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# ONE

MAGAZINE

A Free Will Baptist Magazine

...

**MISSIONS KEPT  
THEM MOVING**

I Will Be With You

**LIFE ON THE ROAD**

Caring for Your Pastor

**WHEN DADDY  
IS THE PASTOR**

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# ONE MAGAZINE

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ROLE IN THE EXTENSION  
OF GOD'S KINGDOM.

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## First Glimpse >>

### Quillie

I don't remember much about my maternal grandfather. He died when I was only six, so my memories are shadowy at best. I faintly recall a godly, quiet man who occasionally rested a gentle hand on my head, taught me to fish, and prayed such long prayers that I invariably dozed off before he finished. I remember walking beside him through the scuppernong vineyard behind his North Florida cottage and watching him tend his garden with utmost care. But that's it. That's all I can remember. And it is one of my greatest regrets that, as hard as I try, I cannot remember hearing him preach. Over the years, however, with the help of my family, I have pieced together the following story of his life.

Quillie (short for Aquilla) Hansley was born in 1895 in a log cabin near the small coastal town of Sneads Ferry, North Carolina. He had little time for school and spent most of his childhood and teen years working the fields and coastal waters to help support the family. He volunteered for naval service during World War I. It was there he received his first Bible. He read it, especially the Book of Proverbs, which he read again and again, although at the time he had no understanding of what it meant to be a Christian.

With naval service complete, Quillie returned home and began earning a living as a farmer and grocer. In 1922, he married Janie Penelope (Penny) Heath, and the couple soon moved to Durham where they found jobs in a hosiery mill. A Christian with deep roots in Free Will Baptists, Penny *insisted* they go to church, and they began attending First FWB Church pastored by T.C. Marks. Before long, Quillie heard the gospel and accepted Christ. He began to study the Scriptures earnestly, sharing what he learned with anyone who would listen.

In 1933, the couple moved to the Sherron Acres community just outside of Durham. Quillie grew concerned about the lack of a church in the area, so he began to organize prayer meetings in neighborhood homes. When these meetings grew too



large, he purchased a small building, a former dance hall, and began holding services. Hansley's Chapel, as the little church was named, grew quickly, and in 1934, with the help of co-founder and retired carpenter R.L. Hutchins, he purchased and dismantled an old Baptist church building and moved it—piece by piece—more than 30 miles to be reconstructed in Durham. Eighty-five years later, the church, now Sherron Acres FWB Church, continues to thrive.

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After studying briefly at Holmes Bible Institute in the early 1940s, Quillie returned to the Durham area and began a “tent-making” ministry, working to support himself and his family while pastoring four struggling churches. He developed a successful fruit and vegetable delivery business, with a weekly route through the city. Everywhere he went, he shared Christ, and he was often invited into the homes of his customers to pray for the sick and to minister to their spiritual needs. Quillie didn’t stop when he came to the “segregated streets” of Hayti. Despite the deep racial tension in the 1940s South, he took his unique ministry into Durham’s traditionally black community, determined to

share the gospel with everyone who would listen.

In 1951, the Hansleys moved to Jacksonville, Florida. Ever the businessman, Quillie purchased Timiquana Trailer Park, with 10 cottages and spaces for travel trailers or mobile homes. Once again, he developed a deep burden for the community, especially the children in the park. The family began to host Sunday School classes in their home but soon needed more room.

After purchasing a corner lot nearby, in November 1952, the 110th Street FWB Church (later Wesconnett FWB Church) held its first service in a former open-air fruit market with sawdust floors. It was the church where Quillie would serve faithfully until his death in 1979, first as pastor and later as quiet leader and encourager.

Why share Quillie’s story that is admittedly more biography than editorial? Because it is *your* story as well as mine. It is the story of countless faithful men across the denomination like my grandfather, who labored wherever God planted them, without fanfare or recognition, working long hours all day and preparing sermons at night. Their legacy lives on in the lives of their family, their congregations, the young men who answered the call to preach under their ministry, and in the churches they left behind.

While I can’t publish a pastor appreciation article for all of them, I wish I could. They deserve it. **ONE**

**About the writer:** Eric Thomsen is managing editor of *ONE Magazine*: [editor@nafwb.org](mailto:editor@nafwb.org).

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# Missions Kept Them MOVING

BY DAVID CROWE

**From the very beginning, Free Will Baptists in America had a strong missions emphasis.**

In the South, Paul Palmer and Joseph and William Parker planted churches in North Carolina and saw phenomenal growth from 1727 to 1755. In the North, Benjamin Randall, John Buzzell, John Colby, and David Marks planted churches and witnessed tremendous growth throughout New England. From the first church in New Durham, New Hampshire, founded in 1780, until 1808 (just before Randall's death), 130 churches were planted in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Ohio, and Canada.

What was it that kept them moving and growing? Did they ever disagree? Did they ever argue and debate issues? By all means, yes! They argued more than modern-day Free Will Baptists. From time to time, they separated over issues. They had churches swept up by Calvinism, the Church of Christ, fanatics, and other outside influences. They fought over temperance, slavery, education, and whether to pay ministers. What was it that kept them moving and growing throughout the 18th and 19th centuries? I have come to the conclusion their burning desire to plant churches, win

converts, and spread the gospel around the world kept them growing in spite of all the problems they faced.

With limited resources, few churches, few trained ministers or missionaries, and no help from other denominational groups, in 1833 the northern movement organized the Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions Society.

John Buzzell was the first president, and in 1835 they held a commissioning service for two missionary couples going to serve in India. These two couples were Jeremiah and Mary Phillips and Eli and Clementine Noyes. They had been influenced by the missions work of Dr. Amos Sutton of the General Baptists in England, and he participated in the commissioning service. This service was attended by 3,000 people, and shortly after the service, the two missionary couples set sail for Balasore, Orissa, India. This was the birth of our modern international

If we are to keep moving and growing today, we must keep the emphasis on evangelism, church planting, and world missions!

**About the Writer:** Dr. H. David Crowe is executive director for North American Ministries and an avid researcher of Free Will Baptist history.

missions movement. In the first 45 years of its existence, the FWB Foreign Mission Society sent 39 missionaries to India and Bengal. That was tremendous when you consider what they had to work with, and this was accomplished at a time in history when not every denomination was sold on world missions.

Their desire to win the world for Christ moved them beyond the issues, the debates, and the problems. Aggressive soul-winning and church planting kept the movement alive, even after most of the northern Free Will Baptists were lost in the 1911 merger with the Northern Baptists (American Baptists). Even after many of the southern churches were lost to Calvinism, charismatics, and Church of Christ proselytizers, the movement continued until 1935 when God brought together a remnant of the northern churches that refused to merge, and a remnant of the southern churches that refused to be swept up by other groups.

The National Association of Free Will Baptists today is a continuation of a movement that began with the apostles and has a lineage down through history—a history and heritage that are glorious and great. If we are to keep moving and growing today, we must keep the emphasis on evangelism, church planting, and world missions! Through the combined and cooperative efforts of International Missions, WNAC, North American Ministries, Randall House, the Executive Office, the Board of Retirement, the Foundation, Free Will Baptist colleges, children's homes, state associations, district associations, committees and boards, pastors and local churches, we must move forward beyond the issues and problems to win souls, plant churches, and carry out the Great Commission for world missions.

North American Ministries office continues to plant churches in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Our offering each November enables us to help church planters in many ways, as well as utilize the other areas of our ministry—Master's Men, Church Revitalization, Church Extension Loan Fund, cross-cultural outreach, and the chaplaincy. **ONE**

# “I Will Be With You”

By Stephen Kimbrell

*Five years ago, our family visited California for the first time when we made the cross-country trip to attend my brother-in-law’s wedding. We decided to take a vacation there afterward, thinking, “We will probably never get back to California.” Boy, were we wrong!*

After the wedding, we made the trip from Los Angeles to San Diego. With my father-in-law driving, I was free to view the never-ending city along the freeway. About an hour south of Los Angeles, we reached a booming, young city called Irvine. I had heard of Irvine, but all I remembered was that the local college mascot was an anteater. As we drove through this city, one thing captured my attention. It was obviously growing—new sky rise buildings under construction, new shopping malls, new neighborhoods, and land cleared for additional construction.

Intrigued by the visible growth, I did what most people my age do...I Googled it. I was blown away by what I found. I read statistics like: Irvine is the third fastest growing city in the United States; 30,000 new housing units will be constructed in the next 15 years; and 56% of the population claims no religion.

Suddenly, what would become a life-changing thought struck me: “Someone should plant a church in this city.” That thought was followed almost instantaneously with another, even more frightening, thought: “You should plant a church in this city.”

Whoa! Where did *that* come from? Surely, it was just one of those random thoughts that pass through our minds only to be discarded later. I was the last person to move to Southern California and begin a church. I had spent all my life in the South. I grew up two miles down a dirt road on a farm outside the suburbs of Millport, Alabama. (Just to clarify, Millport has no suburbs.) Certainly, my Southern roots would disqualify me from planting a church in SoCal. I was almost positive I could find plenty of other disqualifications.

Several days after the Irvine incident, our family returned home to North Carolina. Yet over the next two years, at various times, my thoughts returned to Irvine. In the fall of 2013, those sporadic thoughts turned into a



growing burden. My wife Lauren and I spent the next six months prayerfully navigating a decision we knew would alter the course of our lives and the lives of many others.

As we struggled under the weight of such a heavy decision, my mind continued to list the reasons I was unable to accept such an endeavor. My excuses essentially centered upon personal inadequacies. Then God greatly used a familiar biblical account to teach me an eye-opening truth. As I read the story of Gideon, I came across the following passage: “And the Lord turned to him and said, ‘Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?’ And he said to him, ‘Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.’ And the Lord said to him, ‘But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.’”

One particular phrase grabbed my attention: *But I will be with you....* “Wow! God never answered Gideon’s initial question of *How can I?* Instead, He completely redirected his attention from his human frailty and exposed him to a God who was both powerful and present. In that moment, God completely squashed my excuses. I was forced to real-



# My ability to answer God's calling had little to do with my ability and more to do with my trust in Him

ize that my ability to answer His calling had little to do with my ability and more to do with my trust in Him. He was not inviting me on this journey because I was the perfect candidate, but because He is the perfect God.

Fast-forward to 2016. Funding for a new church plant has

been raised. Four families (counting ours) have made the cross-country move to Irvine. Countless new relationships have been built. A new church is being planted. All of this and more is being accomplished—not because of me—but because of one biblical promise: *I will be with you.* ONE

**About the writer:** Stephen Kimbrell and his family are planting Grace City Church in Irvine, California. Learn more: [www.fwbnam.com](http://www.fwbnam.com).

# *Life on the Road:* A Church Planter's Perspective

BY CARL SPRUILL

*As I sit here in the corner of my hotel room where I have carved out a quiet area to make phone calls, desperately seeking itinerant services, I see my daughter restlessly watching television. She is restless because she wants so badly to be outside, or to play with her brothers. But her brothers can't play; they are huddled over a hotel desk doing schoolwork. In another area of the room, my wife sits on a bed with schoolbooks and lesson plans spread in front of her while she is busy writing numerous thank you notes and tending to countless other tasks.*



This scenario has become our daily routine. As I consider this new normal, I often find myself pondering a couple of questions: Is this going to work out? How will we ever raise all the monthly commitments we need? Are we doing the right thing? These questions are not unique to me or to my family. They are questions we all tend to ask when we must rely on faith. The step of faith we have taken honestly feels more like a giant leap.

Our journey to Kanēohe, Hawaii, has led us to make some difficult decisions after much prayer and evaluation. We pulled our children out of traditional school so we may remain together and travel as a family. My wife quit her job to homeschool our kids. We have sold nearly everything we own to hit the road, raising support for a call we sincerely feel God has placed in our hearts.

We own five suitcases, a small storage unit of boxes, and a minivan. We live on the road and stay with family as often as we can. Otherwise, we move from one hotel to the next. While we have been criticized for this, we truly feel it is right for our family, a part of the process God has asked of us. We do this to raise awareness of the desperate need for the gospel in the Hawaiian Islands. We do this to raise financial support to get there.

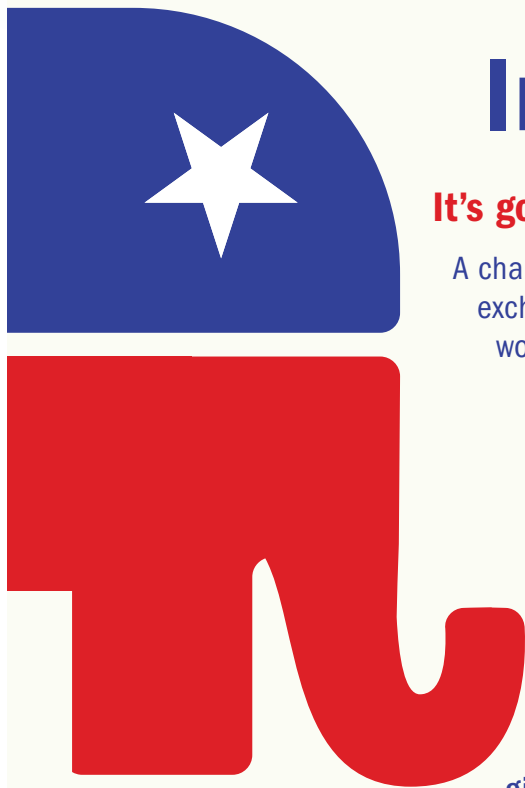
Although we have put together a team to plant churches in Hawaii, we don't exactly see each other often. Being away from teammates, families, and friends has sometimes left us feeling isolated. Yet during this time of isolation, God has taught me—and is still teaching me—we are never alone. We do not do this alone, nor can we do this in our own power. God reminded me of the Hawaiian word *kakou*, which means we are all in this together. It has been a comfort to share our endeavors with churches and individuals because of their support, encouragement, and prayer. We have family and friends with us wherever we go, because we are the Body of Christ. This truth is all the love, fellowship, and family we need.

Along with this peace and comfort, the Lord reminded me of the very core of missions while I was reading Romans 10:15: "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things."

We are the Church, and we are in this together—one Body, one Family. No matter where we go during our life on the road, we are never alone. You and God are there with us. **ONE**

*During this time of isolation, God has taught me—and is still teaching me—we are never alone.*

**About the Writer:** Carl Spruill is grandson of Luther Sanders, now deceased, who planted the first Free Will Baptist church in the Hawaiian Islands. The Spruills are currently raising support to start a second church on the island he calls home. Learn more about the Hawaiian team at [www.fwbnam.com](http://www.fwbnam.com).



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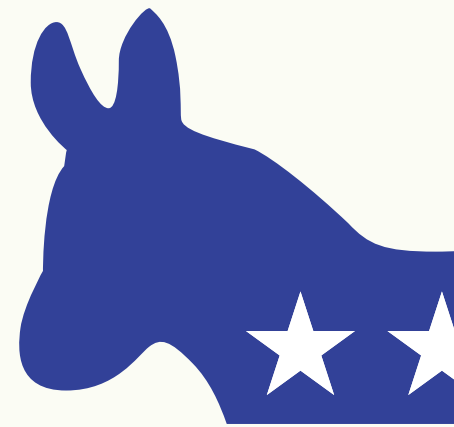
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65	4.7%	65/65	4.2%
70	5.1%	70/70	4.6%
75	5.8%	75/75	5.0%
80	6.8%	80/80	5.7%
85	7.8%	85/85	6.7%
90	9.0%	90/90	8.2%

# A LADY WALKS INTO A BAR...

BY TOMMY JONES

Wait...that didn't come out exactly right. Maybe you need an explanation. One day, an unsaved lady walked into a building that many years ago was a bar and nightclub. Today, that building is Keystone Free Will Baptist Church in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The building was purchased in 2009 and has undergone major renovation. You would never know today what it had once been.

The interesting part is how this lady came to be in this building in the first place. A few years earlier, her son Bill and his family moved from the Greensburg, Pennsylvania, area to Virginia for his job. They bought a home just down the street

from a funeral home...well, what *had* been a funeral home. Today, that building is CrossPointe FWB Church where David Sexton pastors.

David and his family, my wife Pam and myself, and our daughter Jenna and her husband Nate partnered with North American Ministries in 2007 to plant churches in our respective cities. The Sextons went to Suffolk, Virginia, and we came to Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The two churches are about 400 miles

apart. Little did we know at the time how God would link these two buildings—a former bar and a former funeral home.

After moving to Suffolk, Bill, Tracy, and their children began walking down the street to attend CrossPointe Church. With Catholic upbringing, needless to say, attending a Free Will Baptist church was radically different. After attending a few times, the family gave their hearts to Jesus.



Tracy and the children attended services at Keystone once while here visiting family. Then, after traveling home as a family for Christmas in 2014, Bill invited his mom Shelly to attend Keystone, which she agreed to do. She walked in—very timid, out of place, and uncomfortable. We tried our best to make her feel welcome, but we didn't see her for another year.

When Bill and Tracy returned to the Greensburg area for Christmas in 2015, they attended another service with us and brought Shelly again. This time, she seemed a little more comfortable and indicated she would like to come back. She

began attending by herself, and when the invitation was given during her second visit alone, Shelly stepped out, came forward, and gave her heart to Jesus. She is now one of our most faithful members.

A few weeks ago she came to church with her face broken out due to a reaction from a medical cream the doctor had given to her. She wore a protective mask like those worn in hospital rooms and sat on the back row...but she was there. If anyone had a viable excuse to stay home that day, Shelly did. When I asked her if she was okay, she told me she did not want to miss the service. I can't tell you how encouraged

I was by her dedication.

Today, God has created a link between the buildings that once housed a bar and a funeral home. He is now using both locations to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. From a building where people once went to destroy their lives to a place of the dead, new life is being provided. Families are being healed and brought back together.

These churches are meeting in unconventional locations, but they provide a beautiful picture of God's redemption and the new life that comes with it. **ONE**

**About the writer:** Rev. Tommy Jones, his wife, Pam, and daughter and son-in-law (Nate and Jenna Altom) are planting Keystone FWB Church in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Learn more: [www.fwbnam.com](http://www.fwbnam.com).

# YOUR FAMILY could be the next to benefit!

While no one wants to think about dying, it is crucial to be prepared. Since 2013, Free Will Baptist Foundation and Cornerstone Estate Planning have worked hard to help families avoid the legal and financial nightmares of probate. More than 1,300 Free Will Baptist families have already taken advantage of this opportunity to gain peace of mind about their families and their financial holdings, and to keep the courts out of their family decisions.

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## Across the Nation >>

### *Hands Held High at the Power Conference*

*The second Acts 1:8 Power Conference sponsored by North American Ministries (NAM) was held May 30-31 at Music Road Hotel and Convention Center in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. A crowd of nearly 400 people enjoyed two days of fellowship, informative seminars, and inspiring services.*

Christian comedian, singer, and songwriter Aaron Wilburn and gospel group Three Bridges kicked off the conference with a concert. During the evening service, Executive Director David Crowe and Director of Chaplain Support Kerry Steedley led a Memorial Day salute to our nation's fallen heroes. Director of Church Revitalization Jim McComas completed the tribute by singing "God Bless the USA." After special music by Aaron Wilburn and Three Bridges, Dr. Joe Arthur, pastor of Harvest Baptist Tabernacle in Jonesboro, Georgia, shared a powerful message on "dream killers."

A busy seminar schedule kicked off on Tuesday after a challenging keynote address by Director of Church Planting Brad Ransom on "The Cultural Climate in America." NAM staff members Kenneth Akers, Brad Ransom, and Jim McComas led seminars and workshops throughout the day, along with International Missions Director Clint Morgan and his wife Lynette. Pastor, author, and counselor Dr. Eddie Moody was the featured seminar presenter throughout the day, providing practical help to those in ministry in the areas of discouragement, depression, and opposition. Jim McComas wrapped up the day of seminars with a combined session, sharing the ultimate revitalization story from Scripture—Ezekiel and the Valley of Dry Bones.

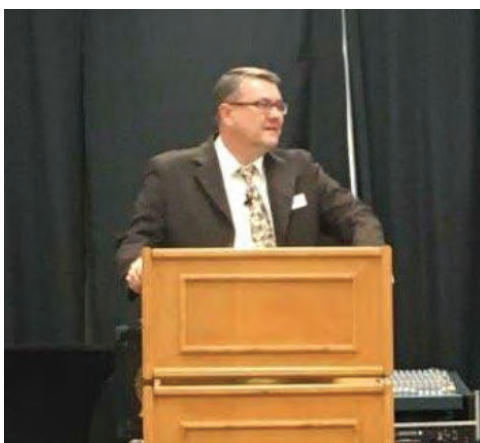


The Tuesday evening worship service began with a concert by Aaron Wilburn and The Primitive Quartet, one of America’s premier gospel groups. Executive Director Dr. David Crowe delivered the inspirational message “Hands Held High: a Ministry of Encouragement.” The conference ended appropriately with dozens of ministers and their wives gathered around the altar while the hundreds in attendance prayed for them.

The responses to this year’s conference have been overwhelming. Many indicated their plans to make the conference part of their annual schedule, describing it as one of the most inspirational and informative conferences they have ever attended. One pastor said “This conference might as well have had my name on the flyer, because each and every service, message, and seminar was just for me.”

Plans for next year’s conference are well underway. The 2017 Power Conference will take place May 29-30, at the Hilton Convention Center and Hotel in scenic Branson, Missouri. The conference will explore the theme “Founded in the Past; Faithful to the Present; Focused on the Future.” Mark your calendars so you don’t miss one of the most exciting and anticipated events in the Free Will Baptist denomination. ■

The  
**2017 Power  
 Conference**  
 will take  
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# Responding to the Great Commission of the Lord

by Philip K. Bonsu

*As the old proverb goes, “better late than never.” After nearly 60 years of Free Will Baptist presence in Ivory Coast (now Côte d’Ivoire) and the official departure of the foreign missionaries a decade ago, the Ivorian National Association has finally come to terms with the need to carry on the Great Commission of our Lord. The Association of Free Will Baptist Churches in Ivory Coast (AEEBLCI) is grateful to the Lord and International Missions for all the missionaries who came to serve and those who continue to serve in different capacities and partner with us.*

Though we still need this partnership, it is first and foremost the responsibility of the association to evangelize and plant churches inside and outside Ivory Coast in fulfilling the Great Commission. In accordance with this vision, the Executive Board set up a missions committee to run the affairs of national and foreign missions. The committee is composed of a national and an international chairman, a treasurer, a secretary, and a member in charge of logistics.

With regard to evangelism and church planting at the national level, the committee, upon reflection, has realized the need for a paradigm shift. In our evangelism and church planting strategy, we need to depart from the pattern of going from villages to towns and then cities. The committee is of the opinion that it will be more cost effective and easier for churches in towns and cities to start and support churches in the villages than the other way around.

Since we belong to the Free Will Baptist family and work in partnership, the action plan of the national evangelism committee has the purpose of helping achieve the 20 by 2020 plan adopted by Free Will Baptist International Missions.



## Strategy for National Mission

- Target cities and strategic towns;
- Rely on Free Will Baptist believers who are state employees or self-employed, residing in towns and cities without a FWB presence;
- Secure land for construction of places of worship.

The question then, is how is the church going to finance this noble project, which seeks to obey the Lord's command?

It is encouraging to note the church is, first of all, counting on its own resources to finance this project before turning to others for help. The following are the financial and material resources to help the association execute its missionary plan:

- Establish an evangelism fund for the association. Each local church contributes to the fund.
- Regional associations
- Denominational youth organization
- Denominational women's organization
- Bible institute
- Ghanaian believers
- Support from our partners (Free Will Baptist International Mission and other Free Will Baptist churches around the world).

The Church in Ivory Coast is partnering with Free Will Baptist International Missions to assist us with this project. Our brothers in Ghana also will contribute in different ways for the progress of the work there.

## New Work in Ghana

The decision to start a work in Ghana came out of a "Macedonian call." When looking for a partner to help plant a church in one of the needy and neglected areas in Ghana, retired pastor Thomas Appiah contacted Kenneth Eagleton,



PHOTO: Philip Bonsu (left) with Samuel Outtera and below (left) with Kenneth Eagleton



former missionary to Ivory Coast and regional director for Africa and Latin America (now living in Brazil). Dr. Eagleton referred him to the Ivorian National Executive Board.

In August 2014, Pastor Appiah was invited to our annual conference in Doro, Ivory Coast, and was introduced as someone interested in partnering with the Association to start Free Will Baptist churches in Ghana. After his visit, two pastors, Noufé Silas and Philip Bonsu, were sent by the Executive Committee to Ghana on a three-day visit to become better acquainted with Pastor Appiah and to survey the possibility for a new mission field.

Pastor Appiah is Ghanaian and

worked with Southern Baptists in that country for several years as a pastor and as a board member. His area was evangelism and church planting. He took an anticipated retirement due primarily to the bad health of his wife, who passed on about four years ago. A ceremony was held in his honor at their national conference for a peaceful retirement.

Time and space will not allow us to give a full account of Pastor Appiah's testimony. The following words, however, epitomize who he is—trustworthy, humble, passionate for souls, and with a clear vision for church planting. Therefore, the decision to start a work in Ghana was informed by the written report on the visit to Ghana by the two scouts.



## About the Kwahu North District

The Kwahu North District, where the new church is being planted, is located in eastern Ghana between the Afram and Volta rivers and has an approximate population of 218,000. Donkorkrom is the capital of the district where work has started and is ongoing. About 25% of the population lives around the Donkorkrom market. The rest of the population is scattered throughout villages and hamlets spread over the inland area,

as well as hundreds of villages on the island, which can only be reached by boat or canoe. The district is largely agricultural, with about 80% of the population engaged in farming yam, maize, cassava, and other crops, and a few people engaged in trading and fishing.

This region is multi-tribal. The major tribes are the Krobos, the Akuapims, and the Ewes, among other smaller tribes. This area of Ghana communicates with a number of different languages. Twi is the “common language” almost everyone can speak and understand. Twi is unofficially second only to the English language and is spoken throughout Ghana. In areas where people are uncomfortable speaking English, Twi becomes the alternative. It is therefore, an important advantage to know Twi if one wants to work in Ghana.

## Needs and Challenges

Many needs and challenges confront inhabitants in the area where the national association has chosen to minister. The people need a true relationship with God through Christ. Though the vast majority of the population claims to be Christian, many are nominal. The dominant churches in the area are Presbyterian, Catholic, and Pentecostal, with a few Muslims scattered throughout the region. No Baptist churches exist in the district.

The needs go far beyond the spiritual, however. The region needs adequate infrastructure. The area lacks a proper transportation system and good roads

for free and quick circulation of people and goods. A ferry transports people to and from the district across the Afram River. But whenever the ferry has a problem, activities come to a halt since no bridge is available to carry people and vehicles across the big river.

Poor drainage leads to flooding, especially during the rainy season. Farmers lack incentives to boost them to work more and produce more to feed themselves and to contribute in feeding the entire region and country. Part of the problem is a lack of markets where farmers can sell their produce.

Children experience a high level of illiteracy. According to a survey of the area conducted by World Vision, only 3% of 11-year-old children are able to read.

## Updates From the Field

A house for the pastor, which also serves also as a place of worship, was secured at the beginning of the year. Pastor Appiah presently resides in that house at Donkorkrom. House-to-house evangelism started in May with a team of three trained by the pastor. Sixteen people, including two families and children, are attending services. An evangelism crusade is scheduled for the area. We are grateful to the Lord for what He is doing and enthused to carry on this work. With the Lord on our side, and with all hands on deck, we will sow in tears but reap with joy. **ONE**

**About the author:** Philip Bonsu is assistant director and teacher at Free Will Baptist Bible Institute in Bouna, Côte d’Ivoire. He and his wife Claudine have two children. Philip graduated from the Bible Institute and earned a Master’s degree in Bible from a seminary in Abidjan. He worked in a church-planting ministry with another denomination in northern Ghana before returning to Ivory Coast. He is a member of the missions committee of the association and is in charge of outreach to Ghana.



Tracing the steps of church planters across the nation...

# Where Are They Now?

BY DARRELL &  
SANDY SMITH



Darrell and Sandy Smith first met with the Home Mission Board in 1990 and began a journey that has proven to be the greatest adventure of their lives. We invited Darrell to tell their story in his own words:

*We moved from Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Oregon City, Oregon, to plant a Free Will Baptist church. We held the first services in our rented home. Three months later, we moved to a children's day care center, where we held services for three months. Then we moved to an office building conference room, where we held services for two and a half years. Finally, we moved into our own building in 1993 and saw wonderful things begin to happen.*

*Over the last 25 years we have seen scores saved and dozens of lives changed. We are grateful for the Free Will Baptist churches and people across America who made it financially possible to establish Oregon Trail FWB Church.*

*Thanks to your support, Free Will Baptists now have a thriving, soul-winning church with great plans for the future. We look at our memorial board and see the names of many individuals who met Christ through the ministry of our church before moving on to Heaven.*



*This has been a wonderful journey, sometimes hard, yet with numerous blessings. Free Will Baptists across America, working through North American Ministries, did a good thing by helping start the Oregon Trail FWB Church. After supporting this work financially for almost ten years, the church reached self-supporting status, and today, we are debt free. **ONE***



**About the writer:** Rev. Darrell Smith and his wife Sandy started Oregon Trail FWB Church in Oregon City, Oregon, in 1991 and continue to minister there.

# CALLED TO SERVE

BY ANA PAULA CARVALHO

Totally convinced God chose and separated him for missionary work, Pastor Clóvis Leandro and his family committed themselves to go to those who need to hear the Good News of salvation.

Most of us agree our church is a missionary church. All agree this will always be a priority. Unfortunately, our actions do not always line up with this truth. Few leaders invest their resources, teaching time, and training toward sending out missionaries.

I like pioneer missionary David Livingston's statement: "God only had one Son, and He made Him a missionary." Jesus left His glory and came to earth to establish the Kingdom of God, denounce sin, and restore our fellowship with God through His own death on the cross. This truth has still not reached all people groups and nations of the earth. To speak of missions is to proclaim the love of God. To be in missions is to express and transmit all this love to humanity.

Within our own country of Brazil, many people still have never heard the gospel. Many others have heard it but have not had the opportunity to be taught and learn the true way of salvation—Jesus (John 14:6). Many Christians never cross borders, county lines, or even the street in their neighborhoods to proclaim the gospel.

The Church should never forget the real condition of humanity without Christ, hope, or salvation. We all have a responsibility to go, preach, make disciples, baptize, and teach (Matthew 28:19, 20).

In 2010, during a ten-day visit Pastor Clóvis and his wife Cristina made to the town of Delmiro Gouveia in the state of Alagoas (Brazil), they visited relatives in the village of Boa Esperança (Portuguese for *good hope*). They recognized that those who lived there needed to hear the Word of God and be taught. The family began to feel a call to missionary work.

In 2012, they had an opportunity to return to Boa Esperança. With each visit, God confirmed in their hearts the need for them to be there, teaching the Word of God. They returned to Campinas (in the state of São Paulo) where they lived, saddened by the suffering population of a village dedicated to idolatry and rituals due to a lack of knowledge of the truth.

As their desire to be in Alagoas grew, Pastor Clóvis and Cristina intensified their

## Algoas FAQ

*The state of Alagoas is the second poorest in Brazil, with 60% of its population below the poverty line.*

This is the first Free Will Baptist work in the state of Alagoas, and in all the northeastern part of Brazil. Until now, Free Will Baptists have only had churches in the states of São Paulo, Minas Gerais, and Brasília (Federal District). Twenty-three states have no Free Will Baptist church.

*Pastor Clóvis is a graduate of Escola Teológica Batista Livre (Free Will Baptist Bible College) in Campinas where he earned a B.A. degree in Bible. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in March 2016.*

The Nova América FWB Church where Clóvis and Cristina are members (average attendance of about 70 people) has also sent another member as a missionary to South Africa and Turkey, where she served for five years.

*FWBIM is partnering with the Nova América Church in the church-planting effort in Alagoas.*





prayers, seeking direction from the Lord. Cristina became pregnant in 2014. As the pregnancy progressed, she began to experience many complications that put her life and the baby's life at risk. Still, the couple persevered in prayer. Through all the difficulties, God continued to confirm His calling. After the baby was born, they understood it was God's will for them to move to the state of Alagoas to evangelize this village.

In 2015 the couple spent 30 days in the town of Delmiro Gouveia and once again visited the village of Boa Esperança. They distributed Bibles and held services in several homes. The villagers began showing great interest in God's Word. Assured they had gained the favor and hospitality of the people, Pastor Clóvis and Cristina came away satisfied, with a renewed desire to continue ministering to this village.

With the assurance of their calling, the support of the Nova América FWB Church

in Campinas where they are members, and the help of other Free Will Baptist churches and International Missions, Pastor Leandro and his family moved to Alagoas in March 2016.

From the very beginning, they faced many challenges. Preparing to make the move took a lot of effort and faith. It entailed an exhausting 1,400-mile trip by car with their two-year-old daughter. When they arrived, they waited ten days for the moving truck to deliver their belongings to the house they had rented.

The couple travels an hour each weekend to get to the village of Boa Esperança. They are happy to do it and are grateful to the Lord. The people of the village are extremely poor, without electricity or access to medical care, and have a high illiteracy rate.

On the first weekend Pastor Clóvis and Cristina ministered in the village, they were taken to the house of André, a young

man who had been bedridden for months due to an accident. André's family, happy for them to pray for him, also offered their home to the missionary family on weekends. They used this house to begin Bible classes with children.

After a few weeks, an awkward situation developed when a newly-built Catholic church across the street also began to hold classes for children. Clóvis and Cristina prayed, and God prepared another family who offered an unfinished house for the weekend Bible classes. They cleaned up the construction site, and made the new location ready to receive those the Lord brought to hear the Word. They have the support of many local families, and in their new location, the attendance soon increased to ten children.

Besides the children, three young people showed interest in studying the Word. As Pastor Leandro conducted Bible studies, they came to understand their need to accept the Lord Jesus Christ by faith and made their decisions before the Bible study was completed. This was a day of much rejoicing. After being in Alagoas for only three months, these obedient servants are already reaping the fruit of preaching the gospel.

They still need to overcome many difficulties. Approximately 80% of the village's adult population is illiterate, which increases the challenge of teaching the Bible. They are limited in resources such as Bibles, teaching materials for children, and resources for offering the children a snack.

Yet Pastor Clóvis and Cristiana's story is one of obedience to the call of the Lord upon their lives, and they work with zeal, joy, and great dedication—always giving thanks to the Lord for everything. The Alagoas Missions Project needs our prayers. **ONE**

**About the author:** Ana Paula Carvalho is the wife of Pastor Paulo César Carvalho and mother of 12-year-old Ana Júlia. Ana Paula and her husband have led the Nova América FWB Church in Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil, since it began in 2003. Ana Paula is a graduate of Escola Teológica Batista Livre (Free Will Baptist Bible College) in Campinas where she graduated with a two-year Associate degree in Bible.

# Around the World >>

## Crowes Resign From IM

**Antioch, TN**—The Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions voted to accept the resignation of Josh and Alicia Crowe from missionary service to Japan during a late-night session Sunday, July 17. The Crowes submitted an official letter of resignation to FWBIM on July 16. “While we understand that returning to a designated system of giving is a last resort, our hearts break as we watch our account rapidly decline each month,” wrote the couple. “After spending this year earnestly seeking the Lord’s direction about this issue...it is with very grateful, yet broken hearts that we officially submit our resignation from missionary service.”

Appointed in 2007, Josh and Alicia departed for their first term in Japan in 2009. Initially, they worked with the Miharashidai Chapel in Hokkaido. They began their second term in Tokyo, working with Pastor Kojima to initiate a bimonthly English worship service called Hope Alive.

“We are all sad to see Josh and Alicia, our beloved team members, leave Japan,” stated Regional Director Dale Bishop. “We know they love the Japanese people and desire to see them come to Jesus. They have faithfully given their hearts and lives to serve God and His Kingdom and have sown much seed. It is with great anticipation that we look to God to see how He will continue to guide them as they honor His heart for the nations.”

“Of all the blessings God has shown our family through the years, working with International Missions to bring the gospel to the unreached people of Japan is one of our most cherished,” said Josh and Alicia. “We cannot begin to list the ways the board, leadership team, and support staff have shown us love and encouragement as we live and work on the front-lines. This country and its people are close to our hearts and, because of IM, we’ve been given the opportunity to share our lives with them.”

“It is always tough to see a missionary couple resign,” remarked General Director Clint Morgan. “Yet, in all this, we have confidence the Crowes have heard God’s voice in this matter, and we pledge our ongoing prayers and moral support for them. They have served faithfully, and for that, we and the people of Japan are eternally grateful.”

Josh and Alicia have three daughters: Ruby, Ellie, and Josie. The family returned to the States in August, and settled in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Their resignation was effective September 1. ■



Josh and Alicia Crowe with their daughters: Ruby, Ellie, and Josie

## Missionary Accounts

*The following missionary accounts are in the deficit as of July 31, 2016:*

India/Rev. Carlisle Hanna.....	\$103,572.74
Kenneth & Rejane Eagleton .....	15,949.06
Anthony & Lea Edgmon.....	14,430.97
Jerry & Barbara Gibbs.....	10,809.36
Josh & Alicia Crowe .....	17,294.69
Nathan & Linda Snow.....	17,455.20
Steve & Lori Torrison.....	12,819.79
Dennis & Carol Teague .....	7,319.47
Mick & Rachel Donahue .....	5,790.90
David & Angie Outlaw .....	4,053.98
Shannon Little .....	884.40

*These balances are extremely low and in need of additional support:*

Don & Ruth McDonald .....	1,117.42
Dale & Sandra Bishop .....	2,431.00
Neil & Mandi Morgan .....	3,363.16
Robert & Judy Bryan .....	5,240.66
Matt & Cristina Price.....	6,711.41
Heath & Joni Hubbard .....	12,340.87
Steve & Becky Riggs .....	10,934.89

## Gainer Honored at NAFWB

**Antioch, TN**—Following General Director Clint Morgan’s report to delegates at the FWB National Convention on Wednesday afternoon (July 20), Mirial Gainer was honored for her service in Japan. After more than 40 years of ministry, Mirial returned to the U.S. to care for her aging mother. Miss Gainer retired June 1, 2016.

Mirial began her career as a member of the 1972 Good News Team to Hokkaido. After nine months of working with missionaries in France, Mirial returned to Japan as an associate missionary. She ministered at the Hokkaido International School and Hokusse University, becoming a tenured professor of English. During those years of teaching, she was actively engaged in assisting FWB churches in the Sapporo area as well as supporting the ministries on the eastern edge of the island in Abashiri and Bihoro.

After 20 years as an associate missionary, in April 1997, Mirial was appointed as a career missionary. She taught English as an evangelistic outreach. She engaged in evangelism and Bible teaching, worked in Sunday school, and performed a variety of other ministries to reach the people of Japan with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In 2001, she moved to Tokyo and continued to teach, evangelize, and train short-term missionaries in friendship evangelism. She also demonstrated how to use teaching English as a means of reaching men and women with the gospel. She labored alongside Ken and Judy Bailey in the Shiki area in the work that became the Kamifukuoka FWB Church. In 2006, Mirial returned to Hokkaido and ministered for more than a decade in Miharashadai Chapel and Koinonia Church.

Director Morgan concluded his tribute by saying, “Mirial, thank you for being His hands and voice for the glory of God among the Japanese people.”

The assembly rose in a standing ovation for her service and thanksgiving for the difference she made in lives in Japan.



## Snapshots Around the World



**Spain**—Forty-two children were “submerged” in the Word during Alpedrete’s VBS program July 11-15. Each child received a copy of the Gospel of John at the closing program. Five families attended church July 17 as a result of their children’s participation in VBS.

**Bulgaria**—Twenty-five children attended the five-day Bible club outreach in Butovo (a village near Svishtov) in July. Each child received a Gideon’s Bible.



**Côte d’Ivoire**—Leaders and pastors of the Ivorian national association gathered for their national convention July 26-28 in Agnibilekrou. Regional Director Kenneth Eagleton attended the associational meeting. He also visited churches and leaders, spoke in various venues, helped officiate a wedding, and worked with leaders to establish 2017 projects for IM.

**Bulgaria**—The Hanna Project sent a team to Svishtov, Bulgaria, June 17-27. Team members Allen Lewis, Casey Lewis, Kathryn Wescott, William Wescott, Dorothy Moore, and team leader Darren Walker (all from NC) and Holly Petty (IL) renovated the children’s wing of the local hospital, painting patient rooms, hallways, and the nursery. They also provided 22 new twin-size beds with mattresses, pillows, blankets, and sheets; six new cribs with mattresses, blankets, and sheets; and 12 new tables. Hospital administrators expressed their thanks with a permanent plaque.

# Only One Life

By Lynette Morgan



*During closing ceremonies for the 2016 E-TEAM student missions program, missionary Lynette Morgan shared the following challenge to nearly 100 students, along with their family and friends. The teens had just returned from ten fields across the globe, where they saw God at work in Free Will Baptist missions efforts.*



When you left Nashville two weeks ago, I began praying. Not just for the ministry the Lord had for you there, but that you would have a God experience—awareness, relationship, or encounter—something you saw, heard, or felt that would change your life forever. When I was your age, it happened to me.

I was a missionary kid growing up in Ivory Coast, West Africa. My mom and dad had answered the call to serve as medical missionaries to the Ivory Coast. We lived 450 miles—dirt miles most of it—back in the interior where they had established a medical ministry among one of the most primitive tribes in the country. Eight months a year, my brothers and I would go away to boarding school. But summers we spent at home in our bush village.

I remember one particular summer day, I was out riding bikes with a younger missionary kid across the medical station. The station was very secluded, but also very well known. My dad's reputation for treating patients with love, fairness, and God's power had reached all the way to the capital city. Patients came from all over to receive treatment for all sorts of medical problems.



One day, a young man arrived to be treated for a serious respiratory illness we knew would probably end his life. Dad inserted a tracheotomy tube into his windpipe so he could breathe. Afterwards, they housed him in one of the five mud huts with thatched roofs that surrounded the clinic. The huts had been provided for patients who lived far away.

As we were riding our bikes by the huts, we suddenly heard a loud cry. I knew immediately it was a death wail, the heart-piercing cry that tells the world someone is about to die. I turned around and saw the young man stumbling from one of the huts, held up by his wailing wife. Blood was surging from his throat, from the area around the tracheotomy, and pouring down his naked chest. Before I could run for help, he held out a thin hand to me in supplication.

Of course, I couldn't help him, so I rode quickly to the house of Dr. Griffin, the single, lady doctor who was on call that day. (Dr. Griffin had come to assist my dad for a couple of years. He was seeing more than 150 patients a day, something he did for nearly all the years he was in Africa.)

By the time we returned, the young man was lying on the ground, and scores of women from neighboring huts, who came running at the first cry, had gathered around the young man and joined the death wail. They were walking in and out and around the huts, flailing their arms in desperation.

Dr. Griffith immediately knelt by the patient's side and began doing chest compressions. But it wasn't long before she stood, blood dripping from her hands, and looked down sadly, hopelessly, at the young man, who was now just a lifeless body in the dust. I knew at that moment I had seen a soul pass into eternity, a Christless eternity.

When the African women saw the doctor's reaction, the wailing and crying suddenly grew louder, their dancing and flailing arms became even more intense, and the desperate young widow began running down the road, crying out to the "spirits" of the ancestors, "Why did you take my husband?"

I turned and slowly walked back toward the house with an African friend. For a few moments, we walked in silence, moved by what we had just seen. Then my friend broke the silence with a question that startled me: "How is she going to get the blood off of her hands?"

*Only one life  
will soon be past;  
only what is  
done for Christ  
will last.*

I responded almost without thinking. "Water—water will wash the blood off her hands."

But the question would not go away, and over the next few months, the Lord began speaking to me in a life-changing way. First, He led me to a passage in Ezekiel that says, "When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand" (Ezekiel 3:18). Then, he reminded me of Jesus' command: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

So many Christians, like Pontius Pilate, try to wash away this responsibility. Bargaining with God, excuses, distractions, substitutions—they try to wash away what God has told them they must do. You have been given an awesome privilege to be part of E-TEAM. But with that privilege comes an awesome responsibility to respond to what you have seen and heard and experienced over these weeks. This response should flow out of you like Peter and John, who said, "We cannot help but speak the things which we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20).

When I was a little girl, autograph books were popular. I will never forget what my Dad wrote in mine: "Only one life will soon be past; only what is done for Christ will last." I have never forgotten that moment, or what God showed me that day in that dusty African village. I cannot escape it! And neither can you. I pray for you—that you will use this "one life" God has given you and make it count for Him. Let it count for all eternity.

And I pray for you, parents, that you will let them go. As the parent of four children, I can tell you there would be no greater privilege than for all four of our children to serve God in the regions beyond. If God calls your children to go, don't stand in their way! You cannot wash off the responsibility of what God has called you to do, or what God is calling your children to do. Let them go...for His sake.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future...You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:11, 13).

*Only one life will soon be past.  
What are you going to do for  
Christ that will last? **ONE***

**About the Writer:** Lynette Morgan is daughter of pioneer medical missionaries LaVerne and Lorene Miley. She and her husband Clint followed in their footsteps, serving as missionaries to Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), West Africa, from 1976–2005. They additionally served in Central Asia and France until 2011, when Clint was appointed general director of International Missions. They have four children (Trey, Adam, Aaron, and Autumn) and six grandchildren.



**“O SEND OUT  
THY LIGHT AND  
THY TRUTH”**

BY J. MATTHEW PINSON



For many decades the motto of Welch College has been taken from Psalm 43:3: "O send out thy light and thy truth." This has been symbolized in the official college seal, about which my colleague Dr. E. Darrell Holley wrote the following:

*The college seal represents the college's belief in the total integration of a biblical Christian faith and the tradition of the Christian liberal arts. The open book is thus both the Holy Scriptures and the world of letters. Superimposed on the book is Psalm 43:3: 'O send out thy light and thy truth.' This verse speaks of the college's devotion to the truth of God's Word and the truth revealed in nature, as well as to the college's dedication to the evangelical task of making God's truth known to all. This belief is re-emphasized by the torch behind the open book. The torch, the symbol of this light, is winged to emphasize the college's aim of sending the light of God's truth throughout the world.*

I want to meditate on this verse. It gets to the heart of our radical need for God's light and truth in the midst of a dark, distorted world. Without the light and truth of the Father, Son, and Spirit, we will never be free to be who God created us to be. We never will be truly human, truly the image of God. But we know, through Christ, that His light and truth have the power to transform us and recreate us in the image of God's dear Son, and that changes everything, both for the here and now and for eternity.

The context shows us that the psalmist is in trouble. This is good news for us, because we're also in trouble. We're perennially in trouble because of our sin and alienation from God. As a result of this condition, we do not operate the way our Creator designed us to. Everything in our lives is out of kilter, and things can be set right only through a relationship with our Creator and His truth, as we conform to His life and His ways.

But not only are we in trouble individually, our culture is also in trouble. The current culture here in the West is entering a post-Christian phase in which it is setting itself more and more against God and His truth. This psalm helps us see what we need to do when we face this sort of trouble.

The psalmist says, Lord, the thing I need most of all when I feel overwhelmed by trouble all around me, when You seem absent, when I am in deep distress—the thing I need most of all is Your light and Your truth. We need the truth of the Trinitarian God to make sense of this world we live in and to find a way out of our despair.

When the Bible talks about truth, it's talking about something different from what our postmodern culture means by truth. In our current cultural mood, we have a tendency to say, "Truth is relative. You have your truth; I have mine." But that's not the way the Bible sees truth at all.

Here's a quick, thumbnail definition of truth: *truth* is a God's-eye-view of reality. It's what is in God's mind. It's the real nature of things as God sees them. When the Bible speaks of truth, it means two things that could be summed up in two words—*faithfulness* and *factuality*. Faithfulness describes personal reliability, and factuality stands in opposition to falsehood. Most of the uses of truth in both the Old and New Testaments are derivatives of these two uses. (See Anthony C. Thiselton's still-excellent entry for "truth" in the *New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology* published by Zondervan in 1978.)



When the Bible talks about truth, it's talking about something different from what our postmodern culture means by truth.



Not only does the Holy Spirit inspire or breathe out the words of Scripture, He also illumines our understanding so we can see the truth He has breathed out.

Liberal-leaning scholars in the 19th century began to drive a wedge between these two uses. They said there was a conflict between the Hebrew concept of truth as personal faithfulness and the Greek concept of truth as factuality. Rudolf Bultmann, for example, said the Apostle John was guilty of soaking up Greek ideas in his idea of truth.

I think this approach is eating away at our culture and at students in so many schools and universities. It's the view that truth is really only "personal" truth, personal faithfulness or reliability, that truth as fact is unimportant. This leads to a de-emphasis on absolute or objective truth and an emphasis on the subjective, on personal perception.

But Scripture never presents truth as relative. It's absolute. It's what Francis Schaeffer called "true truth" or "Truth with a capital T." When we proclaim to the world that racism is wrong; or that human trafficking is wrong; or that lying, abortion, or same-sex relationships are wrong; we're not just saying it's wrong to us, to our culture, to our time. We're saying it's wrong in the mind of God.

Christians believe in objective truth. The Bible even goes so far as to say that everybody knows the basic truth of reality. St. Paul said in Romans 1:18-23:

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.*

As you can see from Romans 1, we've got a big problem, and it creates a tension within us. On some deep level, we know the truth, but because of our sinfulness and fallen nature, we suppress it. We tuck away the truth so deeply that it's no longer in our consciousness.

What good is truth if you can't really know it and act on it, because you're so sinful and so distorted in your understanding? That's where light comes in. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit give us light so we can see the truth for what it is. That's why the psalmist says, "Send out your light and your truth."

This is why theologians have always spoken of the Holy Spirit's work of illumination. Not only does the Holy Spirit inspire or breathe out the words of Scripture, He also illumines our understanding so we can see the truth He has breathed out. This is also why salvation is so often referred to in Scripture as enlightenment (Hebrews 6:4).

The light is the Father, Son, and Spirit coming to us and bringing the light of their own personal word to us, and then helping us to understand that Word by the Spirit's illumination and enlightening of our hearts and minds.

This is why Jesus is called the Light of the World. We know from Scripture that a little bit of His light goes out to everyone. In other words, God somehow tells everyone about Himself and gives everyone a glimpse into reality. That's why John says in His gospel that Jesus is the light that lights everyone who comes into the world (1:9).

I like this, because I have two alma maters with this motto—not just Welch College but Yale University. For hundreds of years, the Yale motto has been *lux et veritas* (Latin for *light* and *truth*). My wife Melinda and I used to go to Yale-Harvard ballgames. Yale students would always hold up homemade signs poking fun at Harvard's motto, which was *veritas*—truth. The

posters would say something to the effect that *veritas* without *lux* is not enough.

I doubt those students knew just how profound their statements were. The signs they held up at those games get to the heart of our predicament as sinful human beings enmeshed in a distorted, disordered life, alienated from the life we were created to live.

Without light, we can't really understand the truth. True, Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." But without the light of God's revelation, God's Word illuminated by His Spirit, we really can't comprehend the truth. And we'll always remain in bondage.

At Welch College, our purpose is to create an environment in which God's light *and* truth will be on display. This will change the way we look at knowledge and learning, at how we understand God's Word and God's world, and how the two relate. It will also change the way we look at our ultimate purpose in life, how the light of the gospel pierces our dark world and changes everything.

We know—and we want to teach and model before our students—that the light and the truth of the Lord is the only way to have liberation from the despair in which we find ourselves, which is the result of our sinfulness. According to the Psalmist, that light and that truth will produce in them and the world around them, deliverance from despair, divine guidance, nearness to God, forgiveness of sin, joy, praise, and hope.

With the psalmist, this will ever be our prayer: "O send out thy light and thy truth." **ONE**

**About the Writer:** J. Matthew Pinson is president of Welch College. Learn more about the college: [www.Welch.edu](http://www.Welch.edu) or visit his blog: [www.MatthewPinson.com](http://www.MatthewPinson.com).



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## At Welch College >>

### **North American Ministries and Welch College Enter Church-planting Partnership**

**Nashville, TN**—North American Ministries (NAM) and Welch College have entered a church-planting partnership, according to NAM General Director David Crowe and Welch College President Matt Pinson.

The organizations have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that identifies parameters of a partnership for training college students in church planting. “A unique opportunity has arisen for these two departments to partner together for training college students in church planting and ministry,” Crowe said. “This opportunity comes through the planting of a new church in the Gallatin, Tennessee, area.”

The new church will be planted by Jesse Owens, who will be designated as an associate church planter by NAM. “North American Ministries will provide an account to collect money raised by the church for start-up expenses, promotion expenses, and any other non-salary related expenses,” Crowe explained.

The church plant, which will remain autonomous from both NAM and Welch, will provide a bi-vocational salary for Owens, who will also be landscaping manager and adjunct instructor at Welch.

“We’re excited about this opportunity for Welch to partner with North American Ministries to provide church-planting training for our ministerial students,” said Pinson. “And we’re thankful to Jesse Owens for the opportunity to allow Welch and NAM to utilize this new church plant as a way to provide training and internship opportunities in church planting for Welch students.”

“Jesse began talking with me and [Welch campus pastor] Matthew McAfee a long time ago about being part of a core group to plant a self-sustaining church in Gallatin, since the college will be moving there next year,” Pinson explained.

NAM Director of Church Planting Brad Ransom said, “This is a win-win situation for both NAM and Welch. It allows us to help plant a church in Gallatin, where Welch is moving, and at the same time provide a laboratory for training Welch students for real-world church planting across North America.”

Owens said, “I’m honored for our church plant to be an integral part of this strategic partnership between NAM and Welch College. My wife Tiffany and I are excited about the opportunity to mentor young people who want to be involved in church planting.” ■

## College Obtains Approval to Offer Federal Loans to Graduate Students

The United States Department of Education (USDOE) has approved Welch College to offer federal student loans to graduate students, according to Dr. Kevin Hester, dean of the School of Theology. The USDOE makes the loans available to eligible borrowers through colleges and universities participating in the program.

These loans have several benefits. They offer a fixed interest rate and flexible payment terms. Financial need is not a requirement to qualify. No payments are required while enrolled in school. To receive these loans, a student must be enrolled at least half-time in a program that leads to a degree or certificate awarded by the school.

“Welch College understands that graduate school can be expensive,” said Hester. “For this reason, the college offers generous institutional scholarships to its graduate students. Students who are licensed or ordained Free Will Baptist ministers, and who received good grades in their undergraduate studies, can receive a

reduction of up to \$145.00 per credit hour on their tuition.”

Last year, Welch College became the first Free Will Baptist college to offer a regionally accredited credential on the graduate level. In December 2015, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges and the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) approved its application to offer the Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in Theology and Ministry.

The 33-hour program consists of hybrid courses, in which a portion of the coursework is completed online and the other portion in one-week, on-campus intensive sessions.

For more information about the M.A. degree in Theology and Ministry, contact the program coordinator, Dr. Jeff Cockrell at [jcockrell@welch.edu](mailto:jcockrell@welch.edu) or visit [www.welch.edu/masters](http://www.welch.edu/masters).

For information about the DOE student loans and any other financial information, contact Angie Edgmon at [fnaid@welch.edu](mailto:fnaid@welch.edu). ■

# SEXUALITY, GENDER, *and the* CHURCH

What do Free Will Baptists believe about sexuality, gender, and the definition of marriage...and why?

Should Christians actively engage public life and culture? If so, how?

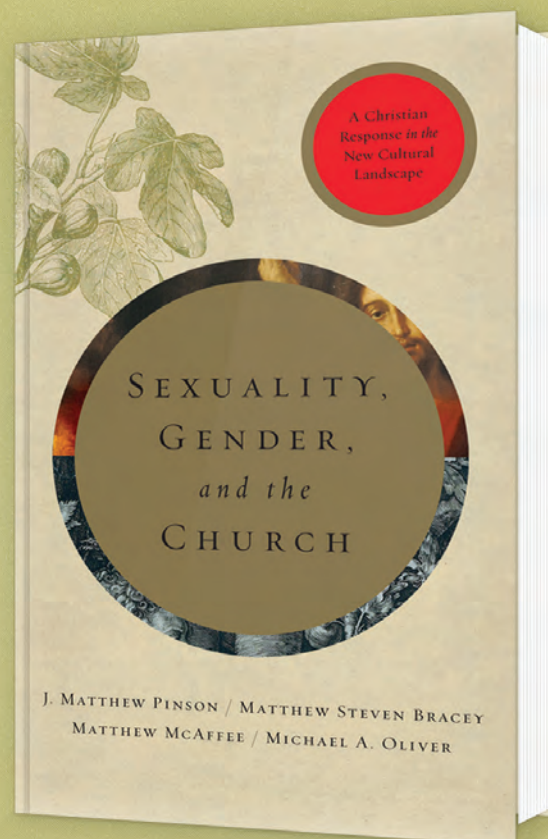
What do I need to know about the legal, political, and religious liberty implications of the Supreme Court decision legalizing same-sex marriage?

What steps can I take to offer hope and healing to a friend or family member struggling with same-sex attractions?

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## Intersect >>

# Reflections on Hagar and Ishmael, Part One

BY MATTHEW MCAFFEE

*Lately, I have been reading through Genesis in my personal Bible reading. As I read the story of Hagar and Ishmael once again, I was captured by the raw emotion of the story. Thankfully, this episode does not leave us in the swirl of conflicting emotions, but moves us along to see the grace of God at work. The difficult circumstances Hagar and Ishmael faced compel us to consider their importance for the church today.*

### **Our Sinful Choices Deeply Affect Others**

Most Christians are familiar with the story of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar. Hagar was the Egyptian maidservant of Sarah, Abraham's wife. God had promised Abraham he would become a great nation, inherit a land, and become a blessing to the nations (Genesis 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-17; 15:1-7, 18-21). The obvious problem was that Sarah was barren (Genesis 11:30). Not only were she and Abraham childless, they were beyond childbearing age. The Bible tells us Abraham was 86 years old when Hagar gave birth to Ishmael (Genesis 16:16) and age 99 when the Lord appeared to him again in Genesis 17:1. Sarah was still without a child.





How does Hagar fit into this story? Although Abraham and Sarah *knew* God's promise, they began to doubt the longer it went unfulfilled. Sarah devised a plan. Abraham would take her maid-servant Hagar as a second wife, and she would bear him a son. She thought perhaps this was how God would produce an heir for Abraham's household (Genesis 16:2-3). In Genesis 15, Abraham had already suggested that Eliezer, born to one of Abraham's household servants, would be his heir, since God had not yet produced an heir through Sarah. On the contrary, God reiterated His promise: "This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir" (Genesis 15:4).

Sarah's plan was a way of "getting around" the problem of barrenness. If Abraham took a second wife who wasn't barren, he could father a legitimate heir. Hagar became the pawn of Sarah's scheme; she used her for personal gain. But things didn't work out exactly as Sarah envisioned. After the birth of Ishmael, Hagar looked down upon her mistress for her inability to bear children, and Sarah despised her handmaid because the family dynamics had tilted in Hagar's favor. Hagar suffered because Sarah and Abraham failed to wait patiently on the Lord. Taking

a second wife violated the law of God instituted in the one-flesh union of husband and wife in Genesis 2:24. Although polygamous relationships are recorded in the Bible, their disastrous results are also on full display. The story of Hagar is no exception.

Much like Adam when he shared the fruit with his wife Eve, Abraham complied with Sarah's ungodly plan. He was no passive bystander, however, and God held him responsible for the entire affair. He rebuked Abraham saying, "I am Almighty God; walk before me and be blameless" (Genesis 17:1).

Abraham's conduct had been anything but blameless. Not only had he violated God's plan for marriage, he also sinned against Hagar. To make matters worse, he brought an innocent child named Ishmael into a tenuous family dynamic. And beyond his immediate failure, the ramifications created by this dysfunctional family would shape forever the course of world history.

Yet God remained faithful. He kept his promise despite Sarah's scheming, Abraham's moral failure, and Hagar's haughty reaction to her mistress. In the December-January issue, we will return to this story and explore God's grace and healing for this family and the implications this story holds for today. **ONE**

**About the Writer:** Matthew McAfee is coordinator of Theological Studies at Welch College. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Welch College, Master's degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. from University of Chicago.



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## Publications

The official publication of WNAC, *Treasure* devotional guide, is a full-color, 48-page, quarterly Bible study guide. Each issue contains a themed, interactive Bible study for individual and/or group use, as well as relevant articles and news of upcoming women's events. *Treasure* is by subscription and available in bulk (special group rate for five or more) or individual mail delivery.

Published annually, the WNAC Program and Plan Book is a valuable tool for church leaders. A companion guide to *Treasure* Bible study guide, the book contains creative presentation ideas for monthly women's group meetings, a storehouse of information, leader tips, skits, and promotional pieces.

## Media

- + [www.wnac.org](http://www.wnac.org) provides information about WNAC ministries and provides downloadable resources.
- + A monthly e-blast keeps individuals and groups in the know. This email-generated flier contains news of current happenings. To receive the e-blast, email [info@wnac.org](mailto:info@wnac.org) and put WNAC E-BLAST in the subject line.
- + Follow WNAC on Facebook (Women Nationally Active for Christ), Twitter (@WNAC or @wnacdirector), and Pinterest (Women Nationally Active for Christ).



## Training & Conferences

**Shine! conferences** are designed for 12- to 18-year-old girls, their moms, and their youth leaders. They provide a safety zone to confront cultural messages with biblical truth and help girls make good decisions in a difficult world. A separate track for moms and youth leaders provides helpful resources for those who work with them. The next *Shine!* conference will be held November 12, 2016, at Heritage FWB Church, Columbus, Ohio

# FOR CHRIST...

## Steward Provision Closet

From one suitcase of linens in 1962 to a warehouse with goods totaling more than a quarter million dollars, the Steward Provision Closet stands as an amazing display of God's good gifts and His peoples' generosity. Renamed in memory of longtime Michigan missionary mobilizer Lucille Steward, the closet provides household goods and small appliances for missionaries and related ministries such as Bible institutes, global partnerships, and The Hanna Project—at no cost.

All families serving under Free Will Baptist International Missions or North American Ministries are eligible for these benefits. Missionaries initially visit the closet before going to their particular field of service, but can return anytime they determine a household need. For international missionaries returning stateside, the closet provides much needed items for reentry and resettlement. Missionary kids attending college in the U.S. can obtain items for dorm rooms.

Gifts to the closet are always welcome. However, certain guidelines help assure quality and usefulness. All items must be new, preferably still packaged. Gift cards to national chains are greatly appreciated by missionaries. Please include donor information and an inventory with a suggested retail price of all gifts. **Find current needs on our website or call the office at 877-767-7662.**



## Scholarships

WNAC provides educational scholarships as part of its ongoing mission: helping Free Will Baptist women discover and utilize God-designed roles for communicating the gospel.



**International Student Scholarships** assist international students studying in the United States. A Free Will Baptist international missionary recommends these students for consideration and three \$1,000 scholarships are available per year.

**Dr. Mary Ruth Wisheart Scholarships** are awarded to young ladies studying at a Free Will Baptist college in the U.S. WNAC provides \$1,000 per year, and the respective colleges select recipients. Dr. Wisheart was a professor at Welch College before her tenure as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of WNAC from 1985 to 1993.

**Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarships** provide educational funding for leaders studying in their native language at our Bible institutes and seminaries. They are recommended by International Missions. Cleo Pursell, for whom this scholarship is named, served as the first full-time WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer from 1963 to 1985.

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# Caring for Your

# PASTOR

BY CHRIS COMPTON

If you are like most churchgoers, you are probably satisfied with your church and your pastor. You enjoy the services, like the preaching, attend the social and ministry events, and serve where you can. But, how well do you *care* for your pastor? Some of the least “pastored” people are pastors.

Have you ever thought about what it is like being a pastor? Sometimes, it can feel like being a lone ranger. A great deal of responsibility rests upon his shoulders. These may include vision casting, setting budgets and handling finances, visiting the sick and shut-ins, outreach, recruiting volunteers, counseling both church members and non-members, planning church services, and preaching and teaching.

Many experts say pastoring a local church is one of the most difficult jobs. Ministry can be emotionally and physically taxing, and if we are not careful, we allow our pastors to burn out.

Pastors are dedicated to caring for the wellbeing of others, but who will care for them? The church. In 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, Paul addresses this topic: “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work’s sake.” The instruction to care for the pastor seems clear in this passage. Consider six simple ways church members can care for their pastoral staff:

**PRAY FOR HIM.** This seems rather obvious, but how often do you pray for your pastor? Pastors need our prayers! They and their families are faced with peculiar difficulties and burdens and the constant onslaught of the devil. Our pastors desire our prayers just like Paul did when he said, “Brethren, pray for us” (1 Thessalonians 5:25). Don’t just pray short, generic prayers. Pray specific, big, faith-filled, detailed prayers for him.

**FOLLOW HIS LEADERSHIP.** This may be difficult for some, but if the church believes God has called its pastor to preach and teach God’s Word, then the members have the responsibility to listen carefully and follow what he says. Hebrews 13:17 says, “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.” Not only does it benefit you to follow the pastor’s leadership and preaching, it benefits him.

**SUPPORT THE MINISTRY.** No pastor can handle all the responsibilities in a church, nor should he. It is neither healthy for him nor the church. Lighten his workload by getting involved in the ministry and sharing the responsibilities. Ask your pastor where you can get involved, and if he asks for your help, then help!

**EXPRESS APPRECIATION.** Everyone wants to be appreciated, even pastors. October is pastor appreciation month. Be sure to honor your pastors and show your appreciation. Be creative; do something new. Remember, this doesn’t just have to be reserved for the month of October. And don’t forget your pastor’s wife. She too makes many sacrifices.

**GIVE HIM TIME AWAY.** All pastors need time away with God and with their families. Let your pastor have at least one or two days off each week, and respect his privacy during those days. Give him adequate vacation time and holidays. Also, recommend he take a sabbatical every few years (separate from vacation) for relaxation, reflection, renewal, and revitalization. Your church will benefit as much as he does.

## **ALL PASTORS NEED TIME AWAY WITH GOD AND WITH THEIR FAMILIES.**

### **CARE FOR HIM FINANCIALLY.**

Every church should provide a fair and adequate salary and benefits package for their pastor. It is true a pastor should never shepherd the flock of God just for money (1 Peter 5:2), but he shouldn’t live in poverty either. You will never get the best from your pastor if he must worry about financial matters. In Luke 10:7, Jesus said “the laborer is worthy of his hire,” and Galatians 6:6 reminds those who are taught the Word of God that they have a responsibility to provide for the livelihood of their pastor.

What should a church include in a salary and benefits package? I suggest salary, housing allowance, social security allowance, family medical insurance, life insurance, and retirement. Also, provide reimbursement of expenses through an accountable reimbursement plan.

*How are you caring for your pastor?* I hope you will reflect on these ways you can care for him, and I encourage you to explore others as well. As pastors work hard to care for us, let’s work hard to care for them.

**If you need further information or assistance in creating a pastor’s pay package, please contact the Board of Retirement. **

**About the Writer:** Chris Compton is communications officer for the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement. Learn more: [www.BoardofRetirement.com](http://www.BoardofRetirement.com).

# Common Mistakes Pastors Make With Church Finances

By John Brummitt

*Many pastors spend years digging into the Scriptures, caring for the members of their congregations, and learning new ways to share the gospel with a lost and dying world. However, few pastors spend much time researching business management skills and financial management. It isn't really in their vocation to do so, yet we often saddle our pastors with these responsibilities.*

*Many times, pastors do a fine job of managing the business side of the church or develop a team to help them with that side of things. Yet, it is also common for church finances to be mismanaged. Five common "management styles" that develop with pastors can cause major problems in a church:*

**Ignorance is bliss.** We see this most often when churches have a finance team in place. The pastor believes—and often the finance team believes—that the pastor should be completely hands-off. “We will take care of the money. You just focus on the Word.”

This really is a nice thought, but the leader of any company should know about the finances of the organization he manages. While the pastor doesn't have to know how much every person tithes on Sunday, knowing whether or not the church is tracking toward meeting the budget is crucial when it comes to planning and ministering to the community. If your leader doesn't know the financial picture, it could put the church in financial trouble or kill momentum when the finance team has to terminate a project due to lack of funds. Pastors need to be informed about the finances of the church.

**Lone wolf.** On the flip side of being completely hands-off is being 100% hands on. This is where the pastor

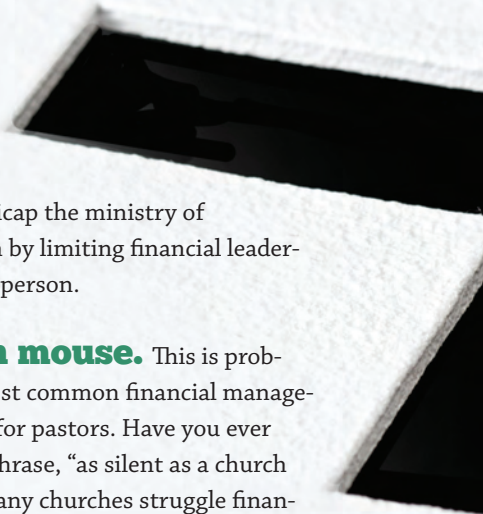
is given the church checkbook and is allowed to treat it like his own personal account. He has complete control over all finances. Usually, this management style is pushed upon pastors at first. Perhaps no one else is willing to take on the responsibility, so it falls to the pastor out of necessity. Complete control of the checkbook leads to other problems: corruption, distrust, questions, etc. Being a lone wolf does not make a pastor corrupt, by any means, but not having checks and balances to protect the pastor and the church is a mistake.

**Dictator.** Some pastors don't have complete control of the finances in terms of writing checks, but not a penny of church money is spent without his approval. The biggest problem with this style is that many opportunities are missed, and ministerial needs are never met because one person makes all financial decisions. This situation is true whether it is a pastor or layman in the “dictator” role. Whether church, home, or business, two heads are better than one.


Don't handicap the ministry of your church by limiting financial leadership to one person.

**Church mouse.** This is probably the most common financial management style for pastors. Have you ever heard the phrase, “as silent as a church mouse?” Many churches struggle financially because the pastor has adopted this style. Some churches have adopted the belief that money is evil, and if a pastor asks for it he is just looking to line his pockets, that he can't possibly be a man of God.

The truth is money is a necessity to survive in this world. The church is not exempt. The *love* of money is evil, not money itself (1 Timothy 6:10). We *should* be talking about money...often. It is one of the most common themes in life and one of the main reasons we work. A good portion of Scripture deals with how we handle and interact with money. It is important to allow the members of the congregation an opportunity to support the Lord's work.




**It is important to allow the members of the congregation an opportunity to support the Lord's work.**



**Clandestine agency:** The CIA is a clandestine agency known for the deep secrets its agents keep. The church should never be a clandestine agency when it comes to money. Tell the congregation everything, no matter how small. If someone questions why or how funds were used at the church, an answer should be provided. This doesn't mean everyone will always be kind or understanding about the answer given, but confrontation should not be avoided. The more a clandestine style is adopted, the more distrust and questioning will arise from the congregation. Distrust usually presents itself through withholding tithes. Not only is the church hindered, but also the person withholding the Lord's portion, who is no longer fulfilling his or her Christian duty.

If you or your pastor have fallen into one of these styles of management, it is never too late to address it. Remember, the ministry of the Lord is bigger than one person. Ultimately, you want to protect yourself and the church from any questions or doubts. The church needs to be managed properly to have the greatest impact on the world around it.

If you would like more help or information on setting up proper management styles for your church contact the Board of Retirement. We offer a wide range of services regarding church finances: [www.BoardofRetirement.com](http://www.BoardofRetirement.com). 

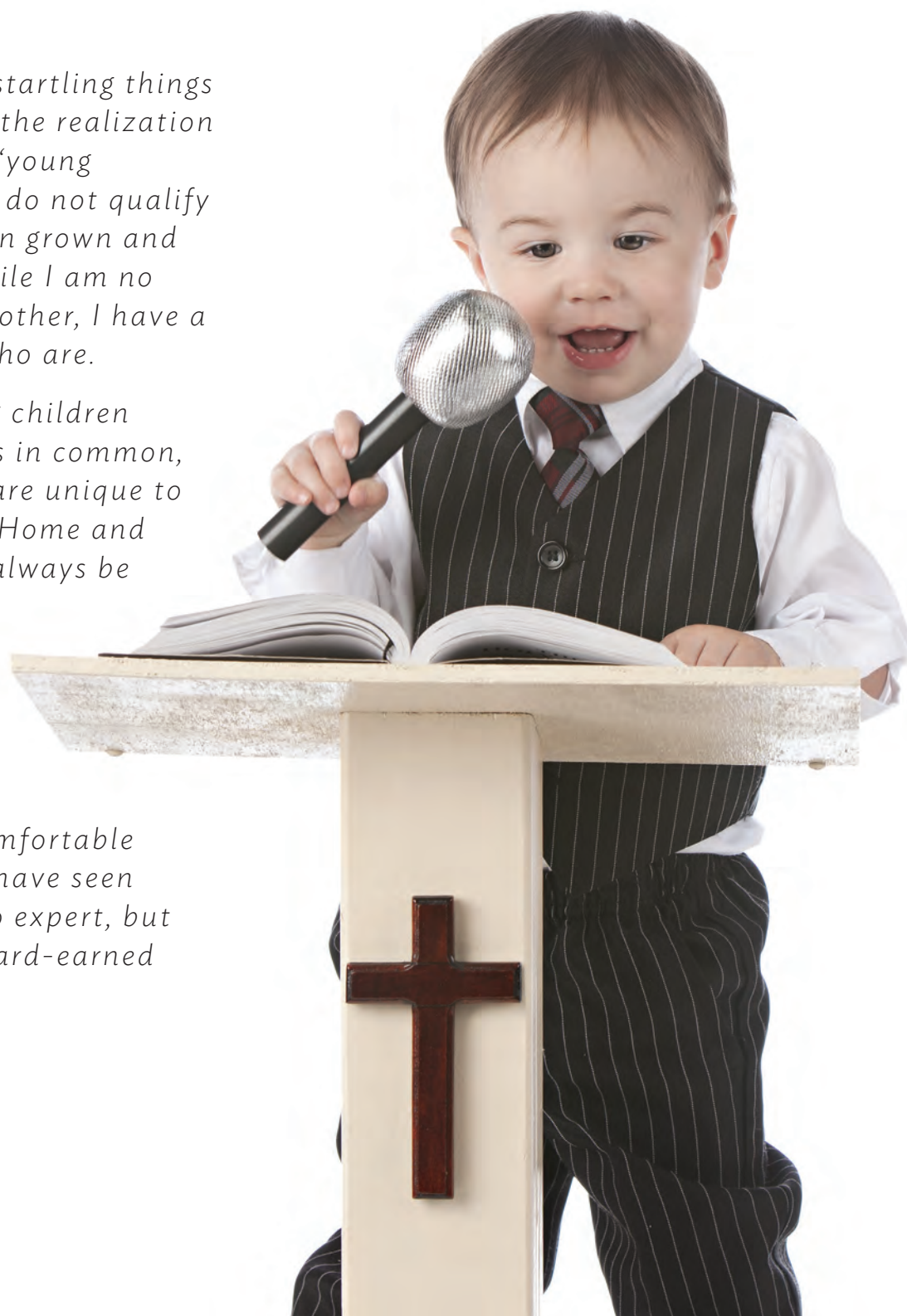
**About the Writer:** John Brummitt became director of the Board of Retirement in January 2016. He graduated in 2011 with an MBA from Tennessee Tech University. A 2004 graduate of Welch College, he has been with the Board of Retirement since the spring of 2006.

# When Daddy Is the Pastor

By Diana Bryant

*One of the most startling things I contend with is the realization I am no longer a “young mother.” I simply do not qualify with both children grown and on their own. While I am no longer a young mother, I have a heart for those who are.*

*Mothers of young children have many things in common, but some things are unique to a pastor’s home. Home and ministry cannot always be separated; they influence each other. How sad to see a pastor’s children grow up to resent the church, uncomfortable with things they have seen and heard. I’m no expert, but I do have some hard-earned observations.*





### **Teach children to love Daddy.**

Teach them how special and important their daddy is. One of my favorite things to do when my children were small was to make an event out of Daddy's homecoming, particularly when he had been out of town. We strung pictures across the living room, blew up balloons, made banners, hung streamers, all to say, "Welcome Home, Daddy; We Missed You!"

This was good for the kids and Daddy both. Let them see the love between you and their father. A loving home provides a sense of security and the basis of self-esteem for children. Their concept of God as a heavenly Father and the picture of the Church as the Bride of Christ is heavily influenced by their experience of home and marriage. Your marriage is the first pattern for their future relationships.

**MAKE SURE YOUR CHILDREN  
KNOW THEY ARE THE MOST  
IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN THE  
CONGREGATION, AND YOU ARE  
THANKFUL FOR THEM.**

### **Don't blame the church for circumstances.**

Money may be tight in your home if you are a young pastor's family, but don't teach your children that it is the church's fault. The fact is, many young families struggle in the early years. Even if your church provides less than it should, give that problem to God. Teach your children that we trust God to provide our needs, not the church.

If your house is not what you like, work to make it the best you can and be satisfied. Don't burden your children with the attitude of being shortchanged by the church or of feeling deprived because others have more than the pastor's family. Some will always have more, some less.

### **Avoid unreasonable expectations.**

Don't put unreasonable expectations on your children because Daddy is the pastor. If something is right to do, teach them to do it for the sake of right. Teach your children to do the right things, say the right things, and be an example to others because they are Christians, not because they are the pastor's children.

### **Beware of others' expectations.**

Don't allow others in the church to put unreasonable expectations on children because Daddy is the pastor. This will depend largely on your attitude. Give children a place of service in the church...again, not because Daddy is the pastor, but because all church members need a job.

### **Recognize the benefits of being in the pastor's family.**

Our children got to hear missionary stories firsthand, meet people from around the country, and learned early how to converse with adults. Trips to the national convention can double as vacations if you include fun things on the way to or from the host city. Your children will see more of the country than their friends simply because you attend the annual convention.

### **Learn to be thankful.**

If people in the church do things for your children, don't let the children assume this is their right because Daddy is pastor. Teach them to be grateful for favors, and use it as an opportunity to teach them to be kind to others. Make sure they know how to give as well as receive.

### **Watch your language.**

When conflicts arise at church, resist the urge to speak badly of members in front of your children. They will learn soon enough that some people are not always what they appear to be on Sunday, and that even good people have differences of opinion. Model kindness and discretion, and you will see it in your children later.

### **Love your children.**

Love means time, attention, discipline, and teaching. Make sure they know they are the most important people in the congregation, and you are thankful for them.

It sounds like a cliché, but it is true—children grow up fast! All too soon you will be back where you started—just you and your husband in the parsonage. Live the years with your children at home with the thought that your time to teach, train, and be a minute-by-minute example is limited. It's one of the greatest adventures in life! **ONE**

**About the Writer:** Diana Bryant is chairman of Women Nationally Active for Christ. She is a member of Ryanwood Fellowship FWB Church in Vero Beach, Florida, where her husband Randy pastors. This article is adapted from one that appeared in *Contact* magazine.

# A CHARLIE BROWN STATE OF MIND

BY JEFF CAUDILL

**I am a fan of Peanuts cartoons and especially a fan of Charlie Brown. My favorite is “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” I love that it airs on television each year, and Linus quotes the Christmas story from Luke 2. As I watch, I secretly hope Lucy will finally allow Charlie Brown to actually kick the football rather than pulling it away at the last minute to send him sprawling through the air.**

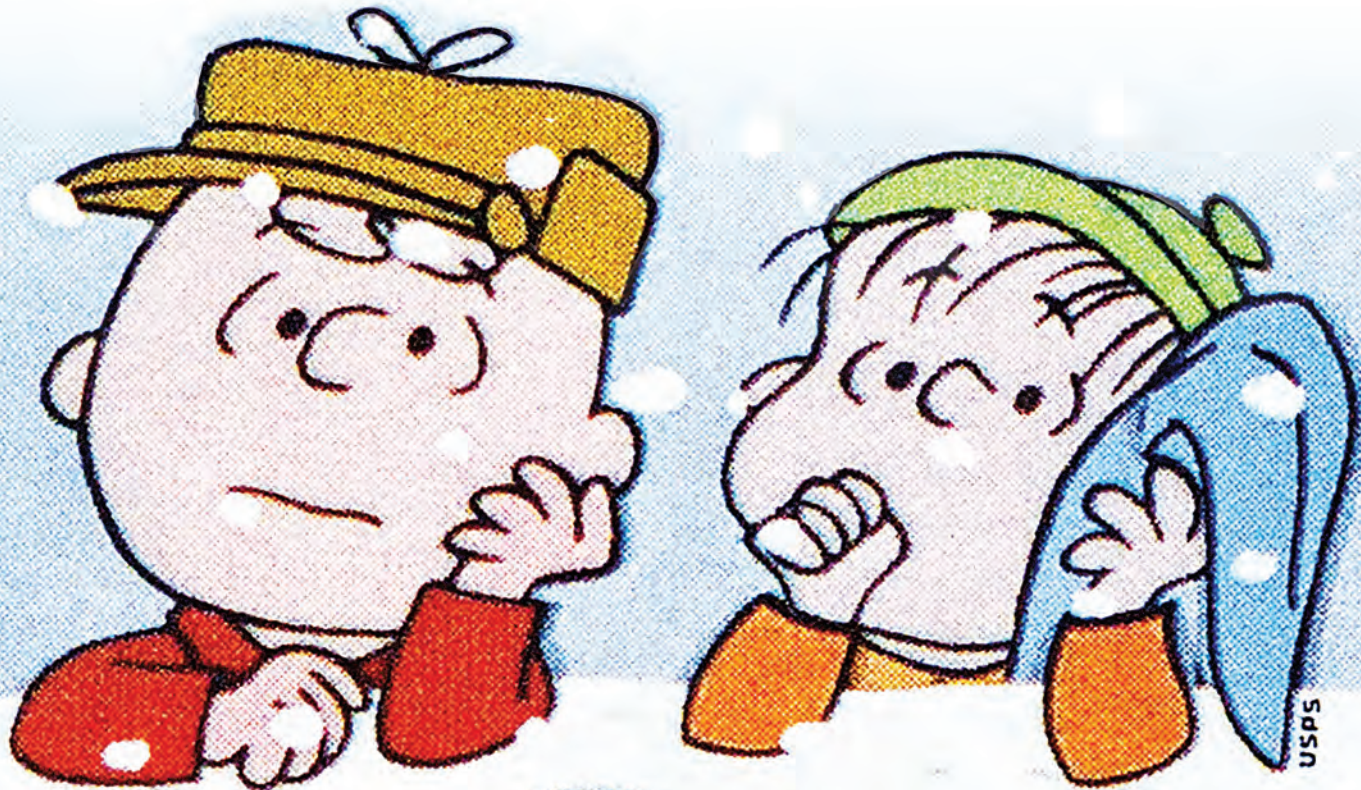
The main reason I am a Charlie Brown fan is because I relate to him. For many things in life and ministry, I feel inadequate. One day Charlie Brown was talking to his friend, Linus, about the pervasive sense of inadequacy he feels all the time. Charlie moaned, “You see, Linus, it goes all the way back to the beginning. The moment I was born and set foot on the stage of life, they took one look at me and said, ‘Not right for the part.’”

I realize this sounds really bad. I also know that if this is how we feel all the time we may need professional help. However, for

some of us, this is how we feel at least some of the time in various situations.

The quote I shared from Peanuts was used in my connection group at church for a lesson on inadequacy. It was that lesson that prompted me to think about some things in my own experience and ultimately write some of those thoughts down.

How can we deal with a Charlie Brown state of mind? What should we do with feelings of inadequacy? Based on my own experience, I would like to share three suggestions:



## **SURROUND YOURSELF WITH THE RIGHT KIND OF PEOPLE.**

Charlie Brown has Linus. Linus always tries to help Charlie Brown feel better about himself. He encourages him and tries to help him see that he is not nearly as inadequate as he thinks. For those of us who struggle with feelings of inadequacy, the people close to us can have a huge impact on us. We need honest people. We need them to tell us the truth about who we are and what we can accomplish. My wife is one of those people in my life. Yes, I am not the best at some things. However, I can do some things successfully, and she helps me see that. Through her encouragement, she provides the confidence for me to accomplish things I would not feel adequate enough to do without her reassurance. Because she is honest, she does not just tell me all positives. Since I know she is being honest with me, when she says I can do something, or that I did something well, I can trust her encouragement.

Others through the years have come alongside with honest feedback. Through their encouragement, they have helped me move past my feelings of inadequacy and actually accomplish some things.

The key to all this is being *intentional* about surrounding yourself with honest people who will provide honest feedback, and who have your best interests in mind. They are invaluable to help you move past feelings of inadequacy.

## **STRENGTHEN YOUR ABILITIES BY HONING YOUR SKILLS.**

Don't say you do not have any abilities or skills. God made us all with certain skills and abilities (gifts if you like). Find the things you are good at and work on them to become better. If you feel inadequate for something to which you are called, hone that skill to become better. If you have seen *The Peanuts Movie*, you may remember how Charlie Brown finally learned to fly a kite after many failed attempts. The point is, he kept working at it.

As a (much) younger person, I struggled to speak in public. When I say struggled, I mean that in a college speech class, I would be physically ill on the days I was scheduled to speak. I couldn't sleep. I couldn't eat. I was miserable! As a pastor, (although not the primary preaching pastor) I am called on to speak from time to time. Over the years, I have worked at being less afraid and at being a better speaker. Sure, I am not the best speaker/teacher/preacher around. I am not even the best speaker in my church, but I have become better at it by not allowing my feelings of inadequacy to win, and by working to overcome fear and become a better public speaker.

What is it you feel called or compelled to do but feel inadequate to accomplish? Could you take a class to improve? Could you practice to become better? Maybe online demonstrations would

provide the confidence you need. Trust me when I say I know how difficult this is. Push yourself beyond your comfort zone.

I would like to make one disclaimer here: I realize some things are better left to someone else. That should never be an excuse, however. At times, there will be no one but you to get the job done.

## **SEEK THE PRESENCE OF GOD THROUGH HIS SPIRIT.**

This is the most important and effective way to deal with feelings of inadequacy. In the connection group discussion I mentioned earlier, someone reminded all of us that God uses the inadequate. He used a shepherd boy to kill a giant; a murderer to lead His people out of Egypt; a persecutor of Christians to write half the New Testament; and the list goes on and on. We have to realize that if we accomplish anything it will be because the God of the universe uses us to do it! You and I are inadequate to accomplish anything apart from the power of the Holy Spirit working in us and through us. He takes our inadequacies and makes them more than enough for the task.

We should seek out that power in our individual lives. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 3:5-6a, "Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient ministers..."

Recently, I was called upon to serve as interim pastor. Talk about feeling inadequate for the task! When asked how people could pray for me, my one request was that I would find my confidence in God through His Spirit.

You know what? He answered that prayer. God working in me enabled me to serve as interim pastor for nine months. His confidence in me allowed me to say no when asked to consider the role of lead pastor. He provided the strength to choose His direction, which led to what was best. God provided the strength, and He made me adequate for the task to which He called me. His power working in us makes all the difference!

Too often, I feel like Charlie Brown when Lucy says to him, "Charlie Brown, of all the Charlie Browns in the world, you are the 'Charlie Browniest!'" Maybe you are right there with me. No doubt some struggle with feelings of inadequacy more than others. We cannot allow these feelings to keep us from accomplishing things for God and His kingdom.

Surround yourself with people who encourage you. Strengthen your abilities and skills through hard work and by pushing yourself beyond your comfort zone. Seek God's power to accomplish His purposes.

Do I struggle with feelings of inadequacy? All the time! But I can't allow those feelings to keep me from being the person God called me to be and from accomplishing His purposes. Neither can you. **ONE**

# When EARTHQUAKES Shake the Soul

BY BRENDA EVANS

*For almost four years, violent tremors shook Elizabeth Perreault's life with sudden emotional and physical upheavals: her mother's death, her own battle with breast cancer, her father's sudden death, plus the sustained aftermaths of grief and fear that accompanied each of these events. The everyday surface of her life shifted, became displaced, and out of Elizabeth's control. That's what earthquakes do.*

When fire and flood were added to the quakes, Elizabeth turned to the Lord's promises from Isaiah 43: "Fear not, for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art Mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

Gradually, the ground beneath Elizabeth's feet became steady again. She settled into peace that she attributes to the unshakable foundation of her faith—the godly model of her parents and husband—and the help of Free Will Baptist Foundation.

Before her death in 2012, Elizabeth's mother, Frances Stancill, went through two years of serious physical decline and eventual home health care. Two months after her mother's death, Elizabeth was diagnosed with stage-3 breast cancer herself. Treatment eventually included surgery, eight chemotherapy treatments, 30 radiation treatments, 52 immunotherapy treatments, and three reconstructive surgeries. Though the ground shifted beneath her, Elizabeth remained steady. On the first day of chemotherapy, the Lord spoke to her from Psalm 27:14: "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

"I'm not very good at resting and waiting," Elizabeth said, "but they were what God was going to use to help me grow in faith. I kept homeschooling our three daughters and experienced minimal side effects from the treatments. When I was tired, the recliner became my best friend. It was the prayers of so many people that gave me strength, especially my father. He had such great faith."

During the darkest emotional earthquakes, Elizabeth wondered how she could go on. She calls it a "tender" time. The loss of her mother was followed two months later by her own horrific battle with cancer. The load was heavy. She even wondered if God was punishing her. Eventually, Elizabeth found comfort in John 9, and the healing of the blind man. Her husband

Paul reminded her that Jesus said the man's blindness had not been because of sin, "but that the works of God should be made manifest." God's work would be exhibited in her, too, Paul assured her. So Elizabeth hung on, dug into the Psalms, and rested in hope.

Several months later, while Elizabeth was still in cancer treatment, her father asked her to sit down with him at the kitchen table for a conversation. He wanted to talk about his estate plan. He had made a list of places he wanted his money to go, places that would "do

## ELIZABETH HUNG ON, DUG INTO THE PSALMS, AND RESTED IN HOPE.

spiritual good" after his death. He would leave some assets to her and Paul and their three daughters, he told Elizabeth, but not everything. He was planning to make a difference in several ministries.

James and Frances Stancill had a 50-year history of making a difference. After college at Bob Jones University, they became bi-vocational missionaries and church planters, along with their only child Elizabeth. Later, for 30 years, they served the Lord at Bible Book Store in Durham, North Carolina. Until his retirement in 2012, James managed the bookstore where he had a tremendous ministry of encouragement and witness, while Frances ran support services.

"Giving was Dad's spiritual gift," Elizabeth said. "When I was in college, he paid one of my friend's college bills.

He told me that the privilege of his lifetime had been giving money to equip men and women for pastorates and missions." Even as a teenager,

James had a will to give. When his prize steer won Reserve Champion at the fair in Ayden, North Carolina, he decided to sell the steer and buy a Farmall tractor. But when missionary Bill Fulcher preached at his church, James sold the steer and instead gave the money to the Fulchers' missionary account.

By November 2014, James had his new estate plan in place. Through Free Will Baptist Foundation he established a revocable Money Management Trust to earn better interest on his reserve funds and a Living Trust to facilitate distribution of his assets after death.

One year later, November 2015, a startling phone call shook Elizabeth. "I was at home helping my youngest daughter with school work. It was Paul: 'You've got five minutes. Meet me at the hospital.' I got there just as the emergency vehicle did. 'That's my father,' I told the security guard."

Looking back, Elizabeth sees that both the Lord and her father prepared her for his death. The Living Trust set up the year before was part of that, of course, but also the last six days of his life. On the Friday night before his heart attack the following Thursday, James and his youngest granddaughter planted pansies in the dark. He held the flashlight; she dug and planted. Also that night, her father told Elizabeth that time was short, and he wanted to talk about his funeral. "He went through everything," Elizabeth said. "Looking back, I see how the Lord was taking care of me beforehand. When Dad suddenly died the next week, I knew exactly what to do."

On Saturday, James was stricken with a severe infection, but on Monday stayed up all night typing a paper on Free Will Baptist doctrine for his oldest granddaughter to use in a college class. Tuesday, he went to the bookstore to relieve Paul who had become manager after James' retirement. Also that night, he had a last dinner with Elizabeth at a

Chinese restaurant. "Just me and Dad," Elizabeth reflects, "not knowing what was coming in two days."

At 11:00 Thursday morning, Paul received a call: "Your father-in-law is lying in his front yard." When Paul arrived, James had coded—had no pulse—and a friend, Tony Phillips, was administering CPR. Tony told Paul his mother had recently died, and that James had comforted him and said, "I'm so sorry, Tony. I know you will miss her." Those were James' last words on earth. He coded again in the ambulance on the way to the hospital.

"God honored Dad for his life of service," Elizabeth said. "I'm comforted by his not going through a long time in a facility." At age 71, James Stancill died of V-Fib, but he died both ready and prepared.

"After Dad's death and burial, we realized what a great gift Dad's Living Trust was," Paul said. "We called, and two guys came—Doug Little from the Foundation and Mike Wootton from Cornerstone. They walked us through everything. It was easy."

"Except Dad's Camry," Elizabeth said with a laugh. "Dad had not titled his used Camry to the trust, so it took two trips to the courthouse, three to the DMV, and two to Jiffy Lube for inspections just to get it retitled into our name. The worst was the three trips to the DMV and the lady with those thick glasses and the personality of a porcupine. *No, no, no* were her favorite words. That kind of hassle makes you really believe in Living Trusts."

Near the end of the visit with Elizabeth and Paul, Doug Little went to their piano and sang a song he had written many years ago: "He's Been So Good to Me." Despite the loss of both parents, despite having no siblings, despite her struggle with cancer, despite other earthquakes large and small, that song is part of Elizabeth's testimony, too: "the Lord's been so good to me." **ONE**

## Brown on **Green** >>

# Grants Returning in 2017

### **Free Will Baptist Foundation is glad to announce it will be awarding grants in 2017.**

In 2015, \$75,000 was awarded in pilot grants to national departments and commissions. In 2017, however, any Free Will Baptist ministry connected to the National Association of Free Will Baptists (NAFWB) will be eligible to apply. This means all state associations and state-owned ministries are eligible. District associations and their owned ministries are also able to apply, as they either report directly to the NAFWB or are members of state associations. Local churches may also apply if they belong to a district association that is a member of a state that belongs to the NAFWB.

This program has long been a dream for the Foundation. To this point, the Foundation largely has been a channel for individuals to direct endowments and planned gifts to help fund ministries perpetually. The recent addition of the Free Will Baptist Estate Plan ministry has also helped, as more than 1,300 families have directed over \$13 million to ministries through bequests. However, the grant program marks the first time in the 36-year history of the ministry that the Foundation itself can fund the needs of ministries directly.

The guidelines of the grant program outline that the purpose of the program is to fund long-term needs of our ministries. It is not designed to support the general fund of ministries, but rather to invest the grants in projects that have long-lasting effects on the ministry and the denomination as a whole. All ministries awarded a grant will file a follow-up report(s) with the Foundation to verify how the grant was used.

The Foundation will award at least \$100,000 but hopes for more. It is our sincere desire that, through the grant program, the Foundation can provide resources for the next generation and beyond. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2017. Grants will be awarded during the Foundation board meeting in April 2017. Information regarding grant applications can be obtained by contacting the Foundation office at 877-336-7575 or by emailing [foundation@nafwb.org](mailto:foundation@nafwb.org).

*Note: we will also make the information available in downloadable format on our Facebook page and at [nafwb.org](http://nafwb.org).* 

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



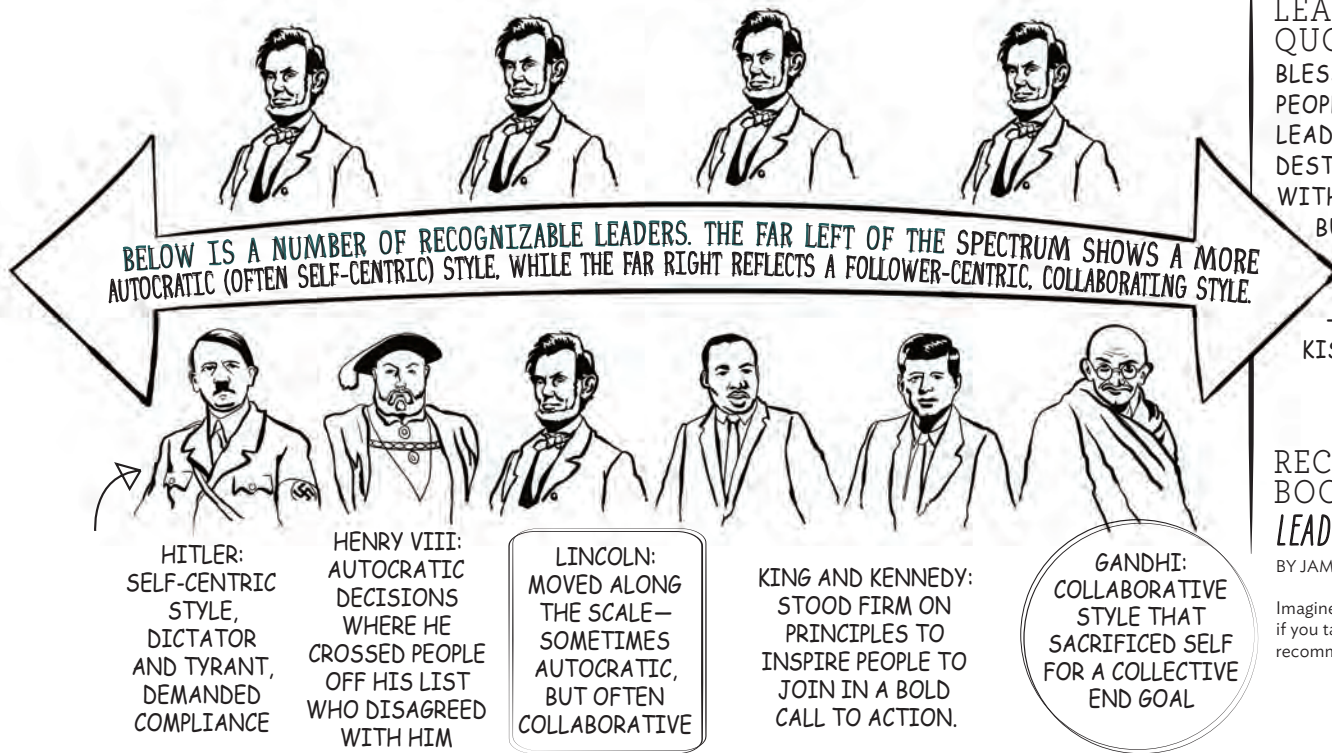
### **Foundation Grants**

- + To fund long-term needs
- + Not intended for general fund expenses
- + Available to any Free Will Baptist Ministry
- + Deadline: March 15, 2017

# LEADERSHIP WHITEBOARD

Spectrum of Leadership Styles || BY RON HUNTER JR.

LINCOLN ADJUSTED HIS STYLE OVER HIS PRESIDENCY, AS MOST LEADERS DO. HE RECRUITED A CABINET OF MEN WHO WERE HIS OPPONENTS, EVEN ENEMIES. HE CONSULTED THEIR WISDOM WITHOUT FEAR OF THEM HAVING A BETTER IDEA OR SUGGESTION. HOWEVER, LINCOLN, WHEN SEEING THE COUNTRY ON A PRECIPICE OF DISINTEGRATION DID NOT TAKE TIME TO CONSULT OTHERS, BUT ISSUED AN EXECUTIVE ORDER—THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION. LINCOLN'S STYLE CROSSES THE SPECTRUM OF LEADERSHIP FROM EXTREME AUTOCRATIC TO VERY COLLABORATIVE. HE USED MULTIPLE LEADERSHIP STYLES.



**LEADERSHIP QUOTE**  
 BLESSED ARE THE PEOPLE WHOSE LEADERS CAN LOOK DESTINY IN THE EYE WITHOUT FLINCHING BUT ALSO WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO PLAY GOD.  
 —HENRY A KISSINGER

**RECOMMENDED BOOK:**  
**LEADERSHIP**  
 BY JAMES MCGREGOR BURNS

Imagine your leadership growth if you tackled the six books recommended each year.



Knowing when to direct and when to allow people to weigh in takes being comfortable in one's own skin. But people's loyalty will only go so far. Find the balance and see what long-term results can be produced from a leader who, like Lincoln, may be autocratic in a crisis but otherwise inspirationally collaborative, the way servant-leaders typically act.



True discipleship is attained through diligently studying God's Word and applying the Scriptures to your daily life. Spending **one hour** each week in a worship service is simply not enough.

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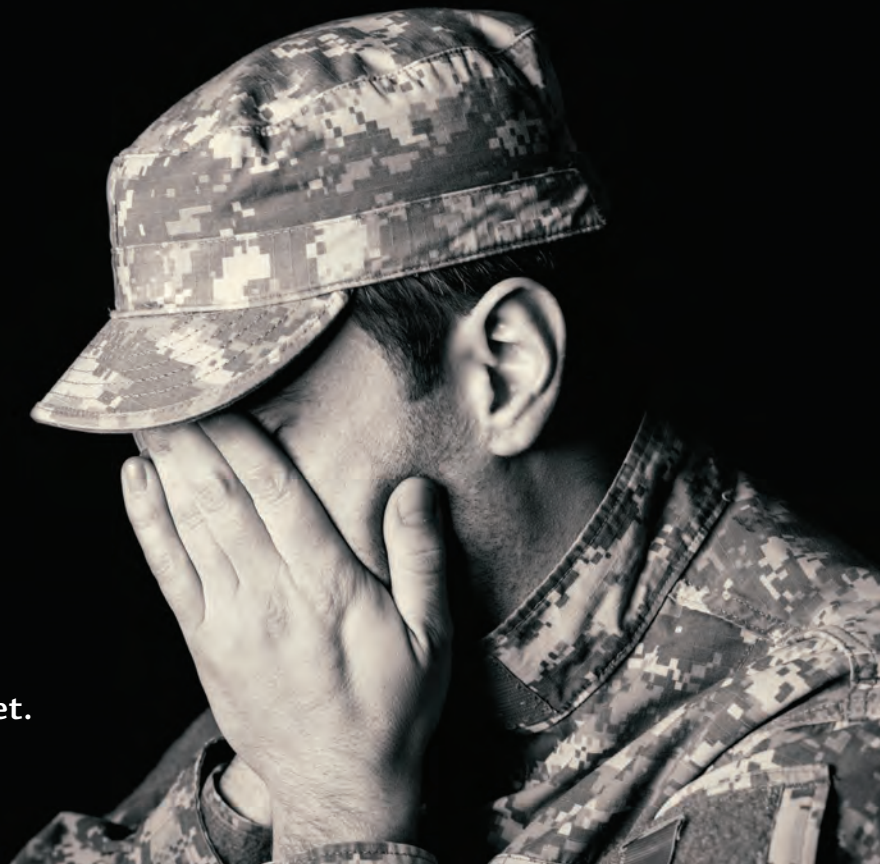
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# FIRST AID FOR VETS:

## It's Time to Do Something

Edward E. Moody, Jr., Ph.D. and Chaplain  
(Lieutenant Colonel) David Trogdon, USA, Ret.



If you are old enough to remember, go back in time and think about the way you felt on September 11, 2001. We were all moved when we saw the World Trade Center towers fall, the smoke rise from the Pentagon, and heard of the heroism demonstrated on United Airlines Flight 93 over Pennsylvania. As the sun began to set that day, many of us thought, “Someone must do something!”

The men and women of the United States military immediately began to do something. The *USS Enterprise* had been heading home after a six-month deployment. As the crew watched the events unfold that day, the *Enterprise*, without orders, was turned around and headed to the waters off Southwest Asia. Other service personnel went into action as our nation began to respond. More than 5.2 million people have enlisted in the military since 9/11. Fifteen years later, the memories of that day have faded. Many have forgotten what they thought and how they felt.

That is not the case for those who chose to do something in the aftermath of these events. More than 2.5 million service per-

sonnel have served in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and Operation New Dawn (OND). Many have paid a high price. More than 6,852 people have lost their lives, and more than 1,572 have lost at least one limb. More than 253,330 have suffered a traumatic brain injury.

Many who escaped physical injury struggle with the trauma they experienced. In one survey, 75% of select military units reported receiving incoming artillery, rocket, or mortar fire. Around 60% reported being shot at, and at least 50% had an IED or booby trap explode near them. Fifteen percent reported being directly responsible for the death of enemy combatants. Three-quarters knew a service member who was killed or seriously wounded. Half report seeing dead or seriously injured Americans, and half have had a friend seriously injured or killed. From 2004 to 2012 there was a 400% increase of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) diagnosis. Others who do not meet the criteria for PTSD will struggle with post-traumatic stress.

### Do Something for Active Duty Personnel and Veterans

Long ago a Civil War soldier said, “People at home owe a debt to the soldiers that they can never pay. Let them do whatever they may, they can never cancel the obligations.” It is time for us to do something for our active duty personnel and veterans who are giving and have given so much.

### During Deployment

But what can we do for service personnel who are so far away? We can support them on their deployment by helping their family. Many service members worry about their families when they are away. Are they safe, are they taken care of? It is a good idea to check in with a spouse weekly to see how they are doing when their loved one is deployed. We can help ease the burden by watching their kids while a parent shops or takes a bit of time for himself or herself. We can help by spending some time with kids whose parents are on active duty. At least 700,000 children have at least one parent who has been deployed.



### After the deployment

Once a service member returns home you can help by just hanging out with your friend or family member who has been deployed. Give them some grace if they seem a bit irritable or struggle in certain situations. Realize they live with a new normal. What you think of as a big deal, they may not since no one is dying or at risk of dying. Problems may seem a little different to them. Yet, they may struggle with memory issues and certain sights and smells.

Guard against stupid questions like, "So did you kill anyone?" You might even pounce on those who make insensitive remarks by asking them how they might like to be reminded, at a family get-together or barbecue, of one of the worst days of their life at.

Help your service member or veteran realize he or she is normal.



After seeing and experiencing some of the things our service members have, they'd be abnormal if they could sleep normally and not be a bit jumpy.

### Point them to God

You may have never experienced a combat deployment, but if you are a Christian you know the One who can help them—the One who walks through the valley of the shadow of death. Encourage your friends to call upon God to help them. One of the most effective interventions used today is called Mantram Repetition Program. It is a technique that is simply praying when under great stress. It is nontoxic, inexpensive, and it works. Veterans have used it to help with intense memories or after a cue of a traumatic event. One aspect is prayer. The veteran experiences a stressor and prays something like "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me." We believe that one of the reasons it works is that Jesus is

our Helper (John 15:16) and with us who are believers (Matthew 18:20). However, the real key is that we must *know* Jesus or such techniques are unlikely to help long-term with the stress.

We could benefit from the command of Lieutenant General George S. Patton during World War II when the Battle of the Bulge was not going well. He said, "Urge all men to pray, not alone in church, but everywhere . . . Pray when driving . . . Pray when fighting . . . Pray alone . . . Pray with others . . . Pray by night and pray by day. . . Pray for the cessation of immoderate rains, for good weather for battle. . ." His point was to pray frequently and specifically. Such prayers can help those we care about today as well.

The memories of 9/11 have faded, but the impact is still with us. Let's do something for those who have so ably served us by being there for them before, during, and after combat deployments. **ONE**

**About the Writers:** Dr. Eddie Moody is an associate professor at North Carolina Central University. He holds a Ph.D. in counselor education. He pastors Tippett's Chapel FWB Church in Clayton, North Carolina.

Lieutenant Colonel David Trogdon recently retired from the US Army after 33 years of military service. He currently serves with CRU military and ministers to soldiers, military families, wounded warriors and veterans.



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## In Publication >>



### New D6 Podcast

Randall House recently launched the weekly D6 Podcast featuring interviews with authors, ministry leaders, and speakers. Find the free podcast on iTunes and at [D6family.com/podcast/](http://D6family.com/podcast/). A full lineup of featured interviews can be found on the site, but notable ones include Tim Elmore, Pete Wilson, David Jones, Dannah Gresh, and Beth Guckenberger. Randall House believes that sharing interview-style content will enrich ministry leaders around the world.

### D6 Connect Tour: Three Speakers, Three Cities, Three Days

During May, Randall House hosted a three-city tour that provided educational opportunities for ministry leaders in the area of family ministry. The D6 Connect Tour featured Dr. Edward Moody, Dr. Timothy Paul Jones, and Ron Hunter in St. Louis, Missouri; Lexington, Kentucky; and Nashville, Tennessee. Some attendees traveled more than 200 miles to hear the messages *Raising Kids in Modern Day Babylon*, *A Theology for Family Ministry*, and *Eight Steps to Developing a Family Ministry*. The D6 Connect Tour delivered a half-day family ministry event to those who otherwise might not be able to attend a larger national three-day event. Family ministry is the best way to grow strong churches, and God continues to use the D6 message of generational discipleship regionally, nationally, and internationally.

### Eight Randall House Titles Released in Singapore

Singapore, a primarily English-speaking country, released eight Randall House titles this summer: *Legacy Path*, *Visionary Parenting*, *Visionary Marriage*, *Limited Church Unlimited Kingdom*, *Five Reasons for Spiritual Apathy in Teens*, *Deuteronomy 6 in 3D*, *Relentless Parenting*, and *The DNA of D6*. Several of these titles have been released in multiple languages and countries.

Ron Hunter's newest book, *The DNA of D6: Building Blocks of Generational Discipleship*, released this past fall and has been met with favorable reviews. The book will release this fall in French and Korean and will be used in a number of seminaries and colleges as a textbook.



### D6 Singapore

God continues to use Free Will Baptists to spread His heartbeat of generational discipleship founded on the principles of Deuteronomy 6. The principles resonate with seminaries, universities, and ministry leaders around the world. The D6 Conference, founded in 2009, is a family ministry conference.

Since 2009, more than 21 countries have sent leaders to learn and bring the teachings back to their culture. The first international D6 Conference was held in Norway in 2013. France hosted a conference in 2015, and Singapore hosted the event in July 2016. For the past three years, Ron Hunter has served on a team that assists leaders in Southeast Asia to adopt biblical principles of family ministry without making the mistakes of the American churches.

Ron Hunter, key plenary speaker for D6 Singapore, shared the following four messages: *It's Time to Fight for Your Families*, *Eight Steps to Family Ministry Mindset*, *Restoring Biblical*

*Family Ministry*, and *Writing a New Chapter for Your Family Legacy*. After the conference, Ron trained ministry leaders from two countries—Indonesia and Malaysia—to start the cultural change for church and home working together for effective family ministry. Many denominations and organizations recognize Free Will Baptists are leading the family ministry conversation in North America and around the world.

It is important to note that while Randall House provides training for countries to host international events, Randall House does not bear the financial responsibility for international events. Ron and the Randall House team advise the international leaders, provide previously developed graphics, recommend speakers, and offer previously recorded videos. The international conferences are asked to pay back 10% of their total revenues to help Randall House provide the same service to other countries.



*Celebrating 10 years of outreach at the national convention.*

# IMPACT 10

*By Emily Faison*

**ONE IN SEVEN PEOPLE IN JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, DOESN'T KNOW WHERE HIS OR HER NEXT MEAL WILL COME FROM. BUT TWO WEDNESDAYS EACH MONTH, 150 FAMILIES PICK OUT GROCERY AND PERSONAL CARE STAPLES AT LIFEPOINT CROSSING, A FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH IN BLUE SPRINGS.**



LifePoint spends \$600-700 each month on food, buying deeply discounted provisions through a partnership with the Kansas City branch of Harvesters Community Food Network. They also receive donations from local organizations and grocers like Aldi's, which donated 400 loaves of bread just last week. LifePoint Family Director Kimberly Moore notes, "Sometimes, the shelves seem like they're about to be empty, but God always supplies the need." She continues with a smile: "It's a headache of a ministry sometimes, but it's an awesome ministry!"

LifePoint members volunteer frequently at the Harvesters warehouse, but they experienced something new Saturday, July 16, when Impact Kansas City volunteers from five churches in Mississippi, Illinois, Tennessee, and Oklahoma joined them to sort and pack nearly 12,000 pounds of food. "I wish you could come back every Saturday!" one Harvesters staff member said, after watching the group at work.

This is just one example of the many ways participants in

the annual Impact program partner with local churches in the convention city in reaching the community where the meeting is held.

In 2016, other groups of Impact volunteers were hard at work helping to host carnivals at Victory FWB Church (Kansas City) and Central FWB Church (Grandview). These events promoted local churches in their neighborhoods, helping them build relationships within the community.

At Victory Church, 30 volunteers provided food and fun activities for 120-150 visitors, four of whom returned to the church the following morning. With the help of 30 Impact volunteers, Central Church sponsored a community carnival with inflatables and games. Local police and fire departments provided emergency vehicles for kids to tour, and the church honored first responders. Approximately 200 enthusiastic residents attended the event, and the community took note of the church's efforts.

"It's great that race has no boundaries in the love of Christ!"



said Rob Stottlemire, chief of Grandview Fire Department. Police Chief Charley Iseman added his own observation: “It’s been a rough few weeks, and it’s great to see this type of support.”

During the first ten years of the program, more than 3,000 Free Will Baptists from all over the nation have volunteered time, effort, tools, and sweat each July. They have come together for door-to-door evangelism and to canvass neighborhoods with flyers and church information. They have hosted festivals and

picnics, repaired homes for the elderly, sorted food and delivered meals, refurbished aging church buildings...and the list could go on and on.

For some participants, Impact has become the highlight of the convention.

This is certainly true of Ohioan Marcia McCarty, one of only three people who has taken part in every event. On more than one occasion, she and her husband Greg have traveled all night, even slept in their cars to make it to Impact. But to her, Impact is worth the sacrifice.

When asked about her experience, she bubbles with enthusiasm: “We look forward to coming early to help serve others

each year. We pray for the people and churches all year long. This is a way we can serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. It is easy to serve in my ‘Jerusalem,’ but this gives me a way to serve in my ‘Judea’ as well. I encourage every Free Will Baptist to come a day early to help our churches and serve their neighbors. It’s a great feeling to know you are where God wants you to be.”

Why not take Marcia’s challenge and help make an impact in convention cities for another decade? **ONE**

## About the Denomination >>

### 2017 Nominees Requested

**Antioch, TN**—The 2017 Nominating Committee, which will serve through the national convention in Louisville, Kentucky, is prepared to receive nominees for the 2017 convention election, according to Danny Williams (AL), committee chairman.

The committee will meet December 6, 2016, at the annual Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, to consider nominations and to compile a report with a single nominee for each position to be filled. The report will be presented to delegates at the 2017 convention.

The following board and commission positions will be filled in 2017: Home Missions/North American Ministries (3), Board of Retirement (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). The following boards do not elect members in 2017: International Missions, Randall House Publications, Welch College, and WNAC.

Nominations, accompanied by a brief resume, must be submitted in writing exclusively to the chairman on or before November 30. Contact Chairman Danny Williams:

Nominating Committee, Danny Williams, 107 Stratford Ln, Winfield, AL 35594  
Phone: 205-412-0296 Email: djwill61@yahoo.com ■

## St. Croix School Honors Outgoing Administrator

**St. Croix, USVI**—The Free Will Baptist School in the U.S. Virgin Islands recently expressed their appreciation to Stephen Beck and his family for nine years of service. Stephen served as principal, while Rejyna served as both high school Spanish teacher and sixth grade elementary teacher. Their five children grew up on the island and attended the school.

“The Becks have been instrumental in seeing this ministry thrive,” said Michael Cross, assistant administrator. “Their family will be greatly missed, and they always will be considered part of our island family. We pray for God’s blessing and a smooth transition as they relocate to Nashville, Tennessee.”

An ordained minister and the grandson of Welch College’s founding president L. C. Johnson, Beck also served as associate pastor of the Free Will Baptist church in St. Croix, and associate home missionary with North American Ministries. In addition to administrative and pastoral work at the school, he coached championship soccer and cross-country teams.

Beck recently accepted a teaching position on the faculty of Welch College in Nashville, Tennessee, where he will eventually chair the Teacher Education Department.

Founded under Larry Powell in 1971, Free Will Baptist Christian School has a long history of educating and evangelizing students on St. Croix. With a mixture of local and stateside teachers and staff, the school instructs students from pre-kindergarten through grade 12. The student body represents the island well with a mix of cultures and religions from the Caribbean, the Middle East, South America, and more. “Many students come to us for a superb education,” Cross notes. “They know very little about our perfect God. This is our mission field. They gather on our property every day, sit in our classrooms, assemble in our sanctuary for weekly chapel, and receive the love of Jesus through our dedicated teachers and staff.”

Cross encourages Free Will Baptists to become a bigger part of this ministry through prayer and financial support and by applying for positions available: teachers, school administrators, IT technicians, and maintenance personnel. For more information, email Mike Cross: [mcross@freewillschool.com](mailto:mcross@freewillschool.com) or by submitting a paper resume to: FWBCS, 135 Sion Hill, Christiansted, VI 00820. ■



## Free Will Baptist Doctrinal Books Released in Spanish

Randall House is pleased to announce the release of two newly translated book titles in Spanish, thanks to the generosity of Free Will Baptist Foundation. *Grace, Faith, Free Will* by Robert E. Picirilli and *Free Will Baptist Doctrines* by J.D. O'Donnell are the titles selected for translation. These important doctrinal works for Free Will Baptists will now be available to Spanish-speakers around the world.

**To order, call Randall House (800) 877-7030.**

Photo: Mark Cowart



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

## ONE to ONE >>

### NO APOLOGY NECESSARY

*I answered the call to preach at age 16. Shortly thereafter I was invited to speak at a youth rally sponsored by our district association. When I entered the sanctuary of the church hosting the rally that evening I was overwhelmed by the size of the crowd. Youth and adult sponsors from the various churches comprising the association filled the house to capacity. I was nervous.*

I was further intimidated by the fact that at the previous rally three months earlier a dynamic, young preacher had spoken. In the course of his message he shared his personal testimony. He recounted how God had marvelously delivered him from the use of drugs, alcohol, and similar vices. His was an impressive, amazing story of God's life-changing, redemptive power.

At the appointed time I stepped into the pulpit, read my text, and delivered the message I had prepared. The sermon was simple, straightforward, and brief. As I recall it lasted a total of 12 minutes.

Following the service, a few folks shared polite comments about my little homily. I thanked them for their kind words, but in my heart I felt like a failure. I had hoped the altars would be full of penitents, and no one responded.

As I exited the church, an elderly man approached me. He asked if he could have a few minutes of my time. I consented. He began by referencing the young preacher who had spoken at the previous rally. I became defensive.

I explained I had been raised in a Christian home by godly parents. I accepted the Lord as Savior at age 12. I told him I had never tasted

alcohol, used illicit drugs, or done many of the things usually associated with riotous living. I admitted I had lived a "sheltered" life and as a result, felt my personal testimony was lackluster and unimpressive.

The old saint's countenance fell, and tears welled up in his eyes. He gently placed his hand on my shoulder, looked me straight in the eye, and said, "Young man! Don't you ever apologize for your testimony. You should thank the good Lord every day for sparing you the heartache of a sinful past."

He went on to explain how he had lived a rebellious life in his younger days. He confessed that a day never passed that he didn't regret the years he wasted living in sin.

I walked away from that encounter with a new perspective. From that day to this I have never apologized for my Christian testimony. I admire those who have experienced God's incredible deliverance from evil, and prior to my conversion, I was just as lost as any of them. At the same time, I rejoice that He mercifully spared me the misery and scars associated with a sinful past. "O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever" (1 Chronicles 16:34). **ONE**



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*“And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed...But Moses’ hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side.” Ex. 17:11-12 KJV*

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