atrophy had ensued.

This scene with Elza repeated itself several times over during the next few weeks while I visited Bulgaria. Many men and women who had given their heart to Jesus as students later abandoned hope because, after graduating from university, they had no strong, local church in their hometown.

Something akin to rage developed in me that summer. I was truly angry. Furious that, because healthy churches did not exist, many like Elza would slowly fade away. It should not be! We need healthy, local churches to provide the community required for a person to follow Jesus.

It is extremely difficult to follow Jesus alone, especially in a culture that consistently demeans Christianity. Following Jesus in community, as an active part of a local church, provides discipleship and growth opportunities. I haven’t seen Elza since that day, but I made a promise to myself and to my Creator to do whatever it takes to prevent others from being like Elza for lack of a local church. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Tim and Lydia Awtry were appointed as missionaries to Bulgaria in 2006.

# NEWS

## around the world



**Alpedrete, Spain**—Three Ecuadorian believers were baptized Sunday, June 27, in Alpedrete, Spain. Each has lived in Spain for several years and has unsaved family members. They included a 16-year-old male, an 18-year-old wife and mother, and a 40-something mother. ■



**Svishtov, Bulgaria**—Four people publicized their acceptance of Jesus as Savior through baptism on June 5, in Svishtov, Bulgaria. The Danube River served as the baptistry for two men and two women. Family and friends enjoyed a picnic and fellowship on the river bank following the baptisms. ■



**Creative Access**—Workers in Central Asia and a CMP team worked in an English camp June 14-20. The theme, The Road of Life—One Way, impacted more than 150 college-age young people who are immersed in the ethnic religion of the area. ■



**Jaboticabal, Brazil**—The Evangelândia campground in Jaboticabal, Brazil, was the site of a leadership retreat June 3-5. About half of the Free Will Baptist churches in Brazil participated, sending a total of 50 people. ■



**Chame, Panama**—Paul and Chrissy Collins graduated from language school on August 15 in Costa Rica. The family moved to Chame, Panama, where they will assist Steve and Judy Lytle at the Bible institute. ■



**Montevideo, Uruguay**—Kendra Dodson began a bi-monthly Bible study on July 24 with two Uruguayan women. The ladies, one of Kendra's language teachers and her friend, do not know Christ, but will study the Gospel of John for the next several months. ■



**Alpedrete, Spain**—The church services in Alpedrete, Spain, have not experienced their usual summer slump as members take their annual vacations. In fact, visitors continue to come as well. July 26 included three unbelievers in the congregation of 41 attendees. ■

## Morgans Commissioned



**Turbeville, SC**—Neil and Mandi Morgan were commissioned for missionary service on Sunday, August 8, in their home church, Horse Branch FWB Church, in Turbeville, SC. Former board member and missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, Sherwood Lee delivered the message. James Forlines, general director of FWB International Missions, delivered the charge to the Morgans. The Morgans' pastor, Mike Edwards, and Carlisle Hanna, veteran missionary to India, led in commissioning prayers.

Eight days later, August 16, the family of four boarded a plane for Costa Rica. After several delays, the tired foursome arrived in Costa Rica in the early morning hours with all 28 suitcases safely in tow. "We were exhausted but overwhelmed by God's provision and protection," wrote Mandi. "We know that it is because so many of you were praying. Your prayers impact God's work around the world. Please continue to pray."

Neil and Mandi will study Spanish in Costa Rica for one year and then join the Dodsons, Lancasters, and Molly Barker in Uruguay. ■



## The Hanna Project Reorganized, New Project Announced

**Antioch, TN**—Joe Wilson began his role as stateside administrator for The Hanna Project on September 1, 2010. Founded in 2004 as a humanitarian and relief agency, The Hanna Project is a non-governmental organization known by many people as THP.

Wilson recently completed a 14-month assignment as special project coordinator for the Go10 Walk for the World, a unique youth initiative. Spanning 2,500 miles through 14 states, the Walk guided 1,800 individuals in 10-mile segments. They raised over \$600,000, with a matching gift of \$500,000. The total raised was over \$1.1 million.

Administrative director of The Hanna Project Clint Morgan said, “We believe Joe will bring the same enthusiasm and leadership to THP as he demonstrated with Go10, helping us expand our success.”

THP has completed projects in North Africa, West Africa, and Central Asia. Plans are to extend the reach of THP to Europe and Central and South America through upcoming projects. The agency identifies needs and focuses on medical, educational, and relief projects, sending teams of highly qualified, trained professionals to bring help, hope, and healing while working with in-country partners.

“I am excited about mobilizing hundreds, even thousands, of people in the U.S. to help change the lives of people around the world,” Wilson said of his new role. Wilson’s responsibilities include developing strategy with the administrative director; identifying and acquiring necessary resources; facilitating overseas projects; and recruiting and training leaders and teams. ■



**Nantes, France**—Throughout France, the first day of summer (June 21) is celebrated with open-air music festivals. The choir from the Nantes FWB Church has participated for several years. Sylvain led the group in both English and French songs that encouraged listeners to focus on Christ and the work He longs to do in lives. Many people stayed throughout the concert rather than moving on to hear another group or soloist. ■



**Alpedrete, Spain**—The Alpedrete congregation hosted Café y Algo Más (Coffee and Something More) June 13 at a local hotel. The event was planned by church members and garnered the largest attendance of any Café to date, with 71 people attending the main events and 41 children and seven caregivers in another room. Twenty-five non-believers were among those who enjoyed coffee and croissants, a short fashion show, music, and a talk about the problems adolescents face from a Christian perspective. ■



**Couëron, France**—The work in St. Couëron, France, is impacting the lives of college students. Not only are French youth influenced, but also students from around the world, specifically, from China. One Chinese student was baptized the end of May. Following the service another Chinese student accepted Christ as Savior. Since then Matt Price has begun an English Bible study for both Christian and seeking Chinese students. ■



**Belo Horizonte, Brazil**—The Belo Horizonte Church recently voted in a business meeting to place a plaque commemorating those who established the church. The plaque honors the work of Dave and Pat Franks, as well as recently retired missionaries Jim and Vicki Sturgill. ■



**Campinas, Brazil**—Pastor Lucas baptized six people at the First FWB Church in Campinas, Brazil, on July 12. One couple, Suely and Carlos, was baptized. Carlos, who has advanced cancer, accepted Christ at the beginning of 2010 and wanted to be baptized as soon as possible. Two other men and two women were also baptized. ■



**Tokyo, Japan**—Ruth McDonald recently began Good News Kids, an outreach to moms with preschoolers in the Good News Chapel area. The four-month trial program features English playtime with songs, games, activities, and crafts in each monthly hour-long session. ■

# FINDING GOD

*on Island Time*

BY STEPHEN BECK

## IT COULDN'T HAVE COME AT A WORSE

time...all of it. Charlotte Grace was moments away from being born, and the nurse and doctor had just informed us that it was time for lunch. "We'll be back in 30 minutes," they said. The room emptied, and my wife Rejyna and I transitioned to a holding pattern. Delivering another daughter was not on my to-do list.

The timing of a passing tropical depression, broken epidural pump, and power outage were all less than opportune. The hospital generator had kicked the power back on, but not the air conditioning. That meant we had an 82-degree delivery room with no airflow. I was sweating and had a hard time catching my breath, and I was not the one having a baby!

It was the beginning of September 2009 and the start of a new year at the Free Will Baptist Christian School in Saint Croix, US Virgin Islands. The school had seven new staff members and nearly 100 of the 317 students enrolled

were new. The increased enrollment was a specific answer to prayer. At the time, it was difficult to appreciate the blessings.

As a husband whose wife had been in the hospital for almost a week after complete bed rest for three months, as a father with four small children and one on the way, and as the administrator of a school with barely enough room to hold all the new students and staff, time was a commodity of which I had very little. Yet, I found myself waiting more than an hour for the doctor's 30-minute lunch break to conclude so we could return to the business at hand. Island time!

The unexpected knock at the door was not the doctor, but Ms. George, a lady from the Saint Croix FWB Church who had been in the hallway praying. Her brief visit reminded us that a vast number of churches, teachers, and students were lifting up our family, church, and school in prayer.

God had already used His people to answer prayers that I

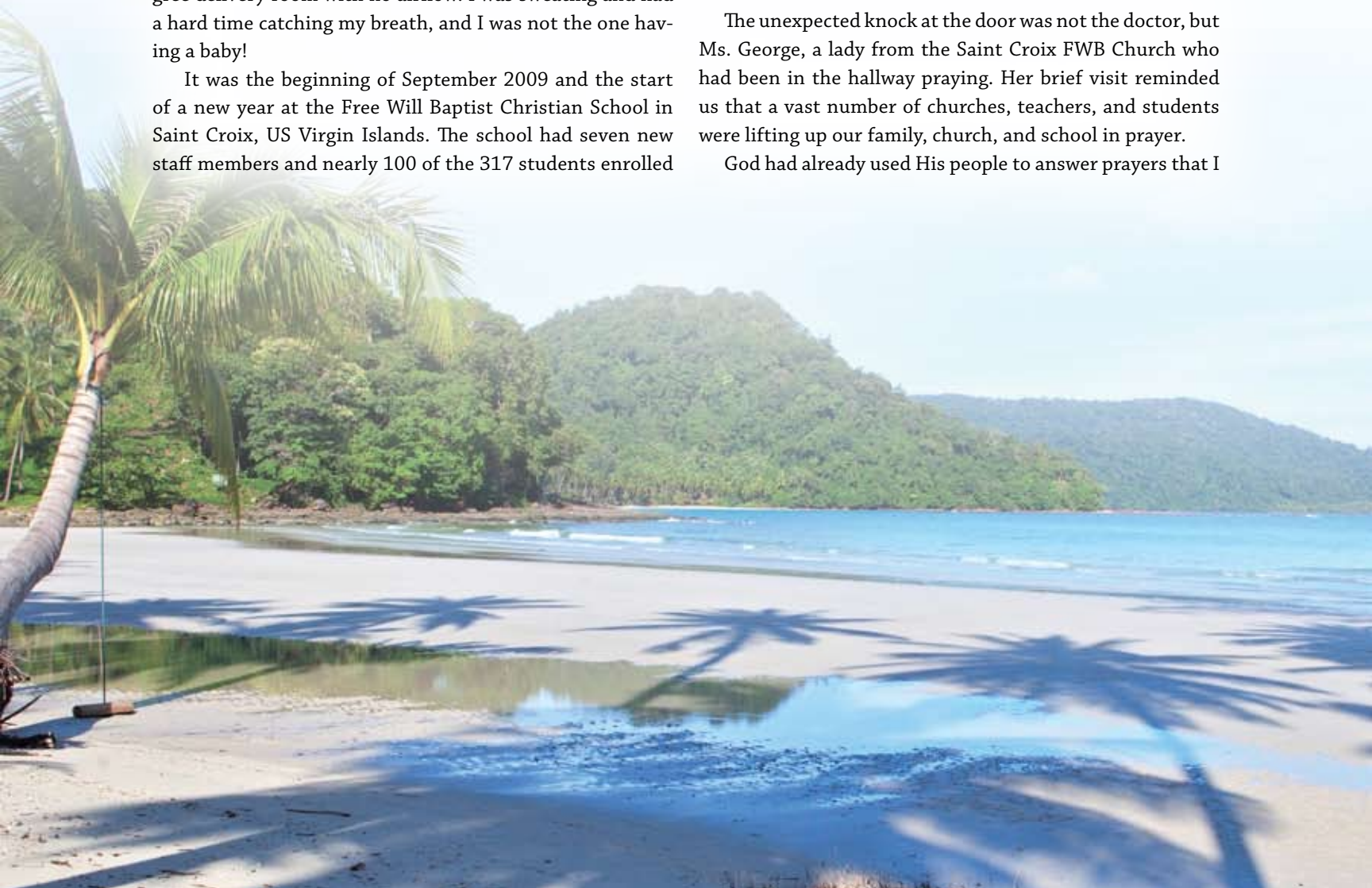




PHOTO: The campus of the Free Will Baptist church and Christian school sprawls across the hillside.

It is both challenging and encouraging to look back at the year that had begun so not according to plan and know that God was there through it all.

was not smart enough to pray (or maybe too busy). Ms. Jones, an elderly shut-in from the church, convinced her neighbors to bring us fresh vegetables twice a week. Pam Anis, former resident of the Virgin Islands now living in Arkansas, took a month off to come down and help.

On that day, God's answer to the prayers being lifted up on our behalf was a beautiful, healthy baby girl. God's blessing did not stop there but continued to spread throughout the church and school. During the school year, 22 middle and high school students accepted Christ as Savior. When an earthquake devastated the neighboring island of Haiti,

students and church members organized fundraising efforts that resulted in thousands of dollars in relief funds.

Reflecting back on the school year, many details of my life are blurry. What is clear is the unmistakable hand of God leading us through what felt like chaos. It is both challenging and encouraging to look back at the year that had begun so not according to plan and know that God was there through it all.

While there were bumps in the road (both literally and figuratively, like the time when an iguana got stuck in the wheel well of a teacher's car and caused a traffic jam in the school parking lot), the Lord has blessed and provided. I can't say that God is on island time, but our on-time God often has a different schedule than we do. Adapting to His schedule is not always comfortable, but it is always rewarding, and without a doubt, the best for us. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Stephen Beck is assistant pastor of The Free Will Baptist Church, St. Croix, USVI.





# CHURCH EXTENSION LOAN FUND

## Free Will Baptist Home Missions



Preparing to Build?

God has been good to Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Through His leadership and blessings, new churches are being established all across the United States, Mexico, Canada, and throughout the U.S. Territories. The burden of new churches, in many cases, is obtaining funds needed for building and expansion.

The Church Extension Load Fund issues loans to churches and organizations through an approved application process. As each loan is repaid, those funds are loaned to other churches to provide a perpetual source of funds.

The Church Extension Loan Fund of Free Will Baptist Home Missions is ready to help your church!



Planning to Buy?

- + Has your congregation outgrown its present facilities?
- + Does your church need a new fellowship hall?
- + Does your congregation need a multipurpose building designed for many activities?
- + Does your church need to remodel or expand its facilities?
- + Are you thinking of relocating into a new area of your city?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, the Church Extension Loan Fund (CELF) stands ready to assist your church with its financial needs.

Contact Director of Development David Crowe today for more information. Call the Home Missions office toll-free at 877-767-7674 or visit [www.homemissions.net](http://www.homemissions.net).



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# MARRIAGE AND FAMILY: The Number One Priority

BY LARRY A. POWELL

**GOD HAS CALLED OUR CHURCH PLANTERS TO A GREAT TASK. THEY ARE CALLED TO LEAVE THEIR HOMETOWNS, AND OFTEN THEIR HOME STATES, AND TRAVEL TO A DISTANT CITY OR REGION. THEY LEAVE FAMILY TIES FAR BEHIND. THESE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN LAY ASIDE PERSONAL AMBITIONS TO SHARE THE CROSS OF CHRIST AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS BY THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS. THEIR BURNING DESIRE IS, "SOULS FOR JESUS!"**

## ON MISSION, ON GUARD!

North American church planters dream of entering a city, digging out a congregation, and establishing a strong Free Will Baptist church. However, during "boot camp" training sessions and regional training sessions, the Home Missions staff continually emphasizes to our missionaries that their first responsibility is their marriage and their family.

We make it clear that if you lose your marriage, you lose your ministry! As a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, you must build great walls of protection around your home to guard against Satan's daily assaults.

## THE PRESSURE IS ON

From the moment a home missionary church planter signs a commitment until the day the new church reaches

self-supporting status, they are under pressure. They face a grueling itinerary, traveling thousands of miles from church to church, raising funds to support the new ministry.

This pressure increases when they arrive in a city where they know no one, secure a meeting place, and begin to win families to Christ. Then they face the struggle to buy land and buildings, establish themselves and the mission project legally, and develop plans for a new facility. Sadly, under the intense pressure of building a new church, marriage and family can suffer.

## PAY ATTENTION

We openly discuss the needs of marriage and family with home missionaries. Our staff members pray earnestly that God will build a hedge around their homes. We put tools into their hands that will help strengthen

their relationships with God and one another. It is our desire to provide materials that will yield encouragement and guidance.

I often remind them not to neglect one another or forget their own family in their desire to build a new church. We challenge them to treat their marriages as "the pearl of great price!"

## PRAYER VIGIL

Pastors who read this article will understand what a missionary and his family encounter because he faces these challenges as well. I encourage everyone to pray earnestly for our church planters in North America. They are doing a super job to win families to Jesus! Ask God to guard their families that they may continue to preach effectively the message of God's grace to North America. **ONE**



**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Larry A. Powell is general director of Free Will Baptist Home Missions. For more information about home missionaries or how to become a church planter yourself, visit [www.homemissions.net](http://www.homemissions.net).

# IMPACT for GENERATIONS

BY RICHARD ATWOOD



William Sturgill and the others who partnered together to plant a church created a godly heritage that has already affected four generations of my family alone!

**MY GRANDFATHER'S GRANDFATHER** fought in the Civil War. He returned to North Carolina after the war, married, and had a son named Richard Atwood—my great-grandfather. I am glad my great-great grandfather made it through the war alive, or I wouldn't be writing this article.

Recently, however, I discovered another heritage that has become quite important to me. Without this heritage, I wouldn't be writing this article. The picture to the left isn't my family. It's a picture of William Sturgill and his family. I found it in a book of history about Alleghany County, North Carolina. My family lived there when I was a boy, and it is the area where my father's family lived.

After I saw the picture, I quickly ordered the book from an online dealer. The reason I like the picture is the caption below it: Rev. Sturgill started the New Home Free Will Baptist Church in Piney Creek. He was the pastor there until he died in 1948.

Someone where my mother worked invited her to revival services at New Home FWB Church. She was saved at one of those services. Shortly after she was saved, we moved to Maryland

and began attending Mt. Calvary FWB Church where I was saved, along with my two brothers. We were the second generation of family members whose lives were impacted by Rev. Sturgill's church in North Carolina.

My two brothers and I have a total of nine children. The oldest is a missionary in Spain, and the youngest is on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ. All nine children accepted Christ as their Savior. That makes generation number three that was impacted by the New Home Church.

Now, my nieces and nephews are having children, raising them in church, and teaching them about God. That is four generations impacted for Christ because of one church that started years before my mother went there, by a man who has been in Heaven for some time.

William Sturgill and the others who partnered together to plant a church created a godly heritage that has already affected four generations of my family alone! I think all of us want to be a part of something that truly matters and really lasts. That is one reason I want to have a hand in starting new churches. **ONE**



**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Richard Atwood is director of missionary assistance for Free Will Baptist Home Missions. To learn more about becoming a church planter, visit [www.homemissions.net](http://www.homemissions.net).



# The Perfect MARRIAGE

BY SUSAN HENDERSON FUNKHOUSER

## ONCE UPON A TIME THERE LIVED

a ravishing beauty named Susan. With a 16-inch waist, flowing ebony locks that never turned frizzy on humid days, and an impeccable sense of style, she glided through her days blissfully, with her Perfect Prince at her side. In her wake, she left the faint scent of roses and a trail of jealous women who coveted her perfect figure, her frizz-free hair, her wardrobe and, of course, her prince.

One beautiful spring day Susan married her Perfect Prince. It was a perfect ceremony, with the perfect guests, the perfect music and, the perfect dress. They rode off into a perfect sunset where they lived out their days in luxury, high adventure, and romance. Princess Susan kept an immaculate castle, where she entertained those same jealous women and wowed them with her culinary capabilities and exquisite décor.

The Prince and Princess shared perfect love in perfect harmony. In short... they lived happily ever after.

Inspired by a few too many Disney princess movies (and an over-active imagination), I created this fantasy at 15 and clung to it tightly for the next 15

years. When I turned 30 as a still-single woman, however, I finally gave it up. It was probably for the best. My expectations of marriage were a little lofty. On December 5, 2009, when I repeated my vows to Brandon Funkhouser, I held absolutely no expectations. No, I was in shock.

In the past six months, I've discovered that the reality of marriage is far different than the fantasy. My days are filled with fairly equal amounts of work and play. My hubby and I both work at a local school. After the final bell rings, Brandon coaches YMCA soccer while I walk the dog. The vast majority of our free time is devoted to activities with our families. Most evenings find us sacked out on opposite ends of the couch, enjoying one of our favorite pastimes—dog scratching. Our Cavalier King Charles Spaniel goes nuts when we perform the “tandem pet.” We scratch like mad on either side of his back. His hind leg thumps, his tongue wags, and believe it or not, he grins!

When we entertain, we often order a pizza about 15 minutes before our guests arrive. Then I scurry around our not-so-immaculate apartment in a last-

ditch effort to remove the dust from the furniture. If God ever decides to create a new human race, we've got a great supply of dust, and He's welcome to it.

As for harmony, we've got it...Brandon's yelling is pitched exactly two octaves below my screeching. Most of our quarrels revolve around The Hat. I'm pretty sure Brandon was born wearing a hat. He never leaves home without one. When we first began life together, I invested in a coat and hat rack for the entryway. Much to my chagrin, Brandon prefers to leave his hat on the end table in the living room. Our lovers' spats begin in the pre-dawn hours, when I can't resist the urge to move The Hat to the hat rack. When Brandon arises, the fun begins. “Where's my hat? What did you do with my hat?”

“You know very well what I did with your hat. I hung it on the HAT rack!”

It's great fun.

Adventures? We've already had our share. Take for example, the day several weeks ago when the tornado siren blared in the wee hours of the morning. The electricity went off as we stumbled into our clothes, grabbed the dog, and headed to the car for a trip to the storm shelter. I pushed the garage door opener. Nothing happened. No electricity.

My heroic prince groaned as he manually raised the garage door, waited for me to back out, and closed the garage door behind us. Oh, the trauma! As I drove, we apprehensively scanned the clouds.

“It doesn't look that bad to me.”

“Hey, let’s go to Wal-Mart!”

Sadly, Wal-Mart’s power was also dead, and we returned home. I pushed the garage door opener. Nothing happened. Again. I looked at my prince. “Do you have a house key?”

“No. Do you?” We’re not at all dependent on technology! During our great adventure, the tornado we never saw flattened businesses only a few blocks away from our apartment complex.

Our nights find us sacked out on the comfy blue sheets Brandon picked out when we registered for wedding gifts—his only contribution to the list. I drift off to dreamland with a snoring Cavalier King Charles Spaniel at my feet, a snoring husband at my left side, a pair of neon orange earplugs in my ears, and a large bottle of Tums on the nightstand in case the pizza comes back to haunt me.

Please understand; I’m not complaining. I love my life. I am thrilled with marriage. It’s far better than anything I imagined, and it’s certainly superior to the Hollywood version. Real married life is perfect because it isn’t perfect. That phrase, “for better, for worse” implies there are equal parts of both, and there are. But I get to share both the good and the bad with my best friend. Burned suppers, dirty laundry, mood swings, and morning breath—we experience it all, together.

Now that I reflect on the marital visions of my youth I find them a little boring. Honestly, I can’t imagine living that life. Striving to appear perfect is exhausting and confining. It’s not me. It’s not my prince, either. Brandon and I

are real. We have faults, quirks, and bad habits. We’re human, and our marriage reflects it. We may not always live happily, but we do live.

It’s too bad society promotes such a ridiculous view of relationships. Movies, television, music, and literature create impossible dreams in little girls’ minds that lead to disappointment in young women, and all too often lead to failed marriages.

It’s equally sad to note that Christians sometimes promote unrealistic relationships, not with the opposite sex, but with God. We try so hard to show the world a picture of joy, peace, deliverance, and victory, and it’s true that people desperately need to know those blessings are available to them. Yet they also need to know about the valleys, temptations, doubts, and fears that accompany an honest life of faith; you know, that spiritual “dirty laundry” we try to hide from others.

In my early days as a Christian, I found myself surrounded by strong, vibrant, victorious believers for whom I am truly thankful. They blessed me in so many ways, but their perfect, unwavering faith was daunting to me. In my teens and early 20s I desperately needed someone who understood my questions, doubts, and struggles. I clearly remember sitting in a Bible study as a young adult while the people around me discussed God’s faithfulness. Believer after believer testified that although others failed them often, God had never let them down.

The leader looked me square in the eye and asked, “Susan, has God ever

disappointed you?” I wanted to say yes. I wanted to tell them that because of my complete faith in God’s ability to do anything, when He doesn’t answer my prayers the way I want, or when He chooses not to intervene, I feel disappointed, discouraged, and sometimes even angry. I wanted to tell them that although I know God’s plan is better than mine, I still feel let down.

I didn’t. I returned the leader’s steady gaze and lied. I didn’t want to disappoint those faithful people around me with my weakness. I spent the first 20 years of my Christian life wondering what was wrong with me, sometimes even doubting I knew God at all. Surely a “real” believer wouldn’t feel doubt, disappointment, and confusion.

In your own relationship with God, I encourage you to live honestly and transparently. Share not only your victories, but also your defeats. Don’t just share your faith; share your doubts. People won’t think you’re weak; they’ll know you’re human, and they’ll find reassurance for their own struggles.

My own relationship with God is the most beautiful, joyful, frustrating, confusing, maddeningly amazing relationship you can imagine. Life with Him isn’t always easy, and it’s far from perfect, but it’s my greatest treasure, and it is an adventure. As I grow older I have more questions than ever. I struggle with doubts, fears, and temptations. I sometimes find myself disappointed or frustrated with God. However, I wouldn’t trade the highs and lows, the joys and tears, the good times and the bad with my Best Friend. In this life, my relationship with God does not involve “happily ever after.” That comes later, and for now, that’s perfectly fine. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Susan Henderson Funkhouser is author of *And A Little Child Shall Lead Them*, a devotional book that draws upon her work with children at Purdy Elementary School in Purdy, MO.

**LIFE WITH HIM ISN'T ALWAYS EASY, AND IT'S FAR FROM PERFECT, BUT IT'S MY GREATEST TREASURE, AND IT IS AN ADVENTURE.**





How one family confronts a text-crazed culture.

# RAISING READERS

and **TEXT-FREE** Teens

BY REBECCA DEEL

## **I admit it. I'm addicted—to books.**

My fascination with words started early. Mom read books to me until I learned to read. Each Christmas I asked for books. No money? No problem. Mom drove me to the library. I left with an armload of books and returned the next week for more.

Books saw me through the rough waters of high school and the pulse-pounding rapids of Bible college. Mom and Dad slipped me spending money each month. Know what I bought? Books.

When a handsome, brown-eyed man from Virginia asked me to marry him, his reading skill concerned him. My amazing husband learned to read in the fourth grade. Reading deficiency dogged him through school. Elementa-

ry school teachers said his graduation from high school would be a miracle.

But Recardo believed the Lord called him to another path than the coal mines and proved his teachers wrong. He graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1989, determined that his children would not face the same reading challenges. My husband asked me to help him improve. Sometimes I wonder if he thinks I overdid the reading thing. Here's why.

## **READING AT HOME**

People of the Word must be people of words. In 2 Timothy 2:15, Paul writes that we must study to show ourselves approved unto God. Our first year of marriage, Recardo read me two pages from a devotional book for

couples every night. He spelled words he didn't recognize or sounded them out.

Within six months, reading came easier. After another six months, he began reading his Bible at lunch. Today, he leads the Master's Men group at our church, encouraging them to read the Bible.

When our sons were born, their bookshelves overflowed. Austin sat in our laps for hours, begging us to read until our voices gave out. Andrew, on the other hand, climbed down after 10 minutes unless we included sound effects.

**Be a Reader.** In order to raise readers, we had to be readers. Not a problem for me. I always have a book handy. My husband, however, thought he hated

reading fiction. Turns out he needed books that interested him. I married a real-life MacGyver who loves reading about gadgets and adventure.

Our home has 11 bookcases filled with fiction books, research materials, and Bible study resources. Though we enjoy an occasional burger, our favorite place is the local bookstore. Typical birthday and Christmas gifts are book cards. The boys mow yards to earn extra cash. Guess what they buy with most of the money? Books.

**Be an Author Fan.** We visit author websites and read author interviews. Our calendars show family birthdays, doctor appointments, and upcoming book release dates. We haunt used bookstores for copies of older books. We attend book signings when favorite authors come to town. While others mourn the loss of actors or musicians, we grieve over the loss of our favorite authors.

We count down the days to new book releases. My husband rolled his eyes when I handed him yet another book request, but he bravely stood in line to buy a hardback copy of a new book on the day it was released. Lest you think I am totally heartless, he drove two blocks to the store on his lunch hour.

**Be an Open Reader.** Encourage reading in several genres. I read a lot of mystery/suspense, but I have discovered new worlds in action and adventure.

## READING AT WORK

As an instructor at Free Will Baptist Bible College, I assign required reading. Occasionally, I stop a lecture and ask students what books they've read recently. In Business Communication, I require students to bring their favorite books to class for a readability index assignment. My co-workers and I read in our own disciplines as well as fiction. We share ideas and books

around the lunch table.

My husband recommends books to customers at the bank where he works. My sons carry fiction books to school. They read at lunch and during the commute. The boys and their friends discuss and swap books.

## READING AT CHURCH

As leaders in the men's and women's programs at church, Recardo and I share the names of study books we use with our groups. We mention titles during Sunday School theological discussions. Our church promotes reading by providing a library. Although most books in the church library are Christian fiction and Bible resource material, some Louis L'Amour Western novels also grace those shelves.

## TEXT-FREE HOME

While it's obvious my family and I are word people, we are not text people. We made a choice to be text-free. Why? Cell service is expensive and adding texting options would bankrupt our budget. We use pre-paid phones. Only family members have the phone numbers, and they know we don't text.

Another reason we choose to be text-free is we don't want our teen driver to answer a text while driving. We don't allow our son to talk on the phone while he's behind the steering wheel.

## TEXT-FREE SCHOOL

My college students estimate they send or receive more than 300 text messages each day. Some messages are important. Most aren't. Teachers and administrators at FWBBC have learned if they want a student to respond, send a text. Students feel compelled to answer.

My sons carry cell phones to school. However, by school policy, those phones can't be on or visible during

school hours. FWBBC personnel have the same approach. A familiar edict in our classrooms: "If I see your phone, it's mine." Phones are a distraction whether you text or talk.

## TEXT-FREE CHURCH

While texting might not seem as rude as talking on a phone during a church service, it's close. A distracted worshipper can't hear God's words. Texting distracts the pastor and the people around us. Texting during a service teaches children that our business is more important than God's business.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:19, Paul exhorts us not to quench the Spirit. Texting qualifies just as much as daydreaming or pulling on our coats during prayer. Here at FWBBC, the daily chapel services are a text-free and phone-free zone.

God doesn't send text messages. He sent us His Word and calls pastors to guide His flock with words from the Bible. If we text during the service, we miss God's message.

## ARE YOU GAME?

Ready to swim against the culture stream? Will you buck the trend? I dare you! Turn off the phone and open a book. It all starts with one person—you.

Free Will Baptist Bible College was called into existence in 1942 and handed a mandate to educate Christian workers to serve Christ and His Church. The college embraced that mandate, but we can't do it alone. Raising readers and text-free teens begins at home. We need your help to graduate tech-savvy young people who aren't controlled by technology. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Rebecca Deel teaches in the Business Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College. She is a member of LaVergne Free Will Baptist Church (TN) where she serves as pianist and leads a Bible study for the local Women Active for Christ.

# FORUM11

Preaching the Word,  
Renewing the Family

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Grace Family Baptist Church

**Curt Gwartney** Youth Pastor,  
Locust Grove Free Will Baptist Church

**Garnett Reid** Professor,  
Free Will Baptist Bible College

**Haddon Robinson** Professor,  
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

**Charles Thigpen** Former President,  
Free Will Baptist Bible College

**and others!**

A Conference for youth workers, students, and church leaders, **FORUM11** is sponsored and hosted by Free Will Baptist Bible College. The two-day event will take place **March 7-8, 2011**, in conjunction with the annual Bible Conference, **March 6-9, 2011**.



Register today: [www.fwbbc.edu/forum11](http://www.fwbbc.edu/forum11)  
[ FORUM11 is free. No registration charge. ]



# Dr. Mary and the Cherubim

BY GARNETT REID

## “Good morning, cherubs!” That was how Miss Coling greeted

her fourth-grade class at Clemmons School every morning. I had no idea what a “cherub” was back then, but I assumed it was a good thing since we were such loveable kids! Since then, though, I’ve wondered if she was just speaking with her tongue firmly planted in her cheek.

At some point, I looked up the word and found that “cherub” had something to do with angels—which definitely did not fit me in the fourth grade—or with those chubby, round-faced winged kids flying around in old paintings, which I hoped did not fit me in fourth grade.



## The Good Doctor’s Question

Fast-forward to a few months ago when my former teacher and good friend Dr. Mary Wisheart asked casually, “What do you think about the cherubim? Were they angels?” I have put off the answer long enough—far too long, actually. This response is much more brief than the subject merits, but it’ll have to do for now, Dr. Mary.

In short, yes, I suspect cherubim are among the angelic hosts, though they are never actually called “angels.” The word “cherubim” shows up 90 times in the Old Testament. It’s a Hebrew term, plural in form (so you shouldn’t say cherubims). Most uses occur in Exodus, 1 Kings, 2 Chronicles, and Ezekiel. The contexts in which they

are used give us important clues to the significance of Cherubim.

## Sentries in the Lord’s Presence

We find them first in Genesis 3:24 when God stationed them east of Eden, sentries guarding His glorious presence from human sin. Exodus 25 and 37 describe two golden cherubic forms overshadowing the dwelling presence of the Lord atop the mercy seat in the Most Holy Place. Later, descriptions of Solomon’s temple furnishings in 1 Kings and 2 Chronicles feature 15-foot tall cherubim within the inner sanctuary guarding the entrance, carved cherubim adorning the paneled walls and the bronze laver stands, and embroidered cherubim woven into the temple veil. Once more they stand guard before the great God.

Perhaps most revealing, however, is Ezekiel’s sighting of the cherubim as God’s glory departs Solomon’s temple (Ezekiel 10). In two important references (verses 15, 20) the prophet says that the cherubim were the four living creatures he saw in his vision of the wheels in chapter one. Once more, they accompany God’s presence or glory. On that particular occasion, He was accompanying His people to Babylon.

These four “living creatures” are likely the same ones John saw in Revelation 4:6-11. As with the cherubim in Ezekiel, these beings occupy themselves with God’s glory: “The four living creatures . . . day and night never cease to say, ‘Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty . . . [T]he living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated upon the throne . . .’” (Revelation 4:8-9).

## A Close-Up of Glory

Based on the clues in Scripture, it is a fair conclusion that all cherubim and seraphim are angels, but not all angels belong to those two groups. Angels do many things. Though they are created, and they worship the Lord and serve His people (Psalm 148:2; Luke 2:14; Hebrews 1:6, 14).

Cherubim, it would seem, perform a unique role in the praise gathering of the heavenly hosts in a world our eyes can’t yet see. They form an inner circle of exalted worship, witnessing as no other created beings in the universe the pure radiance of God’s presence. They have a front row view of His infinite perfections and ward off any impure intruder who might sully His beauty.

Because God displays His glory throughout the universe, every living being owes Him worship (Psalm 19:1; 150:6; Isaiah 48:11). In the realm of spirit, a world we rarely glimpse—and even then dimly—living creatures of the highest order adore Him and attend His presence with supreme praise.

Yet we know something of God’s glory they do not! We delight in that glory displayed in the arena of grace, seen in the face of Jesus Christ who has washed us in His own blood. We now live as redeemed beings to the praise of His glory, and not even the cherubim can make that claim. **ONE**

## NEWS at FWBBC

### Allan Crowson to Direct Online Studies

**MR. ALLAN CROWSON** has been named director of online and lifetime learning studies at Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to Dr. Greg Ketteman, provost. He replaces Rusty Campbell who accepted a post as director of enrollment services this spring.

“What a blessing to have Allan Crowson join our team as director of the online and lifetime learning programs,” Dr. Ketteman said. “He has a unique combination of ministry experience, extensive technological training and experience, and a keen intellect, coupled with a love for Jesus Christ and the mission of Free Will Baptist Bible College.”

Mr. Crowson began his new duties June 14. He is responsible for developing and managing current online/lifetime learning courses, and will also market and expand the program. He brings almost 20 years of experience as a Free Will Baptist international missionary in Africa and France, in addition to 14 years as a senior manager with Nortel, a telecommunications corporation.

The 58-year-old minister is a 1973 FWBBC graduate. He completed an MBA at Lipscomb University in 2004. A published journalist and photographer, he has written poetry and songs, as well as children’s stories. He is an adult curriculum writer for Randall House.

Ordained in 1975, Crowson has a long history with FWBBC. His father Milton graduated in 1960 and taught at the college. His wife LaRue (1974) and all three children graduated from FWBBC: Timothy (1999), Bethany (2001), and Natalie (2003). His grandfather (mother’s side) attended the 1935 organizational meeting of the National Association of Free Will Baptists that voted to start FWBBC. ■



### Amy Walker to Coach FWBBC Volleyball

**MRS. AMY WALKER** has been named women’s volleyball coach at Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to Athletic Director Gary Turner. Mrs. Walker, a 2003 Elementary Education graduate at FWBBC, began her duties with the 2010 fall semester.

Mr. Turner said, “We are fortunate to have Amy Walker on staff. She has a solid volleyball background and understands the mission of FWBBC. She will provide energy and strong leadership for our young women. In five of her six years as head JV coach at Donelson Christian Academy, Mrs. Walker’s teams went undefeated in district play and won the district championship three times.”

A native of Topeka, Kansas, Amy Brewer Walker was a four-year member of the Lady Flames basketball team while a student at FWBBC. She served on the *Lumen* staff three years, and was editor one year. In 2003, she was named “Best All-Around” student and was also named to *Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.

Amy and her husband Mike are members of Cofer’s Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville. ■

## FWBCC to Launch Name Change Feasibility Study

**THE FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE BOARD** of Trustees authorized the administration to conduct a feasibility study that could result in a name change for the 68-year-old institution by 2012, according to President Matt Pinson.

“This is an important study for the college,” Pinson said. “We are moving steadily toward relocation to a new campus on a choice 66-acre site in nearby Gallatin. Denominational constituents as well as the educational community understand that FWBCC has expanded its academic offerings dramatically from the early years. While we will always maintain our focus on ministry and missionary preparation, the college now offers more than 40 fields of study, a dream that was not possible in 1942. Our strategic plan calls for further expansion and the addition of graduate programs in fields such as theology and education. This feasibility study will help us determine if it’s time to consider a name change that reflects the broader curriculum.”

Trustees voted unanimously in May 2010 to launch the name change feasibility study. This marks the second time in five years that the Board has authorized a far-reaching study. A similar vote in December 2005 resulted in a 2006 study that prompted Trustees to authorize relocating the college.

Administrators have begun assembling the necessary data to develop a feasibility study. They plan to consult with two professional consulting firms that currently work with the college—the A Group and Dickerson and Associates—to ensure a high quality study.

If the study indicates the feasibility of an institutional name change, results will be presented to delegates at the 2011 Free Will Baptist national convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, along with a recommended name change and a motion to lay the proposal on the table for one year. Delegates to the 2012 national convention in Memphis, Tennessee, would then be asked to approve the change.

President Pinson said, “This is a crucial time for Free Will Baptist higher education. In a climate of shifting economics and technological change, we must find new ways to meet educational needs of Free Will Baptist churches and students. We remain committed to our Christian mission, to our Free Will Baptist theological vision, and to a Bible college philosophy of education in which every student majors in Bible, while at the same time reaching more students who are serious about Christian living, leadership, and service.” ■

## FWBCC Students Minister in India



Photo: (L) Shawn Richards, Nathan Franks, Josh Provow, Katie Peterson.

### FOUR MISSIONS TRACK

students from Free Will Baptist Bible College traveled to South India in May to get a first-hand view of a different culture and to fulfill their practicum, according to Ron

Callaway, missions program coordinator, who accompanied the group. Josh Provow (Missouri), Shawn Richards (Tennessee), Katie Peterson (Florida) and Nathan Franks (Alabama) spent 10 days ministering near the city of Coonoor (at 6,000+ feet), then moved down to the plains for a week where temperatures soared over 100 degrees.

“The pastors and Free Will Baptist Christians welcomed and honored us,” Mr. Callaway said. “Friendships were formed that will continue to grow. The students returned with several important prayer requests and a determination to help support a home for orphans in one of the churches.”

The group was hosted by the South Indian Free Will Baptist Association under the supervision of FWBIM mission representative Pastor David RajKumar and Pastor D. Stanley RajKumar of the Hanna Free Will Baptist Church and director of the Volena Wilson Bible Institute. The Indian Christians walked the students through cultural studies concerning Hinduism, Indian family values, Indian ethical values, evangelistic practices, Indian government, dress, and culture.

In addition to preaching as well as and sharing in youth and children’s services, the students participated in several cultural events. They visited a Karumba tribal village and a home for the blind, deaf, and handicapped Indians operated by Christians. A principal part of the study course involved interaction with people in the Indian culture. Because of their American appearance, the students had numerous opportunities to converse and communicate.

The students landed in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, on May 19 after a 30-hour trip to a time zone more than 10 hours ahead of Nashville’s CST. They returned to the States on June 11 following a three-week baptism in a different worldview and culture. ■

## FWBBC Hosts GO10 Celebration

**NEARLY 200 PEOPLE GATHERED ON THE FRONT LAWN** of Davidson Hall at Free Will Baptist Bible College Saturday afternoon, June 19, for a cookout and a live gospel bluegrass concert as FWBBC hosted a GO10 Walk for the World event. Sporting tennis shoes and bright T-shirts, GO10 walkers pushed through 93-degree temperatures marching the final mile of the day from Nashville's Centennial Park to the tree-shaded FWBBC campus.

Following the hour-long cookout and fellowship time, everyone moved inside Memorial Auditorium at 4:00 p.m. for a rousing 50-minute program that included three standing ovations. GO10 project director Joe Wilson told attendees that the 2,500-mile march which started in Glennville, Georgia, in April had 1,000 miles to go, and that the event had already raised \$355,000 for International Missions.

doed with high notes and timpani rolls, the congregation in Memorial Auditorium rose in spontaneous ovation.

The program moved quickly to a dramatic presentation, featuring a recitation by Dr. Mary Wisheart, former WNAC executive secretary-treasurer and English professor at FWBBC, who portrayed Laura Belle Barnard describing her decision to become a missionary, her ministry in India, and her years as a missions instructor at FWBBC. The presentation, under the direction of AnnaGee Harris (FWBBC drama director), brought laughter and tears from the audience, and was accompanied by a verbal summary of Free Will Baptist history that climaxed with a second standing ovation.

James Forlines, general director of Free Will Baptist International Missions, thanked FWBBC for hosting the event and recognized Joe Wilson for his leadership in the GO10 project. The third

standing ovation came as Forlines described the hard work and commitment that Wilson had given the GO10 Walk for the World celebration.

"We will not forget," Forlines promised to all who answer the call to missions. More than 350 missionaries have followed in Laura Belle Barnard's footsteps. Forlines spoke of Miss Barnard's dynamic prayer life and her dedication to world missions even after she retired and returned to Georgia.

In his closing remarks, President Matt Pinson reminded the

celebration participants: "Free Will Baptist Bible College is committed to the Great Commission. God did use Laura Belle Barnard, and He continues to use people like her today. We thank God for Free Will Baptist International Missions and for the part that FWBBC has played in educating and preparing missionaries to serve around the world." ■

**PHOTO: The Alumni Choir sings "Go Into All the World."**



A 22-voice Alumni Choir, accompanied by a 10-piece orchestra, sang "Go Into All the World," an anthem recognizing the legacy of Laura Belle Barnard and others in world missions outreach, written and directed by Dr. James Stevens, chairman of the FWBBC Music Department. This marked the first time the song had been sung publicly. As the choir and orchestra crescen-

# BROWN

on green BY DAVID BROWN

## Dump the Debt

### WE ARE COMMANDED BY THE GREAT COMMISSION

to reach Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth. Some will go; others will train those who are going. We all should pray and provide funding. Nations around the world are responding to the Gospel, and many fields are themselves sending missionaries to other unreached people groups. However, Christians in the United States will continue to play a major role in financing global evangelism because they have the largest gross financial capacity.

Unfortunately, many believers have been caught up in the consumerism that drives our economy. Because of this, many who wish to give generously do not have the capacity as a result of poor credit choices. Their debt load does not allow them to give as much as they would like.

Getting out of debt is not easy, but it is possible. The first step is to establish an emergency fund and stop using credit cards unless you pay them off every month. Using the emergency fund keeps you from using credit cards for unexpected expenses. Developing a plan to pay off credit cards is a major first step to becoming debt free.

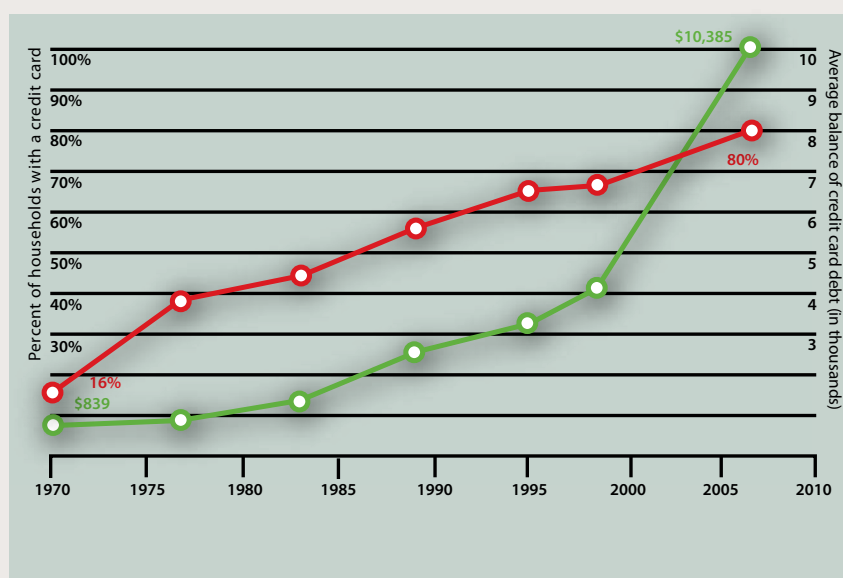
Most financial planners suggest you concentrate your efforts on one card. Use all your spare cash each month to pay down that card. When it has been paid off, move to the next one, using not only your spare cash but also the minimum payment you had been paying on the first card. Keep repeating this procedure, adding the minimum payments of each new card to the next debt.

This “snowball” affect allows you to prog-

ress quickly toward your goal of being debt free. Financial planners differ on how to start. Some say you should start with the credit card that has the highest interest rate so you save the most interest. Others say it is best to start with the card with the largest balance so that you can see a large minimum payment eliminated. Still others believe you should start with the smallest balance because you need to experience a quick victory—that getting out of debt is as much psychology as it is math. You need to know you are making progress which will encourage you to continue.

We have a long ways to go before we reach the lost in North America and around the world. All Christians need to increase their giving capacity, so start dumping the debt today! **ONE**

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



# Closer Than We've Ever Been

By D. Ray Lewis

Retirement is one of the most important life events many of us will ever experience. It can be the most enjoyable and productive time of our lives—with the right preparation.

To some, retirement is the end of a journey. To others, it is the beginning of a new and exciting chapter of their lives. People come to retirement with different hopes, plans, and dreams, all of which require planning.

Many people envision retirement to be the golden years, a time when they can do all the things they did not have time for when working a full-time job. They envision days spent fishing on the lake, day after day on the golf course, visiting grandchildren, the freedom to travel to new places, and time and resources to go on short-term mis-

sion trips with International or North American Missions programs, or time just to kick back and relax.

Retirement planning involves more than the amount of money you need to have when you retire. Consider a better test. Will you be in a financial position to do the things you've envisioned for retirement? You can't just pick an age to retire and walk off into the sunset expecting to see retirement dreams fulfilled.

The best time to start planning for retirement is while you're young, but it's never too late to start. If you are

past the age most people consider young, just start where you are now. The important thing is to start as early as possible and stick to your plan. I tell people everywhere I go, "Having something set aside for retirement is better than having nothing."

I still talk to people who say they don't plan to retire. Many of them have reached middle age. They are in good health and feel like they could work forever. But will they feel the same way when they reach their 60s, 70s, or 80s? Many times, the decision to retire is made for us, whether retirement is



## If we make proper preparation, we will be free to do whatever God has for us during this new stage in our life.

in our plans or not. Some people are forced to retire as a result of health reasons. Others have to retire because their church or employer is looking for someone younger.

It is better to save now, even if you don't ever plan to retire, than to reach retirement and have no savings. We need a big enough nest egg in case we can't work in our later years because our body or our employer won't let us.

Regardless of whether or not we continue to work after reaching retirement age, why not be prepared finan-

cially? If we make proper preparation, we will be free to do whatever God has for us during this new stage in our life. Retirement is not an ending or a termination from serving the Lord. It is a transitional passage, the beginning of new adventures and new directions.

If you are employed by a Free Will Baptist church or agency, I invite you to contact our office today. Let us help you develop a plan for your retirement. Retirement planning is a personal process, not a one-size-fits-all plan. Your retirement plan should be based on your vision, your hopes, and yes, your

financial situation. We want to help you realize your dreams.

Every Free Will Baptist Church should consider contributing to the pastor's retirement plan. Show him you care about his future needs as well as his present ones.

All of us are closer to retirement than we've ever been. It can be the most exciting and fulfilling time of your life. It just takes planning. **ONE**

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

## Now Over 50 Years, Thanks to Oklahoma

By Dr. N. R. Smith

In the late 1950s the Sunday School Board of the National Association of Free Will Baptists began to provide lessons or *literature* as it was called then. After losing over \$20,000 in one year, the board resigned. Stan Mooneyham, national executive secretary, assumed the duties of general director for the Sunday School and worked to reduce the debt by several thousand dollars.

Recognizing theological differences in other sources, the Oklahoma Sunday School Board produced a Free Will Baptist Sunday School literature. Under the direction of E. M. Kennedy, Dr. N. R. Smith, and Earnest Harrison Sr., the program built up a solid customer base and materials. Oklahoma offered to transition the program back to Nashville should the National decide to take it on again.

After a couple of years, the National Association of Free Will Baptists was ready to relaunch the Sunday School literature program. Representatives from the National Sunday School Board met with Oklahoma expecting a quick handoff, but they failed to understand lead times, dead-

lines, and contractual obligations. A second joint meeting occurred in Oklahoma along with national moderator Dr. Charles Thigpen, and a smooth transitional timeline was reached. It honored writers' and printing contracts and allowed new ones to be set up for the future.

Dr. N. R. Smith served as an ex-officio member of the new National Sunday School Board to insure a smooth transition. The minutes of the National Association in July 1962 record the following: "The report of the SS Board presented by Rev. Roger Reeds was adopted with the following: 'with commendation to the Oklahoma State Association of FWB for the gift of their literature program to the National Association and urging all FWB churches to purchase their literature from the National Sunday School Board.'" In October of that same year, the Oklahoma Sunday School report stated, "We were able to give to the National SS Board a preserved FWB literature program, and we know that you will give the National SS Board the same cooperation you gave us."





# HOME MISSIONS *of Another Sort*

By Norma Jackson Goldman

THIS ISSUE OF ONE MAGAZINE CENTERS ON A TOPIC THAT IS FUNDAMENTAL TO A BELIEVER'S FAITH WALK—HOME MISSIONS. Picture in your mind's eye a pebble cast into a lake, with ripples moving out in ever-widening circles. This is a beautiful picture of home missions, of the love of God, and of the influence of people of faith.

You likely are among those believers who have contributed to home missions financially, donated your time, or participated enthusiastically in efforts to share the Gospel with a needy, hurting community.

But "home" missions has another face—perhaps less glamorous but no less urgent—the care of elderly or infirm family members.

My cousin Alice and her husband had great plans for retirement, including the purchase of a large motor home and a list of exciting destinations to visit. They were going to fish, explore, relax, and enjoy each other's company to celebrate the end of more than 60 years of work life. No more alarm clocks, congested interstates, and late nights away from home, or so they thought.

Alice's widowed mother had lived with them for many years, contributing greatly to the care of their home, meal preparation, and family outings. As her health became fragile, she could no longer perform these tasks, let alone leave the house for extended periods. Instead of giving care, she required care. As a result, travel plans were postponed.

As she neared retirement, my friend Peggy purchased a smaller home. She planned to decorate, buy new furniture, and garden at her leisure. She now spends all but a few days each month caring for her mother in a city almost 200 miles away. Friends see to her mail, her yard, and her home during her long absences. Decorating, new furniture, and leisure gardening will have to wait.



My friend Tom's father lives in Houston. Recently, he has fallen several times, requiring Tom to make repeated trips to help him. Tom is struggling with the painful transition to making decisions regarding the parent's care. And so it goes.

In each of these situations, adult children have gladly assumed responsibility for their parents, following Jesus' example in providing for His own mother. To love, care for, and protect those who can no longer care for themselves is a beautiful picture of ministry. The early church set aside choice servants to minister to such needs, freeing others to do the work of evangelism.

These New Testament believers would "come alongside" another in ministry. Such individuals greatly

lightened the load of others who were living out their calling through preaching and church planting.

The same remains true today when friends or family members come alongside caregivers, mercifully providing a brief respite from the hard work of

providing care. Such people truly are gifts from God, allowing caregivers to rest and refresh themselves.

Unless you've experienced it firsthand, it is difficult to grasp just how tiring it can be to care constantly for a loved one, and how essential it is to have periods of rest and rejuvenation.

Peggy often recounts hilarious tales

of her experiences in taking her mother out for brief adventures. She laughs as she tells of repeating the same answers to the same questions as many as 20 times during the course of a morning! The point is that she has consciously chosen to minister (yes, minister) in

this way so her mother enjoys life to the greatest extent possible.

When home care is no longer an option, there will still be opportunities for sacrificial ministry, and personal plans might even be put on hold. But the love of Christ will be preached eloquently every day through the "sermons lived" by a faithful caregiver. **ONE**

TO LOVE, CARE FOR, AND PROTECT THOSE WHO CAN NO LONGER CARE FOR THEMSELVES IS A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF MINISTRY.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman enjoys a successful freelance career in her retirement. The award-winning writer lives near Nashville, TN.

# King David made it possible...

**King David paved the way for Solomon to build the Temple.** He gathered finished stone, large amounts of iron and bronze, and innumerable cedar logs from every corner of the known world. And Solomon's Temple was magnificent! The question is...Will you help the next generation do **something magnificent** for God?

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# MULES

## and CADILLACS

By Bill Evans as Told to Brenda Evans

### *A ravine divided east from west in*

the North Texas town, but it separated more than geography. The east side was a lower-class community; the west was middle-to-upper-class. The east was dotted with modest white, beige, or green homes, modular units, and house trailers set on rectangular tracts of dusty soil. The west sprawled around low hills patched here and there with ranch-style houses set on irrigated green lawns, concrete driveways lined with flowers or shrubs.

I had two visits to make in the town—one on either side of the ravine. I had no idea that I was about to learn three important lessons on that hot summer day in 1983. I was new, really new, to the business of fundraising for Christian ministries. I didn't yet know that you don't learn everything you really need to know from a telephone conversation.

I had decided, based on those phone calls, that the two visits would be duplicates—what fit one would fit the other, so to speak. After all, these were both widows in their 70s who wanted to support the ministry where I worked. They went to the same church and had the same vision for world evangelism. This would be simple, a one-size-fits-all kind of thing.

Maud and her mule Bill were eastsiders. I visited them first. Maud had a horse trailer (or in this case a mule trailer) hitched to her short camper truck when I arrived because she and Bill were headed out for a three-day trail ride early the next morning. Maud was a tall, big-boned, rangy woman in her early 70s, single all her life and not looking for a husband. Though not pretty, she had a pleasant outdoorsy look and, above all, she was an avid trail rider. Next to the Lord, Bill the mule and trailriding were her highest pursuits, she affirmed.

"I tried horseback riding, but horses are too high-strung and nervous. When somebody said I should try a riding mule, I found Bill and that was that. He is graceful, obedient, and surefooted—nothing like a horse. Plus he is big, strong, and beautiful." She grinned at me on the "beautiful" part.

"He is smart, too, much smarter than any horse I know, and most of all he's smooth-gaited," she added, just in case I was skeptical about her other accolades for all things mulish. I was convinced.

In addition to her devotion to Bill, Maud was a fixer, someone who could take care of herself and others. Attached to her house trailer was a metal-roofed carport for her camper truck and beyond that a small free-standing outbuilding with its doors wide open—a small, but magnificently organized workroom, the center of which was a tall, six by three-foot red Sears tool chest, every drawer and shelf lined with home repair tools and equipment.





## **WHETHER I AM AN EASTSIDER OR A WESTSIDER IS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS WHERE MY HEART IS, FOR WHERE MY HEART IS, MY MONEY WILL FOLLOW.**

“I can do about anything around here,” she said, pointing to her supply of tools and implements. “I know I’m not going to live forever, so I try to keep things in order, including my money. Come on in, and I’ll tell you what I think I want to do for the Lord’s work.”

We sipped iced tea at her kitchen table and went over her options for making final financial plans. She already gave a monthly donation to our organization, but she had to be frugal since her retirement income was small. At her death, however, she wanted all of her assets to go to our ministry. Before I left, she decided on a revocable trust that gave her immediate income plus unlimited access to her money.

Then, at her death, any residue would go to the ministry.

Across the ravine on the west side of town, the widow Ava, likewise in her 70s, was what I would call a lady. By that I mean dainty, refined, and a lover of beauty. Her home was not palatial, but quite lovely and comfortable with fine walnut and mahogany furniture and a Cadillac in the attached double garage. She had two married daughters.

Financially, Ava had abundance. Frugality was neither a necessity nor a practice. She and her husband had been ranchers in their early days, and after selling out before his death, they moved to the west side. Ava was gracious and decorous. Her home was her refuge, a place of balance, symmetry and beauty that was restorative and comforting. She commented on the pleasure she received from her collectibles like the Hummel figurines strategically arranged here and there, spotlighted to show their best features and beauty.

Ava was financially sophisticated, savvy, and articulate about what she wanted to accomplish with her financial resources. In the end, she established an irrevocable charitable remainder trust. The plan would be set in stone, so to speak, since it could not be revoked. It would also give her a steady income for life and, at her death, benefit the ministry with a substantial gift—a gift that was only a part of her estate because she wanted to leave some assets to her daughters.

I liked Ava and Maud. Both were good Christian women who loved the Lord and His work. They lived in the same North Texas town, went to the same church, shared the same concern about stewardship, and both had a vision for world evangelism and their roles in it.

But the similarities ended there. One was an outdoorsman who could also fix the plumbing; the other a gentlewoman who would *call* a plumber. One rode a mule, the other drove a Cadillac. They moved in different circles of friends, lifestyles, and each had a unique financial need as a result of God’s leading.

That day I learned three valuable lessons I’ve never forgotten. First, in giving and financial planning one size does *not* fit all. Second, whether I am an eastsider or a westsider is not as important as where my heart is, for where my heart is, my money will follow. Third, stewardship of the financial resources God has put into my hands involves making plans for both now and the future. I must purposefully plan ahead, as Maud and Ava did, to faithfully take care of both.

And that’s what a mule and a Cadillac taught me one hot summer day in North Texas. **ONE**

Four Free Will Baptist Bible College students help build a wall in Haiti's voodoo capital.

# WHERE SATAN DWELLS!

BY JOHN MURRAY

**“MR. TURNER, I WANT YOU TO COME** to my house tomorrow night with your tape recorder.” Missionary Richard Turner went to the noted hit man’s house, hid with his recorder as requested, and listened in astonishment as a church representative offered the hit man \$10,000 to kill Turner or his Haitian assistant and translator, knowing that the death of either man would greatly hinder the expansion of Mountain Faith Mission. The recording was used to confront the church and oust the corrupt leadership.

Turner said, “I don’t know why a hit man would love me, but he does.” With an orphanage and 17 churches pastored by Haitians, the Mountain Faith Mission is growing in spite of opposition, corruption, and spiritual darkness.

## Road to Saut D’eau

But let’s go back to the beginning. Master’s Men director Ken Akers described Haiti’s needs in chapel last spring at Free Will Baptist Bible College following the devastating January 12 earthquake. When I asked if we could send a group of students to Haiti to help in recovery efforts, he mentioned rebuilding a boys’ dorm for the orphanage at Mountain Faith Mission.

I asked for student volunteers, promising only heat, blood, sweat, and tears. Four brave souls volunteered: Tim Clements (North Carolina), Kevin Emberg (Alabama), Robin-Lynn Bogart (Michigan), and Morgan Fite (my

granddaughter from Tennessee). Four men from Tennessee and one from Arkansas joined us. We departed from Nashville Monday, May 17, at 6:00 a.m. and landed a few hours later in an extremely hot Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Fourteen of us boarded a waiting van for the 45-mile trip that took three hours. When we arrived at the road to Saut D’Eau, everything changed—no more paved roads—just rocks and gullies. We drove up a hill to the mission compound that had a concrete block wall on three sides and a 100-foot drop into a palm-filled valley.

Seventy-four-year-old Richard Turner and his wife met us. He told how God spoke to him about going to Haiti. He explained how founder Lee Carroll bought property for the orphanage, and that the lady who sold it to him was killed by voodooists for selling the land to an evangelical church. Saut D’Eau is near a waterfall where Satanists and voodooists come from around the world every year to worship Satan. They go to the falls on Good Friday but leave before Easter Sunday.

## Tarantula Morning

Tuesday morning we went to where the boy’s dorm had been. The only

thing remaining was a red metal door. With help from orphanage boys, we began moving cinder blocks. I was impressed by how our students did anything that was needed. Tim and Kevin are good block layers. Robin-Lynn and Morgan carried blocks, supplied mortar, and helped in the kitchen.

Everyone was totally engaged, and the wall started up. Then someone yelled that he had found a tarantula. All work stopped, and everyone came to investigate. The tarantula was in a block that Morgan had picked up.

## Day of Black Crosses

We headed back to the boy’s dorm Wednesday. Robin-Lynn and I began moving blocks to the wall and into the dorm. Small boys helped us. Suddenly, a commotion broke out. The boys had sticks beating something—a crab. They beat it senseless and claimed their trophy. When Robin hit one of the blocks with a hammer, a million ants popped through the hole. We eliminated the ants and finished work for the day.

After lunch we went to market in town and passed a building with 14 black crosses that led to a place of satanic worship. Three young people were praying with candles at the sec-

**“MR. TURNER, I WANT YOU TO COME TO MY HOUSE TOMORROW NIGHT WITH YOUR TAPE RECORDER.”**



ond black cross. We continued walking and saw the “parking lot” for donkeys.

We went to a graveyard overgrown with weeds and saw graves broken open by the earthquake; several graves had goats on them. I asked our Haitian translator if the goats had anything to do with Satan worship, because I had seen goats tied up everywhere. He affirmed my suspicion. They often take goats to the falls of Satan and sacrifice them. We saw a bar sign that looked like Mary and Jesus, but our Haitian said, “That is evil.” It was Satan and his mother.

### Long-Sleeved Shirts and Mud

After an early breakfast on Thursday, we returned to the walls. Running the row of blocks just above the window was tricky because the blocks and windows were not on the same level. Brother Turner’s favorite saying came in handy: “Don’t worry; the plaster will cover any mistake.”

Brother Turner said that before coming to Haiti, God spoke to him about getting rid of his short-sleeved shirts. He gave them to his son but did not understand why until he arrived in Haiti. All the pastors wore long-sleeved white shirts. He would not have been accepted as a pastor and as an equal if he had arrived wearing short-sleeved shirts. I met several Haitian pastors; they all wore shirts with long sleeves.

Saturday after breakfast, we traveled to “La Boule”—The Mud—where Pastor and Doctor Charles has a medical clinic and church. His family lives in the States and constantly urges him to come to the States. He refuses. “I am afraid of the States because I fear that things’ in the US





WE WERE UPLIFTED BY PEOPLE WHO LOVE JESUS SUPREME IN SPITE OF WHAT THEY DO NOT HAVE.

will seduce me, and I might not return to Haiti. My people here need me.”

### Donkey Ride to Church

I was up at 5:00 a.m. Sunday preparing my backpack. I needed to wear clothes that could get dirty in the mud, which is why I wore jeans, a polo shirt, and my smelly tennis shoes. I pushed my preaching clothes and new shoes in the backpack so they would not get wet. We rode an hour on motorcycles before we got to the dirt (mud) road leading to the church. Several young men were waiting, some with motorcycles, others on foot, and one with a donkey. “That’s neat,” I thought, and then he said, “Get on.”

Either my legs were too short or the

donkey’s were too long. There were no stirrups. My donkey holder grasped my left leg to help me up, and I found myself belly down on top of the donkey. With a total lack of finesse, I climbed into the wooden saddle. The young men at the bus stop were almost rolling on the ground trying to contain their laughter. The donkey holder tossed me the reins. Since I had seen the Lone Ranger pull the reins left and right to guide his horse, I did the same. It took an hour by donkey to get to church where I preached from Matthew 13 through an interpreter.

Then it was time to change clothes for the return trip. When I again mounted the donkey, it began to rain. They gave me an umbrella. What a

sight! The ride was uneventful, except for one fork in the road where the donkey and I had a difference of opinion.

When we arrived at the pavement, the donkey’s legs were still too long. I stretched my left leg and when my foot touched the ground, it immediately skidded under the donkey slinging me, my backpack, and the wooden saddle under the donkey. Everybody laughed, except me.

### Project Concordance and Dictionary

Monday morning before we left, I talked with Pastor Charles and Pastor John, young men in their early 30s. They are doing theological studies one day a week in Port-au-Prince. We spoke in French. I asked them what

they needed—a French Bible Concordance and a French Bible Dictionary. Since 12 pastors are literate enough to use the books, I committed myself to locate 12 concordances and 12 dictionaries, and send them by Ken Akers.

The group fellowship in Haiti was great, the relationship with the Haitians cordial. I'm glad I had a chance to participate and take the FWBBC students. It was especially good to have

my granddaughter Morgan on the trip where I was able to see her heart in action. Mission accomplished.

We returned to the hospitality house and shared our feelings. We had come to be a blessing but were abundantly blessed. Though we saw devastation and extreme poverty, we also saw the generosity of the nations and of God's people. But most of all, we were uplifted by people who love Jesus supremely

in spite of what they do not have. As I listened to everyone, I was blessed to hear the FWBBC students express that they will be forever changed by their experience in Haiti. That, of course, was why we went. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** John Murray is director of Christian Service at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Before joining the FWBBC faculty in 1991, he served as a missionary to France (1977-1989).

## LEADERPROFILE 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.



### ADAM CARNES

AFTER GROWING UP IN A CHRISTIAN HOME IN ALABAMA, Adam went to Free Will Baptist Bible College to pursue a degree in Sports Medicine and English. While there, Adam felt a call to full-time ministry. A significant influence came from growing up in a disciplined, loving, and structured home environment where his parents allowed him to observe the commands and promises of God.

Even before numerous books and studies were published about church dropouts, Adam observed this trend and felt the desire change it. Today, he serves as minister of student ministries and media and leads the youth praise band at Unity FWB Church in Greenville, North Carolina, under the direction of Pastor Jeff Manning.

When asked about his goals as a youth pastor, without hesitation Adam said, "I want to turn out warriors for Christ—young people who are leaders and who desire quality in their lives." It is evident that he and Jenifer, his wife, seek the same for their three kids Madison, Hailey, and Dawson.

As a young minister with kids at home, Adam noted a couple of special families in the church who keep their kids so he and his wife can date. Most of their dates involve running errands and a stop by Starbucks. He expresses thanks to church members who invest in ministry staff by watching their kids while they date!

**Adam Carnes you are a great leader!** **ONE**

#### What are your favorite books?

*Next Generation Leader*

by Andy Stanley

*Battle Cry for a Generation*

by Ron Luce

*Stories From My First Church*

by Elmer Towns

#### What is your biggest failure?

Sometimes I can't say no, which leads to busyness and loss of productive time from family and ministry.

#### One-word descriptors for his kids:

Dawson (1) busy

Hailey (5) soft-hearted

Madison (7) independent

#### Quiet Time Habits:

Along with various devotional readings, Adam reads his Bible daily through an application on his Blackberry. This app follows an intentional plan and tracks each daily reading.

*awaken*  
**Romans 13:11**

NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE  
July 17-20, 2011—Charlotte, NC

**2011**  
**YOUTH**  
**EVANGELISTIC TEAM**

**EACH YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE**

country are selected from the top-scoring entries of the National Youth Conference Music and Arts Festival to form the Youth Evangelistic Team. The team receives intensive training in servant-ministry and practical experience in a variety of ministry settings during a two-week summer tour. The 2011 Team will minister in mission churches in the northeast. The Team will also lead the NYC teen worship service in Charlotte, North Carolina, next July.

**Congratulations to 2011 YET members:**

Maggie Barnett (AR)  
Joel Williams (MO)  
Elizabeth Snow (TN)  
Tyler Heflin (MO)  
Rachel Ayers (AL)  
Andrew Pierce (MS)

Mary Kathryn Ayers (AL)  
Matthew Berry (FL)  
Kristin Trussell (FL)  
Dustin Patton (WV)  
Taylor McClure (WV)  
Daniel Snow (Japan)



# truth & peace

## Truth & Peace Leadership Conference

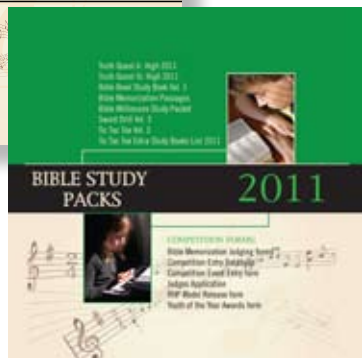
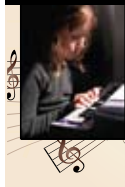
The Truth and Peace Leadership Conference features 14 days of intensive leadership training for select high school students. These students then become the student staff of the National Youth Conference. They are challenged to take principles learned through this experience and put them into practice in their home churches.

Truth and Peace alumni serve in ministry around the world. If you want a challenge that will equip you to be a more effective leader in ministry, check out Truth & Peace. Go to [www.register-tp.com](http://www.register-tp.com).



## Revised Competition Guidelines

The *Competition Guidelines* for National Youth Conference competitive activities has been revised for 2011. New events have been added and changes have been made. Be sure to purchase your copy of the revised *Competition Guidelines*. Order online: [www.randallhouse.com](http://www.randallhouse.com) or call 800-877-7030.



## 2011 Bible Competition Study Pack CD

The *Bible Competition Study Pack* CD includes everything that is needed to study for Bible competition events, except a Bible. Every age group, every event is in one handy resource. Print as many copies as is needed for every student in the church. You can even make reprints when the study material becomes worn out or lost. Students who participate in the complete Bible competition program will have studied approximately 90% of the entire Bible. Order today: [www.randallhouse.com](http://www.randallhouse.com) or call 800-877-7030.

## Buck a Week *What are you doing to change your world?*

With a buck-a-week you can help share the gospel around the world. Set aside one dollar each week for missions and bring it or send it to the National Youth Conference. Just \$1 a week can make a world of difference.

2011 Projects include Hispanic Seminary; Inman, SC; and Discipleship materials for Bulgaria.



*In Colossians chapter three, we find timeless principles concerning the pursuit of excellence.*

# THE QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE

BY JEFF CAUDILL



## SCRIPTURE COMMANDS US TO DO ALL THINGS

well, with excellence, to the best of our abilities. That applies to every believer, no matter the vocation. Excellence is the goal for all of life. As a believer, God calls us to a higher standard. It is never okay to be mediocre. It is never okay just to get by. Often we ask, “What is the least I can do?” rather than “How can I best accomplish this task?”

In Colossians 3:17-25, when addressing masters and servants, Paul provided lasting principles for excellence that can be applied to current day employers and employees.

## WHY STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE?

First, we are *commanded* to strive for excellence. Paul does not say “Consider doing this” or “You might think about doing this.” In verses 17 and 23, he simply instructs us to do it. Period. *Whatsoever you do...do all. Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily.* These commands place great emphasis on doing. God commands us to do what we do with excellence. He expects and accepts only our best. He is not pleased with anything less.

Second, we should strive for excellence because we serve God. We work for Him. We do not do what we do for self, family, church, or employer. It is for Him! Sometimes we forget whom we serve. Again, the passage speaks clearly. *Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus* (verse 17). *As to the Lord, and not unto men* (verse 23). And verse 24 removes any lingering doubt: *For ye serve the Lord Christ.* We must never forget whom we serve. How far would our level of excellence rise if every effort were done “as to the Lord?”

Third, we should strive for excellence because we are grateful to God. Verse 17 emphasizes this principle. Our work provides an opportunity to show Him how thankful we are for what He has done for us. He provided for our salvation. He gave us the abilities to do what we do. He gives us opportunities to serve. He provides our very existence. We owe Him everything. We owe Him our best.

The level of excellence we display is directly related to our level of gratefulness to Him. Giving less than our best demonstrates an ungrateful spirit.

## HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE?

*Be Present.* Show up. Be where you are supposed to be at the time you are supposed to be there. Forgetful, busy, or late is simply not good enough. While this may seem a bit “old school” to some, I think it is a crucial ingredient of excellence.

Arriving at work less than 100% or obviously wishing to be elsewhere says something about whom you really work

for. Arriving on time is a good indicator that you are giving your best. Punctual workers arrive early enough so they actually start working at the scheduled time. In the secular workplace, excellence in this area sets an example for those who are not believers.

Sadly, those working in a Christian environment are sometimes the worst offenders in this area. Their Christian supervisors are more lenient, and employees take advantage of the leniency. Be at work when scheduled and be ready to work with excellence.

*Be Prepared.* If you work in ministry, it is essential to prepare in order to provide something fresh and relevant to those to whom you minister. Work hard on sermons, lessons, presentations, and projects, no matter the setting. Give your best to even the most mundane tasks. Ensure that you get the proper rest so you are ready to work. Constantly seek ways to improve.

Remember, however, this is not about you, but about the God you serve. Excellence should flow out of who we are as Christians, but more importantly, out the nature of the One we serve.

*Be Positive.* Do not take the easy path of negativity. We so easily gravitate toward the negative. Be positive about your work or ministry. Do not participate in negative talk. A person striving for excellence will both look for and promote the best in everything. Strive for an attitude that is positive. It will make any situation better. Remember, a positive attitude, especially in negative circumstances, points people to Christ.

*Be Passionate.* Avoid “going through the motions.” The Apostle Paul challenged his readers to “do it heartily.” We should work from the heart. This is especially important for those in Christian ministry. I am always amazed to think that God selected me to accomplish His work. I am humbled that God could use me in His service. In spite of our weaknesses, occasional lack of devotion, and our bent toward sin, God calls us into His service. He is counting on us to get the job done.

Excellence in the workplace has been a goal of mine for many years. I strive (not always successfully) to exemplify excellence before those with whom I work, and I expect excellence from the individuals I supervise.

Striving for excellence is important for all Christians, both at work and beyond. The passage we examined used the word *whatsoever* twice. God is imploring us to make excellence our goal in everything we do—a lifelong quest for the very best. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Jeff Caudill is executive pastor at Cofer’s Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, TN.

# NEWS

## about the denomination

### Ridge Church Restoration Continues

**NEW DURHAM, NH**—The fourth phase of the Ridge Church renovation project was completed August 16-20 according to Project Coordinator Ken Akers. “Most of these guys had participated in earlier projects. They knew exactly what to do, and they got right to work.”

Six men from five states spent the week painting the wooden pews, repairing damaged flooring, and restoring and repainting window grids. The team consisted of Adam McCarty (OH), Tom Harmon (IL), Mark McCarty (OH), Denver McKay (AR), Greg McCarty (IN), and Ken Akers, (TN).

During previous phases of renovation, volunteers repaired the roof structure by replacing joists and worn shingles, removed and replaced peeling exterior paint, removed two deteriorating chimneys, reinforced and painted the sagging bell tower, repaired drainage problems under the church, patched plaster and painted the interior walls.

The renovation began in 2007, when delegates to the national convention in Little Rock, AR, voted to help maintain the aging structure. The building, completed in 1819, is the oldest FWB church structure in existence.

“It’s hard to believe that it has been four years since we started this project,” said Akers with a smile. “I want to thank everyone who has been part of the project whether through donations or by participating in the renovations. I am glad we have been able to help preserve this important landmark for future generations of Free Will Baptists.

To donate to the Ridge Church Preservation Fund, contact Ken Akers at [ken@nafwb.org](mailto:ken@nafwb.org), call (877) 767-8039, or visit [www.fwbmastersmen.org](http://www.fwbmastersmen.org). ■

### 2010 National Golf Tournament Winners Announced



**NASHVILLE, TN**—Sixty-two golfers braved sweltering humidity to participate in the 2010 Master’s Men National Golf Tournament on August 5. This year’s tournament featured a new venue—Windtree Golf Course in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. Despite the heat, players enjoyed the beautiful course and favorable scoring conditions.

Rain began to fall as the teams finished their final shots. With all rounds complete and everyone safely inside, the group ate a hearty lunch featuring Tennessee barbeque. Each golfer received a gift bag before individual and team prizes were awarded.

North Carolina pastor Danny Dwyer and partner Todd Haynes won the championship with a nine-under-par round of 63. Last year’s championship team of Gladson and Pilgrim, finished two strokes back to take second place. The team of Webb and Malone won first place in the First Flight, followed by Wiginton and Wiginton. Second flight trophies were presented to Allen and Dunn for first place followed by the team of Thomas and Lopes. ■

### National Softball Tournament Records a Hit

**NASHVILLE, TN**—The 2010 Master’s Men National Softball tournament started with a three-hour delay, but the wet weather failed to dampen anyone’s enthusiasm and the competition proved to be fast-paced and competitive.

When the final elimination rounds had been completed, tournament organizers crowned Zion Hill (Orange) team from Millwood, Georgia, the 2010 National Champions. Second place was awarded to the Kirby (Red) team from Michigan with Farmington (MO) and Free Will Chapel (AL) finishing third and fourth consecutively. In the consolation bracket championship, Community FWB Church (MI) outlasted Northport (AL) to win the trophy.

Master’s Men Director Ken Akers said, “Thanks to all the players and fans who endured the rain, the heat, and the delays to make this a great year. We appreciate the support and sportsmanship from teams, players, and churches.” ■



## Elizabeth Hodges Elected WNAC Executive Director



**ANTIOCH, TN**—Delegates to the 75th Women Nationally Active for Christ (WNAC) convention, which met in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, July 19-20, overwhelmingly approved Elizabeth Hodges as the sixth executive director. Hodges replaced previous Executive-secretary Treasurer Danita High, who resigned December 31, 2009. She officially began her duties August 1.

Elizabeth brings a lifetime of experience to the position. Her mother, Mary Belle Creech, was an avid WNAC participant and faithful supporter. Traveling with her dad, Ronald Creech, former promotional director of the state of North Carolina, also prepared her for her role. She served 19 years in the Cumberland District as either President or vice-president.

Mrs. Hodges is an educator and administrator with 29 years experience in both Christian and public education. She graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1976 and also holds a M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education and Ed.S. in Administration and Supervision. For 12 years, she worked as a school principal.

Elizabeth is married to Rev. Eddie Hodges who pastors Hendersonville FWB Church (TN). They have three grown children: Samuel, Stephen, and Sarah.

Elizabeth reflects on her new role. "I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead. I am thrilled to have a small part in His work among the women of our denomination. WNAC offers fertile ground for older women to mentor younger women, passing on the baton of faith given to us. However, we need the help of younger women as we seek to engage the culture where we have been placed to serve. Learning from each other, we can advance the opportunities afforded to women who are active for Christ." ■

## 2011 Nominees Requested

**ANTIOCH, TN**—The 2010-2011 Nominating Committee, which will serve through the national convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, is prepared to receive nominees for the 2011 convention election, according to Todd Smith (SC), committee chairman.

The committee will meet December 7, 2010, at the annual Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, to consider nominations and compile a report with one nomination for each position to be filled. The report will be presented to the General Board and delegates at the 2011 convention.

The following board and commission positions will be filled in 2011: Home Missions (3), Board of Retirement (3), Master's Men (3), Free Will Baptist Foundation (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).

Nominations, accompanied by a brief resume, must be submitted in writing exclusively to the chairman on or before November 30. Contact Chairman Todd Smith (SC):

Nominating Committee, PO Box 9, Turbeville, SC 29162 • 843-657-2091 • [ToddSmith@scfwb.com](mailto:ToddSmith@scfwb.com) ■



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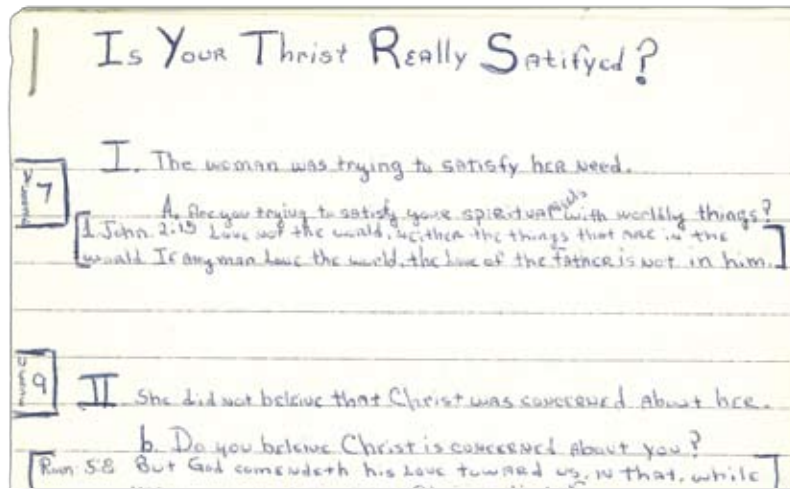
**Join Master's Men for a regional conference** that takes a face-to-face approach to helping men develop spiritual depth and mentor others. The conference will be hosted by Heritage FWB Church in Columbus, OH, and will feature guest speakers Tim York, moderator of the National Association, Cliff Donoho, pastor of Rejoice FWB Church in Antioch, TN, and Ken Akers, director of Master's Men. For more information, contact Pastor Tim Stout: **614-492-0989**.

**Free Will Baptist Master's Men**  
877-767-8039 | [fwbmastersmen.org](http://fwbmastersmen.org)



# ONETOONE

## The First Sermon



IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF MY JUNIOR YEAR IN high school. During district youth camp that summer, I acknowledged God’s call on my life and surrendered to the ministry. I preached my first sermon a few days later on August 12, 1970. Recently I thumbed through my sermon file and retrieved the 40-year-old outline I used on that personally historic occasion. The paper was slightly discolored, the ink a little faded. My text was John 4:1-14. There were six major points to my inaugural discourse. It took every bit of 12 minutes to deliver that first homily.

The title was, “Is Your Thirst Really Satisfied?” [sic] As I read over the handwritten notes of a 16-year-old from Eastern Oklahoma who had just been called to preach, I was reminded that some things have changed, yet others remain the same.

What has changed? For one thing, my spelling has improved! Obviously, I misspelled several words in that first outline. (That was long before the days of spell check.) The fact that I was extremely nervous probably had a lot to do with it. I also know more now about how to construct a sermon. I don’t claim to be a master homiletician, but training in college and graduate school and 40 years of experience have proven to be very helpful.

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



Photo: Mark Cowart

In many instances, churches have changed significantly. Worship styles are different. Although folks sitting in the pew are generally better educated, people appear to be less interested in hearing what the man of God has to say. Maybe it’s just me, but it seems fewer and fewer young men answer the call to preach these days. You don’t hear pastors from the pulpit challenging young folks to consider God’s call upon their lives much anymore.

Yet, in spite of these changes, some things remain the same. For example, in spite of all the cultural shifts and technological advances of our day, God’s Word is still immutable. His plan for proclaiming the gospel hasn’t changed: “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Corinthians 1:21).

People’s basic spiritual need hasn’t changed. Mankind is still hopelessly lost apart from Jesus Christ and desperately needs to hear the Good News. “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14).

Where will I be 40 years from now? Probably Heaven! However, I expect my children and grandchildren will still be around. What kind of world will they live in? It is hard to envision, even if you have a vivid imagination. But two things will not change—men will still be lost sinners and Jesus Christ will still be a great Savior. Between now and then, I’d like to hear a host of young men preach their first sermons. **ONE**

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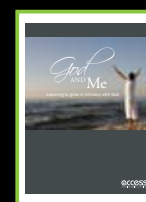
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Matthew 28:19a-20a



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