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ONE

MAGAZINE

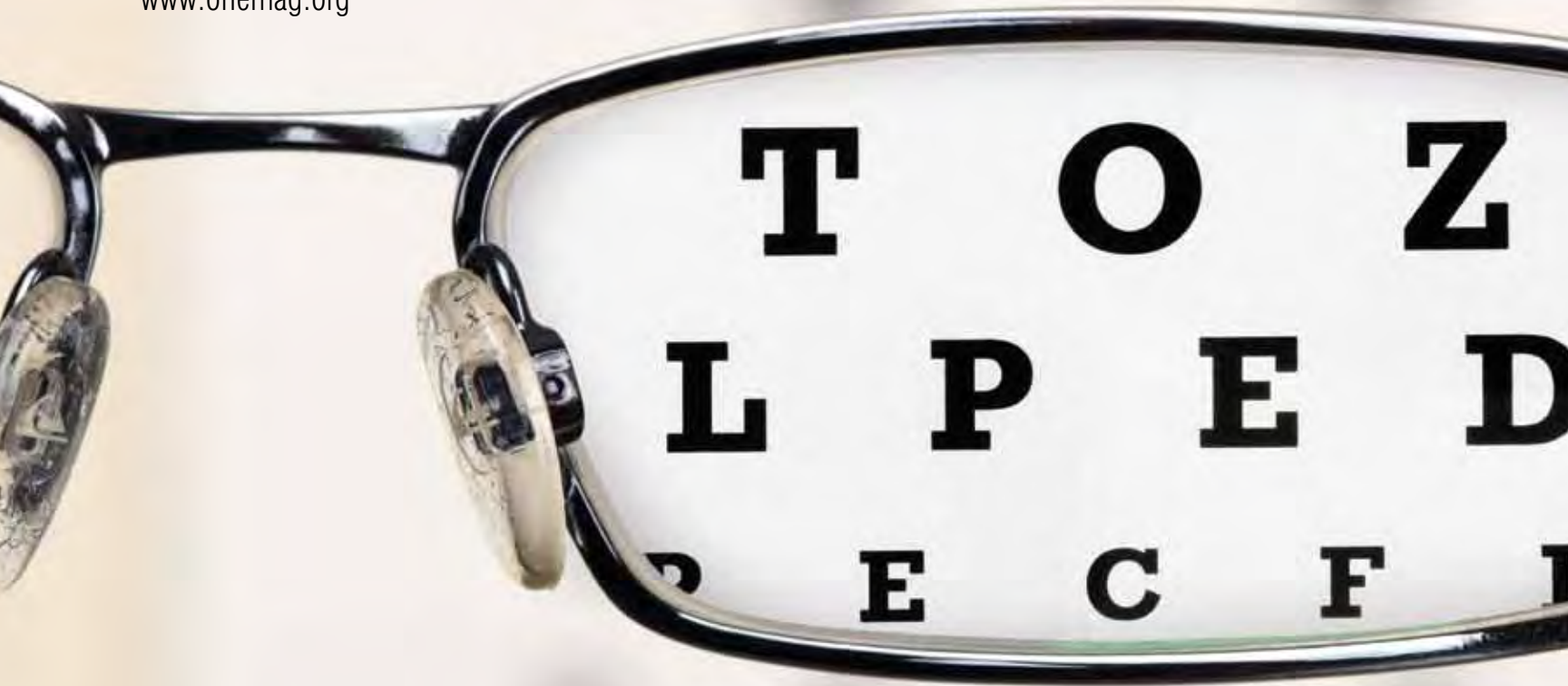
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OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2012

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19



10

articles

- 06 Hurry Up and Wait
- 09 Mission: North America Offering
How Is It Used?
- 10 How Much Longer?
- 14 WNAC: A Missionary's
Perspective
- 16 Women of Vision
- 17 A New Vision: Who I Am in Christ
- 19 Go North, Young Man!
- 22 If Men Were Angels
- 29 Changed Lives
- 31 Best-Kept Secret
- 33 Discipleship in a Home Missions
Church
- 36 Faith of Our Fathers
- 40 Understanding Risk
- 42 Two Men (One Dead) Talk About
Money
- 44 A Tough Subject
- 49 Same-Sex Marriage: Oxymoron
- 51 Tournaments Hit a Home Run for
Master's Men

columns >>>>

- 04 First Glimpse: Stranger in the
Bathroom
- 21 Brown on Green: Request
Grant(ed)
- 25 Intersect: The Letter I Didn't Send
- 35 Leader Profile: Jeff Goodman
- 54 One to One: If

:news

- 27 News at Welch College
- 38 News Around the World
- 52 NYC News & Updates
- 53 News About the Denomination



42

First Glimpse >>>

STRANGER IN THE BATHROOM

I surprised a stranger in my bathroom mirror the other morning.

I glimpsed him from the corner of my eyes as I bent to put away a stack of clean towels. With a start, I turned for a closer look. His beard was mottled gray, sunburned face weathered, and laugh wrinkles tugged the corners of his eyes. And what a nose! He looked remarkably similar to the ragged black and white photo of my great-uncle Erickson.

I guess I should have seen it coming. The clues all pointed to this stranger in the mirror. My favorite toddler became a teen in April; my wife and I recently began to contemplate how to celebrate our 20th anniversary; and a high school buddy just shared pictures of his first grandchild. Not to mention that I no longer bounce back after a hard day, and people often confuse my wife with my daughter.

Still, it was hard to come to grips with the face in the mirror. I bent closer. The effects of sun and gravity were evident, and 20 years of constant deadlines had taken their toll. “When did that happen?” I muttered to myself before turning back to the towels. It should have been no surprise. After all, we—that is, the rest of my family—celebrated my 40th birthday in September. No doubt about it—I’m slowly becoming a high-mileage vehicle! In the days that followed, my mind wandered often to the stranger in the mirror. At first, his presence bothered me. How could he arrive at my house so soon...and so unexpectedly? I wasn’t ready to face him yet.

But as I thought more about his surprise visit, I came to several conclusions.

Change is inevitable. You can’t stop time or sneak past the effects of the curse in the Garden of Eden. So, it only makes sense to make the most of the time we have, “redeeming the time,” as the Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Ephesians.

Change is not always bad. While I can no longer grab the rim of a basketball goal or sprint the last mile of my daily run, neither do I face the obvious challenges of youth. I have experience, confidence, and a different perspective on the obstacles I encounter. Why then do I resist change so strongly, when it could improve my life?

Embrace the change. I recently told my wife I wouldn’t go back in time, even if I could. I’m too excited about the adventures ahead—even the difficult ones. Why spend time worrying about things that are past? Instead, I’m going to make a friend out of the middle-aged stranger in the mirror. I have a feeling he is going to be hanging out at my house for a while. **ONE**

ERIC THOMSEN,
MANAGING EDITOR

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Letters: Have something to say?

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

Email editor@nafwb.org or send correspondence to:

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

I write to express my disdain for David Brown's article entitled, "Taxes, Taxes, and More Tax Us: Preparing for end of Bush Tax Cuts." This is a politically-charged year. While I understand that everyone should comprehend what the end of the tax cuts mean for Americans, this magazine is not the forum to do so. The article, in my opinion, will lead readers to be swayed to vote in a particular fashion. I wish this had not been published. Aren't there more articles that could be written to help our denomination grow and be empowered to make disciples? I think that we need to be reminded that, "God is not a Republican...or a Democrat." Yes, we need to do our part as citizens to vote; and yes, we need to spur each other on to know what the candidates say about all issues. However, I do not think that the correct forum is *ONE Magazine*.

Andy Koester, *Edmond, OK*



I cannot tell you how many phone calls we received about the precious boy on the cover of the latest issue of *ONE*. He and my son could almost pass for twins. Everyone knows we have a farm, and Eli is a country boy if there ever was one, wearing his hat and boots everywhere! As Eli's mom, I could tell the differences, but numerous people thought it was him...and some people even argued with us! I have attached a picture so you can see the similarity.

Kisha Cantrell (*via email*)

Thank you for publishing the article, "The Scandal of Singleness" in the recent issue of ONE Magazine. I am a graduate of Southeastern FWB College and have had several opportunities to become a youth pastor and also pastor. However, I always am told that the church leaders want a couple. It was refreshing to read the article published. Thank you.

Jeremiah (*via email*)

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Hurry Up and Wait

BY KEVIN TRIMBLE

A CALL FOR THE NOTICE OF A NEW PLACE OF DUTY FROM THE DIVISION CHAPLAIN; WAIT... AN RFO (REQUEST FOR ORDERS); WAIT...WAIT... FINALLY, ORDERS TO A NEW DUTY STATION; WAIT...WAIT...WAIT... FIND A NEW HOME, CLEAR THE CURRENT DUTY STATION; MORE WAITING...

From the initial call to inform me that a new duty station would be in my future until we finally arrived at our destination, six months passed. During those months of preparation prior to our move, we were able to spend time reflecting on where our family had been and where we were going.

We had been involved in a chapel service at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. ChapelNext is a contemporary service that chose us. When I deployed to Afghanistan in March 2010, our chapel service was a traditional service held at the Memorial Chapel. Upon my return, I learned the Army had “volun-told” the congregations they would combine. Imagine *your* congregation being told they would merge with another congregation next week!

A great friend, CH (MAJ) Stan Arnold and I worked through the change and built a great team. My wife Darla volunteered for the children’s church program and became the leader. In one service alone, she had 38 pre-K children in her class. She is incredible, and children are drawn to her. In just over a

year, God graciously allowed us to grow several groups together, build a team of numerous volunteers, and move into a multi-million dollar, state-of-the-art chapel.

Where are we going next?

I’m not sure. Currently, we are looking for a place to serve at Fort Riley (Kansas). We are hungry for a local church, but the chapel ministry that requires a majority of our attendance is in need of people to step up and carry the gospel.

Will we lead services, be the administrative pastor, or help with children’s church or Club Beyond (youth group for the entire post)? We don’t know, but we *do* know wherever God places us will be the right place. We will serve, lead, teach, and lead others regardless of the direction.

We have been located close to our family for several years, and this has changed. Our son is moving to Fort Hood, Texas, and we left our daughter in Nashville, determined to be on her own. Leaving family is much harder than we thought. When Darla and I

slow down long enough to talk about it, my eyes well up with tears if I am not careful. We are truly empty-nesters.

But God sets the direction for our family. He knew years ago where each of us would stand, where we would live, and He knows everything about us. Nothing lies beyond God’s grace or knowledge. Even as our family has been spread out, I find comfort in knowing that others have gone this way before us. I know both Darla and I had to leave home to become the people—no, the servants—He wanted us to be. Once again, I’m not sure of the destination, but I do know that God is leading.

In our previous assignment, we enjoyed a fellowship of friends in our battalion, in the community, in the chapel, and within our neighborhood. The hardest part of this new direction is that Darla gave up the friends she had invested in deeply so I could follow the orders of the Army.

When we moved to Fort Campbell, Darla moved to Nashville to work at Welch College, and we had two homes for a time. We began to build such deep and rich friendships with the people of Cross Timbers FWB Church and loved, even hungered, for the worship and preaching there. When I deployed, Darla moved to Fort Campbell alone and began to look for ways to build friendships. We found ourselves in a sea of people much younger than we were, and she began a ministry of hospitality, teaching other women how to be successful mothers and wives. With new orders, that facet of her ministry is gone, and our direction has changed.



GOD KNOWS OUR
DIRECTION EVEN
WHEN WE DON'T. HOW
OFTEN HAVE WE READ
OF JOSEPH, DANIEL,
MOSES, AND ABRAHAM
AS GOD LED THEM INTO
UNFAMILIAR PLACES
AND LEFT THEM WITH
MULTIPLE UNANSWERED
QUESTIONS? YOU CAN
REST ASSURED GOD
KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE
GOING LONG BEFORE YOU
GET THERE.

A New Assignment

Our new neighborhood is Junction City, Kansas. We live off-post and have already met numerous neighbors. Would you believe many of them need a mentor? Many of them are struggling with relationships, money, kids, and the balance of work and life. Once again, God has placed us in a place where we can be effective.

While I could continue my play-by-play coverage of what we have left and where we are going, our lives are no different than many of yours. In this economy, people change jobs and move, pastors leave, and families grow. We are constantly changing direction. Still, the Word of God has the answers. The words of Jeremiah 29:11 remind us, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace... to give you an expected end.” Here are a few tips that might help when God changes your direction:

Sometimes a change in direction comes with warning...but not always. The Army has a system of letting the commanders know when orders are changing. This document is a WARNO.

This “Warning Order” lets you know change is coming. In life, we often feel God moving, or we see His providential hand at work in other ways. At other times, as with a tornado, we have little warning. Yet, God is still in control. We often forget life is about change. Sometimes, when I think about people who are born, live, and die in the same town, I wish that were me. But that isn’t God’s calling in my life. The tip: realize God’s hand is guiding your direction.

God knows our direction even when we don’t. How often have we read of Joseph, Daniel, Moses, and Abraham as God led them into unfamiliar places and left them with multiple unanswered questions? You can rest assured God knows where you are going long before you get there. The tip: enjoy each day of opportunity, whether in the desert or the garden.

God gives direction when we seek Him. Isaiah 58:9 tells us, “Then you shall call, and the Lord shall answer; you shall cry, and he shall say, ‘Here I am.’” The ways of God are not hidden; simply ask, and He will give you direc-

tion. The entire plan? No. God wants us to depend on Him each day as we take steps in the changes of our life. The tip: have a daily conversation with God about where you are going.

Remain pliable to the changing direction. The Army has a training program called combatives that teaches soldiers to succeed in hand-to-hand combat. During training, you know someone will hit you, knock you down, and do some level of harm to your body. The person who stands rigid will sustain greater injuries than a person who allows the blow to move them in a new direction. What a skill for life! The tip: be flexible. Life changes, God changes our direction, and we change. If we follow Him, we will always land on our feet.

The old song, “He Leadeth Me,” written by Joseph Gilmore reminds me that regardless of where God leads me, it is His hand that does the leading. So far, we love Fort Riley, and as long as God is leading, we must learn to simply follow Him. Each day will hold both challenges and rewards, and as I listen for any new direction, I realize I am held in His care. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: CPT Kevin Trimble is stationed at Fort Riley, KS, where he serves as chaplain for the Aviation Battalion. Kevin and his wife Darla have two adult children, Nathan and Rachel.

He Leadeth Me

He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heav’nly comfort fraught!
Whate’er I do, where’er I be
Still ’tis God’s hand that leadeth me.

Refrain:
He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful foll’wer I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

Sometimes ’mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden’s bowers bloom,
By waters still, o’er troubled sea,
Still ’tis His hand that leadeth me.

Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since ’tis my God that leadeth me.

Mission: North America Offering

HOW IS IT USED?

BY LARRY A. POWELL

Often, pastors and church folks ask how the Mission: North America Offering helps missionaries in their efforts to plant churches in North America. I usually give an abbreviated answer without a lot of details. Let's be clear. The general fund is established to keep the Home Missions office running smoothly. The office is in place to help missionaries in every way possible. With that said, let me paint a better picture of how your gifts are a tremendous blessing to our teams across the fields of America.

TRAINING

At the outset, church planters participate in the Boot Camp Training Program designed to introduce them to spiritual, financial, and creative resources for mission work. Remember, planting a church is substantially different from settling into an already established pastorate. Training doesn't stop there, however. Regional and one-on-one study sessions are held throughout the year. Missionaries learn how to connect and win the lost within their respective communities. Your gifts to the offering fund ongoing training.

PUBLICATIONS

Our department strives to keep supporters informed about successes in leading families to Christ, discipleship, baptisms, and the development of buildings and facilities. Home missionaries need prayer cards and resources for outreach, and the department prints a large number of resources to aid mis-

sionaries with training. Your gifts help fund these valuable ministry assets.

TRAVEL

Church planters are mobile. They are involved in mission conferences, development seminars, and other travel needs. If an emergency arises, the Missionary Assistance Fund is available to help them. Missionaries need equipment and teaching resources as well. The Home Missions office meets as many needs as possible for missionary families. Your gifts help them and our department in overall ministry.

I want to thank pastors and church families across the nation for continued strong support of the Mission: North America Offering each November. This important offering helps missionaries be more effective as church planters in the community to which God has sent them, experience victories in their works for the Lord, and win many precious souls to Jesus. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Larry A. Powell is director of Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Learn how you can get involved in church planting at www.homemissions.net.





HOW MUCH LONGER 'TIL WE GET THERE?

By Clint Morgan

Dragging ourselves out of bed at 3:15 a.m. on June 14, we abbreviated the morning stretches and yawns, dressed, closed suitcases, and made the 45-minute trip to the Atlanta airport. We caught the 6:45 a.m. flight to Fort Lauderdale, then on to Cartagena, Colombia, South America.

Our family was attending the wedding of Adam, our second son. While teaching school in Barranquilla, Colombia, he fell in love with a Colombian lady. As wedding plans unfolded, they decided it would be great if our family journeyed to celebrate the wedding, then took a few days for some super family time.

The trip from the States went well, even though we were all extremely tired from the early morning wake-up. After arriving in Cartagena, we loaded in a van for the 90-minute trip to Barranquilla. Eyes drooped, heads bobbed, and the conversation ebbed and flowed.

Then someone asked the infamous travel question, “How much longer ‘til we get there?” We laughed, and reminisced about other family travels.

TRIPS PAST

I recalled the many times we set off on a long journey in Africa, and before we'd barely started, one of the kids asked, "How much longer 'til we get there?" The children scarcely comprehended we were traveling from point A to point B. They certainly did not grasp all that was involved in preparing for such a journey, or the variables that could totally change the course of events.

As parents, Lynette and I prepared for the trip, planned the route, and clearly defined our destination. Yet, even we could not predict what would happen along the way. Roads were often rutted by rain or in such poor condition that a short trip of 50 miles became a three-hour, all-terrain challenge. Flat tires, broken mufflers, and dodging free-grazing animals presented constant challenges. We knew the variables existed, but we could not predict when or where they would come into play.

HOW MUCH LONGER 'TIL THEY CAN LEAVE?

Drawing parallels between life experiences can be risky. They are typically affected by one's perspective. However, I will take that risk.

The International Missions' Board meeting of December 2011 was one of the darkest days we have faced. The financial crisis compelled the board to mandate all missionaries in the States remain here until our situation stabilized. I had to call each missionary family to relay the decision. I will never forget the humble silence and quiet tears that followed each conversation.

As I've traveled around the denomination, one pressing question has been voiced in every service: "How much longer before the missionaries can leave?"

THE BOARD'S MILE-MARKERS

Each response has been the same as I enumerated three mile-markers set by the board. First, we had to see liquid assets reach a minimum of \$610,000. Second, we had to sustain this level to keep us out of crisis mode. Last, we had to experience an upward trend in monthly support. Once we knew where we were headed, the journey began.

An African proverb states, "Put your faith in God, but tie your camel tight." Free Will Baptists had to do our part while petitioning God and trusting Him to provide.

One of the major obstacles on this journey was to get

financials back into shape. We didn't get in trouble overnight, and we didn't expect to get out quickly. The whole world has been affected by the current economic crisis. Again, we prayed. God moved in the hearts of our people, and you responded. We prayed faithfully, worked tirelessly, and moved forward in faith believing the World Missions Offering (WMO) would be a record breaker.

MILE-MARKER ONE

We are still in awe of all God has done. We did have a record-breaking WMO. We wanted 650 churches to participate. But God had greater plans than we imagined. He led more than 700 churches, 19 from international mission fields, to contribute to the WMO. Income totals shattered previous records, with a total of more than \$950,000. God is truly awesome.

Our missionaries lit up with joy when we told them we had passed mile-marker number one by reaching \$610,000 in liquid assets. We could sense the excitement in our missionary force as WMO offerings kept coming, and the totals kept rising. Each one continued fundraising while waiting anxiously to see an increase in monthly income. They rejoiced as one unit when we informed them we had noted a steady rise in monthly commitments. And a shout rang throughout the land when we said to our missionaries at the National Association in Memphis, Tennessee, "You can go home now."

SO, HOW MUCH LONGER?

We have passed all three markers set by the board. If you were at the national convention, you, along with several thousand Free Will Baptists, heard us give our missionaries the answer to that nagging question. By now, some of our missionaries have heard their children ask, "How much longer 'til we get to Nantes...Hokkaido...Montevideo..." or wherever home is to them.

I know this: you have pumped life back into our missionaries. You have confirmed your trust in International Missions and our missionary force through your generous monetary gifts. You have affirmed our missionaries in their task by hosting them in your churches, homes, and youth groups. You have staked your claim alongside them by partnering with them through monthly financial commitments. You have said to them, "carry on," for you know God has chosen them to take the gospel to the regions beyond. You have been obedient to God's moving.

WE ARE ANXIOUS TO GET OUR MISSIONARIES BACK TO THEIR FIELDS TO CONTINUE MINISTRY. BUT OTHER MILE-MARKERS ARE STILL AHEAD.



We know you are rejoicing that your missionaries are getting to go home and back to work. National believers in each country will celebrate the return of their missionary friends and coworkers. We see our missionaries returning with a renewed fervor. We anticipate a greater harvest than ever before. Also, we firmly believe lost people are waiting for the return of the missionaries, and they don't even know it.

MILE-MARKERS SET BY CHRIST

We are anxious to get our missionaries back to their fields to continue ministry. But other mile-markers are still ahead.

Billions of unreached people populate the earth. We cannot let up until they have heard. In Matthew 24:14, Christ set a significant mile-marker we should strive to pass. He stated, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Christ clearly declared that the gospel is to be preached to all nations.

MILE-MARKERS PASSED

Through recent travels to four of the fields pioneered by Free Will Baptists, where others continue the work, I have come to realize just how much has been accomplished. In January, I had the joy of being in Panama and Uruguay when the

national churches and our missionaries celebrated 50 years of ministry. It was inspiring to hear that all the churches planted in Panama by our missionaries are now under national leadership. My excitement hit another level when I was told that every one of our churches is planting at least one other Free Will Baptist church. I found a similar scenario in Uruguay.

In February, my travels took to me Cuba. Since I met pioneer missionary Pop Willey when I was just 12, I have longed to go there. The national church celebrated 70 years since they established themselves as a legal entity. Cuban churches have a burning desire to reach their nation for Christ. Over those 70 years, the church in Cuba has grown to more than 10,000 believers gathering each Sunday to worship the King of Kings.

In the month of March, I made the long, long journey to India where Free Will Baptists have ministered for 77 years. Carlisle Hanna is the only missionary serving there with International Missions. He has given 62 years of his life for the people of India. His creative methods and un-

questionable commitment have led to the establishment of a vibrant and growing church. Every Sunday nearly 18,000 believers gather in Free Will Baptist churches across India.

Our history is rich, and our future is bright. Currently, we have five new couples and a single missionary ready to reach out to new areas with the good news of salvation. We have veteran missionaries with their hands to the plow, helping prepare the soil for more planting and watering as God prepares for His harvest.

Many people groups have been reached through the efforts of Free Will Baptist missionaries. For this we must rejoice. However, many more still wait. We must press on.

MILE-MARKERS AHEAD

Many frontiers are yet to be penetrated with the gospel. Free Will Baptists must come before God and seek our role in reaching those still unreached. Perhaps God will use our denomination to make an impact on fields yet to be harvested.

Latest statistics on world evangelism reveal:

- Over 1.6 billion people have yet to be evangelized.
- 26 countries are “closed” to the gospel. Personnel cannot get into these countries on a missionary visa, and it is illegal to try to convert people to Christianity.
- Only 5% of the evangelical missionary force is working in creative access countries.
- Of the 16,653 people groups in the world, 7,026 have not been evangelized.

Matthew 6:21 says, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” What do these stats indicate about the heart condition of the evangelical world? We want to be a part of the believing world giving our best to reach those without Him. Free Will Baptists must seize every opportunity to reach “all nations.” We can let others know our treasures are in the right place.

WE CAN GO FARTHER TOGETHER

We have come a long way in our missionary efforts, and we have done this together. Still, there is a long way to go before “all nations” hear the Good News. I sincerely believe we can do much more together. *Together*, we can develop long-lasting partnerships where we have strong national churches. *Together*, we can penetrate the borders of the 26 closed countries. *Together*, we can set the example for other evangelical groups by sending a higher percentage of our personnel to unreached peoples. *Together*, we can keep our missionaries on the fields and see new fields open up among those 7,026 unreached people groups. *Together*, we can make a real difference on the world stage of missions. *Together* is the key to this journey we have started.

How much longer ‘til we get there? Only God knows. But with His help, we will keep moving in the right direction. ONE

ABOUT THE WRITER: Clint Morgan is general director of Free Will Baptist International Missions. Learn more: www.fwbgo.com.

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You

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WNAC: A MISSIONARY'S PERSPECTIVE

BY LYNETTE MORGAN

My first awareness of WNAC came around age six. My dad was in medical school, preparing to be a doctor so we could go to the mission field. Money was tight; at times we literally had no money. God always provided, but I especially remember getting a wonderful box from a church one Christmas—a super blessing in the midst of having little.

Later, as a child on the mission field in Ivory Coast, West Africa, WNAC was that wonderful group of women back in the States who sent medicine bottles and bandages to our remote medical station, 450 miles in the bush. Our medical work survived on those bottles and bandages for many years. However, what I remember most about Woman's Auxiliary (the name back then) were the treats.

The closest store that offered treats like we might find in the States was in Abidjan, the capitol—a two-day's drive away. Needless to say, we didn't go there often—maybe once every six months. The next best thing was the store in Bouna, 50 long, dirt miles away. Every week, we made the 90-minute trip on awful roads to refill our gas bottles, get kerosene for the lamps and refrigerator, and shop for the few supplies available there. But most importantly, we would get our mail at the post office. This was the highlight of the week—hearing from grandparents and friends and seeing if anyone had sent us packages. In those days, women's groups often sent these. And when a package arrived, it was like Christmas.

The oodles of boxes that came for the hospital were just as exciting as those we received for birthdays or holidays. We would open them one after another, as fast as we could, to see if those medicine bottles contained any goodies. What a treat when an auxiliary filled the bottles with candies, gum, or other such coveted sweets; but even band-aids, sewing needles, and thread seemed a treat. Here in America, where we can get whatever we want, whenever, it's hard to fathom how much fun this was for our family—especially for us kids, and later, for our own kids—to receive a package from the States.

When this scared, backward girl who knew little of the ways of the world left the bush of Africa to return to the States, WNAC groups came to my aid. Cofer's Chapel Auxiliary gave me a wonderful shower and helped dress me. Other

groups sent me money to purchase more clothes and things I needed for settling here in the States. Auxiliaries invited me to come and share about my life in Africa. During this stressful new season of life, women loved me and helped me adjust.

When our own kids returned to the States, WNAC's Provision Closet provided what they needed to set up their college dorm rooms. Plus, they were given phone cards and Walmart gift cards.

Like a missionary Walmart™ or Free Will Baptist Target™, the Provision Closet has blessed us and provided for us in so many ways through the years. Not just our family, but hundreds of families, have benefitted as we used these linens and household items, then passed them on to our African brothers and sisters. School supplies, toys, clothes, tapes, books, and even Christmas decorations—the list of treasures found in the Provision Closet goes on and on. The Closet also provided wedding gifts for Ivorian pastors and Bible institute students. And I have taken baby clothes for many new babies in Côte d'Ivoire.

When Clint was regional director for Europe, Africa, and Asia, Provision Closet gifts for missionary kids and women missionaries accompanied us as we traveled to these fields.

Over the years, many WAC groups have given me showers. This is such a wonderful treat for a missionary woman coming back from the field. I remember when we would return to the States, as a family of six, needing a car and clothing for this new culture. And then a WAC group would give me a shower or a check. One group in western North Carolina showered me with things on my wish list and gave us a set of luggage. Recently, a WAC group in Mississippi sent me a gift card for a manicure and pedicure—such a coveted treat and a ministry to me when I needed encouragement.

Encouragement is a hallmark of WNAC. I cannot count

the cards women have sent us over the years for birthdays, Christmases, holidays, or just to say, “We are praying for you.” Women have supported us through financial gifts to our mission account and to us, personally.

WNAC has also provided scholarships for students at the Bible institute in Côte d’Ivoire. In a country with little money, these gifts allowed us to train pastors who now carry on the ministry of the church.

THE OODLES OF BOXES THAT CAME FOR THE HOSPITAL WERE JUST AS EXCITING AS THOSE WE RECEIVED FOR BIRTHDAYS OR HOLIDAYS.

One year, when the mission house in Abidjan needed refurbishing, several WAC groups adopted a room as their project. They sent new bedspreads, linens, curtains, rugs—everything each room needed. How beautiful the house looked and what a blessing this was to all the missionaries. Fifteen years later, the furnishings remain.

After the Mission asked us to research and write strategy for ministry in restricted access areas, the Lord led us into Central Asia. When we asked women to raise money to send 500 of their downtrodden sisters (many who had never been out of their local area) to that region’s first ever prayer retreat, not only did Free Will Baptist women accomplish the goal, but WNAC also sent a team of women themselves, and made up gift bags for each woman who attended.

For several years, WAC groups have given “Christmas Joy” to hundreds of children who would never have known a gift at Christmastime or the real Joy of Christmas. In 2007 and 2009, women traveled to Central Asia to help with this January distribution.

My family enjoyed more blessings via WNAC when we occupied the MIR house on the campus of Welch College—probably the closest I will ever come to living in a mansion until I get my “mansion over the hilltop.” Today, many of those fine furnishings supplied by WNAC now grace our own missionary guest apartment.

A verse in 1 Samuel expresses my feelings concerning WNAC: “As his part is who goes down to battle, so shall his part be that stays by the supplies; they shall share alike.” The importance of women “standing by the supplies” equals that of those gone out to battle. Each needs the other. WNAC has been our right arm for our whole missionary life.



Churches today seem to promote a consumer mindset, finding the best buy for the buck. Yet the issue is not about what WNAC can do for women in our churches, but rather, how can women serve God most effectively? WNAC offers women opportunities and avenues to serve as they discover unique, God-designed roles within their homes, churches, communities, and world. WNAC provides women ways to obey God’s Great Commission in the places He has planted them.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Lynette Morgan is daughter of pioneer medical missionaries Dr. LaVerne and Lorene Miley. She and her husband Clint served with excellence in Côte d’Ivoire, West Africa, from 1976-2005. Clint recently became general director of Free Will Baptist International Missions. The couple has four children and six grandchildren.

WNAC: WOMEN OF VISION

BY ELIZABETH HODGES



The past two years reflect an exciting journey for WNAC. What a blessing to travel and meet women from 21 of 22 reporting states. Women Active for Christ come in different shapes, sizes, and temperaments, but our unifying factor lies in our love for the Lord and our desire to serve Him. Though we do that differently, God continues to bless our efforts across the denomination.

Steward Provision Closet

Through the Steward Provision Closet, WNAC aggressively seeks to meet the needs of international and home missionaries, as well as the needs of Free Will Baptist Bible institutes. After 50 years, the Closet remains a viable ministry. Missionaries appreciate this labor of love, and women value the ability to minister in practical ways by meeting physical needs within missionary homes.

During the past year, women shared in the 50th celebration of our Panamanian sisters by providing needed items for the Chamé Institute's kitchen and dining hall.

Streamlined Giving

We continue to streamline giving so designated money reaches the intended destination in a more timely fashion. Monies for various missions and ministry causes can now be sent directly (reported to, rather than routed through WNAC). At the end of June, more than \$205,000 had been sent directly to ministry recipients.

ONE

Joining *ONE Magazine* has expanded WNAC's exposure within the denominational family. A presence in *ONE* allows many who are unfamiliar with WNAC to learn about and participate in its multiple ministries. It provides women more opportunity for Great Commission work.

Scholarships

The Dr. Mary Ruth Wisheart Scholarship Fund now touches young women at all five Free Will Baptist colleges. At the 2011 WNAC convention, women adopted scholarship guidelines that allow the organization to support young la-

dies preparing to serve the Lord, regardless of their area of study or choice of Free Will Baptist college. We anticipate great things from these special young ladies.

The Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship Fund continues to support international students preparing to serve the Lord in their native regions. If not on earth, one day in Heaven, we will meet these individuals and enjoy the beauty of eternity together.

Online Expansion

As WNAC seeks to minister to the next generation, a QR code now directs respondents to our website. We are pursuing the possibility of a digitized version of *Treasure* for those who prefer the flexibility of an electronic format. We are also exploring the possibility of a Spanish version of *Treasure* Bible studies as an online resource.

Social media outlets connect a growing audience of all ages. The WNAC Facebook page reaches over 1,200 viewers on a daily basis. We envision a Pinterest board as a place for women to share creative ideas for monthly meetings and special events.

Addressing Needs

During the fall of 2011, WNAC invited state officers to participate in an in-depth survey, giving women a venue for sharing thoughts and suggestions concerning direction and ministry. Ladies spoke, and leadership listened. Survey results helped the Executive Committee plan 2012 meetings that addressed these identified needs.

Though venues may change, the purpose of WNAC remains the same. We seek to enable women to fulfill God-designed roles in their homes, churches, communities, and around the world. **ONE**



A New Vision:

WHO I AM

... **in Christ** ...

BY NORMA JACKSON GOLDMAN



What would it take for you to be the person God created you to be?

Psalm 139 boldly declares that God knew you before you were born, while you were being formed within your mother. He knew the exact number of days you would live. This much-loved passage affirms God's role as Creator, that every person exists for a purpose, and that He has plans for us—plans for good and not for evil as Jeremiah 29:11 asserts.

These marvelous plans do not end with the American concept of retirement at 65. Retirement can be the beginning of a new life—one shaped, influenced, and guided through years of struggle—so that you can continue the process of becoming the person God created you to be.

A scant 50 years ago, a man of 65 was near the end of his life, and women were expected to reach only 71 years of

age. What an amazing difference between that era and today, when a person of 65 in America can expect to live long enough to start another career. And many do.

American Culture Has a Different View

Unfortunately, culture views you in a much different, much less noble light. You were born to consume, to buy, to act and react to the stimulus of a fallen world, to be swept along by the fads of current thought. The culture says that in retirement you work little, consume more, and spend your days in the pursuit of pleasure and relaxation. What a contrast with the plans of God!

The good news is that you get to choose which view of life you will hold, and that view will guide your life, your decisions, your priorities, and your goals.

God Created You to Be Loving

God made you to love Him above all others and to love all manner of people He places in your path. He made you to love yourself in a holy and healthful way, respecting the fact that you were made in His image. Loving Him means you love the things He loves—justice, goodness, and mercy (Micah 6:8). It means you want to please Him by being obedient to His simple commands. And it means you desire an intimate relationship with Him through His Son, guided by the ever-present Holy Spirit. It means you love those He loves. Whatever their station in life, whatever need or condition—you are to love them.

His Love Pushes You Into the World

His kind of love pushes us into the world to influence, to bless, and to make it a better place. It pushes us into dark corners of poverty and need, to places where disaster has

struck, and to places where we can make a difference for Jesus' sake.

It pushes us into schools where children need tutors and mentors. It pushes us into homes where fathers and mothers are absent, where children have never been introduced to His love. It pushes us into hospitals where people are desperate to know someone cares, into workplaces without Christian ethics.

Such a lifestyle of love is a compelling testimony of what it means to know Him. By acts of service and ministry, you reflect God's love for a world separated from Him.

This is a simple, yet profound picture of God's vision for us. How well does the photograph of your life match His picture? Whether you are just starting your life and career or making plans for retirement, use the days ahead to focus on your life—your decisions, priorities, and goals—to match His plans and purposes for you. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman is a regular contributor to *ONE Magazine*. The award-winning columnist lives near Nashville, TN. Learn more about thriving in retirement at www.boardofretirement.com.

Help us, and we can help you!



Did you know there is a way to make a gift to Free Will Baptist Home Missions while creating secure income for you and your loved ones? It's called a charitable gift annuity, and you might be surprised at how much your income could be. Contact us today to learn more. Let us help you **help Home Missions take the gospel across North America.**

Single Table		Joint Table	
Age	Rate	Ages	Rate
70	5.1%	70/70	4.6%
73	5.5%	73/73	4.8%
76	6.0%	76/76	5.2%
79	6.6%	79/79	5.6%
82	7.2%	82/82	6.1%
85	7.8%	85/85	6.7%
88	8.4%	88/88	7.6%
90+	9.0%	91/91	8.6%



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Go North, Young Man!

BY DANNY ELLIOTT

While walking the streets of Quebec City, Canada, I am constantly reminded that I am out of place. On the outside, I may look (and try to speak) like the Quebecois, but on the inside I feel like the quintessential tourist wearing a straw hat, Hawaiian shirt, Bermuda shorts, black socks up to the knees, and sandals. Everything on the inside screams, "I'm not from around here!"

Missiologists consider the Quebecois to be the most unreached people group in North America.

Does this mean I am constantly living with some sort of regret or fear? Absolutely not! The setting in which God has placed my family and me is not just a challenge but an adventure as well.

In Quebec, the official language is French. How can one province in Canada officially pass a law in which French is the only official language? The answer is more complicated than space will allow. To put it simply, it is a carry-over from the original French settlers. When England won the French and Indian War in the 1750s, English became the dominant language in Canada and America. Wanting to preserve their


French heritage and language, Quebec passed a law that makes French official on every level.

As soon as you cross the border into Quebec, you are in a different world, including the French heritage of Catholicism. Many claim to be Roman Catholic, but for most, it is just a cultural heritage. The predominant mindset in Quebec City is secular humanism. As a matter of fact, less than one-half of one percent claims evangelical Christianity in Quebec City. With a population of nearly 800,000, the numbers are small and the needs are great.

This is the field to which God has

called us to plant a Free Will Baptist church. How did we get here? The short answer is simple; we drove. The long answer is not as simple. While pastoring Ruth's Chapel FWB Church in New Bern, North Carolina, I came across

Even though we are not yet in the position to begin church planting efforts, our hearts burn more and more for the Quebecois.




some startling information about Quebec. Missiologists consider the Quebecois to be the most unreached people group in North America. Churches are few and far between. In Quebec City, the evangelical Christian presence is almost non-existent. After encountering this information, God began to burden

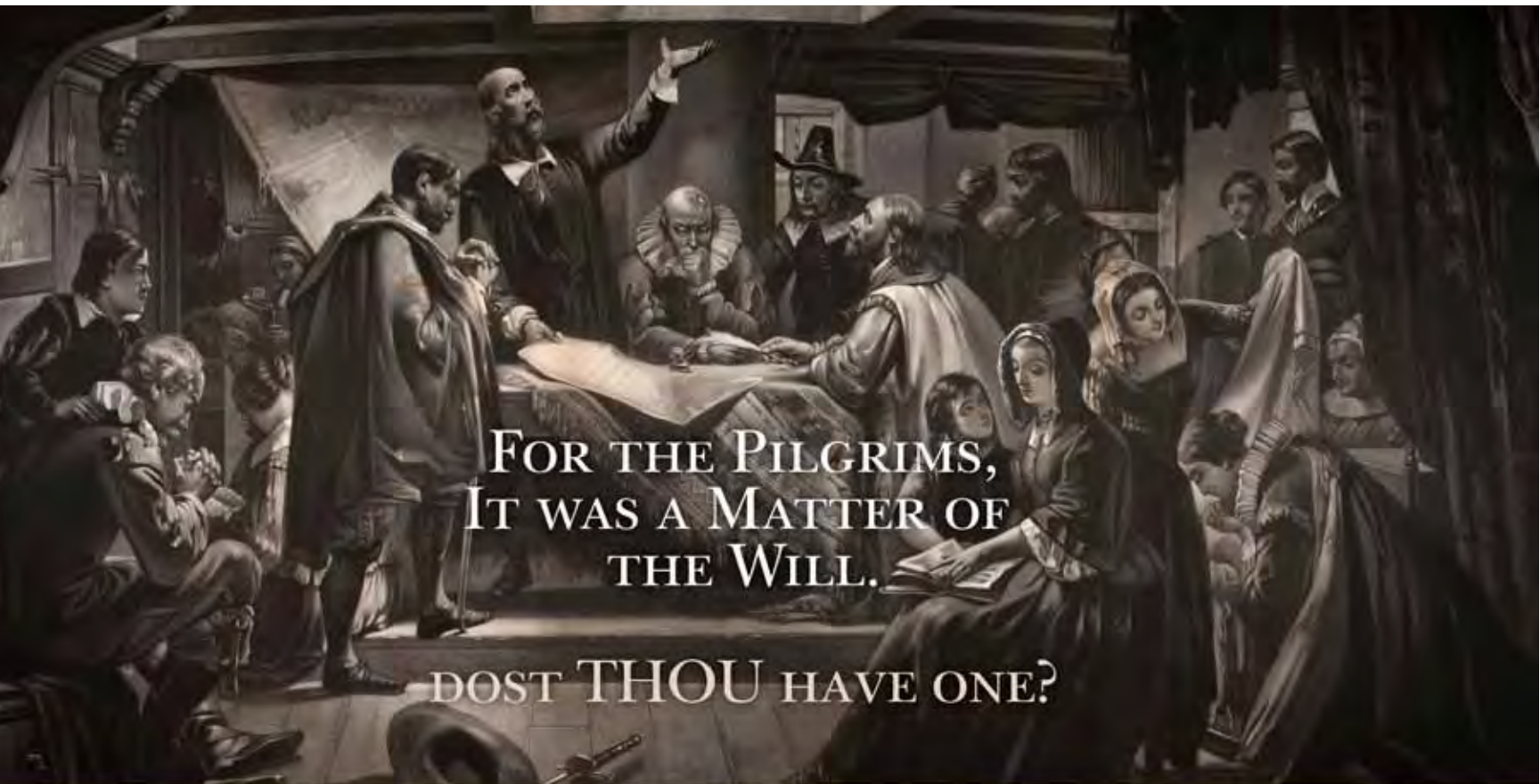
our hearts for this spiritually needy place. Our prayers sounded something like, "Lord, you know how needy Quebec is. Will you send someone to take the gospel to them?" Guess what? God said, "Okay, I will. You're it!" God was saying just what the title of this article says: "Go north, young man!"

Even though we are not yet in the position to begin church planting efforts, our hearts burn more and more for the Quebecois. We are still in language training. Since French is the official language, it is taken very seriously. They appreciate the fact that we attempt French everywhere we go. They, however, appreciate proficiency in the language even more, and proficiency takes time. In the meantime, we look constantly for opportunities to be His light. We are truly blessed that God has sent us on this adventure.

Perhaps God has placed a burden in your heart for the Quebecois. Many have asked what we need. We need your prayers more than anything. Specifically, we ask you to pray that our entire family would have a mind and mouth for the French language so we can share the gospel with those who need so desperately to hear of the hope in Christ. We need others to answer God's call to join us in Quebec. Jesus said in Luke 10:2, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."

Perhaps God is telling you, "Go north, young man. Go north!" 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Danny Elliot and his family are preparing to plant a church in Quebec City, Canada. Learn more about their work, and how you can get involved at www.homemissions.net.



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Brown on Green>>>>

Request GRANT...ed

Grants have played a big part in charitable organizations for many years.

Perhaps the most famous came from Andrew Carnegie in the early 1900s when he made grants to communities to build public libraries across the country. Today, thousands of public and private foundations make grants to organizations all over the world.

Unfortunately, many grants overlook Christian organizations, and even Christian foundations focus on interdenominational ministries rather than making grants to a specific denominational ministry. As a result, for many years, Free Will Baptist ministries have had two strikes against them when applying for grants. In the near future, this will change.

At the 2012 convention in Memphis, the Free Will Baptist Foundation announced its intention to begin making grants. While the timing is not certain, this will certainly take place in the near future. When applying for these grants, it will be an advantage to be a Free Will Baptist organization. Consider just a few ideas from the directors of our national ministries.

International Missions currently faces challenges when placing missionaries in extremely restricted fields. The solution could be found in a grant to start a self-sustaining business used to reach restricted areas for Christ. A micro-loan program could help pastors in closed counties start businesses that support their families, eventually repaying the loans so the fund could be self-sustaining.

Welch College could use a grant to develop a Business-As-Missions program to provide businessmen and women the training needed to open these closed mission fields. Perhaps scholarships could be part of the grant.

Using grants to purchase property would help Home Missions focus our efforts on specific areas where we desperately need churches. A grant to the Labor of Love endowment would help the Board of Retirement support retired ministers. Randall House could use a grant to publish needed products usually sold in such low quantities that they are un-

profitable. Similarly, a grant could help WNAC produce study guides in Spanish for the growing Hispanic Free Will Baptist population.

The Executive Committee could use a grant to fund a program to help struggling churches by providing current and retired successful pastors as mentors. Master's Men could use a grant to purchase expensive but long-lasting equipment for use in disaster relief operations.

The Historical Commission could use a grant to put the historical collection in digital form to prevent further deterioration of originals. The Theological Commission could use a grant to provide funding for a scholar to write about important theological trends.

While these are just ideas and not commitments, perhaps they help you understand the potential of grants. Watch for news in the coming years as this process develops and our ministries begin to receive grants from Free Will Baptist Foundation. **ONE**



How the Christian life intersects with politics.

If Men Were
ANGELS

BY FRANK THORNSBURY

Late fall is a special time in the mountains of eastern Kentucky.

Just as you would expect, the temperature is perfect, leaves are changing colors, and the sporadic cycle of life brought on by the dog days of summer dwindles to a crawl as nature prepares for winter. My home is located in thick Kentucky wilderness, and I have an excellent view of this slow unfolding of the Creator's handiwork.

This grand design on display is an especially welcome sight during the crucial moments of political life. Not only does nature transform in the first few days of November, but the direction of our country is also changed by the questions of millions of skeptical citizens.

My job is to help candidates with conservative political convictions get elected, both through my vote and through months of hard work on their campaigns. My involvement in politics brings both rewards and stresses—both guaranteed in the last days of the election season. In these hard days, the quiet mountains become a popular retreat.

Facing Reality

The highest topographical point in the region lies near my home. On a clear day, I can venture to the peak and see across rolling foothills, across counties, almost into the adjacent state. The sight is spectacular. As I observe nature living in relative harmony, stark contrast to the harsh political wars waged around me, a notion runs through my mind like a refrain:

if nature can get along so well without councils, congress, or partisan politics, why can't people?

Then, I am reminded of the distinguishing factor that separates men from the trees and squirrels: humans have souls that carry a fallen nature with no earthly remedy. While this fallen nature may be a given to Christians and most people in western Christian society, the recognition or denial of a sin nature has been the defining factor of governments throughout the ages, including our own.

The American Dream

Until the formation of the United States, western government was ruled by the will of one king or queen, a lord, or a council of lords. In short, many of the world's governments, and the people they ruled, were subject to the fallen ideals and actions of one person or a small group. This all changed with the founding of a government for and by the people.

The men who first sparked the American Revolution and later produced the Constitution understood that men are not—and never will be—perfect. James Madison, fourth President and key player in the early successes of the nation, famously said, "If men were angels, no government would be necessary."

But men are fallen, and thus we need a government that accounts for natural bias to injustice. We must not surrender the reins of government to the hands of one ruler, but trust it to a group of men and women who are constantly and properly checked and balanced. The executive, legislative, and judicial branches of our government were built into the Constitution to ensure life, liberty, and prosperity by requiring each branch to remain accountable to the other.

Why Christians Must Act

The structure of government created by our founding fathers was simple, effective, and based on truth. There is a growing movement in our country, however, to devalue the wisdom of our brave ancestors. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg was recently quoted during an interview with an Egyptian news outlet: "I would not look to the U.S. Constitution if I were drafting a constitution in 2012."

While this may be old news to most, it strikes a chord with me. To know someone under an oath to uphold the Constitution would say such a thing is disheartening.

Ginsberg went on to endorse South Africa's constitution because it has an "independent judiciary." This is an obvious departure from the founding fathers' idea of checks and balances and threatens the way our government operates on a fundamental and principled level. If we have any respect for the prescribed method of government passed down to us by our founding fathers, or the truth that emanates from it, we must act. And this is where the Christian life intersects with politics.

Before rushing down to your local political party and signing up as a candidate, or getting your mind fixed on hitting the "straight party" button on Election Day, consider three observations from my young political life that are essential to maintain belief in what I do.

Good Government Starts at the Dinner Table

I see a trend emerging from modern American families. It seems we have forgotten that people conduct our government, and one could be sitting in a high chair at your table right now. Even if your child isn't the

next Ronald Reagan or Sandra Day O'Connor, he or she will have a vote one day.

How will they spend it? Will they vote based on years of discipline and knowledge of biblical truth, will they vote on a whim for the candidate with the flashiest ad, or will they vote at all? For the sake of the next generation, it's not enough to be politically conservative. We must also be cultural conservatives. The next time a song or television show endorses an idea that is not pure, lovely, or of good report, turn it off, because the future of our country depends on it.

Never Throw Away Your Vote

A friend who has worked beside me in politics always shares this story with voters who opt out of voting. One election year, a qualified mayoral candidate was running in a small town whose former mayor had wrecked the city's finances. My friend was determined to change his hometown's financial condition by voting for the new, more fiscally conservative candidate. The political battle between the old mayor and the new candidate was fierce. My friend knocked on doors, distributed leaflets, and did everything he could to make sure his small Kentucky town had a better future.

In his flurry to get the new candidate elected, he didn't make it to the polls on time. In fact, he arrived a few minutes too late to vote. That night, the returns came back and the race was a tie. My friend's vote could have spared the new candidate a nerve-racking coin toss, which she won in the end. The moral of the story? Always vote!

Believe in America

"I don't know...if things go bad in November, I just can't see the American people getting out of this one." I hear this comment more than any other on the campaign trail. Seeing people lose faith in their nation takes a toll, but it also makes my sense of duty stronger.

America faces numerous threats. Just as this Great Republic has been threatened in centuries past, today, she once again faces the prevailing winds of demoralized men. The threat does not exist in some faraway land but in our homeland, and it is very real.

But all is not lost. When I think of the greatness of this nation, I am transported back to the top of that mountain near my Kentucky home. From its heights, I see the pioneering spirit that settled those mountains is still alive in the American people ready to blaze a new trail. The Ameri-

can Dream still glimmers, beckoning the world's expanding population to a real, tangible knowledge of liberty and freedom.

Still, we must remain aware of the grave danger that awaits our nation if we do not reverse course. Turning our country around will take action on our part. I am convinced that the political arena is a good venue for Christians to act on Christ's command to be in the world, not of it—transforming our culture. This is not to say we should legislate biblical principles. No, we must engage in politics to retrieve the truth-based foundation of our country. Only then will the virtue of our nation become strong.

I believe the fate of the nation rests on our shoulders. If we do nothing, we will receive nothing. But if we act, we have the potential not only to change the way a government works, but radically transform the culture of the present age and make America a shining city on a hill full of grace and truth. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Frank Thornsby, a senior History major, is student body president at Welch College. Frank also leads a student delegation to the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL). Frank recently served as campaign manager for the Committee to Elect Bobby McCool, State Representative.

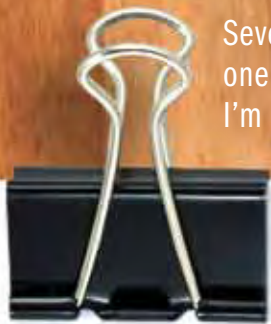


The next time a song or television show endorses an idea that is not pure, lovely, or of good report, turn it off, because the future of our country depends on it.

+Intersect >>>

The Letter I Didn't Send

Several letters are floating around in my mind—letters I never wrote or sent. This one was intended for our younger son Seth before his marriage to Eleni. I guess I'm sending it now. You're welcome to read over his shoulder.



Dear Seth,

As the two of you get ready to join your lives, I wanted to share my heart with you about some things I've learned that will help make your marriage better. I haven't succeeded in all of these—maybe not in most. But they're worth shooting for.



Be Eleni's best friend. And I don't mean that as a trite, "well, of course" kind of truism. Keep befriending her every day. Be interested in everything about her; but more, be indispensable to her. Be her confidante, her secret-keeper, her man. Notice at least one little anxiety she expresses each day, and be sure she goes to sleep less worried about it than she was throughout the day.

Don't try to change her to suit who you are or who you want her to be. I promise you she won't fit your mold or anyone else's. Let her be herself, and you'll love her even more because you'll love someone unique. Help her to grow spiritually. Let Christ transform her into His image, not yours or some ideal wife others may visualize. Accept her faults. She accepts yours. Then compensate for each other and don't even bring them up if at all possible.

Never criticize or embarrass her in front of other people. Protect her feelings and her reputation. Brag on Eleni—often.

Be the one she turns to when her emotions are frayed. You must be her super-hero.

Do things together, especially when you leave the comfort zone of family and friends. Pray together. Read the Bible together. Date her . . . again. Sure, you'll need time for yourself—but not at the expense of her security.

Watch your spending habits. Chances are, for these first few years, you won't have much extra to spend. But during these lean years, establish healthy patterns with your money that will pay off as your finances grow and become more stable. Give to the Lord "as He prospers you." Be careful of debt. Avoid it all you can. Life isn't about "things," anyway. You know that. Keep it in mind.



Welcome the yokes of life that keep you tethered to responsibility. They help you grow and keep your life centered.

I know the consensus often is, “Don’t get too low when things are bad or too high when things are good.” And I suppose there is truth in that; at least Ecclesiastes suggests that to me. *But do celebrate God’s goodness in your lives.* Don’t hesitate to cry together, either. Seth, you love Ecclesiastes. Check out 7:14 on that.

I do think there’s value in the “love languages.” Read Gary Chapman’s book. Find out how Eleni receives love. Recognize her “language” whether it’s physical touch, affirming words, quality time, receiving gifts, acts of kindness, or a combination of those. Then speak that language to her as much as you can. Be fluent in her dialect.

Forgive her without being asked. When there are hurts, let them go. Practice the Golden Rule. Don’t hold grudges. Remember you are forgiven so you may forgive.

Notice little things: when she gets her hair cut and what she wears. Buy “touch up” gifts for her taste in home décor and talk about them. Mention the new shoes she’s wearing, and if she asks you if they look good, the answer is always, “Yes!” Little kindnesses have a long reach.

Take pictures in your mind of everyday details. Cherish them. Open that file in your mind often. Each day will not be a great day; but you have each other, and that makes it a good day. One day you will be glad for those memories.

Guard your heart to keep out threats to your love for Eleni. Be kind to your female friends, but let it stop with kindness and friendship. You have first prize in Eleni! There isn’t a second or third or fourth.

Pray daily for cleansing. I heard a rabbi say once that we should repent the day before we die. How do we know when that is, someone asked. We don’t, he replied, so repent every day.

Work hard, rest well, love passionately. Love each other with a pure heart fervently, the Apostle Paul says. Love Jesus without apology.

*You belong to each other. You complement each other.
You sharpen each other. So enjoy each other. ONE*

Much love, Dad

Intersect: where the Bible meets life is a regular column written by Dr. Garnett Reid, a member of the Bible faculty at Welch College.

News at Welch

Rusty Campbell Accepts Christian School Post



Mr. D. Russell (Rusty) Campbell, Jr., director of enrollment services at Welch College, has been named high school administrator/principal at nearby Pleasant View Christian School, according to David Williford, vice president for institutional advancement. Pleasant View Christian School (PVCS) has a long and close relationship with Welch College, and hosts the annual Northern Quarterly Rally to raise funds for the college.

“My only regret is leaving the college at such an exciting time in the school’s history,” Mr. Campbell said. “So many great things are happening now with campus relocation activities underway, expanding academic programs, and the name change. But there’s no doubt that this long-term educational opportunity at PVCS is God’s plan for me and my family. PVCS and Welch College have a special relationship that spans many years, and I want that to continue. Almost a third of the 2012 PVCS graduates plan to enroll at the college. And that’s a door I want to keep open!”

Campbell, a member of the Business faculty since 2000, became director of enrollment in 2010. He previously taught Instructional Technology and Microcomputer Applications, and served as director of Adult Studies. He holds the Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from Austin Peay State University, and has pursued graduate studies at the University of Nebraska and Tennessee State University.

Prior to joining the Welch faculty, he was a high school

teacher and coach four years (1996-2000). For the past 22 years, he has been a referee for collegiate, high school, and middle school basketball. He also coached the Flames basketball team 2006-2007.

President Matt Pinson said, “Rusty Campbell has been great for the college. We’re going to miss him and his positive attitude as he steps away to begin his new duties. Rusty brought a smile to work every day and creatively moved our recruitment process forward. We wish him the best at PVCS, and we look forward to his leadership at that important Christian education institution.”

Rusty and Beth (Forrest) Campbell have been married 17 years and have one child (Barrett, age 7) who enters the second grade at PVCS this fall. They attend Bethel FWB Church near Ashland City where Beth teaches children’s church, and Rusty teaches an adult Sunday School class.

The principal/administrator role at Pleasant View Christian School will allow Mr. Campbell to capitalize on the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to play an important role in his son Barrett’s education at PVCS. Since the Campbells live 10 minutes from PVCS, Rusty’s daily two-hour commute from Cheatham County to Nashville and back will be greatly reduced.

“My time at the college was a learning experience that prepared me for the PVCS challenge,” Mr. Campbell said. “I grew professionally and personally, and can take with me a skill-set that I did not possess when I arrived 12 years ago. PVCS and Welch College have similar missions and institutional purposes, and I hope more PVCS graduates choose to enroll at this college that’s so dear to my heart.” ■

ACL Conference Features Librarian Carol Reid



The 56th annual Association of Christian Librarians (ACL) met June 11-14 at Palm Beach Atlantic University in Florida and featured Carol Reid, librarian at Welch College since 1988, in two workshop events, a pre-conference workshop with four colleagues, plus a solo conference presentation. Mrs. Reid's

60-minute workshop, "Writing the Annual Report," attracted 27 attendees with excellent responses from participants.

The team-taught pre-conference workshop focused on ABHE (Association for Biblical Higher Education) Evaluator Training. Mrs. Reid, along with fellow librarians Nancy Olson and Kathy Molenkamp and ABHE representatives Ron Kroll and Randy Bell, led the all-day session. Twenty-one people enrolled for the training session. Mrs. Reid helped to write two skits for the group and presented materials on "Writing the Report."

"I found the conference profitable as professional develop-

ment," Mrs. Reid said. "I attended workshops on establishing an information commons, improving students' media literacy, new developments in interlibrary loan, managing varying work styles, and hosting author visits. I also attended meetings for CPI Indexers, the Commission for International Library Advancement, the Christian Library Consortium, and two ACL business meetings."

More than 32 workshops were available for ACL attendees. Mrs. Reid is a member of the ACL Board of Directors, serves as ACL secretary, and keeps minutes for both the board meetings and the general conference business meetings.

Provost Greg Kettelman said, "Mrs. Reid's current leadership in this professional librarians' association is a credit to herself and to Welch College. Her efforts to network with other librarians are of great professional value. We are delighted that she continues to learn and advance in her chosen field of service here at the college."

A 1977 Welch graduate, Mrs. Reid earned the Master of Library Science degree at Vanderbilt University. She is married to Dr. Garnett Reid, a Welch College professor specializing in Old Testament studies. ■

Illinois Group Volunteers on Campus

Ten volunteers from Bear Point FWB Church in Sesser, Illinois, spent two days sprucing up the Welch College campus on June 4-5, according to Ernie Thompson, cleaning operations supervisor. The group arrived Sunday afternoon in a 15-passenger van, moved into the dormitory, and started working Monday morning.

Mr. Thompson said, "We're so glad to have this enthusiastic group of young people and their sponsors on campus. They were all smiles and did a bit of everything from loading scrap iron onto trailers to working the stacks in Welch Library, plus painting, sanding, and cleaning."

This marked the first service trip to the college for the Bear Point Volunteers. Youth Leader Shawn Mygatt said the congregation funds a number of service opportunities for youth during the year, including working at homeless shelters and children's homes and community projects at the Free Will Baptist national convention. The students ranged in age from 8-17 and were accompanied by four adults.

Seventeen-year-old Shelby Payne will be a high school senior this fall and plans to enroll at Welch College. Miss Payne said, "I've heard about the college all my life and attended one of the Welcome Days events. I want to study psychology, and I really like the small campus atmosphere Welch College offers. I want to make a difference in the lives of children."

Rising high school senior Matthew Crawford attended the 2010 Welcome Days. He is considering Welch College and wants to pursue a career in broadcasting or journalism.

While in Nashville, the Illinois team wanted to tour the Parthenon and other landmarks. Their agenda included spending Wednesday, June 6 at the Free Will Baptist National Offices where they stuffed envelopes and completed other projects before returning to Sesser late that night.

Pastor Larry Cook has led Bear Point FWB Church for almost three decades. Judson Phenicie, a 2012 graduate of the college, joined the church staff this summer. ■

Changed Lives

As I travel around visiting Home Missions churches, I hear many stories about how people were saved and their lives changed by following Christ. For this issue of *ONE Magazine*, I asked two home missionaries to share a story about someone in their church. Here are two of those stories.

—Richard Atwood, director of missionary assistance, Home Missions



Virginia

I first met Jim and Lisa when they visited our booth at the Suffolk Peanut Fest where we gave away balloons and had a drawing for a free Wii game console.

When they stopped by our table, we talked to them about our church and gave them a brochure. Lisa said she didn't even know if there was a God and certainly did not attend church. Jim had attended a Christian school as a child. He even attended church until he had a bad experience and vowed he would never go inside a church again. We never really expected to see them again, but they showed up at church a few weeks later.

They began attending our church faithfully and even came to our home Bible study on Thursday nights. Many began witnessing to Lisa, but she was adamant that she did not believe in God. People still welcomed and loved them, and they kept coming back.

About a year later, Lisa called me around 1:00 a.m. because she and Jim were having some problems. (They were not married and living together.) They came to my house the next morning to talk, but I knew the real problem was Lisa's heart. We talked about the Lord Jesus, and what He did on the cross.

About 45 minutes into the conversation, Lisa started crying and said she wanted to receive Christ into her heart. She prayed to receive Christ, and Jim rededicated his life to the Lord that same day. Lisa recalls that after praying, she "felt changed and saw things in a new way." Jim and Lisa moved apart and then were married a couple of months later.

"We have not always had it easy," Lisa adds, "but I know God will take care of us. In the past, when problems came, I would have worried, but I now know God will help us and give us what we need."

Jim and Lisa are one of our most faithful families. They serve in several areas of our church. What a blessing they are, and what a difference Christ has made in their lives!

David Sexton is planting CrossPointe Free Will Baptist Church in Suffolk, VA.

Colorado



I first met T.J. when he visited our church with his mother and his grandfather, who was a Free Will Baptist preacher. He later told me his story. Here it is in his own words:

Until the age of 20, I lived a life of denying God. I was a rebellious and defiant teenager and scoffed at authority. This behavior led to my eventual arrest and conviction. After emerging from the trial, I realized I had to

change. It felt as though God was telling me it was time to wake up. I heard His call and obeyed His command.

What started with tidying up some nasty habits led to occasional church attendance. It wasn't long before I found a church I could call my own—a start-up church that met in the gymnasium of a charter school in town. Before I knew it, I had repented and invited Jesus to live in my heart! In May 2011, I confessed to my grandfather that I had accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior.

Then something incredible happened. The Lord allowed me to use my musical gifts to glorify Him. Pastor Donnie Burke invited me to join the worship band, playing the guitar and singing, so,

of course, I accepted. This opened a new door. I could now freely praise God within a congregation of fellow believers. I consider it a privilege to honor Him with the gifts He has given me.

As the months passed, I became more and more involved with the church. I led worship for the youth group and Wednesday night meetings, and also plugged into small group Bible studies. I soon understood the Lord was calling me to pursue a career in ministry. He ignited a new passion in my heart. I wanted to offer up myself to His will, so I applied to a Christian university. I was accepted with a scholarship in vocal performance, and now, I am pursuing a degree in Worship Arts, a music major.

I never comprehended God's amazing grace until I experienced it in my own life. God has blessed me so richly in the past year, and my gratitude extends beyond the farthest stars. Who else could take a person so broken by sin and restore him to fullness in peace and joy? Only the Lord Jesus. **ONE**

Donnie Burke is planting Truth Free Will Baptist Church in Castle Rock, CO.



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The quiet explosion of Spanish-speaking Free Will Baptists...

The Best-Kept Secret

BY RICK BOWLING



God has been good to Free Will Baptist Hispanic ministry in the United States.

Thousands have been saved, families restored, addictions healed, and the gospel preached to people who have never read the Bible nor heard of God.

In Puerto Rico, Pastor Jose Correa has started a church in Caeuas. He and the church members have purchased a large building sufficient to start a kindergarten and later an elementary and high school. Education is very important to the Puerto Rican people. Jose and his people plan to meet this need, reaching families by caring about their children.

Two other groups that meet in homes have started in other cities in Puerto Rico. Although this outreach began recently, 20 people are already attending one group and 15 the other. Correa and his congregation plan to use this effort to establish a new church in the area. Eventually, they hope to open ten other churches in this manner. They also plan to open a satellite institute of the Gwen Hendrix FWB Hispanic Institute (South Carolina) to provide leaders for each of the new churches.

Dr. Rufo Gomez, currently pastoring in Lexington, Kentucky, has planted new churches in Winchester, Kentucky; Fort Meyers, Florida; and Tabasco, Mexico. Under his ministry, people are hearing the gospel and obeying—faithful to God's Great Commission.

Every Free Will Baptist can be proud of the work in Fort Myers, Florida. After graduating from the Gwen Hendrix Institute, Pastor Portelli moved to Fort Myers to begin a new church. They rented a building in a new shopping center, and then renovated it into

date, 27 missions have been started beyond the borders of the United States. The remaining graduates help local churches continue to spread the gospel.

The Hispanic ministry is a real and growing part of the Free Will Baptist denomination. A service for Spanish-speaking Free Will Baptists is held each year at the national convention. Churches send young people to participate in youth competitions. The secret's out. The Hispanic ministry is alive, well, and growing among Free Will Baptists. Find out how you can get involved today. **ONE**

The Hispanic ministry is a real and growing part of the Free Will Baptist denomination. Find out how you can get involved today.

He introduced Free Will Baptists to Dr. Lugo, a doctor from Mexico who desires to come to the States to join the rapidly expanding work among Spanish speakers. Though a medical doctor, God has called Dr. Lugo to preach the Word.

a beautiful sanctuary where 40 people or more meet every Sunday.

The Gwen Hendrix Institute has 208 graduates. Some students return to their homelands to start Free Will Baptist missions in their neighborhood. To

ABOUT THE WRITER: Rick Bowling is director of Hispanic ministries for Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Learn more at www.homemissions.net.



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DISCIPLESHIP

IN A MISSION CHURCH BY TIM LEWIS

“I’m tired of dealing with other people’s stuff.”

My wife actually said that the other day. Don’t worry; I asked, and she gave me permission to tell you. While she wasn’t talking about anybody in the church, or even a person who is a Christian, it struck me that it was a pretty good definition of discipleship. I realize it’s probably not found in many textbooks or Bible dictionaries, but if I had to choose a one-word, action-oriented synonym for *discipleship* it might be “messy.”

Not all discipleship is the same. Two categories of people in our country become followers of Jesus. On one hand are people who come to faith in Christ whom we might label as Culturally Christian Converts. They may not become Christians until later in life, but they have had significant Christian influences in their lives. Perhaps Mom and Dad were Christians. Maybe they grew up in church. They know the Bible. They know Jesus died for their sins. They understand what it means to live the Christian life. For whatever reason, they simply had not repented and submitted to the Lordship of Jesus.

I am one of those people. My dad is a pastor. I grew up going to church three times every week. I was good at Bible trivia and as a teenager had more Bible head knowledge than many people decades older than myself. For me, the question wasn’t, “What does it mean to be a Christian?” but rather, “How do I know this is really true?” When I made the decision toward the end of my high school years to commit my life to Christ, I knew *exactly* what I was stepping into.

You probably know people who fall into this category. I sometimes say about them, “They could get saved, and they wouldn’t have to change anything.” Of course, Jesus calls all of us to change, and true discipleship is a lifelong process, but you get the point. Some people enter a relationship with Jesus with a background in their lives that allows them to mature rapidly in their walk with Christ.

Others come to faith in Jesus without the benefit of a Christian background. We might call them Culturally Pagan Converts. On a scale of one to ten, they start out at zero or one in terms of knowing what it means to be a follower of Christ. They realize their need for a Savior, repent of their

sin, and place their lives in the hands of Jesus, but the world they step into is completely foreign to them.

They don't know how to be a refined, "proper" Christian. How could they? They have never been around one before. They don't know all the little rules like, "You're not supposed to curse in front of the pastor," or "You take your hat off to pray," or "You shouldn't blurt out whatever comes to your mind during the sermon." They don't know the proper way to prepare for a pot luck, how to find the Gospel of John in their Bibles, or how to pray and sound really spiritual while doing it. They have never in their entire lives uttered the words "thou," "hath," or "begotten."

WHAT WE, AS CULTURAL CHRISTIANS, MUST REMEMBER IS THAT NOBODY GOES FROM STEP ONE TO STEP TEN IN CHRISTIAN MATURITY OVERNIGHT. DISCIPLESHIP IS A PROCESS.

In some ways this is good thing. In essence, they begin their walk with Christ at square one and aren't familiar with the "culture" of Christianity that often develops in the church and has very little, if anything, to do with actually following Jesus.

What we, as cultural Christians, must remember is that nobody goes from step one to step ten in Christian maturity overnight. Discipleship is a process. Growth occurs over time. While there is a great deal I don't know about discipleship, here are a few things I have learned while working with non-cultural Christian converts over the years:

Discipleship requires patience. People will let you down. Count on it. They will slip and stumble along the way. Be patient and realize they may actually be making great strides of growth when you stop to consider where they started. In addition, remember you aren't all that perfect either.

Discipleship requires a lot of handholding. Perhaps the most difficult part of true discipleship is that it requires time, energy, and effort. Mature followers of Jesus can't be "cranked out" simply by completing 13 simple lessons. In addition, your pastor isn't physically capable of doing all the discipleship in your church. Jesus Himself invested the majority of His time in training just 12 men. Within that group He focused on three

in particular. If the Son of God didn't try to be all things to all people, neither should your pastor.

Real discipleship is going to cost you something. You're going to have to invest and give of yourself for the sake of someone else. You're going to have to commit intentionally to being there when needed, even if it's inconvenient. You're going to have to help people up and encourage them to move forward with Jesus, and then do it again, and again, and again. It's going to get messy, and you're probably going to get frustrated.

Discipleship takes time. The biggest difference between a Cultural Christian Convert and a Cultural Pagan Convert is the time it takes to reach maturity. Babies don't become adults overnight. Think about your own walk with Jesus. I have been actively following Jesus for more than 20 years now, and I can honestly say I am more aware of my shortcomings now than I was the day I accepted Christ. I still have a long, long way to go before Jesus is finished with me. I'm thankful for the people who continue to tolerate my shortcomings, forgive my failures, and encourage me to keep moving forward. We must extend that same courtesy to others.

Jesus demonstrated all of these traits in the way He handled the discipleship of The Twelve. It took patience, hand holding, and time. One minute they were great men of faith, the next they were cowering in fear. One minute Peter was boldly proclaiming Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, and the next he was trying to tell Jesus what to do. After three years of intense, in-the-field, hands-on training, all the disciples fled. Peter denied even knowing Jesus, and did so with a curse. Through it all He continued to love, admonish, encourage, and hang in there with them.

One other thing I've learned about Culturally Pagan Converts—they are some of my favorite people. They've not learned to act stuffy and religious. Their prayers are sweet because they are pure and from the heart. They may not be flowery, but they are inscrutably honest. They may not know a lot about the Bible, but at least they don't read it and yawn. They are excited to learn and grow. They may be a little rough around the edges and ruffle the feathers of more "refined" Christian sensibilities, but their faith is real, open, and vibrant.

And you know what? On many occasions it's not clear whether I am the one doing the discipling or the one being disciplined. That's discipleship in a mission church! **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Tim and Jessica Lewis moved to Ogden, Utah, in 2000 to start Summit Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. They have three children: Ashton, Logan, and Miley. Tim enjoys the outdoors, racquetball, and reading.

LeaderProfile >>>>

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

Jeff Goodman



It started with this prayer, “God stretch us, make us uncomfortable, and do things so big only You can receive the glory.” Jeff Goodman and Josh Bennett, long-time friends and co-

pastors of The Springs Church, a Free Will Baptist church plant in Tucson, Arizona, began praying that while Jeff pastored in Homerville, Georgia. After three months, Jeff decided to stop praying that prayer because God truly had made him uncomfortable. As a result of the prayer, the two families moved 1,900 miles—a long way on one interstate—but God desired their willingness and commitment. Now, amazing experiences occur regularly.

In September 2010, the Goodmans and Bennetts hosted the first Bible study, which included 24 people in their apartment's clubhouse. Growth was rapid, and after building a core of people they moved to Quail Run Elementary where they launched The Springs Church in August 2011. They reached the mid-40s quickly and soon moved to a new and better location, Rattlesnake Ridge Elementary, where the church now meets on Sunday mornings. Ten months into the life of this new

church, The Springs Church runs in the 90s regularly.

Jeff, Josh, and each of their families approach people openly and honestly and do not hide their vulnerability. They know the people they want to reach are neither perfect nor pretentious. Recognizing everyone is a sinner before God creates common ground to reach people who need Christ. Jeff's ability to talk with absolutely anyone creates friendships everywhere and builds relationships and trust, allowing for a mutual heart connection.

Jeff's parents, Dick and Betty Goodman, created a home setting to prepare his heart to receive Christ and to follow His plan for his life. At age 16, at Camp Hope in Illinois, Jeff realized he needed to make a personal profession of faith in Jesus and answered the call to preach. God still continues to stretch Jeff daily. **ONE**

Jeff Goodman, you are a great leader!

Describe an ideal date for you and Heather.

“Sushi and a movie or going to a family-oriented show at the comedic Gaslight theatre in Tucson.”

What are you reading right now?

Sticky Church
by Larry Osborne
Not A Fan by Kyle Idleman

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

Crazy Love by Francis Chan
Autobiography of Peter Cartwright, *The Backwoods Preacher* by Peter Cartwright 1785-1872

Surprising Insights From the Unchurched and Proven Ways to Reach Them
to Reach Them
by Thom Rainer

What is the biggest shortcoming in your leadership style?

“I over-talk most everything, but that is no surprise to anybody who knows me.”

What do people misunderstand about you?

“They perceive me as busy or in a hurry, and that reminds me to pause and listen better.”

What is your one indulgence?

“Five Guys Burgers and Fries... anybody who will put A-1 Sauce on my cheeseburger rocks.”

What's a one-word descriptor for your daughter?

Ava (4) - Clever

Paper or Plastic Questions

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

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Faith of our FATHERS

BY JEFF GOODMAN



Life is a precious gift we often take for granted. I have said hundreds of times while preaching, “You only get one life, so make it count.” I often ponder my own life and wonder if I will make a difference in this grand world. I know God has a purpose and plan for my life. It is to that calling—to that still small voice of the Lord—that I desire to be faithful.

Three years ago, I felt the call to plant a new church in the West, and my heart was torn by the new direction God had for me. I had pastored Homerville FWB Church ten years, and it was a wonderful time of ministry in my life. I loved the people and the friends I made during my time in Georgia. Yet, I knew in my heart it was time to move on, to put my faith in God for the next chapter of our lives.

As we traveled to raise support, I continually saw God’s faithfulness and the faithfulness of His people. I truly dreaded asking people for financial support, but as I began to share the vision of what God had called us to do in Marana, Arizona, my dread turned to pure joy and excitement.

You see, people were not only supporting us, they were partnering with us in this ministry. Every person who prays for us or helps us financially shares a vital part in what God is doing in Arizona. It is difficult to ask good folks for money to do something that may or may not succeed, but the

success of this work must be left in the Lord’s hands. We often measure success differently than God does. I want to do what is important to God, and not what is important to me.

The last two years in Marana have been amazing—meeting new people and seeing God at work in their lives. As I think back, I am amazed at God’s faithfulness, and I am reminded of the words of the old hymn, “Faith of our Fathers:”

*Faith of our fathers, we will strive
To win all nations unto thee;
And through the truth that comes from God
Mankind shall then indeed be free.
Faith of our fathers! Holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death!*

Yet, while this year has been awesome, it has also been tragic at the same time, a roller coaster ride of emotions. I have not only experienced spiritual highs but the lowest of lows. My father passed away unexpectedly on October 10, 2011, and I have been dealing with the subsequent grief since.

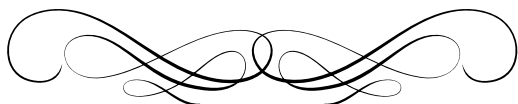
I will never forget the night before my father passed away. I received a phone call from my brother Rod. He told me Dad had been taken to the hospital and had most likely suffered a heart attack. I spoke to my dad a little later that night, and he said, “Son, don’t worry, and don’t come home yet. I’m going to be fine. I love you.”

I trusted my father’s words completely. As a matter of fact, I slept like a baby that night until the ring of the phone shattered the early morning darkness, and I learned my dad had gone into eternity. I ran onto the balcony and cried out to God in my deep loss, desiring to be home with my mom as quickly as possible, but finding myself 2,500 miles away. I felt helpless and didn’t know what to do.

My dad was neither a pastor nor a missionary. He was simply a hard-working man who retired from the Illinois Central Railroad after 42 years. He worked the same job from the time he graduated high school until retirement. In all of those years, he never



Because of my earthly father's model of faithfulness to God, our Heavenly Father, I will strive to make a difference for my family and for God.



missed a single day of work—no matter how sick he was. Dad was someone to be counted on.

He and my mom were married 49 years. They would have celebrated their 50th anniversary in April. He always made sure we attended church faithfully, learning about God and His love. Mom and four kids always had food, shelter, and clothing, even when dad's clothes were worn, and his shoes had holes in them. He taught us life skills we would need as adults—budgeting, commitment, paying bills on time, working hard, and making wise decisions.

My father was not a perfect man, but he was Dad. He loved his family, and he was faithful to provide for our needs. I still miss him, and some days the smallest of things remind me of him: every time a train goes by, or

when the St. Louis Cardinals are playing. Tears spring to my eyes unexpectedly, but I always remember his words during our last conversation, "Son, don't worry and don't come home yet. I will be fine. I love you."

In my heart, I promise Dad that I will keep on working here in this old world. Because of my earthly father's model of faithfulness to God, our Heavenly Father, I will strive to make a difference for my family and for God. My prayer and promise is the same as that written long ago, "And through the truth that comes from God, mankind shall then indeed be free. Faith of our Fathers, holy faith. We will be true to thee till death!" **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Illinois native Jeff Goodman pastored in Georgia 10 years before moving to Marana, Arizona, to plant The Springs FWB Church. Learn more about The Springs at www.homemissions.net.

A Legacy of Sharing Christ...

Bob Shockey changed from a rough Kentucky roustabout working barges on the Ohio and Big Sandy Rivers to one of the greatest Free Will Baptist soul winners in history. If you spent more than a few minutes with Bob, the conversation always returned to that moment when God saved him. His passion served him well through 54 years of ministry—both as pastor and as director of Home Missions. Today, Bob Shockey's legacy lives on through the work of church planters across the nation.

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News Around the World

New Board Members Elected at Convention



Antioch, TN—Delegates to the 76th session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists elected four board members to the Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions on Wednesday, July 18.

Nelson Henderson (AR) was reelected to another six-year term. Mark Price (OH), previously selected to complete Jerry Norris' unexpired term, was also reelected. Dr. Janice Banks was elected following a nomination from the floor and will complete the balance of deceased board member Paul Creech's



term (expiring in 2014). Dr. Brad Ransom was selected to replace Randy Wilson who served the maximum term of 12 years.

Although social media outlets were inundated with the news that delegates had elected International Missions' first female board member, Mrs. J.R. Bennett had that honor when she was elected to the board in 1938.

General Director Clint Morgan said, "It is always impressive to see God use the men and women who represent our churches to fill the board with a diverse representation of our denomination, people who love God and have His heart for the lost around the world. Join me in praying for all our board members."

The full release is available on the Mission's website: www.fwbgo.com ■

Missionaries Return to Assigned Countries

Antioch, TN—Applause filled Cook Convention Center as delegates to the 76th session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists received General Director Clint Morgan's report, Wednesday, July 18, in Memphis, Tennessee. Morgan announced April's World Missions Offering total had surpassed \$944,000. Giving God the glory for all He has accomplished, Morgan thanked the denomination for yielding to His leading and responding generously, obediently, and in some instances sacrificially.

A standing ovation greeted the announcement that missionaries detained by the International Missions Board in December 2011 were released to return to their assigned countries.

"In December, no one could have predicted that a scant seven months later we'd be able to enthusiastically release these missionaries," Board Chairman Danny Williams stated. "We are thrilled at the way God has answered prayer and look forward to His continued working." Full release available: www.fwbgo.com ■

Price to Head Volunteer Effort



Antioch, TN—Director of Advancement Mark McPeak announced that Ohio pastor Mark Price has agreed to provide leadership for the 2013 World Missions Offering (WMO). Price, a volunteer himself, will chair a team of volunteer representatives.

"If we are to invite every Free Will Baptist church to be involved in sharing the gospel overseas," McPeak explained, "we must have more people engaged. By creating an infrastructure of volunteers passionate about reaching the world for Christ, we allow local pastors and laymen to fulfill one of their roles in the Great Commission."

Price has served with the ambassador program since the 2008 WMO promotion. In 2011, Mark was elected to the IM board, yet continued to represent the Mission as an ambassador as well. "Mark Price has demonstrated an ongoing enthusiastic desire to

grow the ambassador program. He has been innovative in promoting the WMO in Ohio and, this year, served on a WMO team led by Sam McVay that planned and implemented the 2012 campaign," said McPeak.

"One of the key components of this year's WMO was the emphasis on prayer and dependence on the Lord. I don't see that changing," McPeak affirmed. "We need His guidance. We need Him to move in hearts so people will respond in obedience to His mandate to take the gospel to the ends of the earth."

Price said, "While we will focus heavily on the annual World Missions Offering, don't be surprised to hear us reminding churches and individuals of the importance of consistent, monthly giving. The WMO gives a financial boost to the second quarter of the year, but monthly giving keeps missionaries on the field performing the tasks to which they have been called."

Full release available at www.fwbgo.com ■



Spain: More than 40 children participated in Alpedrete's vacation Bible school July 16-20. Throughout the week, 11 children from un-churched families participated in the "Amazing Wonders Aviation" themed crafts, music, Bible lesson, and snacks. ■



Brazil: The São José FWB Church in Campinas, Brazil, continues to grow. Pastor Nilvio baptized seven people Sunday night, July 29. Eleven others were baptized at the end of June. Pastor Nilvio and other church leaders seek to ensure the discipleship and spiritual growth of these new Christians. The church also hosted a vacation Bible school in July that reached more than 500 children. ■



Japan: The youth of the Miharashidai Chapel in Hokkaido, Japan, recently initiated a Bible study for the young people following Sunday service each week. Both Christian and non-Christian youth attended. ■



Panama: Steve and Lori Torrison partner with Osvaldo to plant a church in Penonomé. Their current rental property is beginning to fill and they are starting the process of finding a larger space. Their vacation Bible school, held September 10-14, created much excitement as many children participated. ■



Spain: Jhon Fredy, pastor of the Villalba FWB Church, baptized three new believers at the end of June. ■



Japan: Ken and Judy Bailey seek to reach young families with the gospel. Ten children meet each Sunday afternoon for English Club, where they also hear Bible stories. Parents typically attend these events with their children. ■



Hubbards Reassigned

Antioch, TN—The Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions met Sunday evening, July 15, and approved a request from Director of Field Operations Jeff Turnbough to reassign Heath and Joni Hubbard from creative access work in Spain to career missions in Japan.

"At the time Heath and Joni were appointed," Turnbough said, "Japan's field strategy did not offer a viable place for them to work. Sure of their missionary calling, they agreed to join the Spain creative access team since that was where the greatest need existed."

"God has been working in our hearts for quite some time about ministering in Japan," the Hubbards confided. "We sensed God leading us to make the difficult decision to change fields."

The Spain team met and discussed the implications of the Hubbards' transfer. "After praying together and washing one another's feet," team members agreed, "we are parting ways with one another's full blessing."

"The great spirit and attitude with which all these missionaries approached me left no doubt in my mind that recommending the Hubbards' reassignment was the best decision," declared Jeff Turnbough. "These missionaries will serve well wherever they are located. I look forward to seeing how God will continue to work in and through them to extend His Kingdom to the unreached peoples of the world."

Full release available at www.fwbgo.com ■



UNDERSTANDING RISK

When the Board of Retirement accumulated the first \$100 in assets, a church bond was purchased. As assets grew, more church bonds were acquired. As assets began to accumulate, the first Free Will Baptist Church Loan Program was begun. Through the years, many churches and denominational agencies benefitted from these loans with their competitive interest rates.

But when assets continued to grow, and interest rates began to decline, in order to meet our fiduciary responsibility to participants by providing the best returns possible on their investments, it became necessary to seek other investment opportunities.

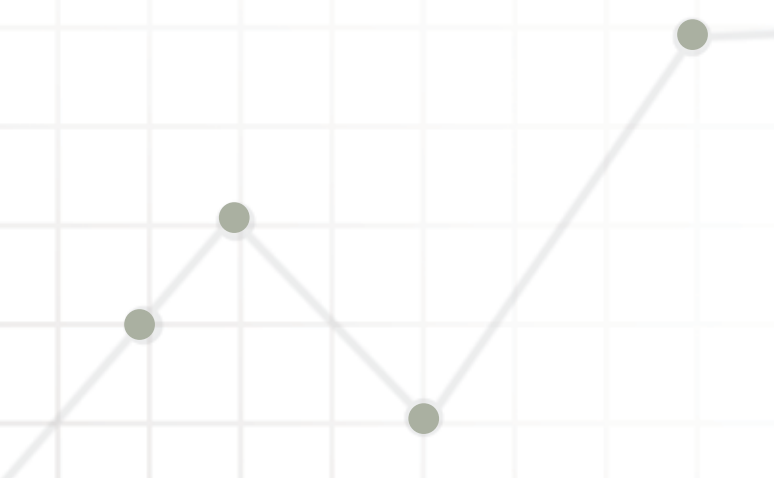
In 1986, the Board made the bold decision to enter the world of investing in the stock market. After a careful search, three competent investment management firms were hired to handle our investments.

What did this change in investment strategy mean for participants? In simple terms, it added volatility that was not there before. When our funds were invested 100% in first mortgage loans, even if we had to foreclose on a loan (which we never did), the Board would still have held title to the property, and foreclosures would have had no effect on account balances.

Shifting investments into the stock market caused participant account balances to fluctuate as market values go up or down. Today, four investment options are available to participants in the Free Will Baptist Retirement Savings Plan. The options range from very conservative to very aggressive. The less a person has in the market, the less risk. The larger market investment means more risk.

The **Pro-Mix Conservative Fund** is designed for participants whose retirement date is within 0-5 years. Investment in the stock market can range from 5%-35% of the total portfolio with a target of 20%.

BY D. RAY LEWIS



The **Pro-Mix Moderate Fund** is designed for participants within 3-10 years of retirement. Investment in the stock market can range from 20%-60% with a target point of 40%.

The **Default Fund** is the original option offered since 1986 when the Board entered the world of market investing. It is designed for participants within 7-20 years of retirement. Investment in the stock market can range from 40%-70% with a target of 65%.

The **Pro-Mix Maximum Fund** is more aggressive. It is designed for participants with 15 or more years before retirement. Investment in the stock market can range from 70%-95% with a target of 85%.

Each option carries risk. Risk free investing would not work for a retirement fund because participants invest for the future and depend on the long-term growth of their investment to provide income in retirement. Investing in a passbook savings account with a return of less than 1%—just because it is a safe investment—will not provide the long-term financial security they seek.

Many people don't fully understand how they make or lose money in their account. While it is rather simple to understand the earned interest concept for a regular savings account, the idea of net asset value (NAV) and volatility is more difficult to understand when trying to determine why your retirement account fluctuates in value.

Valuation of accounts held by the Board of Retirement occurs monthly. As an example of volatility, let's assume you deposit \$100 into any of the investment funds described above. On the day you make the deposit, assume the net asset value (NAV) is \$10 per share. With your \$100, ten shares are purchased for your account. But when you receive your statement the following month, you find that your balance is \$97.50 instead of \$100. What happened?


The NAV decreased due to market volatility. You still have 10 shares, but the NAV is currently only \$9.75 per share

rather than the \$10 per share you paid for it. Your shares, purchased at \$100, are now only worth \$97.50. Of course, the same process works the opposite way as the NAV rises.

Using the example above, if you transfer your investment from the fund you originally selected to one of the other funds while the NAV is \$97.50, you experience an actual loss of \$2.50 on your \$100 initial deposit. If you do nothing and simply leave the funds where they are, your account balance will show an unrealized (or paper loss) of the same \$2.50. Of course, the NAV may increase and recover your lost value, or it might decline further, depending upon overall economic conditions.

Why does the net asset value (NAV) fluctuate? The NAV fluctuates based upon the underlying value of the stocks in the pool of assets in your portfolio. For example, each of the funds described above has stock from many different companies in the portfolio. The value of a single company's stock may move up or down based on a number of things, including the overall demand for the company's products, expansion efforts into new markets, closing of certain markets to the company's products, the development of a better product by a competitor, or a thousand other reasons.

As in sports, there are always winners and losers, and both may be contained within the same portfolio. Consider the rise in the price of Apple stock over recent history. With the release of iPhones, iPads, and other popular products, Apple has surged to the top of the technology sector of the market. While Apple gobbled up market shares, other technology companies like Dell and HP suffered. Your portfolio might contain all three companies in the same portfolio. The hope, of course, is that "gainers" always out-weigh "losers."

The goal is to maintain a long-term view and hope that over an extended period of time you realize substantial gains from your investments in growing and prospering companies. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: D. Ray Lewis joined the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement in 1983. He became director in 2005 after serving for several years as assistant director. Learn more about your retirement options and opportunities at www.boardofretirement.com.

Special thanks to First FWB Church in Mountain Grove, Missouri, for its contribution to the Labor of Love Fund.

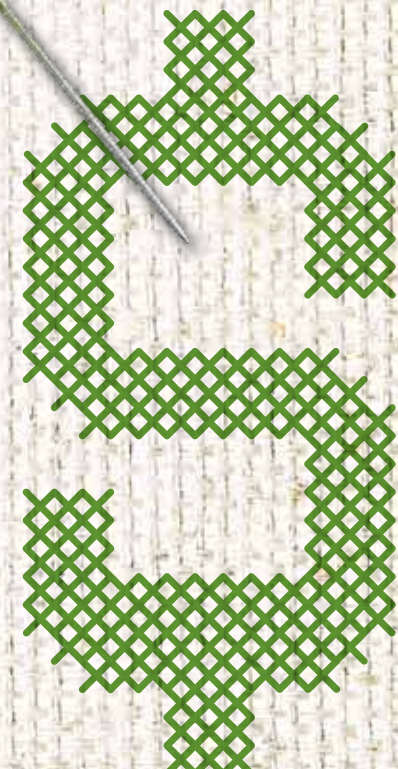
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A Two-part Series from
the Gospel of Matthew

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Two Men (One Dead) Talk about Money

PART 1: *The* GREEN *Thread*



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BY BRENDA EVANS

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Matthew worked in it every day, coddled it—was possessed by it.

Then one day he left it. Simply got up and walked out. Quit his money, his power, and his associates who were greedy sediments of society like him. The shruggers of Capernaum probably said: “He just left everything.”

I figure he explained himself at the dinner he gave for Jesus later in the week. That he had been a greedy man, a finagler, and a cheat. Had squeezed some, extorted others, lied to most. Been in alliance with Rome, barred from the synagogue, and driven away decent friends. He had loved money and was publicly acknowledging it, for it was a public sin. “But I’ve left everything and will never go back,” he must have said.

What we know about Matthew from that day on is scant, for little is written in the Gospels, including his own. One fact is clear: Jesus awakened Matthew’s conscience, drew his heart from mammon to God, and brought him to repentance. After the Upper Room in Acts 1, Scripture clamps shut and stays silent on Matthew.

Only a few passages in his 25,000-word gospel crack open the door. Of course, Matthew’s purpose for writing a narrative of Jesus’ life is to unveil Him as Savior and King. So there is a genealogy, a birth, a death, and a triumphant resurrection interspersed with the Savior-King’s ministry of miracles, parables, and discourses.

Along the way, Matthew also weaves a subtle but shrewd green thread into his story of Jesus. This green thread emerges from his own tax-collecting experience. Matthew knew the good and the bad of the green stuff, and under the Holy Spirit’s direction, he described its power, especially for harm.

For example, he stitches nine oblique references to his despicable past into his narrative. The other synoptic writers link tax collectors (or publicans) generically to sinners, but Matthew ties them to the lowest of the low—heathens and harlots. His word choice is a silent but clever testimony: such was I—tax collector. May as well have been heathen or harlot. But no more (See 11:19; 18:17; 21:31,32).

And he alone of the gospel writers adds a descriptive phrase “the publican” when he lists himself among the 12 Apostles (10:2-4). Matthew never forgot what was on the other side of that bridge he had burned one bright day in Capernaum when Jesus said, “Follow me.”

What Money Will Not Buy

Often Matthew’s green thread shows up when he details Jesus’ teachings or parables that the other gospel writers omit. One example is his comment on what money will not buy, smack in the middle of Jesus’ hard remarks about anger, hatred, and murder. Matthew says Jesus warned that if you take your gift (or sacrifice) to the altar and remember your brother has a grievance against you, you should go reconcile with him then return with your gift (5:23,24).

His point is that gifts to the Lord do not buy right relationships. Anger, hatred, grievance, or trouble with our fellowman is trouble with God. A gift to God would never remedy Matthew’s problems with people.

XX

As a Mokhes, Matthew had every opportunity to exploit and oppress the people of Capernaum. The tax gathering of a Gabbai was well-regulated by Rome. But a Mokhes was free to assess and collect as he chose. A man without conscience, as Lorman Petersen says, could “exploit beyond measure.” Imports, exports, bridges, roads, harbors, pack animals, carts, goods, and pedestrians—Matthew had access to them all. Every bale, package, letter could be opened and taxed at his whim, according to Alfred Edersheim. Matthew *knew* about grievances. The list was long against him, and money had settled none of his troubles.

What Money Can Buy

On the other hand, Matthew makes it clear that money can buy some things—a man, for example, especially his heart and his tongue. All the gospel writers describe how money stoked Judas’ greed and fueled his sell-out.

But Matthew alone recounts Judas’ last words, a cry really, “I have sinned...I have betrayed the innocent blood,” and then his self-slaughter (27:3-5). Ill-gotten money bought Judas’ heart and eventually his burial ground. Matthew understood that. Giving back the money did not revoke the betrayal or reverse its consequences. Matthew understood that, too.

In another sell-out scene that only Matthew records, Jewish leaders bought the tongues of the guards at Jesus’ tomb. For a large sum of money, the guards agreed to tell a lie—that Jesus’ disciples came at night and stole his body.

GENEROSITY IS ABOUT INNER LAVISHNESS, NOT OUTER. ABOUT PRAISE OF GOD, NOT PRAISE OF MAN.

In return, the elders promised to appease the governor and corroborate their lie (28:11-15). Matthew knows that money buys minds, hearts, even words.

What Is Most Valuable

Another green thread that shows up only in Matthew is found in The Treasure and The Pearl, two parables Jesus spoke privately to His disciples (13:44-46). Both point to the “incalculable preciousness of salvation,” as William Hendriksen says. When Jesus called and he followed, Matthew learned the value of forgiveness was beyond measure. Salvation in Christ was a treasure—a pearl of inestimable value that called a man to leave all, sell all, and yield all.

As far as I can tell from the gospel narratives, none among the apostles gave up vocationally more than Matthew. He left his tax table and never went back. Peter and the other fishermen briefly returned to their business after Jesus’ death (John 21:1-3). But symbolically, Matthew had cut off his hands; they would never grasp another crooked dollar. He would never throw his pearl to pigs.

What Motivates Matters

Matthew the tax collector was a materialist. Getting, having, and holding were his *modi operandi*. Yet the first thing he does after following Jesus is burn big bucks throwing a dinner party. Everybody who was anybody was there—Jesus and His critics included. I think it was an “evangelistic meal” to showcase the Savior of sinners.

It is almost as if Matthew blew a trumpet and said, “Come and see the party I’m throwing for Jesus and all these people,” and that is interesting in light of what he says about tooting our trumpets when we do good things. Specifically, he mentions alms to the poor. Do it in secret, without making a show, he says, and quotes Jesus to support his point (6:3-4).

Matthew’s motive for the dinner wasn’t alms and generosity. It was about the life-changing Savior. Why do we entertain or give gifts, tithes, and offerings? Generosity is about inner lavishness, not outer. About praise of God, not praise of man. Matthew alone among the Gospels makes this point and sticks it to us again when Jesus warns about

doing any good thing just for people to see (23:5).

Matthew knew about wrong motives toward “our stuff” because he had been there. Greed, selfishness, small hearts, and closed hands—all are part of the subtle green thread he loops in and out of Jesus’ story as if to say, “Trust me, former tax collectors know about money.”

Matthew is dead but his understated warnings are alive with cautions about our devotion to the green stuff. Next time, I’ll look at The Red Thread, Jesus’ own words about money in the Matthew’s Gospel. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Brenda Evans is a retired English teacher. She and her husband Bill (former director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation) live in Cattlettsburg, KY. They are proud grandparents of seven. Learn more about the Foundation at www.fwbgifts.org.

A TOUCHY SUBJECT

IN RECENT DECADES, TOTAL ABSTINENCE FROM ALCOHOL HAS BECOME AN UNEASY TOPIC in the Church. But it cannot be ignored. On the next few pages, three Free Will Baptists—from different generations and walks of life—share their views regarding this touchy subject.

The Case for **TOTAL ABSTINENCE** BY TIM CAMPBELL

Beliefs about alcohol consumption in moderation in the church have varied down through history. Early Free Will and General Baptist history reveals some who disagreed with the idea of total abstinence. Through the years, however, Free Will Baptists have come to the conclusion—based on biblical principles and evidence—that the proper stance for every Christian is total abstinence. This stand is so firm that the *Church Covenant* itself not only prohibits the sale of alcohol but also insists that Free Will Baptists refuse to sanction or endorse those who do:

We promise, by His grace, to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid the appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction and the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to provide things honest in the sight of all men.



Uneasy Silence

In recent years, few churches have been vocal in their stand for total abstinence. Few pulpits or teaching lecterns make a biblical case against alcohol. It is not enough to occasionally decry drinking with a witty comment or quip. We must go to the Word of God to make our case.

I sometimes wonder if Free Will Baptists are afraid to bring up the issue because of differences of opinion that trace back to the “wine issue” in the 1980s. Whatever your belief about the wine in the Bible, Scripture still points to total abstinence.

In his article, “A Christian Perspective on Wine Drinking,” Norman Geisler states, “Many wine-drinking Christians today mistakenly assume that what the New Testament meant by wine is identical to wine used today. This, however, is false. In fact, today’s wine by any biblical definition is ‘strong drink’ and hence forbidden in the Bible! What the Bible frequently meant by wine was basically purified

water.” He goes on to point out that one would have to drink 22 glasses of wine in New Testament times to consume the amount of alcohol found in two martinis today.

Please do not miss the point. I am not calling into question anyone’s stance on the wine of the Bible. I am, however, pointing out that even if a person does believe that some wine in the Bible contained a degree of alcohol, the case must still be made for total abstinence.

Consider the results of alcohol in our own culture. No other drug is so abused. No other product has produced as much havoc, broken up so many families, ruined so many lives, and killed so many people. But it is culturally accepted—even promoted. My fear is that we are looking the other way, uneasy with a difficult and socially unacceptable topic.

We must make the case for total abstinence. We need to uphold the statement in our Covenant. I am firmly convinced we need to let it be known

that Free Will Baptists believe drinking alcohol is a sin.

The Role of the Church

The Church has a responsibility to speak out clearly in favor of total abstinence. However, I also believe we should reach out to those whose lives have been destroyed by alcohol. We must stand firm in our belief in abstinence, yet reach out in grace and compassion to those caught in the trap of alcohol, taking them from where they are to where they need to be. As the Bible reminds us, they often do not know the dangers of the glass before them. “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Proverbs 20:1).

In the coming years, may God impress on Free Will Baptists the importance of this issue—the souls at stake, the families that hang in the balance—and embrace a public, unashamed stand for total abstinence. Whether a drop, pint, or barrel, alcohol has no place in the life of the Christian.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Tim Campbell is executive director of the Arkansas State Association of Free Will Baptists.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ON THE USE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BY DANNY CONN

THEY DID IT IN THE BIBLE! This is a common response today regarding drinking alcoholic beverages. But to excuse modern social drinking on the basis that “they did it in the Bible” ignores the full instruction of Scripture and the context of the culture.

While there were certain practices in the Old Testament that God temporarily allowed, we would not necessarily take that as His preferred standard of behavior. For instance, He allowed King David to have more than one wife, but it was not God’s ideal and it caused David much trouble. Following the same practice ruined his son Solomon.

It is worthwhile to note that the priests were prohibited from consuming any wine or strong drink during their service in the tabernacle or temple (Leviticus 10:9-10). Leaders were also counseled to refrain from wine and intoxicating drink (Proverbs 31:4). God calls His servants to be set apart and follow a higher standard. God’s Word is our guide.

1. **Condemnation of Drunkenness** (Luke 21:34; Romans 13:13; Galatians 5:21). Not only do these verses denounce being drunk, they also speak against the “partying” or “carousing” often associated with drinking alcoholic beverages.
2. **Abstaining from that which has the Potential to Enslave** (1 Corinthians 6:12; Ephesians 5:18). Believers should be under the influence of the Holy Spirit, not “spirits” or any other power.
3. **Condemnation of Strong Drink** (Proverbs 20:1; Isaiah 5:11, 22; Isaiah 28:7). Intoxicating drinks were recognized to pervert one’s thinking and were responsible for errors in judgment and sin. These “strong drinks” were any type of intoxicating beverage, including beer. While naturally

fermented wine can be intoxicating (7 to 15% alcohol or 30 proof), it is far less than the alcoholic content of modern distilled spirits and fortified wines. The Jews’ common practice was to dilute wine, presumably to reduce the risk of intoxication. The New Testament references to *a little or not much* may also suggest the idea of dilution. The condemnation of intoxicating drink seemingly requires that wine be diluted.

4. **Appropriate Medicinal Use** (Proverbs 31:6, 7; 1 Timothy 5:23). Give to “those who are perishing,” “those who are in anguish.” The pain-relieving effects of alcohol are well known. These verses do not support social drinking. Rather they outline certain situations where it is appropriate to use alcohol as a medicine. In this view, social drinking could be compared with recreational drug use or drug abuse.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Danny Conn, Ed.D, is the editorial director at Randall House Publications.

One Body, Many Members, One Touchy Subject

BY NICHOLAS DENNIS

I never met my Grandmother. She died before I was born, due to alcohol-related illness. My mother grew up in an Irish Catholic family where drinking is still a religious practice. When I was in 8th grade, my best friends were Samuel Earney and Keith Thompson. Keith was the most devout Christian teenager I knew, never wavering on his convictions.

That year, his youth group was traveling to a Christian youth concert when a drunk driver hit them. Keith died in the wreck. A revival began at my school with his funeral and manifested itself in students organizing F.A.D.D. (Friends Against Drunk Driving). My experiences have significantly influenced this conclusion: I am against the use or sale of alcohol. If I were not Free Will Baptist, I would still be against it, and I want to be up front regarding my position.

This article does not address the familiar Free Will Baptist objections to alcohol. Instead, this article deals with another dangerous issue that plagues our denomination—the disruption of fellowship and accountability over the alcohol debate. By analyzing the *Treatise*, perhaps we can attain a clearer picture of this problem and propose solutions from an unusual perspective.

Free Will Baptist Treatise, Part 1: Church Covenant, paragraph two: *We promise, by His grace, to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanction of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to “provide things honest in the sight of all men.” [emphasis mine]*

Every member of a Free Will Baptist church that has committed itself to the *Treatise* also commits individually to uphold its doctrine. Those who defy (not disagree, but defy) this statement regarding alcohol are wrong, because they have first agreed to abstain. What’s more, churches that knowingly allow people to become members without supplying a *Treatise* and instruction about particular distinctions like

abstinence from alcohol are also in the wrong. I say this because I fear many churches shrink from addressing these matters head-on.

I was born in 1989, making me part of the Millennial Generation. When observing those my age and younger, I see a tendency to adamantly agree with abstinence while young, question moderation in high school, and end by adamantly opposing self-denial of alcohol in college.

I have met many young adults within the denomination who drink quietly, waiting for the *Treatise* to change (and frankly, waiting for the older generation to die off). Obviously, many factors play into this, but I believe this quiet opposition is a result of churches avoiding this important issue.

I do not believe anyone would disagree with Romans 12:17, so why are

we not being “honest in the sight of all men”? Are we not obligated to voice our concerns, disagreements, or confusions within the local church so we may better come into harmony and unity? Is this topic too heated for a local body to address? A dire need exists for Free Will Baptist (of all generations) to communicate openly regarding these matters.

Just as it would be irresponsible to instruct a child that stealing is sin without explaining why, the same is true of allowing a section of the *Treatise* to stand without properly divulging its intent and purpose. Ignorance can lead to legalism.

Free Will Baptist Treatise, Part 1: Church Covenant, paragraph five: *We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to “keep the unity of the Spirit” in the bonds of peace, to be careful of one another’s happiness and reputation, and seek to strengthen the weak, encourage the afflicted, admonish the erring, and as far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel. [emphasis mine]*

As siblings in the family of God, we are charged to love one another and express that love in watchful care. It is essential to remain accountable to other believers, to ensure our reputations reflect a people set apart for God’s holy purpose. It is frightening how individualistic the Christian faith has become in Protestant America. We have stressed the need for a personal relationship with God to the point we often neglect the need to assemble spiritually as well as

geographically.

Intimate relationships that build and sharpen one another are key. When we are divided on issues or neglect to address them directly, we all suffer. Churches (and denominations) are doomed to fail if we cannot communicate on tough subjects, and members vulnerable without reproof or correction. We must understand that “a threefold cord is not easily broken” (Ephesians 4:12). If we are not unified on major issues, we cannot hope for genuine, effective unity. We will become vulnerable to the attacks of Satan.

Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, “All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not. Let no man seek his own, but every man another’s wealth” (1 Corinthians 10:23-24). We should ask ourselves: are we seeking the good of our brothers or ourselves in this matter? Are our arguments and opinions born out of a self-fulfilling desire or concern for others?

Paul continued by asking in verse 29, “For why should my liberty be determined by someone else’s conscience?” This seems to be the battle cry of those who oppose the *Treatise* statement: “If alcohol use is not an issue for me, and I can refrain from intoxication, why should I conform to the stricter standards of another’s conscience?” Paul concluded his thought in verses 32 and 33: “Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.”

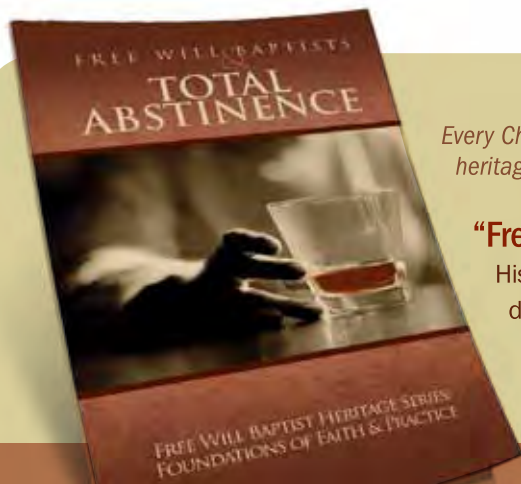
The Church’s mission is to seek and save the lost and to see fellow believers finish the race and keep the faith. In Romans 9:3, Paul stated, “For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren.”

I cannot believe the Apostle Paul would allow any involvement in simple pleasures to cause a doubt to arise regarding his relationship with God. Nor would he place his wants before the great need he recognized around him. Love for his fellow man far outweighed his desire for things of this world.

I choose not to drink. I find—apart from my beliefs about it—that its costs far outweigh any possible benefits. Its use is, at best, a slippery slope for any believer. The issue does not end with alcohol, however. If I were asked to stop wearing red clothing for the sake of my brother, I hope I would sacrifice that privilege gladly. I believe everything comes into perspective when we focus on eternity.

I hope you will be open, honest, and forthcoming to other believers. Let nothing stand in the way of your fellowship. Choose to strengthen our bonds, become accountable in all things, love one another, serve sacrificially, and put the happiness of others before our own. With these in place, and with a good dose of humility, we can appropriately approach heavy issues of our faith with clear minds, caring hearts, and a mutual determination to see God glorified. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Nic Dennis is a 2012 graduate of Welch College and serves as Youth Minister at Cross Timbers FWB Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He and his wife Laura Beth just celebrated three years of marriage.



Every Christian denomination has unique beliefs and practices that give it identity and define its heritage. For Free Will Baptists, this includes total abstinence from alcoholic beverages.

“Free Will Baptists and Total Abstinence,” is a pamphlet published recently by the Historical Commission of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. It gives readers a deeper understanding of this historic practice and the biblical principles involved.

Order your copy today: www.randallhouse.com



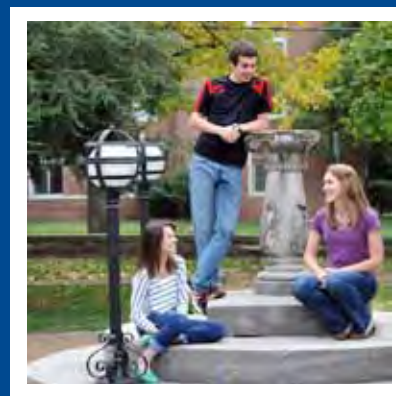
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same-sex
marriage:

OXYMORON

by Roy W. Harris

An oxymoron is a figure of speech in which contradictory or opposite words or concepts are combined. I love oxymorons. We use them all the time—expressions like *pretty ugly*, *freezer-burn*, *deafening silence*, *plastic silverware*, *jumbo shrimp*, or one of my favorites—a *definite maybe*.

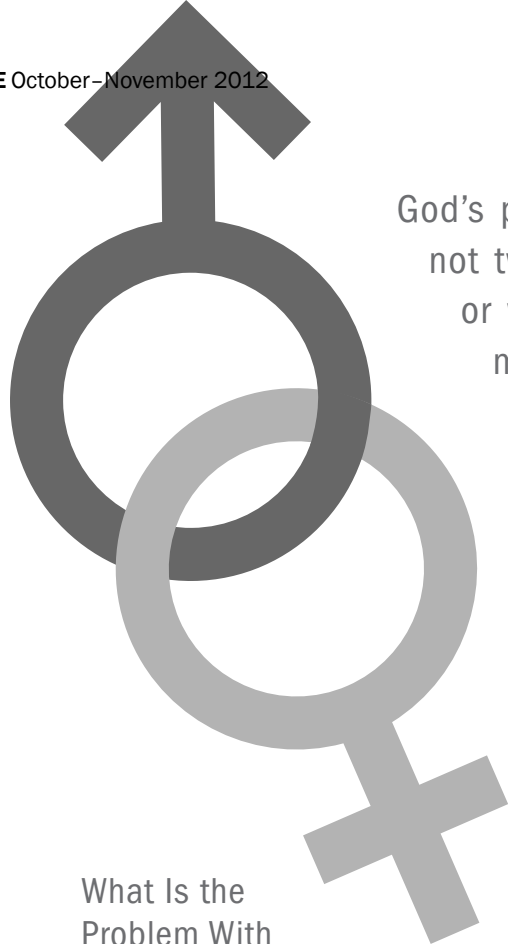
On the surface, these humorous phrases sound good, but when examined a little more closely, the contradictions become obvious. The most recent oxymoron to gain national attention is the phrase *same-sex marriage*. Same-sex and marriage are definitely opposite, and they contradict each other.

In our day, same-sex marriage is touted as the “new normal.” From books and magazines to television shows and radio programs, Americans face a constant barrage of propaganda from proponents of the gay lifestyle. And when the President of the United States was recently described as “The First Gay President” on the cover of *Newsweek* magazine (in response to his open support for homosexual marriage), biblical truth demanded a response.

We arrived at this crossroads as a result of a gradual decay in the national conscience regarding this issue. It began

in 1993 with the *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* policy under President Bill Clinton, which permitted gay men and women to serve in the armed forces as long as they did not proclaim their homosexuality openly. It continued as eight states legalized same-sex marriage. It was promoted further on February 23, 2011, with the U.S. Justice Department decision to no longer enforce the *Defense of Marriage Act*. This vital decision gutted the law by removing federal enforcement prohibiting same-sex marriage.

Seven months later, on September 19, 2011, the repeal of *Don't Ask, Don't Tell* granted homosexuals permission to openly proclaim and practice the gay lifestyle in the military. The capstone of this campaign to undermine the foundation of society is the recent presidential proclamation supporting the redefinition of marriage to include members of the same sex.



What Is the Problem With Same-Sex Marriage?

Why even ask the question? I believe we must be ready with an answer for a world being coerced—under the banner of political correctness—not only to tolerate but to embrace same-sex marriage.

Same-sex marriage is wrong on a number of levels. The most obvious to the Christian is that it violates God's biblical plan for marriage. Genesis 2:24 reminds us that in a biblical marriage, a man leaves his father and his mother, and cleaves unto his wife. The two then become one. The words *leave* and *cleave* are important, but the word *wife* is crucial.

The word in the original Hebrew is *ishshah*. The word is feminine and always refers to the female of the species. God's plan for marriage was simple: one man and one woman, not two men or two women.

Those who advocate man-to-man or woman-to-woman marriage are attempting to change the marriage plan designed by God Himself. They

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find themselves in direct conflict with this biblical truth that defines marriage as between a man and a woman. God makes it clear that a man shall *leave* his parents (relinquish the old relationship) and *cleave* (be fastened together in a new relationship) to his wife. The two partners are clearly male and female.

Second is the sin problem. Let us not take lightly the many admonitions in Scripture that condemn the homosexual lifestyle (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:24-31; 1 Timothy 1:10; and Jude 7 to name a few). The Bible speaks openly about homosexuality, and *never* in a positive context.

Where Do We Go From Here?

1. We should be encouraged that North Carolina recently became the 30th state to define marriage as between a man and woman. Our votes do count! We live in a unique country, with freedom to voice opinions.

We should be actively involved in the political process. We should examine the moral positions of the candidates and measure them against biblical truth. Sometimes, we must choose to vote for the lesser of two evils, but refusing to vote at all is like voting for the winning candidate—whoever it may be.

2. We must filter polls, media propaganda, and political correctness through the guidelines of God's Word. We must resist the temptation to go along with popular opinion and stand firm in proclaiming the truth of Scripture. Perhaps you recall the story of the prophet Elijah on Mount Carmel.

He stood unyielding against the ungodly standards of his culture, and the power of God prevailed at the end of the day. We would do well to follow his example.

3. We must proclaim clearly—from the pulpits to the pews—the biblical origin, design, and purpose of marriage; the sin of homosexuality; and the problems produced by same-sex marriage.

In my opinion, America has reached the most crucial crossroad in history. I fear that if the same-sex marriage oxymoron is embraced by our nation, 236 years of God's blessings may come to an end.

It is time for action! Second Chronicles 7:14 reveals an ageless prescription for the cure. We must humble ourselves, admitting the desperate moral decline in the nation; ask for God's help in turning this nation around; and examine our own lives as Christians, dealing with any sin the Holy Spirit reveals.

If we do that, according to this passage, God will turn our nation around and continue to be awful good to us. (I'm sorry. I couldn't resist one final oxymoron). ☐

About the Writer: Roy Harris has 30+ years ministry experience as pastor, educator, and conference speaker, serving in leadership positions on the local, state, and national levels. He currently serves as moderator of the Cumberland Association of Free Will Baptists (TN).

Tournaments Hit a **HOME RUN** for **MASTER'S MEN**

BY KEN AKERS

It was great to be in Nashville, August 2-4, for the annual Master's Men National Golf and Softball Tournaments. The weatherman called for temperatures in the mid-to-upper 90s, and he was almost right. He also called for a 60% chance of rain on Friday and a 50% chance on Saturday. Again, he was almost right.

Waiting for the Shotgun

Fifty golfers gathered Thursday, August 2, at Windtree Golf Course in Mt. Juliet for the annual tournament. While temperatures were hot as predicted, it was not as hot as the last two years, and a slight breeze kept it tolerable. With a 7:30 a.m. shotgun start, golfers got in several holes before the sun began to warm things up.



But the sun wasn't the only thing heating up the course. The winning team of Ronnie Dunn and Paul Ballard shot a blistering 10-under-par for an 18-hole total of 62, finishing just ahead of Clint Morgan and Jeff Nichols who scored a respectable eight-under-par score of 64. Other winners included Cliff Donoho and Chad Donoho (First Flight) and Keith Burden and William Smith (Second Flight).



Going Deep

On Friday and Saturday, teams gathered in Cane Ridge Park for the two-day National Softball Tournament. The radio reported heavy rain in nearby Nashville, storms to the north and the south. But Cane Ridge stayed dry, and the cloud cover helped keep temperatures down.

Twenty-three teams from eight states pursued the championship trophy. With a "round robin" styled tournament, every team played at least four games. After preliminary rounds on Friday, brackets were set for the championship and consolation rounds on Saturday.

The morning of the championship began with heavy cloud cover, but it melted away quickly. Then, in early afternoon, park officials informed us that radar indicated a large band of heavy storms headed our way. Thankfully, the strong winds came and left just as quickly. No games were halted, and no storm came.

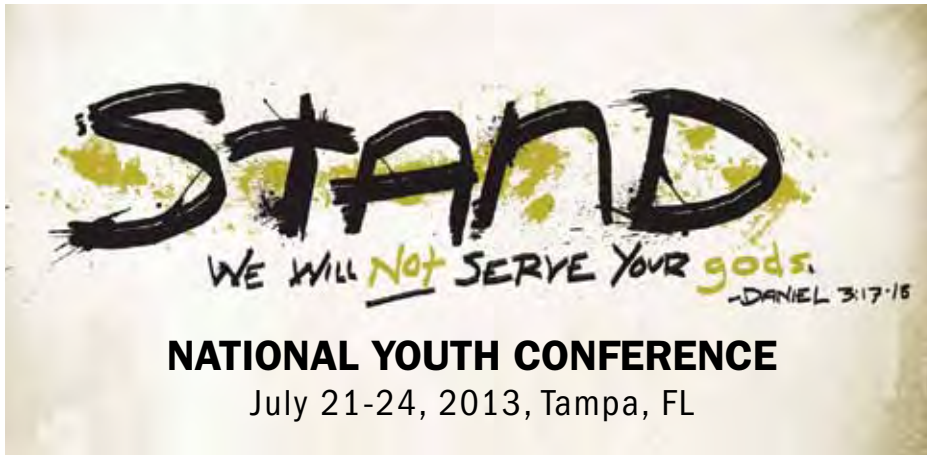
When the dust settled, Northridge FWB Church (OH) captured the title in the consolation tournament and Cookeville FWB Church (TN) took second. In the championship bracket, Mt. Olive FWB Church (AL) finished fourth, and Lebanon FWB Church (SC) finished third.

The championship game featured perennial contender Kirby FWB Church (MI) and Zion Hill Orange (GA) competing for the top spot. Zion Hill completed a perfect weekend, with no losses on their way to the tournament championship.

Master's Men thanks all golfers and softball teams for supporting this year's tournaments. These contests are more than just an opportunity for fun, competition, and fellowship. They are a vital part of the fund-raising efforts for Master's Men and help underwrite disaster relief efforts, training for men, and much more. To learn more about the ministry of Master's Men, visit www.fwbmastersmen.org. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Ken Akers is director of Free Will Baptist Master's Men.

:NYC News



Competition Guidelines Revised

June 1. Circle it on the calendar. ALL competition entries must be sent to Randall House by June 1. State competition winners must be sent by June 1. Creative Writing and Digital entries must be submitted directly to Randall House by June 1. We need the information earlier to be able to publish the NYC Directory so contestants, families, and churches can finalize room reservations before the room block closes.

First and second place finalists of *all* Bible events can advance to the national—including Bible Memorization. Contestants may also use either the KJV or ESV for memorization. TruthQuest can no longer be used for a church’s required Bible event.

Be sure to order the 2013 Bible Competition CD for all the study material.

Praise Band and Human Video have been added as full events instead of Exhibition.

Order your copy of the 2013 revised *Competition Guidelines* at randallhouse.com or call 800-877-7030. Updated judging forms and other resources are available for download at www.fwbny.com.



Truth & Peace

Truth & Peace Leadership Conference trains high school students to excel as leaders. Students are selected based on their involvement in church, school, youth group, and community, and their leadership potential. They come together for ten days of intensive training, and then put that training into practice as the teen staff of the FWB National Youth Conference.

} Find out more or apply at www.verticalthree.com/truth-and-peace.
} Applications due by October 31.

Buck-A-Week is a way for young people to get involved in supporting missions. This year, the Buck-A-Week offering will go to the 10th anniversary celebration of JCrois, a youth ministry event in the Nantes church in France, and the student ministry at the University of Illinois led by Tyler and Kellie Penn.

Contact buckAweek@fwbny.com to get a Buck-A-Week bank.



Youth Evangelistic Team

YET stands for Youth Evangelistic Team.

This select group of high school students travels during the summer and ministers in mission churches, camps, and other settings. They also lead worship in the teen services of the FWB National Youth Conference. Here is the team that was selected to travel next summer:

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

To be eligible for YET, students must participate in the competition program of the National Youth Conference.

YET members are selected from among the top scoring events of the competition. Students interested in being considered for YET are encouraged to complete the YET Application form and return it to YET@randallhouse.com. The YET Application can be downloaded at www.verticalthree.com/yet.

News About the Denomination

2013 Nominees Requested

ANTIOCH, TN—The 2012-2013 Nominating Committee, which will serve through the national convention in Tampa, Florida, is prepared to receive nominees for the 2013 convention election, according to Mike Wade (OK), committee chairman.

The committee will meet Tuesday, December 4, 2012, at the annual Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, to consider nominations and compile a slate of nominations for each position to be filled. The report will be presented to the delegates at the 2013 convention.

The following board and commission positions will be filled in 2013: 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 Friday, November 30. Contact Chairman Mike Wade: Nominating Committee, Oklahoma FWB State Office, PO Box 7527, Moore, OK 73153 mwade@okfwb.org ■

Tennessee Couple Leaves \$1.2 Million to Free Will Baptists

Johnson City, TN—Free Will Baptists from across Tennessee gathered at Johnson City FWB Church, Monday, July 9, to honor the memory of Reverend O.P. Stokes and his wife Ruby. The memorial service felt more like a celebration as friends and colleagues recounted the Stokes' faithfulness through more than 60 years of ministry—a faithfulness that continued after death. The couple left \$1.2 million to four different ministries—Free Will Baptist Family Ministries (\$500,000), Home Missions (\$243,000), International Missions (\$243,000), and Welch College (\$243,000).

Eddie Young, Tennessee pastor and friend of the Stokes for nearly 50 years, delivered a message filled with humorous accounts of their friendship. "Brother Stokes was the key to my ministry," he joked. "When I ran into a problem, I would call him up, listen to his advice, and do exactly the opposite. Worked every time." On a more serious note, he added, "Brother Stokes was a great soul-winner. He was a great pastor, and he was my big brother in the Lord. He built 16 churches during his lifetime—a pioneer for God and for Free Will Baptists."

Representatives from each of the ministries benefiting from the Stokes' generosity were on hand to receive a symbolic check. "Because of Brother Stokes and his wife Ruby, and their love for ministry," said Frank Woods, director of FWB Family Ministries, "we are reaping the benefits. This gift is going to make a difference. You better believe it will!" ■

Randall House Publications Awarded by PIAS

Nashville, TN—The Printing Industry Association of the South, Inc. (PIAS) announced winners of the annual 2012 Graphic Awards on June 25 during its annual convention in Destin, Florida. The competition awards and honors top-quality printed materials in the industry. A panel of experts judged each entry using a point system to determine the winners.

PIAS awarded six awards of excellence to Randall House Publications:

- *Direction* Student Devotional Magazine (Sept.-Nov. 2011)
- *Adventure Guide* (Fall 2011)
- *Explorer's Guide* (Winter 2011)
- 2011 Randall House Product Catalog
- Every Age on the Same Page D6 Curriculum Booklet
- The Legacy Path Brochure
- Next Brochure (D6 2011 Conference)

Executive Director Ron Hunter said, "We are very pleased to be honored for continued excellence in the quality of our products. Any time a Christian organization earns awards in the secular marketplace, it is a compliment to the cause of Christ. These quality products draw readers into the Word of God daily in our devotional magazines, curriculum, and books." ■

Photo: Mark Cowart



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

One to ONE >>>>

If

Our nation is in crisis! Politicians and pundits debate and disagree over the cause. Opinions run the gamut—the economy, unemployment, healthcare, education, and defense. The list is practically endless. Yet the myriad challenges facing our nation are not the root cause of the problem. They are merely symptomatic.

America has a moral problem...a serious moral problem. It did not develop overnight. It has been years in the making. Our nation has ignored God, disregarded His Word, and done what is right in its own eyes. These years of accumulated neglect and willful moral rebellion have taken their toll. Our sins have come home to roost.

I am not suggesting there is a quick, easy fix. There isn't! The road to recovery will be a long, difficult journey. Sadly, many of our countrymen lack the desire and discipline necessary to make the trip. Some, even those who are the most hopeful and optimistic, wonder if we haven't gone too far.

Some are convinced the answer lies in political activism. To be sure, each of us is compelled to shoulder his civic responsibility. However, spiritual problems require spiritual solutions. The remedy for the ills our nation faces will not be found solely at the ballot box.

God's Word has the prescription for what ails America. It's so simple and obvious that we

practically stumble over it. Second Chronicles 7:14 says, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." That's the solution in a nutshell. I repeat—it's simple, but it won't be easy.

I believe God is waiting for His people to take the initiative and follow the steps He outlined in 2 Chronicles 7:14. That's why I'm asking every Free Will Baptist pastor and church to consider participating in a national denominational day of prayer. On Sunday, November 4, let us put 2 Chronicles 7:14 into action as we humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face, and turn from our sin.

Is that all there is to it? No. Hopefully it will lead to something far greater and more significant. God alone knows! But, it is a step in the right direction. IF we take that first step, perhaps the Lord will begin to hear, forgive, and heal our land. Will you join me? **ONE**



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