

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

ONE

MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

DECEMBER 2008–JANUARY 2009

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DISCIPLESHIP

Bring It Home



ORDINARY MEN

**Discipleship in
High Heels**

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MAGAZINE

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



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FIRST GLIMPSE

a change of perspective

ERIC THOMSEN
MANAGING EDITOR



Photo: Mark Cowart

I hate change.

It's a tough confession to make. At age 36, I'm part of the technological revolution. According to "experts," my generation is impervious to the nauseating rhythm of the culture dancing around it, comfortable with sound bytes, and unfazed by strobe light-enhanced TV commercials that package Faulkner novels into 60-second flashes of hyper-reality.

I can't deny that I process thousands of emails each week, update computer software monthly, and multi-task constantly—balancing telephone conversations, instant messages, graphic design programs, software glitches, and web updates with relative ease. If anyone should embrace change, it's me.

I don't.

Instead, I find solace from today's pace of life in daily routines and recurring deadlines—consistency I can count on. I enjoy a cup of coffee in the morning, read my newspaper [yes, newspaper] in a particular order, and plan my day using an old-fashioned to-do list...on paper. I take the same route to work and park in the same spot every morning unless someone beats me to it.

Did I mention I hate change?

While I am tempted to incorporate *ONE Magazine* into my one-man revolution against societal flux, I don't have that luxury. Today's magazine must be ever changing—constantly improving and moving in step with its readers. Without change, *ONE Magazine* would soon become irrelevant.

And irrelevant is simply unacceptable. For that reason, you will see the following changes in this and subsequent issues of the magazine:

- **Type.** Magazine text has been tweaked to provide optimum readability. Space has been added between lines, and the new body font is among the easiest to read.
- **Layout.** Designers have created more room for content and reader feedback while maintaining the clean, easy-to-navigate feel of *ONE Magazine*. Notice especially the table of contents, news pages, and featured columns.
- **Content.** Read "Brown on Green," a new financial column by David Brown, director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation. "Leader Profile," sponsored by Randall House Publications, will feature a different Free Will Baptist pastor or leader in each issue.
- **Paper.** In February-March 2009, *ONE Magazine* will begin printing on 60-pound, satin paper. The heavier weight of paper will increase the feel and durability of the magazine while the "dull" finish will reduce glare for greater readability.

Hmmm. Maybe the word "hate" was a little strong. I guess change isn't always bad. And with that, I'm going back to my routine. **ONE**

LETTERS

Have something to say?

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

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

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

ONE Magazine Online

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ENCOUNTER AT STAR BAGEL

By Lynsey Stripling Riggs

A FEW WEEKS AGO, I RAN INTO A PARENT of a prospective student at my favorite restaurant in Nashville: Star Bagel. We talked for a while, and he said he needed to ask me something about Free Will Baptist Bible College. Since I work in enrollment management and get paid to answer questions from parents, I said no problem.

He went on to say he wanted a *real* answer and my honest opinion, something genuine. I started to get a bit nervous. He told me that he wanted his children to continue to grow and mature in their spiritual walk during their college years.

Then he said, “Lynsey, if you had a chance to do it all over again, would you? If you had to enroll as a freshman this fall, would you choose Free Will Baptist Bible College?”



*Adapted from an April
2008 senior testimony
at Free Will Baptist
Bible College.*

PEOPLE WHO MATTER

My first instinct was yes, of course; I love FWBBC. But I knew that wasn't what he needed to hear. So I began to tell him what really helped me grow over the past few years, and what would help his children do the same are the people at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Yes, I can talk about economics, accounting, Bible doctrine, and ancient philosophers...but that's not what stands out in my reflection on FWBBC. Here's what does stand out.

A PROFESSOR'S TEARS

I remember a fifth-hour class with Dr. Kevin Hester, a New Testament class filled with almost all girls. He read a passage in Corinthians about sexual purity. Dr. Hester removed his jacket, sat down on the chair in front of us and began to weep, begging us to remain sexually pure. He cared so much for us and wanted us to have God's best. I'll never forget that lecture.

That was the day Dr. Hester the Bible expositor became a broken-hearted friend with a timeless message from God.

TRUSTED COUNSELORS

I remember the times I went to Bert and Dianne Tippet and discussed how my parents and I weren't seeing eye-to-eye, or how I had just had a fight with my boyfriend. They always gave me godly advice and told me they would be praying for me. And I knew they would. Mr. Tippet is the director of church relations; Mrs. Tippet coordinates the college's mailing list. But they're both bigger than their job titles.

STAFF MEMBERS' TESTIMONIES

I remember listening to Wayne and Brenda Spruill's testimonies and thinking if God can get them through all that and they can be two of the happiest, most helpful people I know, then I never have a reason to complain.

Wayne, FWBBC's director of institutional research, does his job from a wheelchair. His vibrant wife Brenda is administrative assistant to the vice president for financial affairs.

Both of them are modern-day examples of Paul's advice to be content regardless of circumstances (Philippians 4:11).

BIG BUSINESS

I remember conversations in business classes about anything and everything we were dealing with, and how business instructor Mike Walker always took time to help us confront the hard issues, even if it meant we didn't finish his class work for the day.

He helped us turn a page in life and encouraged us to move on with God's will for us. He had a heart for missions and saw his students as more than statistics.

MY COLLEGE

I thought about all I have to thank Free Will Baptist Bible College for—traveling experiences, an accredited degree, great people to work with, lifelong friends, a husband, and so much more. More important, I have a deeper relationship with Christ because of influences from FWBBC. During my time here, I have established solid faith behind all those emotions I felt as a teenager.

Don't get me wrong; I am not perfect. I have not learned all there is to know, and I have encountered difficulties along the way. This place is not perfect and neither are its people, but it's my place, my college, and my people.

DO IT AGAIN

As I thought about all those things and shared a few of them with this parent, my answer to his question became clear. YES! I would choose Free Will Baptist Bible College all over again. Knowing what I know now, and considering all that's happened and is about to happen, I would do it all over again.

I'm excited about the journey that's about to begin. My fiancé [now husband] Jacob Riggs and I have many open doors, and because of this place, we are ready and willing to fulfill God's call on our lives.

I left that parent in Star Bagel with a bit of advice, and I leave it with you today. Free Will Baptist Bible College is what you make of it. This place is a people-rich environment that can help you come to terms with life, if you let it. I came away with four years of friends, a college degree, and a purpose for living. There was more I could have learned, but what I have today from these wonderful people has changed my life. Yes! I'd enroll again in FWBBC. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Lynsey Stripling Riggs graduated from FWBBC in May 2008 with a B.S. degree in Business Administration. She and Jacob Riggs (also a 2008 FWBBC graduate) were married May 24. Lynsey serves in enrollment management at Free Will Baptist Bible College. To learn more about the college, visit www.fwbcc.edu.

The Amazing Women of Free Will Baptist Bible College

Discipleship

BY CAROL REID

in High Heels



Christ's command to
"go and make disciples"
was not just spoken to men.
The women at Free Will Baptist
Bible College feel strongly about
our commission in this work as
well. You'll find the women
employed at FWBBC also
employed in kingdom
work in a variety of ways.

Pastors' Wives and Top Teachers

Three acknowledge the title of "Pastor's Wife." Robin Smith cashes checks and accepts school bill payments by day, but when she goes home she changes hats and becomes the quintessential pastor's wife—singing, teaching, and serving at Richland Free Will Baptist Church.

Linda Gladson's story is similar. After her workday ends with the Adult Studies Degree program and the Registrar's Office, she's the first lady at Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church. Rachel DeMerchant's husband is starting a church in Lewisburg, Tennessee. In addition to teaching Grammar and Composition classes and being "Mom" to one baby boy and about 100 men in Goen Hall, she shares her husband's work as a church planter.

Then there are the teachers. Tina Tolbert directs college ministries at Cofer's Chapel—teaching Sunday School and sponsoring social events for students in her classes—when she finishes her work as ADP director and Speech teacher at FWBBC. For four years, Jackie Rasar, Psychology program chair, has taught a class during teen week at Camp Hope (Illinois State Youth Camp). She is a co-teacher for college-age students at Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church.

Kathy Murphy (Teacher Education) teams with her mom to teach children's church at Cane Ridge (formerly Woodbine) Free Will Baptist Church. Jill Kettelman (Financial Aid Office) and Rachel DeMerchant take their turns teaching children's church. Jena Simpson (Adult Studies and Teacher Education secretary) teaches a weekly women's Bible study class in her home, as well as a children's class on Wednesday night.

From Music to Rescue Missions

FWBBC women are involved in discipling through music ministry. Susan Forlines (dean of women) plays the organ at Cross Timbers FWB Church, sings in the choir, directs the girls' quartet, and substitutes as organist for the Veterans Hospital Service. Dr. Linda Shipley (Music faculty) plays the piano for her church and directs the Allegro School of Music. Lynsey Riggs (Development Office) and others sing solos, sing in the choir, and play offertories.

Numerous church ministries call FWBBC women into discipleship roles. Dr. Rebecca Deel (Business faculty) leads the Women Active for Christ (WAC) group at LaVergne Free Will Baptist Church. Sue Edgmon (Registrar's Office) serves as Missions Study chair at Cross Timbers WAC. Dr. Shipley serves on her church staff as minister to senior adults. Jill Ketteman directs the hospitality ministry at Cross Timbers, in addition to her example of hospitality in her home.

But our discipleship ministries aren't restricted to the church. Barbara Riddle (Exercise Science and Teacher Education faculty) continues her volunteer work at Meals on Wheels, and after 20 years, says she has built strong friendships with the people she sees on a weekly basis. She also serves as a "transporter," taking nursing home residents to church every Sunday.

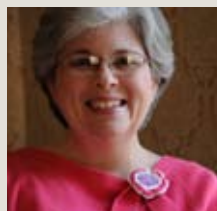
Jena Simpson's ministry through Hope Center at the Nashville Rescue Mission involves her as a prayer partner, adopting a special woman there. Lila Thompson (receptionist) distributes Christmas packages to prisoners at River Bend Maximum Security Prison every year.

Serving and Loving FWBBC Students

Every employee at FWBBC recognizes an important opportunity for discipleship—serving the Lord by loving and serving the students at FWBBC. In the classroom or office or dormitory, we see our work as nurturing FWBBC students to become leaders for our denomination, to be more like Christ because of their time here. We pray for them, care about them, become their friends.

This requires more than grading their papers or cashing their checks. It's about intentional relationships, investing time and energy in the lives of others, formal and informal counseling, and constant awareness that the way we speak to others or the way we treat our husbands and children is under examination from them.

Like it or not, our faithfulness to Christ and His kingdom is up for their inspection. As the old carol says, those



Carol Reid
Librarian

I work as Nursery Sunday School teacher at Cross Timbers FWB Church and serve as president of the Women Active for Christ group. Recently, I've been leading the children's Bible study time during a home Bible study my husband leads. I work with a young woman from our church as her mentor, studying books together about Christian families. I've enjoyed writing Bible studies for *Together With God* magazine.



Barbara Riddle
*Teacher Education
and Exercise Science*

God is always changing my discipleship opportunities! I deliver Meals on Wheels in the rural areas near where we live. I've been doing this so long these ladies and a few gentlemen have become close friends. God has provided many opportunities to include them in our family, help with canning and blackberry picking and gardening. Now that my husband has retired, he will deliver meals during the fall semester when I'm involved with classes. An assisted living facility provides opportunities as transporter for many who accompany me to church each Sunday.



Linda Shipley
Music

I serve as minister to senior adults (includes hospital visits, homebound ministry, and assisting with a monthly Bible study) and church pianist. I also assist with a music school, which is a ministry of Inglewood Baptist Church. I occasionally present a program of piano music at nursing homes and retirement centers.



Jena Simpson
*Lifetime Learning and
Teacher Education
Associate*

I currently lead a weekly women's Bible study in my home, teach a children's Wednesday class, and participate in monthly offertories. I'm also the church librarian and write a bi-monthly article concerning the library. I'm involved in a prayer partner ministry with Hope Center, the women's extension of Nashville Rescue Mission. We "adopt" a woman at the center and regularly write her, send her small gifts, and pray for her and encourage her through the program.

I lead the women's Bible study for the WAC at my church. I'm also the organist/pianist for the church (the instrument I play rotates each month). Occasionally, I teach the Junior Sunday School Class as a substitute and lead the church's women's retreat. I even led a personal safety seminar.



Rebecca Deel
Business

As a pastor's wife I wear many hats. I'm the Sunday School superintendent and church clerk. I teach the Primary Sunday School Class, lead singing, lead our women's group, and teach youth on Sunday and Wednesday nights. I sit with families at the hospital or home as a loved one is passing; generally, if there are any children, I keep them occupied. I also assist brides and my pastor husband at weddings. I sing at funerals if requested by families.



Robin Smith
Cashier and Data Processor

I help my elderly neighbors on a regular basis. She is in a wheelchair, and he is learning to do household chores. I take them food and patch/hem clothes. Once a year I distribute gifts to prisoners at River Bend Maximum Security Prison. I send cards of encouragement to older church members. I listen to FWBBC students that need to talk to an adult. We invite students to our home for holidays or for a meal. We pick up students for church. I pray for them on a regular basis. Sometimes living gets in the way of service, but I hope my life is a testimony to my family and to those I see daily.



Lila Thompson
Receptionist

I teach the College Sunday School Class at my church... actually, they say I'm the director of collegiate ministries. The difference is that in addition to teaching, I plan three or four gatherings (school-starting parties, school-ending parties, Christmas parties, "We're-bored-and-want-something-to-do" parties) for the group each year. I host smaller group dinners/game nights, and I do love them (the students that is)! From time to time, I teach a women's Bible study for a quarter. I am on the rotating nursery schedule, serve as a church greeter, and sing in the choir. I occasionally direct drama pieces.



Tina Tolbert
Adult Degree Program

students know when I've been bad or good, so I want to be good, for goodness' sake! I am investing through example as well as through my work as a librarian.

That's why Brenda Spruill (administrative assistant to the treasurer and president) takes time for a weekly "growth group" with students to work through a book on finding joy in our Christian walk. Lila Thompson has students over for meals and gives them rides to church. Others sponsor society and vocational groups, extending friendship and guidance. After they graduate and move on, students continue to connect with mentors and instructors—and those teacher/student relationships turn to true friendships over the years.

Red-Headed Discipleship

A long time ago, though, I realized my primary ministry for discipleship. As important as it may be, my primary ministry isn't in the library or the classroom. It isn't even at my local church in the nursery or the WAC meeting. It's in my home. As a wife and mother and now mother-in-law and grandmother, my first responsibility is to disciple those the Lord has given me in my family.

Sure, I'm concerned about the babies at Cross Timbers, but I'm consumed by those red-headed granddaughters and teach and pray earnestly that their lives will be committed to Christ. Yes, I'm building relationships with those young men preparing for service here at FWBBC, but the two young men who are our sons require much more from me as far as instruction and diligent prayer. The young lady I mentor is very special to me, but I feel much more accountable to Christ for the relationship I have with my precious daughter-in-law.

So in my home, as I scrub the tub and cook the supper and wash the clothes, may "all my work be praise." I lift Christ up in the sometimes mundane tasks of homemaking as I teach younger women to love their husbands and children and keep their homes. My Christian home and my children are a strong testimony to the world and fellow Christians of my relationship with Christ. Like my colleagues who serve at FWBBC, I want every aspect of my life—at home, in the community, at church, and here at Free Will Baptist Bible College—to be a testimony to my commitment to Christ's Great Commission. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Carol Reid, librarian at Free Will Baptist Bible College, has been part of the FWBBC faculty since 1988. She is a member of Cross Timbers FWB Church in Nashville, Tennessee. Learn more about the college at www.fwbcc.edu.



ACTIVE DISCIPLESHIP

BY SCOTT CHEATHAM

Discipleship is an exciting part of our ministry here in Denver. Webster's defines *discipleship* as "accepting and assisting in spreading the doctrines of another." When considering that definition, I see discipleship as a two-part process. One part is information—training someone in the teachings of Jesus. This is how most people define discipleship, but we cannot forget the second part of the definition that involves taking action!

If we are to teach the doctrines of Jesus to those around us, we must find ways to make active discipleship a part of our ministry plan. The unsaved are skeptical of Christians. They often want to see the practical side to faith before they will open their hearts to what you have to say. Discipleship in action builds a bridge from my life to another person, a bridge that potentially offers an opportunity to share the gospel. So, how do we do this in Denver?

I have the privilege of ministering to several Wal-Mart employees. A few years ago, I was asked to perform a funeral remembrance for a Wal-Mart associate, and the response was amazing. To this day, I still visit the store, speak to employees, and many attend our church. Others attend different churches but see me in coffee shops, restaurants, and bookstores and stop me to talk about spiritual things. I'm continually blessed by these relationships.

We take coffee, juice, and donuts to the local schools. Teachers and administrators appreciate our prayers, and the relationships we have formed are wonderful. We also do this for local fire, police, and other public service agencies.

I use my previous career in radio broadcasting as a springboard to reach others. A local Christian station asked me to be their "Good Friday" pastor, praying for people who call in while music is playing. Many share their struggles and fears with me, and I pray with them.

Active Discipleship requires you to invest time in others.

*The **KEY** in all of these things is to be a **GOOD LISTENER.***

Sometimes that is hard to do when we want to put another notch on our "conversion" belts. Yet if I am to minister and disciple others, I must know about their lives before I suggest anything. Like a good doctor who takes time with his patients, the good disciple takes time to listen before offering the life-giving cure of our Lord Jesus Christ! **ONE**



DISCIPLESHIP:

The Fourth Command BY ANDY MOORE

THE GREAT COMMISSION (Matthew 28:18-20) teaches that the Church is responsible to go into the entire world, to preach (preach or proclaim), to baptize, and to teach (disciple).

Much emphasis has been put on the first three directives. Unfortunately, biblical discipleship—the final command—is often neglected. New converts should not be abandoned as babes in Christ, susceptible to false teachings and cultural pitfalls. Rather, we must disciple each one by teaching him the things that have brought us to the point of Christian maturity we enjoy. We are to instruct him in the full counsel of God's Word. After conversion and baptism, guidance must be given to new Christians

so they can discover, develop, and desire to use their spiritual gifts. The task is not complete until a disciple is made. Sérgio's story is proof that biblical discipleship still works.

Sérgio, a young, single Brazilian, felt a strong desire to go to church, but—as he later admitted—he was hesitant because of the noise and confusion associated with most charismatic-like churches in Brazil.

However, when Carlos, a co-worker and member of the Palm Garden FWB Church in Uberlândia, invited Sérgio to attend church, he came. He returned the next Sunday. And, after veteran missionary Tom Hughes' message, Sérgio accepted Christ as Savior.

I helped Sérgio as he began his

walk with Christ. Each week we met for a new convert's study. During the 12 weeks that followed, I taught him the basics of the Christian life from the Word of God. Assurance of salvation, sanctification, separation, and Christian service were studied in depth. He absorbed each of these truths like a sponge.

Relationships are important, especially to Brazilians. And in Brazil, as in many cultures, new converts are often shunned by their families. The Church must embrace new Christians as part of the family of God.

Andrea and I frequently welcomed Sérgio into our home, visited him at work, and spent time in his home. After the new converts course was completed, we occasionally went out to



WHAT A MARVELOUS OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE TO REPRODUCE THE WORK OF CHRIST IN OUR LIVES THROUGH THOSE WE WIN AND DISCIPLE.

eat together. This time offered opportunity for fellowship and a chance to answer his constant questions about the Bible, clear up any doubts, and give encouragement.

I had the pleasure of watching Sérgio grow in the Lord and the privilege of baptizing him. His zeal for the Lord and thirst for truth were refreshing. Sérgio's changed life and faithful witness at home soon led both his mother and sister to accept Christ as Savior. As he grew, he wanted to find a way to serve the Lord. Sérgio began assisting in the youth meeting—making the announcements, taking prayer requests, sharing his testimony, and eventually giving devotions. He took

courses at our local Bible institute and blossomed.

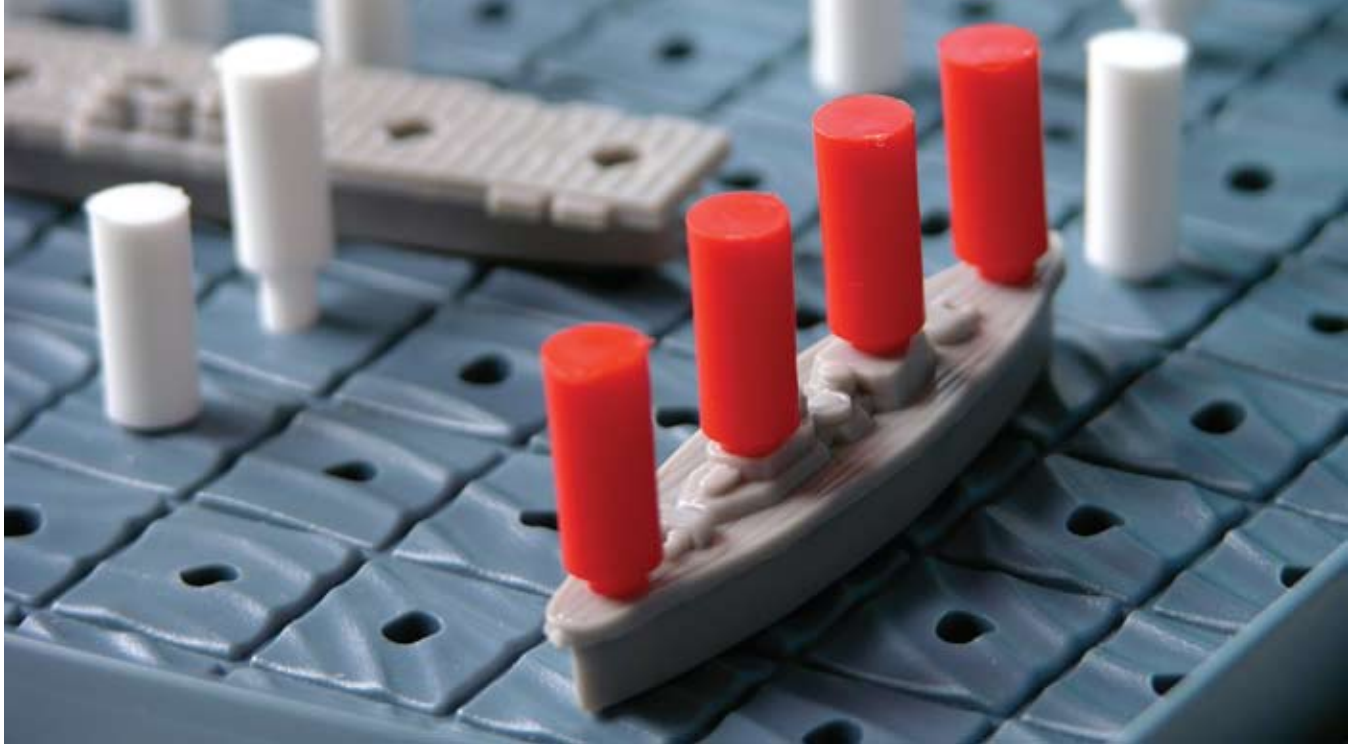
Eventually, our ministry led us on furlough and then to the other side of the state of Minas Gerais, but Sérgio remains faithful and active in his local church. More recently, he was instrumental in forming a preaching point in a church member's home. This outreach has already resulted in several conversions and baptisms. Sérgio is being used of God, has a heart for missions, and a desire to reach other parts of Brazil. He feels God has called him to the ministry, and he remains active as he seeks direction.

Much time, effort, and prayer were invested in discipling Sérgio and oth-

ers like him. What a marvelous opportunity we have to reproduce the work of Christ in our lives through those we win and disciple. Discipled converts insure the purity and extension of the gospel on the mission field and elsewhere.

Our hopes are high for our brethren in Brazil who have been saved to serve Christ and each other, and who will continue to spread the gospel and teach Free Will Baptist doctrine in Brazil and beyond. The church must not neglect to “teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” Discipled converts are the key to leaving behind fruit that remains. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Andy and Andrea Moore are currently on stateside assignment in South Carolina. For more information about the Moores and their ministry visit www.fwbgo.com/missionaries.



THE PARENTING BATTLE

BY RON HUNTER JR

You know the enemy is out there! The radar sweeps in slow, circling patterns searching for a target. You are the admiral of this fleet. You are watching for

the attack of the enemy's submarine and keeping your distance from his battleship.

The ships under your command are your responsibility. You recognize that protecting them as they move through the oceans of life will be the most important thing you can do as a parent. It's true. Parenting requires battlefield strategy.

But this battle is not waged against your kids but against the enemies of the family who seek to sink your family in deep water.

The fleets or families that perform best are those who stay close to each other, ever mindful of the other's position. The enemy hurls attacks.

"G-4," the enemy challenges.

"Miss!" you reply. And the exchange goes on as you try to navigate dangerous waters that threaten to destroy your kids' lives. You find yourself wishing for some strategic advice to

help you raise spiritual champions. You would like some advice on beating the odds, keeping the hearts of your children safe from the attack of the destroyer. You wonder who to turn to for advice.

Would you like an hour with Jim Daly, president of Focus on the Family? Jim leads one of the most prominent ministries for families in our nation.

Or perhaps it would it be helpful to hear from George Barna, leading Christian researcher who has surveyed hundreds of thousands of dads, moms, and kids and studied their re-

"Parenting requires battlefield strategy."

sponses to help this generation of believers transfer its faith to the next.

Would you like a conversation with Angela Thomas, who ministers to single parents every day through her writing and radio?

Perhaps Renee Swope, leader of Proverbs 31 Women, could challenge and inspire your parenting.

Would you like their email addresses to ask them urgent questions

or their telephone numbers for those times when you need help in winning this war against the enemy who wants to destroy your family? Is this the type of advice you need?

You can get it! These speakers and many others will share the platform at the D6 conference sponsored by Randall House.

They will share their knowledge and Christian parenting experience to help us pass a growing, living faith to our children.

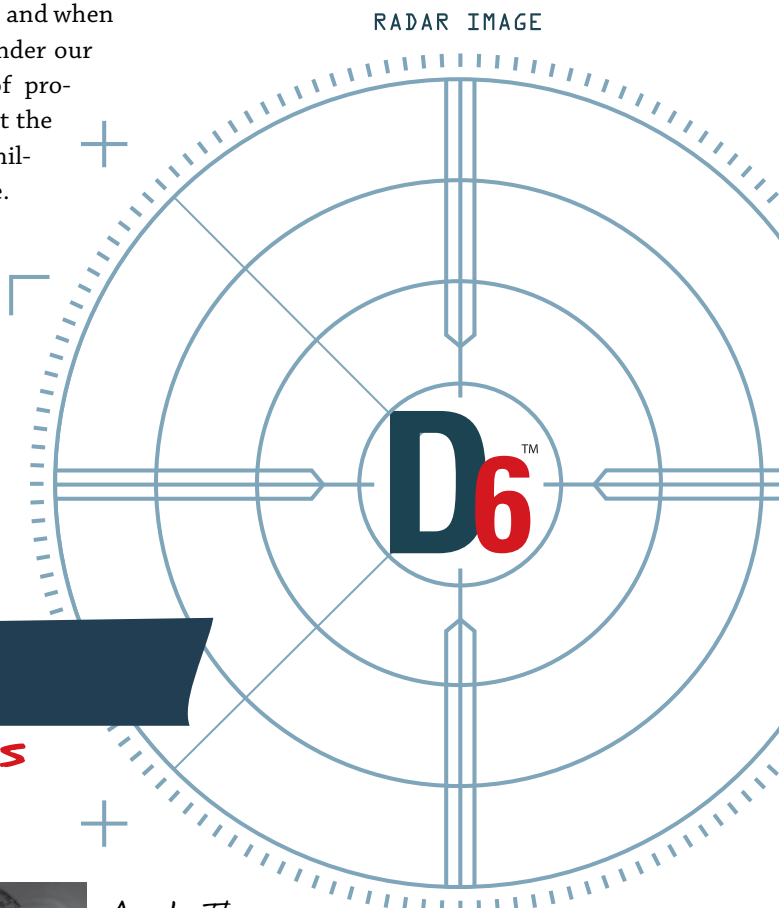
They will gather in one place, at one conference—a parenting conference built upon the principles of Deuteronomy 6 where God commanded parents to share their faith and be the primary spiritual leaders of their children.

When they get up in the morning, when they go to school, when they come home and eat dinner, and when they go to bed, they are under our watch care—our “fleet” of protection. How do we prevent the enemy from sinking our children? Go on the offensive. Make plans to attend the D6 Conference.

Visit D6family.com to obtain resources you can use right now, and become more involved in the

lives of your kids, striking back at the enemy. Join us as we wage war on the family destroyer. Your family is under your protection and your leadership.

What is your next move? How about “D-6?” The enemy will reply with “A-hit” as you sink his battleship! **ONE**



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Grandparents:

Giving and Letting Go

One Grandmother considers the “gift” of her relationship with her grandchildren.

“I JUST CAN’T DO ENOUGH for them!” a new grandmother of twins confessed. Little surprise, since most grandparents are enraptured with their first grandchild. She was excited about her first shopping trip with her daughter and the babies. Reluctantly they cut the shopping trip short when the babies let them know they’d had enough already!

Even though the babies and their mom thought she’d bought enough, Grandma still wanted to give them more. She could hardly wait for the next shopping spree. She likened her experience to God’s love and delight in giving good gifts to us. It was a true-to-life illustration.

Her excitement reminded of sweet memories when my first grandchild was born 14 years ago. I wanted to do and buy everything for him. But my husband wisely reminded me that whatever I did for him, I’d have to do for all the grandchildren who would follow or be suspected of playing favorites. It turned out to be good advice since six more grandchildren were born within the next six years.

We have always enjoyed giving gifts to our kids and grandkids, but we have never given lavish gifts. We have taken care not to give them too much in the way of material possessions; first, because we have had limited resources, but also because that would not be good for them.

By
Judy Puckett

A Meaningful Investment

Being a pastoral family, we have focused a major part of our time and attention on other families during our lives. Now in our retirement years, we find great joy in focusing more time and attention on our children and their children. It is a ministry to be sure, one that we love and value just as we’ve loved our pastoral ministry.



Thoughtful Grandparenting

My husband's counsel has served us well in 14 years of grandparenting. We have focused on them, but not so much in material gifts. We have chosen to give them more time, attention, experiences, and opportunities to create memories.

Their busy, working parents provide their necessities and often give them many things they want. What we can give them—that their parents cannot always give—is abundant time. Time to listen to their stories. Time to take them to the park to play. Time to read to them and listen to them read. Time to help them with a special school project. Time to tutor them in areas needing one-on-one help.

We also give them experiences. We take them to plays, museums, and art festivals. We visit our state capitol and other local areas of interest. We open our home to them, covering the living room floor with sleeping bags to make sure they spend as much time as possible with relatives, especially cousins from out of state.

We can give our grandchildren time and experiences that no one else can give. We can pique their curiosity for life and make them life-long learners.

We have a closet in our home filled with toys, art supplies, and games they can access any time. We kept some of their parent's favorite toys and games so our grandchildren could enjoy them too. We bought a tent, toys, and dress-up costumes at garage sales. They play with them each time they come to spend a day. We allow them to have

tea parties with a real tea set. We even encourage play-dough and modeling clay!

As they have grown older, we spend our time doing different things. We've shown them walnuts, cherries, and grapes growing in our yard. We've taught them to cook and bake. We go for walks and take them fishing. We take them shopping at free places like Bass Pro Shop, where they can see taxidermy animals up close.

Expanding Horizons

We've kept them at our house during summers when their parents worked so they would not have to go to a day care program. We cherish our time spent with them because we love them dearly, and it gives us opportunities to influence their lives. We teach them to pray, to read the Bible, to share, to give, to tell others about Jesus. They have learned a lot playing Bible guessing games we have invented. We talk about important issues like war, poverty, and crime—things they ask about—listening to their fears and opinions.

We show them old family pictures and tell stories about their ancestors. We take them to visit their great grandparents to help instill the value of family in their lives. We talk about the day when Jesus will come again, and we'll all go to Heaven and see family members who have gone on before us.

We've taken them on vacations to Disney World, to the mountains, and to family reunion. We've played tree tag with them at the park. We take pictures of everyday events, and look through the albums regularly to enjoy the memories all over again.

Children never get tired of learning as long as they don't know they are learning. We have taken them to the

library since they were toddlers. We've taught them how to use a computer and monitored the websites they visit. We bookmark the places they can go and help them learn to play games online. We've spent time on Google Earth showing them the world and letting them pick the places they want to view. We helped them find the Grand Canyon, The White House, the Eiffel Tower, the Great Wall of China, Old Faithful, the pyramids of Egypt, the Amazon River, and their own house and school from the view of outer space!

We've kept a library of books in our home for every age, so they are constantly learning and growing. We've helped them write letters to the President of the United States, for which they got an answer. We've helped them write accounts of summer vacations, so when they are adults, they will be able to read details of where they went, what they did, and what they thought.

It is easy for a grandparent to make a habit of buying things. But like all of us, a child's appetite for more can be insatiable. We can give our grandchildren something so much better. We can give them time and experiences that no one else can give. We can pique their curiosity for life and make them life-long learners.

One mistake grandparents often make is not giving instructional discipline to their grandchildren. We were not perfect parents, and may have been accused of being strict with our children, but we seldom had to discipline them. They knew how much we loved them, but they also knew what we expected and the consequences if they did not obey. Because we have done this, whatever their ages, we enjoy being with our children and grandchildren.

Grandchildren must also understand we have rules and that they

We can have great fun while also having a ministry that will outlive us and bless our families for generations.

must follow them. Children need to know the boundaries of acceptable behavior, something we can teach them. Grandparents should not have to physically discipline if we are firm and consistent in instructing and enforcing our rules.

I enjoyed hearing that grandmother's experience of giving gifts to her grandchildren. It brought back sweet memories for me. Fourteen years have passed so quickly, and we have enjoyed making wonderful memories with all our grandchildren.

Like every young person, our grandchildren's focus will soon turn away from their families. They will focus their attention on peers, altogether proper and necessary to establish themselves as individuals. They must loosen ties with their parents to focus on their education and life training. They must find a job, find a husband or wife, and start a life and family that is independent of their family of origin. This does not mean they will abandon their families. In fact, family becomes more important to them as they begin families of their own.

For a few years, parents (and even grandparents) may feel abandoned and suffer from the "empty nest syndrome." The key is to let them go. To quote an ancient Chinese proverb, "If you love something, set it free. If

it comes back to you, it's yours. If it doesn't, it never was." We do not own anything in this world, and especially other people. We may think we do, but our children and grandchildren are only loans from God. They possess the right to live their own lives just as we do. Attempting to control our children and their families is as harmful as neglecting them.

Rather than lamenting their "loss," parents and grandparents can enjoy this new stage in life by doing things we could not do when they were young. We can take trips we could not afford when we had little ones. We can pursue hobbies we did not have time for when our families required our time and attention. We can volunteer time to serve in our churches and communities in capacities we could not do before. We can even pamper ourselves a little by focusing on our health and leisure. We can walk, play tennis, and swim to improve our health. We can read books, take classes, learn new skills, work puzzles, and play games to improve our minds. We can make new friends and entertain people in our homes. We can go to local events, get to know our neighbors better, and impact other lives for Christ.

As we refocus and get busy with our own lives, we'll realize that we miss our children and grandchildren, but

we will view them in a different way. We will see them from a different perspective as adults and treat them with a new respect.

Just when you think your time of parenting or influencing your family has passed, your children and grandchildren will bring their little ones back. They'll want to show you their most valued possessions. They'll want their own children to know the grandparents who filled their own lives with fun, meaning, and memories. They will want them to have what's best for them, instead of the trappings of this temporary world.

We often hear someone joke, "If I had known being a grandparent was so much fun, I'd have had grandchildren first!" Or as Proverbs 17:6 says, "Children's children are the crown of old men..." We can have great fun while also having a ministry that will outlive us and bless our families for generations.

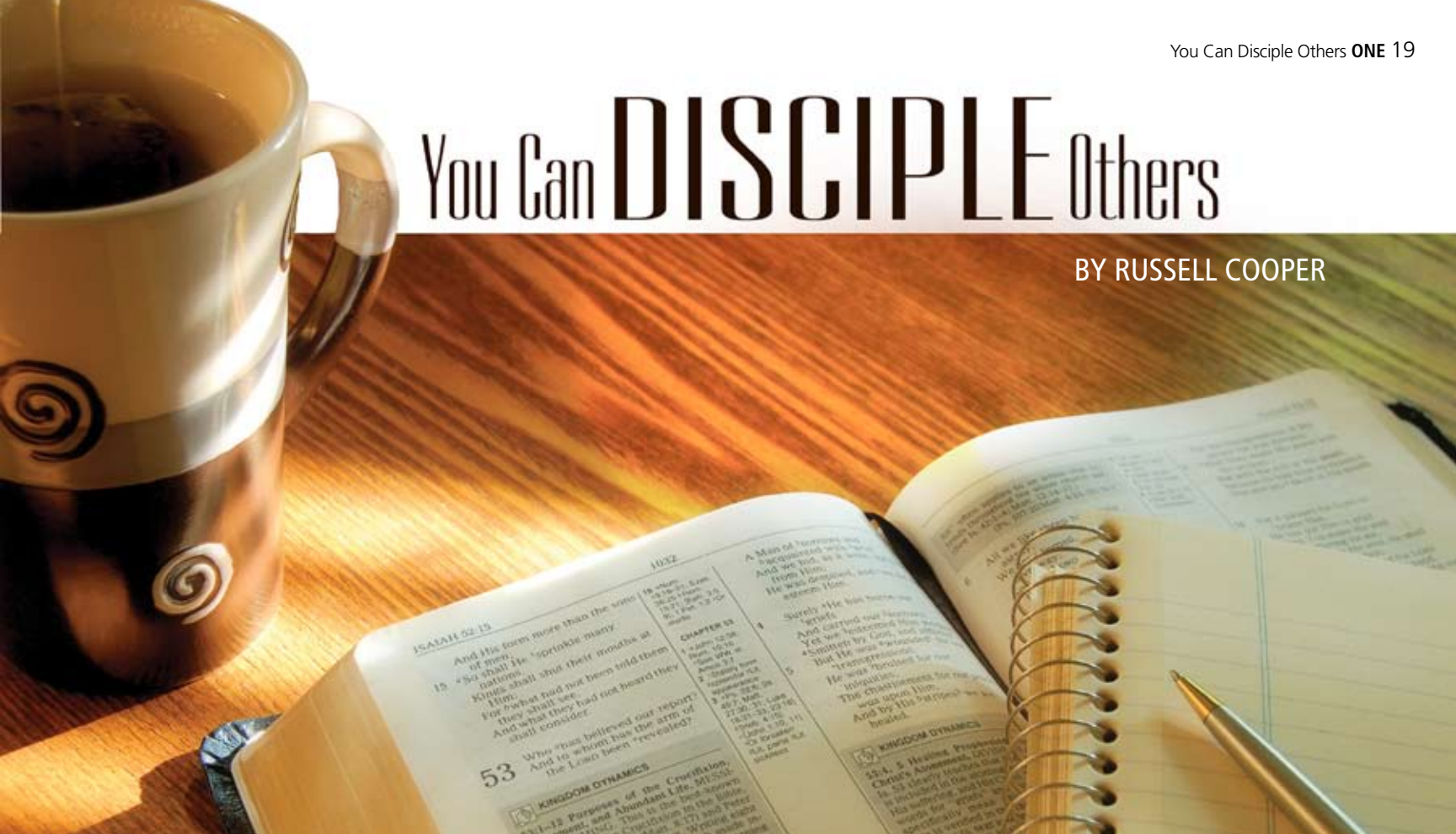
Do you want to give your grandchildren something of value? Give them the things that money cannot buy—a legacy of faith in God, a love and respect for family, and a curiosity for life. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Judy Puckett is a freelance writer and member of CrossPointe Church in Norman, OK. Contact Judy by e-mail at jpuckett3@yahoo.com



You Can **DISCIPLE** Others

BY RUSSELL COOPER



I DON'T REMEMBER THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO this verbal exchange, but the conversation will be a marker in my life. It was in the evening. I was sitting on a bench outside Johnson Classroom Building at Free Will Baptist Bible College with a good friend, a fellow member of the New Mercy Ministry Team. We talked of our upcoming opportunity to represent FWBBC and minister in Free Will Baptist churches across the denomination, and how unprepared we felt.

Of course, we had dedicated countless hours to music rehearsals, but there was another element lacking in our team. We lacked spiritual fortitude. How could we feed the people God called us to minister to when we were starving ourselves? We couldn't. Something had to change. And it did in a dramatic way.

Our team met for a four-day training session at the college in early June before we left on a seven-week tour. We sat down as a team and discussed what I thought were pressing needs to revitalize our individual walks with the Lord. Not only did everyone agree, they were all excited. And there it began.

We decided that every morning on tour, we would spend 30 minutes to an hour in the Word. After that, we would spend time in prayer asking God to use us and lead us by His Spirit. We also memorized one or two verses of Scripture

every day as a team. Doing that for seven weeks allowed us to plant several passages in our hearts. In an effort to help us commit the Scripture to memory, we recited and quoted the passages three or four times a day.

We learned an unforgettable lesson—the combination of a submissive child of God and the power of the Word of God planted deep in his heart is a powerful thing.

Discipleship Begins Here

Discipleship begins by submitting yourself to the leading of the Holy Spirit through reading the Word, hiding it in your heart, and praying. Out of that come the encouraging, the edifying, and even the rebuking of fellow believers around you.

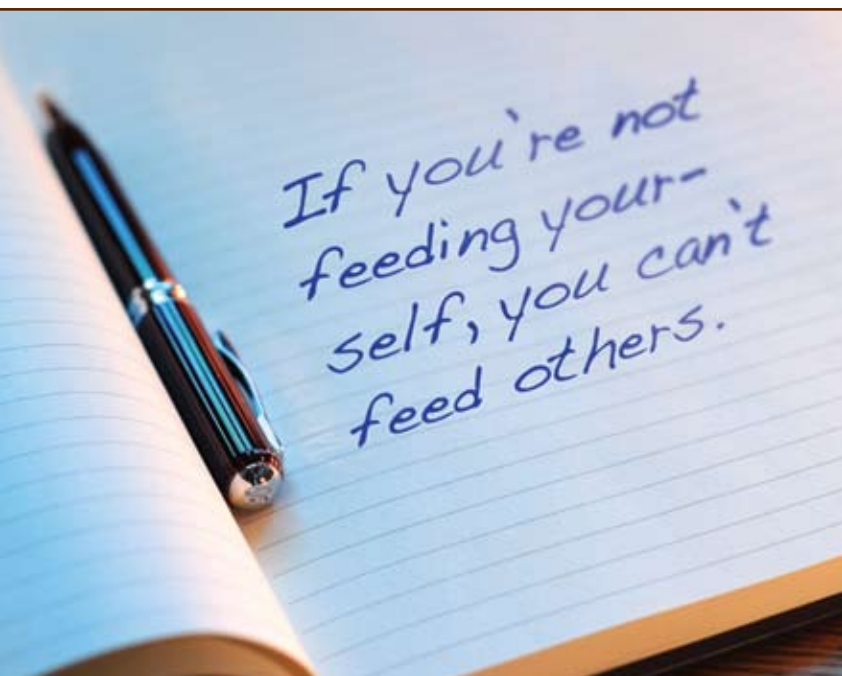
Jesus said in Mathew 12:34b-35, “For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored in him.”

This has been my experience. When I have been consistently feeding myself from the Word of God and prayer, I naturally feed others. It just happens that way. The more you know and understand Jesus Christ, who He is, what He has done, and what He is doing, the more you can't help but share His goodness.

Discipleship Means Seizing Opportunity

The best part of my job happens when a student unexpectedly walks in my office looking for a listening ear. In a culture where you can text, chat online, and have a conversation with the person next to you all at the same time, a listening ear is hard to find.

Although my first reaction might be frustration at the interruption, it often proves to be a divine appointment to disciple. Opportunities such as this are great times to offer encouragement by sharing a verse of Scripture or taking time to pray with someone. They can be easily missed. But as a child of God looking to disciple my brothers and sisters, these are so important.



Discipleship Should Be Intentional

At the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, Barry Raper, coordinator of the Christian Education and Youth Ministry program, approached me with a plan for discipleship. He wanted each of us to find a student in whom we would invest extra time and invite them to study Scripture with us every week. That's what we did.

Every Friday the four of us met, read a passage from the book we were studying, talked about what it meant, and

discussed how our lives could better reflect God's character. I'll never forget the morning when one of the young men said, "My time at FWBBC has made me different." Those are moments you live for—when God allows you to see fruit for your labor.

This summer, my wife, Bethany, and I traveled with the Rejoice Ministry Team for a couple of weeks. Bethany and I spent time loving the students. We listened to them and got to know them; each one had a different story. But each one was a testimony of God's faithfulness to love us and forgive us.

I wanted to make the most of this opportunity to invest in such special children of God. So we spent time memorizing a passage from the book of James. As we memorized, we talked about what it meant and discussed whether or not our lives truly reflected what God was calling us to be. Some of them had never spent time memorizing and meditating on Scripture. It was a learning experience but a good experience.


Discipleship Isn't Complicated

Don't over-think discipleship. It's not a workbook or a college class. Discipleship is teaching others what God has taught you. You don't have to be a pastor or a deacon. You don't have to be a good speaker or have counseling experience. You need to allow yourself to be used by God.

Here are some practical steps to get started:

Spend time in Bible study, Scripture memory, and prayer. If you're not feeding yourself, you can't feed others. If you've never learned how to do these things on your own, ask your pastor or some other mature Christian in your church to help you. Meet with them briefly each week so they can disciple you.

As you start devoting time to your relationship with God, you'll find it easier and more natural to share what you're learning with other believers. Pray that God would give you opportunities.

Ask one or two younger believers in your church if they would like to meet once a week or twice a month for coffee and Bible study. Get to know them. Encourage them and teach them how to walk with God. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Russell Cooper, director of institutional advancement at Free Will Baptist Bible College, serves as music worship leader at Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. Learn more about the college at www.fwbcc.edu.



PETER WAS AN ORDINARY

man. He and his brother Andrew worked hard to make a living and to keep the family business going. Hoisting nets loaded with smelly fish in the hot sun was no easy task, but they did it. They provided for their families.

Matthew was another ordinary man—that is, if you can call a tax collector ordinary. He worked for the Roman government and evidently lived comfortably. In fact, if you take a closer look at the other nine men Christ called to follow Him, they were all ordinary men, men who went about their business, living their lives the best they could and following the traditions of their Jewish heritage. That is until Christ entered their lives.

ONE BY ONE, CHRIST CALLED

each man to follow Him. As they left their work, their families, and their familiar surroundings, their lives began to change. They became students of the Master. As they walked the hills of Judea, the streets of Jerusalem, and the shores of Galilee, they listened to the instructions of their Teacher. They were being discipled for the journey that lay ahead. Christ knew what each man would face, and He prepared him for the future.

TOM IS ALSO AN ORDINARY

man. He works in the construction business. He has major responsibilities to fulfill if the company is to stay afloat. He has a family and is concerned with providing for them. Richard is a policeman, another ordinary man. His job is to protect the citizens of his city. He has a lot of influence with those people so he wants to live the best he can so as not to disappoint any of them.

Like Peter, Andrew, and Matthew, these men also are followers of Christ and need to be taught by the Master. But men today do not have the opportunity to walk the hills of Judea, the streets of Jerusalem, or the shores of Galilee. Neither can they sit at the feet of Jesus as He instructs His followers in the truth of the gospel. However, modern-day disciples have the complete teaching of Christ at their disposal and they too can become students of the Master.

This teaching comes in the form of daily Bible study. The Master's Men Department can help men develop a love for the Word of God by providing churches with Direction Bible Studies. Fourteen separate studies offer men an opportunity to learn how to be a *Blessed Man*, or how to *Become a Man Who Prays* or how to *Fortify Their Faith*. These studies are designed for use at men's meetings in the local

church. They come with a facilitator's guide and student handout sheets.

MASTER'S MEN

also hosts retreats and rallies to help men get away from their busy schedules and revive their walk with The Master. The retreats are casual, giving men an opportunity to relax and fellowship through food and games. Yet they also provide a time for spiritual renewal. Participants are introduced to speakers who challenge them to become men of impact.

Regional rallies are a little different. Each rally is held in a local church and sponsored by the churches' chapter of Master's Men. They are open to other FWB churches in the area, and the services are geared toward both men and women. The purpose of the rally is to encourage men to serve in their local church.

Maybe you can't walk the hills of Judea or down the streets of Jerusalem with Jesus, but you can sit at His feet! Become a student of God's Word. Join the other men in your local church and learn what it means to be a follower of Christ, and how to serve Him through your local church. Jesus chose ordinary men to spearhead the formation of His church. Today He asks ordinary men to continue this work. Why not let God use you, an ordinary man? **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Phyllis York is secretary of the Master's Men Department. She lives in Nashville, TN, where her husband Tim pastors Cane Ridge Free Will Baptist Church. To learn more about Master's Men, visit www.fwbmastersmen.org.



TAPS

By
Terry Austin

FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, I HAVE LISTENED TO a composition of 24 musical notes simply referred to as “Taps.” I first remember hearing this medley as a young Marine when it sounded at 10 p.m., laying us to rest after a long and difficult day of training. These simple notes from a bugle invited you to release the day’s struggles and hope for a better day. My appreciation of “Taps” is different now because as an Army chaplain I have a greater understanding of its history and meaning.

“Butterfield’s Lullaby” or “Taps,” as we know it today, was composed after seven days of bloody fighting on the banks of the James River in 1862, during the Civil War. Brigadier General Daniel Butterfield summoned his bugler to his tent on a hot, humid July evening in order to perfect a fitting tribute to his men, both alive and dead. After some minor changes to his original notes, Brigadier General But-

terfield and Private Oliver Wilcox Norton, presented “Taps” that evening as a tribute to his soldiers and to acknowledge their suffering.

Imagine a time when the only thing that could be heard over the sounds of battle was the sharp, clear, and unmistakable tones of a bugle or trumpet. The confusion of battle causes fear. A soldier’s vision becomes impaired because of the smoke and flash of battle, and even the most highly trained warrior can become disoriented. The bugle served as a battlefield radio, blaring out orders from the commander.

We find the trumpet carried into battle throughout Scripture to relay orders and communicate strategies. If the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, a soldier might not prepare himself for battle (1 Corinthians 14:8).

One of the greatest privileges of serving as an Army chap-

lain is to be with the soldiers you serve wherever they go. Whether training during a field exercise or deployment to a combat zone, the chaplain goes where his soldiers go. You experience your congregation's ups and downs, just like a pastor serving a local church. You are with your soldiers when they hurt, and you are there when they celebrate.

A chaplain leads soldiers to Christ, performs wedding ceremonies, stands by them in the hospital, rejoices with them, and cries with them. At times, a chaplain delivers

This sacred ritual brings the strongest of warriors to tears as they honor a fallen comrade by laying him, or her, to rest from the struggles of battle.

the final message of comfort to a grieving family as their loved one—an American soldier who has paid the ultimate price of sacrifice in the defense of his country—lies in front of them in a flag-draped coffin. As family members grieve and comrades stand saluting, “Taps” is played as a final farewell and show of honor. This sacred ritual brings the strongest of warriors to tears as they honor a fallen comrade by laying him, or her, to rest from the struggles of battle.

There will be one final trumpet call for those who trust in Christ as the ultimate victor. It will raise the dead in Christ and snatch up those of us “who are alive and remain” to be with Him in the clouds. We will put on immortality and rest from the battles of life. Unlike “Taps,” this trumpet call will signal the beginning of eternal life, not the end. This trumpet call will rally the soldiers of Christ to a place He has prepared for us, and we will enjoy a victory celebration like no other. I have witnessed some joyful reunions when soldiers return home to greet their loved ones after serving in a combat zone. But the victory celebration with Jesus will be the ultimate homecoming celebration!

I hope that when you hear the notes of “Taps” sounded at a military funeral, you will honor that person who gave themselves so you may live free in our great country. But keep listening, because in a moment—in the twinkling of an eye—the last trumpet will sound (1 Corinthians 15:52), and we will meet our Lord above the battlefield. [ONE](#)

ABOUT THE WRITER: Chaplain (LTC) Terry Austin, US Army, is currently stationed at Fort Belvoir, VA.





Behind the scenes at Free Will Baptist Bible College with the man who spearheaded the search for a new campus site.

The Gallatin DECISION

BY MARK JOHNSON

There's something about the excitement of a building program that energizes people and movements. Maybe it's the smell of fresh-cut lumber, the promise of a dream becoming reality, or the simple fact that new land and new buildings call forth the best from all of us.

Biblical Precedent

That's why when we read the Bible it should come as no surprise to discover that God keeps His eye on construction projects and building sites, on builders, designs, and master plans. Considering the detailed instructions He gave regarding design and construction of the Tabernacle and the Temple, it is apparent that God is concerned about the smallest details of at least some facilities.

The most famous building project in the Old Testament begins in I Chronicles 17 with David eager to construct a Temple as a place of worship. Although he was told that somebody else would build the structure, his son Solomon, five chapters later David is doing what he is allowed to do—gathering vast resources and launching preparations for later construction.

In an amazing sequence of events that stirred an entire generation, God's timetable and man's faithfulness came together to erect a holy place for a holy purpose. The entire process depicts a once-in-a-lifetime effort when God spoke and men obeyed with a sense of divine urgency. The result transformed the nation of Israel.

Historical Perspective

That same kind of holy urgency washed across the organizational meeting of the National Association of Free Will Baptists in 1935 when John L Welch gave the report of the Committee on Education. His report was adopted by a vote of the delegates, and included the following three recom-

mendations:

That Nashville, Tennessee, be the location for a new school.

That the school begin September 1936.

That a campaign be launched to raise funds to finance the undertaking.

At each subsequent meeting of the National Association between 1935 and 1943, the Education Committee reported progress toward the goals for a new institution of higher learning to be sponsored and supported by Free Will Baptists. It was not until 1943, however, that the committee could report the new institution had been launched in September 1942. Free Will Baptist men and women had a place to study where the distinctive doctrines and beliefs of the denomination were taught.

During the 1943 session of the National Association at East Nashville Free Will Baptist Church, J.R. Davidson, business manager at FWBBC, said, "I have seen a young cause which is dearer to my heart than gold flourish and grow far beyond my fond expectations."

From that humble beginning, God has used Free Will Baptist Bible College for 66 years to mold young lives to serve Christ and build His Church. God has used sacrificial gifts from Free Will Baptists and the life ministries of dedicated servants to shape men and women into vessels fit for His use. God has used this site, these buildings on Richland, Central, and West End Avenues, as a place of consecration and preparation for effective, lifetime service in His harvest fields.

But in order to continue its mission to educate leaders to

serve Christ, His Church, and His world, the college needs a new location. Building codes have changed, neighborhood zoning policies have tightened, and more space will be needed in the future for FWBBC to provide a quality Christian education for denominational youth.

Confronting Today's Challenge

Based on the urgency of that need, in December 2005, the Board of Trustees directed President Matt Pinson to conduct a study to determine if relocating the college campus was feasible. The college assembled a team of professionals that included real estate experts, architects, builders, community financial leaders, and capital campaign consultants to answer questions necessary for the Board to make an informed decision. Results of the six-month feasibility study were handed to the Board in July 2006. Following robust discussion and prayerful consideration, the Board directed college leaders to move forward with plans to relocate the campus.

With the help of a design team led by Hastings Architectural Associates and with input from students, faculty, and staff, the design for the new campus was begun. Using Hastings' initial design as a basis, experienced builders provided project cost estimates. Some planning for necessary fundraising occurred. Financing partners were identified to provide construction loans and long-term financing.

But where would the college relocate? The relocation committee established criteria to guide the site-selection process before a search was undertaken. Near the top of the list was a commitment to be consistent with the policy adopted in 1935—Free Will Baptist Bible College would remain in the Greater Nashville area. The committee defined the search area as any place within a 25-mile radius of the Tennessee State Capital located in the center of Nashville.

Sites across the Greater Nashville area were considered, with more than 115 reviewed. Those that best satisfied the criteria were placed on a short list. The selection committee considered the top prospects, visited the sites, met with community leaders, studied site-development costs, and finally made a decision. When the exhaustive process was completed, it was clear that one location best satisfied the criteria. The site is located in Sumner County, a 25-minute drive northeast of the current campus.

College Board members visited the site in December 2006. Following further investigations that included appraisals, environmental studies, geo-technical analysis, meetings with city planners, studies by architects and engineers, reviews by builders, and sessions with city leaders,

Dr. Pinson recommended that the Board approve purchase of the property. In May 2007, the FWBBC Board of Trustees members voted to approve the land purchase.



Closing the Deal

The process to obtain master plan approvals from the Gallatin Planning Commission and City Council took several months. The property did not require a zoning change to permit the college's use of the site, but a review of plans with workshops and meetings with city officials was a necessary part of the process. Three readings with formal votes were required. Each reading resulted in a unanimous vote in favor of approval of the college master plan. The plan approved included all construction anticipated for replacement of the current campus.

The City Council also approved plans for future campus development to be completed as needs and resources dictate. This means the college will not have to repeat the review process each time campus expansion is necessary. The design team carefully studied the site to ensure that foreseeable future development of college programs and supporting facilities can be accommodated on the site.

Final approval from the city was obtained July 15, 2008. The contract was finalized August 15, 2008. FWBBC's future home was purchased for \$2.96 million.

From the outset, property owner Dan Downs expressed his desire to sell this property to FWBBC because of his support for the college's ministry and the positive impact the college would have in the community.

A Place to Grow

The 66-acre tract has been in exclusive agricultural use since it was given as a Revolutionary War Grant. The site is bounded on one side by Station Camp Creek. Areas along this stream were used as stations or camp sites by the first



long hunters who moved into the area prior to settlement. The land climbs gently from the stream and is generally open with several tree lines bisecting the site. The southern boundary is Bison Trail. Three new or nearly new schools are on the south side of Bison Trail—Station Camp High School, Station Camp Elementary School, and Knox Doss Middle School.

County School Superintendent Benny Bills stated his desire to have FWBBC student teachers in the school system, and to employ FWBBC teacher education graduates. He suggested the college might open a private pre-kindergarten through high school Christian academy to help serve community needs.

North of the site is a new subdivision. To the west is open land zoned for commercial development. Planned use of this property includes retail stores, restaurants, groceries, medical offices, and pharmacies. When completed, this adjacent development will provide job opportunities as well as amenities within walking distance.

The campus site is three-fourths of a mile from Vietnam Veterans Memorial Boulevard, a limited access freeway that links to Interstate 65 and downtown Nashville about 20 minutes away. One-half mile from the site is a multimillion-dollar wellness center, Sumner Station (www.sumnerstationfitness.org), an affiliate of Sumner Regional Medical Center. Sumner Regional Medical Center, Hendersonville Medical Center, and Summit Medical Center provide ready access to sophisticated medical care.

Old Hickory Lake is less than eight minutes from the college property. This 22,500-acre impoundment of the Cumberland River is owned and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The lake provides recreational opportunities for the community and for students, staff, and

visitors to the future campus.

Lakeside residential developments such as Fairvue Plantation are within minutes of the campus site. This and other area developments provide high-end homes similar to those along Belle Meade Boulevard near the current campus. In addition to these impressive residential developments, married students, faculty, and staff will have access to nearby affordable housing.

Only minutes away are numerous retail developments, including Indian Lake Village (www.indianlakevillage.net). This development is well underway with a new Lifestyle Shopping Center recently completed. The Indian Lake Village development is slated to contain 1,000 homes, 2.5 million square feet of class A office space, 1.5 million square feet of retail shops and restaurants, along with a hotel and conference center.

Gallatin Review

The future campus site is located in Gallatin, Tennessee. City Mayor Jo Ann Graves, City Council members, and community leaders have been very welcoming to the college. A representative from the city Engineering Office described the site as the crown jewel of property in the county. A local builder said there is no site in Middle Tennessee that would be more economical or desirable on which to build. All necessary utilities are either on or immediately adjacent to the property.

Gallatin is a vibrant community with a great heart centered around the County Court House on the downtown square. It has a safe, small-town environment combined with high quality growth. Organizations such as Samick Music Corporation and Shoals Technologies Group are relocating their national headquarters to the area. Since

2000, Sumner County's 18% growth rate more than triples the 6% national average. In the past year, the City Planning Commission has approved 2,000 new dwelling units—houses, condominiums, apartments, and townhouses.

While enjoying growth and progress, the community treasures its rich history. Several area historic properties are open to the public. Lower Station Camp Creek Road, which borders the college property, is to be developed as a greenway. The log structure that served as the first county courthouse is being restored and will serve as a trailhead to the greenway which is to extend alongside the college property. Four golf courses are located within the city, one no more than a mile and a half from campus.

The city of Hendersonville is immediately adjacent to the college site's eastern border. This rapidly growing area offers additional amenities—attractive and affordable housing, more jobs, more restaurants, stores, golf courses, more historic sites, parks and recreational facilities. Information of interest about the community can be found at the following websites: www.gallatin-tn.gov, www.hvilletn.org, www.gallatintn-eda.com, www.forwardsumner.org.

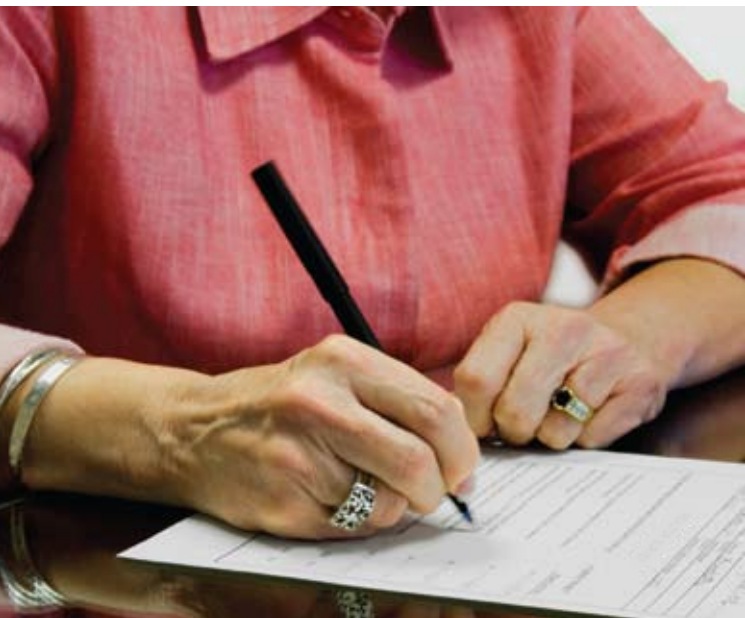
ABOUT THE WRITER: Colonel Mark Johnson (USAF Retired) serves as chairman of the Campus Relocation Task Force. He is the son of the college's founding president, Dr. L.C. Johnson. Read more about the college at www.fwbcc.edu.

Building on the Legacy

The excitement is back. The need is urgent. The vision is clear. The time is now.

Our forefathers who served on that 1935 Committee on Education understood the critical need for an institution like Free Will Baptist Bible College. Leaders such as John L Welch from Tennessee, Melvin Bingham and E.E. Morris from Oklahoma, T.B. Mellette from Georgia, and Selph Jones from Missouri had the vision. Others like Henry Melvin, Mrs. Fannie Polston, J.R. Davidson, and L.R. Ennis turned the vision into reality. Men and women with names like Johnson, Barnard, Thigpen, Picirilli, Forlines, Kettelman, Hampton, and Tippett have literally poured their lives into the lives of students over the years to build up our churches and spread the gospel around the world.

Free Will Baptist Bible College is poised to build again on the foundation carefully laid in 1942. Stand with us in this generation-changing moment, as God in His good time opens doors and provides resources to build a new campus that will better serve Free Will Baptist families and churches. **ONE**



**You + Us + Your Will =
Benefits for
Everybody!**

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

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NEWS in education



Composer's Symposium to Feature James Stevens

NASHVILLE, TN—Dr. James Stevens, internationally-acclaimed music composer and chair of the Free Will Baptist Bible College Music Department, has been selected as one of seven clinicians for the 2009 Composer's Symposium sponsored by Pine Lake Music Company. For more than 35 years, Pine Lake Music has provided

choral music, musicals, and collections for churches, as well as sound tracks, sheet music, and artist recordings for individuals.

Dr. Stevens said, "I will be teaching classes in theory, participating in panel discussions, critiquing new music by attendees, and giving private lessons as the schedule permits during the week."

The prestigious symposium meets June 15-19, 2009, in Decatur, Georgia, and is expected to attract 60-70 composers for an intense week of evaluation and professional challenge. This marks the fifth year Pine Lake Music has sponsored the annual gathering.

Other noted composers will join Stevens as presenters next summer—Joseph M. Martin, Joel Raney, J. Paul Williams, Pepper Choplin, Mark Cabaniss, and Jean Anne Shafferman.

"This conference is designed to help up-and-coming composers reach the next level in their skills and knowledge of the choral music industry through the teaching of professional composers across the country," Stevens said. "Each composer will have an opportunity to have some of his works performed at the conference and receive direct and personal feedback from the clinicians."

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

FWBBC Shuffles Bible Department Personnel

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College made two major shifts within the Biblical and Ministry Studies Department this summer, according to President Matt Pinson. Old Testament professor Dr. Garnett Reid was named chair of the department, succeeding former chair Ralph Hampton who retired in May 2008. Dr. Kevin Hester was appointed program coordinator for Biblical Studies.

President Pinson said, "This is an important move for the college and for the Biblical and Ministry Studies Department. While we lost 50 years of leadership when Brother Hampton retired last spring, I'm thankful that we had well-prepared men in Dr. Reid and Dr. Hester ready to step up professionally and continue the excellent work in Bible and Ministry. Both men are FWBBC alumni, and they have more than 30 years of collegiate teaching experience between them. They have the respect of the entire college family."

Dr. Reid has taught at FWBBC since 1982, specializing in Old Testament. Dr. Hester joined the Bible faculty in 2003; he also teaches History courses. They are regular presenters at theological and educational forums.

Reid writes the "Intersect" Bible study column in *ONE Magazine*, the bimonthly denominational publication. Hester recently published his first book titled *Eschatology and Pain in St. Gregory the Great: The Christological Synthesis of Gregory's Morals on the Book of Job*.

Provost Greg Ketteman said, "Dr. Reid and Dr. Hester possess leadership qualities such as biblical scholarship, a commitment to holy living, outstanding classroom presentations, a demonstrated love for the students, and loyalty to Free Will Baptist doctrinal positions. The mantle has passed to these fine men with an educational vision and a drive to build on yesterday's strengths."

In his role as department chair, Dr. Reid will oversee administration of the department including planning, budgeting, advising, and supervision. In addition, he will

provide information for public relations, represent the college as needed, and participate in professional groups.

Dr. Hester's duties as program coordinator for Biblical Studies include oversight

of curriculum in the department. Biblical Studies is one of four major divisions in the department—the others being Pastoral Ministry, Missions, and Christian Education and Youth Ministry. ■

Free Will Baptist Bible College Enrolls 317 Students

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College enrolled 317 students from 23 states and four foreign countries for the 2008 fall semester, according to Dr. Greg Ketteman, Provost. While enrollment statistics indicate a robust student body, the numbers are somewhat lower than last fall's enrollment of 324.

Dr. Ketteman said, "In the past two years we have graduated 147 students (69 in 2008 and 78 in 2007), which means we have a healthy retention and graduation rate. It also means we must enroll and retain more new students in order to grow. This year's 30% increase in new student enrollment is generating a lot of excitement on campus. This is an impressive group of young adults, and we are encouraged to see them pursuing God's will for their lives here at FWBBC."

At press time September 24, the college reported 182 dormitory students, 66 commuter students, 18 Adult Degree Program students, 15 online students, and 32 Lifetime Learning students. Officials set the full-time student equivalency at 258. Ninety-nine students are enrolled in ministry-related fields.

By classes, they include 57 seniors, 56 juniors, 62 sophomores, 104 freshmen, 33 non-degree/part-time students, and one special student. There are 143 women and 170 men in the student body.

Explaining that he expects final registration figures to rise, Dr. Ketteman said, "Enrollment for our new Online Degree Program and the Adult Degree Program will continue through mid-semester. We are still enrolling new students in both programs, since enrollment takes place throughout the fall term due to each program having multiple modules. We project a total enrollment of 325 students for the fall term."

President Matt Pinson said, "We've had a great beginning to a promising new academic year with change in the air. The students have brought energy and high expectations to the campus. We're excited about relocation activities, about the new academic programs in pre-nursing and science. We're also delighted with the response to our growing Online/Lifetime Learning program."

Here are three ways to contact Free Will Baptist Bible College for more information: Call 800-76-FWBBC, email recruit@fwbbc.edu, or visit the college's website at www.FWBBC.edu. ■



BY STATES, STUDENTS NUMBER:

Alabama	10
Arkansas	13
California	3
Florida	7
Georgia	11
Idaho	1
Illinois	8
Indiana	9
Kansas	3
Kentucky	14
Maryland	1
Michigan	16
Mississippi	8
Missouri	15
North Carolina	24
Ohio	8
Oklahoma	2
Oregon	2
South Carolina	13
Tennessee	96
Texas	2
Virginia	12
West Virginia	6
International	29
(Canada, Cuba, Mongolia, Korea)	

NEWS

in education



Nathan Willhite to Coach FWBBC Flames

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College has named Nathan Willhite, a 2008 FWBBC Exercise Science graduate, as men's basketball coach, according to Mike Phillips, athletic director. Willhite previously coached the Lady Flames to a 2007 basketball national championship in the Association of Christian College Athletics (ACCA) Division II.

Dr. Phillips said, "Coach Willhite brings much-needed collegiate experience and discipline to the men's program. I'm looking forward to seeing how God uses him in his new position to build our men's basketball program."

Mr. Willhite (age 28) completed a B.S. degree at FWBBC in May. He coached the Lady Flames five years, including their breakout national championship season when his squad boasted the National Player of the Year and ACCA National Tournament MVP. He is replacing acting coach Brian Jamison.

"I'm really excited about the upcoming season," Willhite said. "We have several new players coming in that will make a difference not only on our team but in the student body. One of our goals is to be a competitive team every time we take the floor, and I believe we can achieve that over time. I'm thankful for the opportunity to coach these men and to lead them on and off the court."

FWBBC Grad Eddie Colf Commissioned for Chaplaincy Program

NASHVILLE, TN—Eddie Colf, 2007 Free Will Baptist Bible College Pastoral Ministry graduate, was commissioned June 30, 2008, as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy Reserve Chaplaincy Program. The commissioning ceremony was conducted in Atlanta (GA) at the Navy District Recruitment office by Chaplain LCDR David Brown, Navy Region East Chaplain Program Officer.

Ensign Colf, age 29, is now eligible to participate in courses and special schools offered by the Navy to assist in his training as a chaplain. He anticipates a short visit to Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard bases in the San Diego (CA) area, plus an eight-week Officer's Boot Camp at two east coast facilities in the summer of 2009.

Eddie and Beth (Spruill) Colf currently live in Birmingham (AL) where he is in his second year of a three-year Master of Divinity program at Beeson Divinity School. In addition to graduate studies, Eddie is a volunteer assistant to the bereavement coordinator of Care First Hospice. He interns as associate minister of Christian education at a predominately African-American congregation in Tuscaloosa. Beth (a 2007 FWBBC graduate with a B.S. degree in Business Administration) works in the corporate accounts division at Medjet Assist, a medical transport membership company.

Converted at age 14, Eddie is a product of the bus ministry outreach at Philadelphia FWB Church in Folkston, Georgia, where he answered the call to preach at age 16. His eagerness to make a difference as a young Christian brought him to the attention of the broader Free Will Baptist denomination, and he was selected as a member of the 1996 and 1997 Truth and Peace leadership teams.

Realizing his need for Biblical and ministerial training, Colf sought means to finance his FWBBC education. He signed up for a five-year tour of duty with the Navy in order to secure access to the G.I. Bill. His Navy experience included several years in the submarine service. While stationed at Norfolk (VA), he and his wife attended Virginia Beach FWB Church and were active in children's ministry. He also served as protestant lay leader with the Navy and began making plans to re-enter the service as a chaplain.

The Colfs are members of First FWB Church in Oak Grove, Alabama. Eddie was first licensed to preach in Florida, then Virginia, and is now licensed by Alabama's Cahaba River Association, and is on track for ordination.



Ensign Eddie Colf signs commissioning papers.

Missouri Men Work in FWBBC Dormitory

NASHVILLE, TN—Seven men from O’Fallon, Missouri, spent a weeks during the heat of summer (August 4-7) in three-story Goen Hall on the Free Will Baptist Bible College campus waxing floors, halls, and common areas, according to Ernie Thompson, cleaning operations supervisor. With temperatures nearing 100 degrees daily, the five men and two teens climbed stairs with heavy equipment and worked late in the evenings to put a shine on the men’s residence hall.

Pastor Rick Dement (First Free Will Baptist Church in O’Fallon) said, “My son Caleb graduated from FWBBC in May, so I was in the dormitory and saw first-hand that the floors needed some attention. We assembled a seven-man team and promised President Pinson that we’d start Monday and stay until it was done. Before we leave Friday, this job will be finished.”

Teen brothers Ben (17) and Jon (15) Osterkamp accompanied Pastor Dement and four other men to participate in the work project. The church’s assistant pastor (Scott Collins, a 2005 FWBBC



PHOTO: Front Row (L): Ben Osterkamp, Scott Collins, Jon Osterkamp.

Back Row (L): Rick Dement, Roger Drennen, Randy Matlock, Jerry Crossfield.

graduate), along with retired businessmen Randy Matlock and Roger Drennen, and 71-year-old truck driver Jerry Crossfield completed the Show-Me State crew.

Ernie Thompson, a Missouri native, said, “These fellows were all business. They understood why they were here and the effort it would take. They started early and stayed late. They brought equipment with them to get the job done, and even furnished \$1,000 worth of vinyl base replacement trim at their own expense.”

Pastor Dement is moderator of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Barry Raper to Direct FWBBC Wednesday Evening Services



NASHVILLE, TN—Reverend Barry Raper, program coordinator for Christian Education and Youth Ministry at Free Will Baptist Bible College, has been named director of Wednesday evening campus services, according to President Matt Pinson. He succeeds Bert Tippet, FWBBC’s director of church relations,

who coordinated the Wednesday services 12 years, but requested that President Pinson appoint another leader.

Dr. Pinson said, “This is an important transition for FWBBC. The services have flourished under Brother Tippet’s leadership for more than a decade. The students love him and trust his biblical insights. Last spring when Mr. Tippet felt it was time to hand the responsibility to someone else, we gave long and serious thought to his successor. I’m delighted that Barry Raper agreed to come on board in this strategic area. His experience as a pastor, his warm personality, and his commitment to excellence in Christian service make him the ideal person for this role.”

Bert Tippet said, “I told the students last May that after 12 years this was my final service as director, and I had asked President Pinson to select someone else to lead the Wednesday services. What a great choice he made! Barry Raper is the perfect fit for our services. He’s a good friend of mine and a wonderful man of God.”

Raper joined the FWBBC faculty in August 2005 as an adjunct, then as a full-time faculty member in January 2006. He graduated from FWBBC in 1999, worked in recruitment with the college, then enrolled in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where he completed a Master of Divinity degree in 2002. He returned to Red Bay (AL) where he served associate pastor at his home church, Red Bay FWB Church, and was called as pastor in 2003.

Barry is active in student life on the FWBBC campus, serving as sponsor for the William Jennings Bryan Society and encouraging students in Christian education and missions outreach projects. While attending FWBBC, he was captain of the Flames basketball team, was named FWBBC’s “Best All-Around Student,” and served as student body chaplain.



BROWN

on green BY DAVID BROWN

WELCOME TO THE FIRST INSTALLMENT of “Brown on Green.” In future issues, this column will be dedicated to financial advice. It is intended to be interactive, and your questions are greatly appreciated. They will be kept in strictest confidence and answered anonymously. To submit a question, email brownongreen@nafwb.org.

Because so many people today have trouble saving money, that’s where we will begin. The most important advice about saving money is simple yet profound. Start! Getting started is the key, because even a small amount grows over time. Set aside an “emergency fund” to avoid creating debt when unbudgeted financial needs arise.

To save effectively, you must first identify where your money is being spent. Careful budgeting helps you carve out funds for savings. Put the principal of “living on less than you earn” to work by diverting any increase in pay to savings. When installment debts or credit card debts are paid off, keep making the payments...to your savings.

Second, ask yourself, “How much of my income should I save?” Set an initial goal of 10%. This will allow you to set aside five to seven percent of your earnings for retirement (no one wants to depend on a Social Security check) and divert the rest into your emergency fund or toward a long-term purchase. **ONE**

Email your financial question to brownongreen@nafwb.org.

ABOUT THE COLUMNIST: David Brown is director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation. Learn more about how the Foundation can help you give more effectively at www.fwbgifts.org.

Louis Brautigan died in 1999.



This year, he will pay the tuition of three ministerial students at Free Will Baptist Bible College*

Because Louis was interested in educating young ministers, he established an endowment with the Foundation in 1994. At his death, his entire estate was contributed to this endowment.

Thanks to Louis, ministerial students will be educated until the Lord returns. For more information about establishing your own endowment, contact:



Free Will Baptist Foundation:
(877) 336-7575 | fwbgifts.org



Free Will Baptist Bible College

*Accumulated earnings from the Brautigan endowment since 1994 and 1999 are equal to three years of tuition cost at FWWBC.



committed to a mission

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

The mission of Free Will Baptist Bible College is to educate leaders to serve Christ, His Church, and His world through Biblical thought and life.

www.FWBBC.EDU

“The professors have challenged me to think deeper and to look at my field of study from a Christian worldview. I know that my time here is preparing me to for whatever God has in store for my life.”

Jared Owen



committed to higher education

PROGRAMS *of* STUDY

40 Major Areas of Study*

Biblical Studies

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Biology

Pre-Law

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Pre-Nursing

English

Psychology

History

Sports Management

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Teacher Education

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We are committed to bringing higher education to you. We offer an Associate of Science (A.S.) in Ministry. (National accreditation approved. Regional accreditation pending.)

Our online degree is ideal for:

Bi-vocational pastors and other ministers
Church lay leaders
Those wishing to complete a degree
Adult learners needing flexible schedules

*For more information on traditional undergraduate programs, visit www.fwbbc.edu/futurestudents.

For more information on our online learning program, visit www.fwbbc.edu/onlinelearning.

“ I went to France with a team of FWBCC students over Spring Break. I learned so much about myself and how to share my faith. Experiences like that change you forever. ”
Kurston Ward



committed to ministry **OUTREACH**

We believe all Christians are called to minister to their world. No matter what you choose to do after graduation, your years at FWBCC will be significant.



“ Free Will Baptist Bible College has not only provided thorough pastoral training, it has given me multiple avenues to develop and use my spiritual gifts. ”
Paul Gillikin

FWBCC provides numerous opportunities for outreach and evangelism. These include campus mission trips, touring with the College Choir or drama team, serving at the Nashville Union Mission, counseling teenagers, engaging in community service projects, and participating in the summer College Missions Program in partnership with Free Will Baptist International Missions. Through Christian service, we equip workers for the Kingdom of God, no matter what professional field they enter.

“ Traveling with the College Choir and ministry teams has given me the opportunity to serve Christ with my talents. FWBCC has always encouraged me to share the truth of the Gospel wherever I go. ”
Mary Kathryn Driggers





KETTEMAN STUDENT *Scholarship Drive*

Committing to a Mission

FWBBC is committed to training pastors, missionaries, nurses, counselors, and business professionals. And now we're asking you to commit with us. Named in honor of Paul Kettelman, our first student and long-time promotional director, the Kettelman Student Scholarship Drive raises funds for institutional scholarships and allows FWBBC to give even more to our denomination and to the kingdom of God.

With all the exciting opportunities offered at FWBBC, we need your support more than ever. Please join us in our efforts by donating to the Kettelman Student Scholarship Drive. You can help our students attain the skills needed to make a living and, more importantly, make a life through FWBBC.

Your generous donation will help provide our students with:

- Institutional scholarships and financial aid for those seeking to excel at FWBBC
- Funding for overseas internships
- An opportunity to take advantage of our new Online Learning program
- An emphasis on spiritual development through prayer groups and weekly Christian services

Won't you be a part of this commitment to invest in our students' lives?

Ways to donate

Give by mail:

Please fill out the information on the addressed Kettelman envelope that is attached in this insert and submit it, along with your gift, to FWBBC.

Give by phone:

Make a credit card donation by calling 800-76-FWBBC.

Learn more about giving opportunities by visiting www.fwbcc.edu/Giving.



ideas you can use

By Richard Atwood

Professional church planters share their creative ideas for outreach.

As I travel and visit home missionaries, I continually see new methods for outreach, discipleship, worship, etc. Like any ministry, not everything works well, but home missionaries must be innovative without compromising biblical principles. In this article, I will share a few of the creative ideas I have seen in action. Maybe you can try them in your area.



TEAM CHURCH PLANTERS

Scott Warren and Randy Ledbetter are missionaries to Salt Lake City, Utah. Scott recently showed me a video he made for their last baptism service. He interviewed those scheduled for baptism and showed the video during the service.

Many new Christians are afraid to give a testimony when baptized. The video method allows them to tell their stories with less fear. It provides a powerful testimony to everyone watching. When the video is made, Scott doesn't just ask them to talk. He asks questions that will help them tell their story. If they go too long or make mistakes, the video can be edited.

HERE ARE SOME SAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. Describe how you came to be a follower of Christ.
2. How has your life changed since you became a Christ follower?
3. Why do you want to be baptized?
4. Do you have any closing comments to those at your baptism?

The people who are baptized get a copy of the video along with their baptism certificate.

HOWARD GWARTNEY IN FLORENCE, ARIZONA,

has many good ideas. My wife and I enjoyed a service at his church last November on time change Sunday. Even though they don't change their clocks in Arizona, it is time to change the batteries on smoke alarms. Howard had batteries ready to give to his people after church on Sunday. He asked them to give the batteries, along with an invitation card to their church to prospective newcomers.

The church prints attractive invitation cards that include the church's name and logo, web address, time of service, phone number, and a map to the church. This opens the door to relationships and makes it easier for his people to invite others. It also makes the invitation more memorable to the receiver.



IN PENNSYLVANIA, NATE ALTOM

decided to start a flag football league as an outreach tool. Ads were placed in the local newspaper, and flyers were displayed in sporting goods stores. On the start-up date, participants were divided into teams, with Home Missionary Tom Jones as the referee. Tom must really take his position seriously. In one game, he pulled a muscle while running down the sideline.

Nate reports they have gotten to know many guys through the league, and a few of them have visited the church. It has worked so well that they plan on doing it in a bigger way next summer.



DEXTER GUIN, recently held “Outdoor Night” at his church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Their special speaker was Chad Schearer, a professional outdoor guide who presents hunting and fishing seminars across the country.

Chad is also a Christian, and at the conclusion of his presentation, he told his listeners about an encounter with a bear. His story led to his testimony and a gospel presentation. Five men were saved that night.

The church gave away free knives and a gun, and local businesses donated door prizes. People were required to register for the free gifts. The event drew about 60 visitors, and most were men.



JEREMY AND JILL LIGHTSEY are working hard to start a new church in San Antonio, Texas. Like many young families, they don’t have time or money for vacations. Jeremy and Jill recently went to a week’s retreat for free. The retreat is open to

all pastors, and they really enjoyed it. The only requirement is to do some Bible reading and lunch with other pastors. The retreat starts on a Sunday night and goes through Friday. Currently, three retreats are held in Ohio, Wisconsin, and Texas. You just have to get there. Visit www.pastorsretreatnetwork.org for more information.

DAVID SEXTON AND MARC NEPPL had just begun holding services in Suffolk, Virginia, and wanted to spread the word about their church. They decided to sponsor a booth at the annual Peanut Festival. Over 200,000 people attended the three-day event. They gave away free helium balloons and encouraged people to register to win a free Nintendo Wii. On the registration form, there was a place to ask for more information about the church. Many people requested information. Three people visited the church the following Sunday, and one was saved.

The church prints attractive invitation cards that include the church’s name and logo, web address, time of service, phone number, and a map to the church. This opens the door to relationships and makes it easier for his people to invite others. It also makes the invitation more memorable to the receiver.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Richard Atwood is the director of missionary assistance for the Home Missions Department. To learn more about the ministry of Home Missions, visit www.homemissions.net.



THE BIBLE HAS A LOT TO SAY ABOUT WIDOWS and gives clear directions concerning how they should be treated. It also relates the dire consequences of mistreating them. Specific widows are mentioned throughout the Bible and often used as examples of faith. One fed Elijah. Another caught the attention of Jesus when she gave her mite—all the money she possessed.

God is very concerned about widows, and they actually receive special protection from Him. Scripture instructs us to “visit widows in their affliction,” and many churches have special programs or meetings to honor their widows and widowers.

Someone has said it is harder on women than men when a spouse dies. I don’t know about that, but one thing is certain. When a spouse dies, life changes forever, and a new journey begins. As unlikely as it sounds, you can find joy on this journey.

For some, the death of a spouse is a financial nightmare. When my husband was dying, I often wondered how I would pay the bills. We barely squeaked by on two salaries. How would I exist on one?

Others endure severe loneliness, struggle with depression, or gradually turn inward, unwilling to face the [often imaginary] scrutiny of former friends and colleagues.

How can we find joy in such a bleak scenario?

Joy in the Pain

If your spouse was a Christian, you have joy knowing he or she is now in Heaven and free of pain and suffering. As my husband neared death, I sat by his bedside weeping. I said to the Lord, “You can’t take my husband! There is no way I can make it without him.”

Suddenly, as if the Lord gave me a vision, I pictured my husband well and happy, walking on streets of gold. I imagined his total awe when he came face to face with Jesus. He no longer had brain cancer, and he was so happy. In that moment, I said, “Lord, I’m willing for you to take him to Heaven where there is no more sickness and suffering.”

Later, when I called a friend in a distant city to tell her my husband had died, she didn’t say, “I’m sorry,” but after a few moments of silence, she replied, “Oh what wonders he must me seeing right now!”

You can also find joy in knowing the Lord cares about you and your heartache, that He promised to heal your broken heart, and that He has promised to go with you each step of your journey.

I recently talked to a woman in her 80s who has been a widow 14 years. She is almost blind and lives alone. I knew she had been ill, so I asked her if she was able to continue living alone. She replied with a smile, “I don’t live alone; the

Lord lives with me, and I talk to Him all the time.” What a testimony.

The Bible says, “The joy of the Lord is your strength.” We can let our trials make us bitter or better. A widow friend once confessed that when she saw me with my husband at a convention she thought to herself, “Lord, how come you took my husband and she still has hers?”

Let the joy of the Lord be your strength. Don’t question the Lord’s ways. Find joy in serving Him. The Bible relates the story of Anna. She was married for only seven years, and when her story was recorded, she was a widow in her 80s. She spent a lifetime in the temple worshipping the Lord night and day, fasting, and praying. It is obvious that she had found joy in her journey. Yet an even greater joy awaited her when the Lord allowed her to see the infant Messiah.

The Joy Breakers

Sometimes you may encounter the following hindrances to joy.

1. SELF PITY. For a time, I didn’t think I handled my husband’s death very well, that perhaps the Lord wasn’t pleased with me. I have come to realize that there is a “time to mourn.” The Book of Ecclesiastes make that very clear. However, it also makes it clear that in time mourning must be put aside and replaced with joy.

For years after losing my husband, when someone asked how I was doing, I would burst into tears, making both of us feel miserable. One Sunday, however, as I prepared to go to church, I heard a preacher on television refer to the passage when the Lord told Joshua, “My servant Moses is dead. It’s time to stop mourning and get busy. Go ahead and cross the Jordan [my translation].” His words really spoke to me. I felt the Lord was telling me to stop feeling sorry for myself, to stop crying, and to continue my life.

2. CHILDREN CAN BE ANOTHER HINDRANCE

to finding joy on the journey. A widow friend fell in love and began to consider marriage. When she told her adult children, her son was furious. He asked, “Why are you doing this? When you die, where will you be buried? By our dad or by your new husband?”



The daughters also protested, insisting the man was too old for her. In light of their objections, she tried to forget about her plans. In time, however, she realized her children couldn’t live her life for her, and she refused to let them steal her joy. She remarried and found joy on her journey.

While a relationship with adult children is important, widows and widowers do not automatically surrender their ability to make decisions or live an independent life. They will be far happier if they can develop their own relationships and life outside of family.

3. ISOLATION. Many widows think no one cares, that they are alone in their battle with grief. I was a widow for three years. On the first anniversary of my husband’s death, I was devastated when no one else remembered.

After two years, I was still sad. I reminded the Lord that He had promised to heal my broken heart. Then He



brought a widower named Irvin Hyman into my life. At first I resisted. I expressed my reservations about marrying another minister to my secretary. She wisely replied, “But that’s what you know the most about—the life of a minister’s wife.” Before long, we were married, and 21 years later, we still enjoy our journey together.

If you are a recent widow or widower, or if you have been traveling life’s road alone for many years, let me encourage you. You can have joy for the journey! I pray that you will allow God to help you find it! **ONE**

Adapted from a message given at a luncheon honoring widows and widowers at First FWB Church, Albany, Georgia.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Former editor for Randall House Publications, Lucy Hyman, and her husband Irvin live in Albany, GA.

WHY **65** IS NO LONGER THE PERFECT AGE FOR RETIREMENT

By
Norma Jackson
Goldman



FOR THOSE NEARING 65, THE TRADITIONAL age for retirement, the finish line appears to be moving! An additional two to five years in the workforce might well be the best solution for making ends meet in retirement. Even those in higher income brackets will still need to make adjustments and tough choices. What can these additional years on the job mean to retirement earnings? Increases in Social Security benefits, beefed up savings accounts, and firm steps to reign in spending are at least three important results.

Despite shrinking numbers of Americans in low-income brackets and growing numbers in the middle and upper economic strata, several important factors have created the need for drastic changes in retirement planning.

Health Costs

When retirement plans and goals were formulated several years ago, many people did not accurately assess future health costs. For example, long-term health care costs increase significantly if potential retirees wait until their 60s to purchase coverage. Few potential retirees expect to find themselves with an expensive health condition. Yet illnesses such as diabetes, respiratory problems, or chronic kidney failure create the need for supplemental insurance to cover the difference between what the primary carrier provides and actual costs of care.

While health care in the United States continues to be the envy of the world, drug costs have skyrocketed over the past five to 10 years creating huge strains on retiree budgets. Predicting what those costs will look like in another decade is a real brain twister.

One of the single most critical decisions facing retirees is what medical insurance will be available in retirement? Will my employer allow me to remain covered under the company plan? Will my benefits be reduced? What kinds of supplemental coverage will be available, and can I afford it?

Dramatic Increases in the Cost of Living

Similarly, increased fuel costs impact virtually every area of American life. The costs of driving, home heating and cooling, groceries, and even public transportation are at the highest levels in recent memory, taking a huge toll on family budgets. With an impact so widespread, it's tough to hold the line on spending.

Decreased Earnings from Retirement Funds

After age 50, it becomes harder to make up for earnings shortfalls. When savings or investment earnings fail to reach expectations, there are few options beyond working longer. Recent upheavals in the stock market, coupled with downturns in real estate mean taking a serious new look at dwindling anticipated retirement income.

AARP reports that in 2008, 28% of Americans have postponed plans to retire, 17% have returned to work (or are looking for work), and at least 12% have had to postpone paying bills (AARP Bulletin). These are hard choices.

Declining Value of Homes

If retirement plans call for downsizing, selling existing property, and moving into something more affordable, you may be in for a surprise. Huge real estate gains of the early 2000s have all but evaporated, leaving homeowners in a much less favorable position. Depending on your location, homes valued at \$200,000 in 2007 may be worth less than \$160,000 today. If you were counting on sale proceeds to purchase a retirement home, you may need to rethink your plan.

These realities make it critical to stick to the 5 retirement basics:

1. Build a plan that provides at least 80% of your working income;
2. Eliminate outstanding debts, including your home mortgage;
3. Pay for automobiles;
4. Find a retirement home that fits your family, life, style, and health needs;
5. A transition plan from an active work life to an active retirement.

Having these basics in place before retirement will definitely decrease the strain on your budget (and you) post-retirement! Prayerfully consider all these basics before establishing a firm retirement date. **ONE**



ABOUT THE WRITER: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman enjoys a freelance writing career in her retirement. She lives in Nashville, TN. Learn more about your retirement options at www.boardofretirement.com.

FINANCES

911

By John Brummitt



Do *you* have adequate funds set aside for emergencies?

BRANDON AND RANDI,* a young married couple, are models when it comes to staying on top of their finances. They are paying down their mortgage and budgeting carefully to ensure their financial needs are met, both now and later in life.

However, the couple is weak in one area of their finances—their emergency fund. The National Foundation for Credit Counseling says one third of Americans have no emergency fund, and 57% of those who have emergency savings don't have enough set aside.

Brandon always thought that if they ran into a crisis, they would just use their home equity line of credit (HELOC) to bail them out. Unfortunately, with the declining housing market, HELOC is not a safe bet for emergencies. Today, lenders are less likely to make a loan based on HELOC if they think it is in their best interest. You can no longer rely on home equity for “emergency money.”

Brandon and Randi both have good jobs with stable incomes, but what if the unexpected happens? What will they

do? Unemployment has reached a four-year high of 6.1%, and it takes an average of four to six months to find a new job after being laid off.

Brandon was shocked to learn they were not prepared for an emergency. So he and Randi decided to find solutions before they encountered a crisis. Preventive maintenance is always cheaper than emergency repairs.

Do you have adequate funds set aside for emergencies? To determine this, start with an accurate record of your monthly expenditures. Once you determine your monthly expenses, most financial planners agree that you should save three to six months of expenses (money for house payments or rent, food, auto, taxes, insurance, etc.) during a good economy to see you through a job loss or a medical emergency. In lean economic times, you need six months to a year set aside for emergencies. This may seem like a daunting task, but remember, it is always better to be prepared.

Don't be afraid to adjust your daily activities in order to establish an emergency fund. Avoid frivolous spending. Stop eating out. Pay ten cents for a cup of coffee at home

*Not their real names.

WANTS

rather than splurging on the latest triple-fat, mint mocha latté at the local coffee shop. Skip vacation for a year. Do whatever you need to do to squirrel away your savings. Establishing an emergency fund is tough to accomplish, but it is vital for your financial health.

Where should you put the money you save? Hiding it under the mattress is a thought. The money is close at hand in case of an emergency, unless, of course, the emergency involves a house fire!

A better option is to invest your money where it will earn interest (although income is not the main objective), and where you have easy access to your money without early withdrawal penalties. It is also a good idea to put your emergency funds where they are not subject to the fluctuation of the stock market.

Consider high yield savings accounts, money market accounts, and money market mutual funds. Free Will Baptists also have access to money management trusts with the Free Will Baptist Foundation. These trusts historically have paid higher interest than the national average on money market accounts and CDs.

It will probably take 18 months to two years to build an adequate emergency fund. Be creative with the way you save, and remember that every little bit helps you reach your goal. Some suggestions for building a fund include: saving your change at the end of each day, diverting extra payments from your mortgage into an emergency fund, and picking up a part-time job.

When your fund is in place, don't touch it unless you have a non-budgeted, necessary expense. Be prepared to update the amount in your emergency fund whenever you encounter a life-changing event: spouse, baby, job, house, etc. Keep an eye on your fund. Make sure you are never caught between a rock and a hard place with nowhere to turn.

Brandon and Randi are not set for the worst yet, but they are preparing for whatever may come their way. Being prepared is half the battle. You will sleep better at night with an emergency fund in place. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: John Brummitt is business manager for the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement. To learn more about retirement options, visit www.boardofretirement.com.

Being prepared
is half the battle.

You will sleep better at night with an **emergency fund** in place.



Commercial Interest Rates on Money Market Accounts:		Foundation Rates:	
2002	1.29%	2002	5.00%
2003	0.64%	2003	4.25%
2004	0.82%	2004	4.15%
2005	2.66%	2005	4.40%
2006	4.51%	2006	4.63%
2007	3.51%	2007	4.90%
2008	2.49%	2008	4.25%

For more information, contact the Free Will Baptist Foundation at (877) 336-7575.



Leading the Way:

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

By Larry A. Powell

While I don't have the space to share news from every Home Missionary church planter, let me give you a snippet from several fields. All our church planters are working hard and God is granting them success in winning families to our Lord Jesus.

Tommy and Pam Jones and Nate and Jenna Altom in Greensburg, PA, are making great connections with young families through flag football games. Nine first-time visitors have attended a mission service, and most are unsaved. The mission church is in the process of buying a building for renovation that has 5,000 square feet of space. *Operation Saturation* teams recently blanketed their communities with church invitation materials.

Tim and Lori Byers in Ashtabula, Ohio, had a high of 123 young people and children in Vacation Bible School this year. Tim and Lori are reaching the community through youth activities. The mission softball team has played a major role in connecting with young families. Their giant fall festival has helped reach the community with the message of salvation. Brother Tim preaches from his wheelchair, and he presses on with great determination.

Serenity Free Will Baptist Church, pastored by **Jeff and Donna Crabtree in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada**, plans to be self-supporting at the end of 2008. The church has attractive and inviting facilities located on 17 acres of beautiful land in New Brunswick fronting the Trans Canada Highway. However, the most beautiful thing about the church is the faithful church family. Jeff has a vision of starting several new mission churches in the area and a Bible Institute to prepare Canadians to reach Canadians with the good news.

Tim and Jessica Lewis in Ogden, Utah, have seen their church attendance double since they were given a beautiful

elementary school facility with 25,000 square feet of meeting space. A Christian businessman attending the church purchased the school in a great community and gave it to the Summit Chapel FWB Church. God has granted Tim and Jessica success in this heavily populated Mormon city. They recently baptized four new converts.



Paul and Patricia Collins in Harrisonburg, Virginia, have established a strong mission work. Earlier this year, I stood with Paul on eight of the most beautiful acres in the area. The new building will be seen for miles around—a church on the hill overlooking the city. Brother Paul is securing the permits to construct a tremendous facility. Thanks to the mission's faithful congregation and the Virginia Mission Board's generous financial support, Harrisonburg, Virginia will soon have a vibrant Free Will Baptist church.

John and Cheryl Reed in Green Bay, Wisconsin, average more than 80 people in worship on Sundays. Monthly mission offerings are very strong. John enjoys a wonderful recovery ministry in the community. His zeal for the work is unsurpassed. Thanks to everyone who has helped renovate the new facilities. The mission has visitors almost every Sunday, and many have been saved and baptized. God is giving success in Green Bay. **ONE**

This is only a small part of the never-ending story of God's blessings on our church planters. In the next issue, we will visit the Rocky Mountain region and witness huge blessings from God and more exciting news from the harvest fields.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Larry A. Powell is general director of the Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department in Antioch, Tennessee.

To leave is to die a little
To die to what we love.
We leave behind a bit of ourselves
Wherever we have been.
—*Edmond Haraucourt*

On Leaving

By Bill &
Brenda Evans

“You do what you have to do, and I can do this. I’ve done hard things before.”

A green swale of meadow and swaying poplars. A slender hollow and riffled stream. A shelter, a home tenoned and mortised to a rocky hillock. A half-century of labor, refuge, and love.

It is September, the leaving month. The last hay is cut, was rolled weeks ago. New places have been found for the animals, even Big Boy, the loving black lab.

The meadow, hollow, stream, barn, house, and old slave-dug wells are officially owned by a new family. Paperwork is signed, sealed, finished. What is left is to empty the house and brace her body for a journey hundreds of miles south to her new place.

“I really wish I could spend the rest of my life right here, but it is not wise. I was 26 and Lincoln was 39 when we bought this land before we married. We designed and built it all ourselves. Our son was raised here. But I am leaving it to others now. You do what you have to do, and I can do this. I’ve done hard things before.”

At eighty, Norma Gene Bloebaum is leaving her Kentucky home of 52 years, but her head and heart are already in another place—a new home near her son and his family in North Carolina. She is settled and matter-of-fact about the move.

“I’ve made up my mind; I’ll just take things as they come. I can do this just like I have everything else in my life. As a kid, I was a tomboy. Even my name is spelled like a boy’s. I climbed trees, had scooters and skates, and trained Tom and Mike, two leghorn roosters that my father de-clawed, to sit on the front porch swing with me.”

“The hard times taught me what I could do. My father battled cancer and was unable to work for four years. We lived on almost nothing. I left college, and my sister and I helped pay off his hospital bills and my parents’ home. When Lincoln and I married after my father’s death, I took care of my mother. You do what you have to do.”

Norma Gene (or just plain Gene as most of her friends call her) has always been unshakeable and hard-working. She began college in 1946, put the degree on hold for 42 years, and finished her bachelor’s with honors in 1988. In her teens she took a few piano lessons and within weeks became the church pianist and later the organist. “I learned a song a week until I could play them all,” she says.

She and her husband Lincoln raised cattle, hogs, and a menagerie of pets on three farms. Plus they each held down a full-time job. After his ten-year struggle with Alzheimer’s Disease ended, Gene carried on as before.

“Lincoln always trusted me with our money. When we were first married, he sold some cattle and asked me to hold onto \$1,000. A month later he asked for it. He knew he could count on me. We always saved, bought company stock where we worked, bought land, and never spent big. Later, I invested in church bonds, government bonds, and more recently gift annuities,” Gene says.

“The reason I like gift annuities is because I believe in giving, and I hunt bargains. I get income now, but after my death my money will still be working. Even if I could get as much income somewhere else, this is a gift to the Lord’s work. I take out one every year. You know what they say about not taking it with you,” Gene laughs.

Now she is battling CIDP, a painful auto-immune disease, with a grin, a cane, and intravenous injections. Her tomboyish I-can-do-anything spirit is alive and thriving.

Certainly, Gene will leave a bit of herself behind in Kentucky, as the poet says. But when she squares her shoulders and declares, “I believe you make the best of it, whatever that is,” you know that she will take the best of herself anywhere she goes. **ONE**

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



A THREEFOLD CORD By David Crowe

In Ecclesiastes 4:12, Solomon says, “A threefold cord is not quickly broken.” The more literal translation is “A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.” In verses nine through 12, he argues that “two are better than one.” He goes on to say that even though two are better than one, the threefold strand is best!

These are difficult times in our country. The unemployment rate is rising. Oil prices continue to fluctuate like we have never experienced before in the United States. In many areas, people are losing their homes because the value has dropped as much as 50 percent, and they now owe more on their house than it’s worth. Almost every day we hear of banks closing and government bailouts to keep lending institutions afloat. It seems that many investments are losing money today instead of gaining. In the middle of all these social and economic struggles, I have some good news!

The Church Extension Loan Fund (C.E.L.F.) of the National Home Missions Department is having a record year in investments and loans to Free Will Baptist churches. I believe this is because we have formed a “threefold cord.”

The first strand of that cord is you!

Many Free Will Baptist people, churches, and organizations invest hard-earned money in C.E.L.F., and your investment earns a great rate of interest. Present interest rates are: 4% for \$500 to \$24,999; 4.5% for \$25,000 to \$49,999; 5% for \$50,000 to \$99,999; and 5.5% for \$100,000 and over. You pay no penalties for early withdrawals, and we do not demand the long-term commitment most banks require. All we request is a 30-day notice for withdrawals, but in most cases the money is sent within a couple of days. So, you benefit from this program in a financial way, but you also benefit in a spiritual way. How? You benefit spiritually because of the second and third strands of the cord.



The second strand of the cord is Home Missions! Your investments are loaned to Free Will Baptist churches and mission works so they can purchase property and build facilities to win souls and build the Kingdom. This process benefits Home Missions and helps keep our General Fund strong, which in turn helps keep the whole program of Home Missions strong.

C.E.L.F. allows us to send more missionary families to more places across North America and provide more encouragement, training, and support for more than 70 missionary families. It allows the men on our staff to travel to many of our established churches to preach, encourage, evangelize, fellowship, and anything else we can do to strengthen our churches.

Because you invest in this program, every soul saved in home missions churches and every soul saved through the ministry of our staff is a vital return on your investment. Wow! It couldn't get any better than this—or could it? Consider the third strand in the cord.

The third strand in that cord is the entire cause of the Free Will Baptist denomination! Your investment in C.E.L.F. benefits you; it benefits the whole program of Home Missions, and it benefits the cause of Free Will Baptists around the world. As churches are planted and souls are saved in North America, the base of the denomination is enlarged which provides more financial support for all of our departments. It supports missionaries called to points all across North America and around the world. It provides more students for our colleges and more preachers to fill our pulpits.

What little money my wife, Kathey, and I have saved over the years is invested in the Church Extension Loan Fund. We believe this investment is part of a threefold cord that cannot be easily or quickly broken! Will you join me and the hundreds who have become a part of this threefold cord by investing in C.E.L.F.? In these days of economic uncertainty, I'm glad to be part of something that will not be easily torn apart. **ONE**



one young missionary
shares her story about
life on the field.

Missionary's Daughter

by Felicia Cheatham

BEING PART OF A MISSIONARY family is an amazing experience! When building a new church, we're constantly on the go, inviting people to visit our church and sharing God's Word. I have such a passion for bringing teen friends to church, and I believe that one day God will use many of these teens in our ministry.

The two areas in church where I help the most are serving as a backup in the church nursery, along with singing in our praise and worship team. We had been meeting in a school for services, but this summer, we moved to a new storefront building we can use every day. I have walked around inside the new building and prayed often for our church to multiply as we move into this new building.

I think that when you are a missionary kid, it's vitally important to allow prayer to be a big part of your life. When my father agreed to move to Denver, Colorado, I agreed to help grow this church! Our work here isn't easy, but well worth it. I am only 17 years old, but I can think of no better place for our family to be than where God wants us, doing the work He wants us to do.

God has blessed our church in many ways over the years, with many wonderful people who support Dad. I am forever grateful for all their help, and the support we receive from everyone here.

I believe it's important to set goals, to believe that you can reach them, and to passionately pursue them! One day

I'd love to help lead and teach pre-teen girls about the love of the Lord. It's important to us all that young girls know more about God, and it will be rewarding to be able to help them. The older I become, the more I realize that God has some amazing things planned for my life. I will be forever grateful that I could be in a place and time where I could listen and learn about the Lord and his will for my life.

"...I can think of no better place for our family to be than where God wants us, doing the work He wants us to do."

This summer, I began to date our worship pastor, and now I support two important men in my life. I thank God for allowing me to serve Him as a missionary. My advice to others in a missionary family is to accept your position, take action, and apply it to many great needs, not only in your life but in the lives of the people around you as well. God will bless the work you do for Him! **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Felicia Cheatham and her family are home missionaries to Denver, CO. To read more about their church, visit www.homemissions.net.

It Cannot Be Done

I met a young man this summer whose favorite phrase is “it cannot be done.” In some ways, this negative statement seemed stamped on the beginning of my summer trip. But with God—wait! Let me start at the beginning.

MEET THE TEAM

This summer, I was part of the CMP [College Missions Program] Bulgaria '08 team. Joseph and Lindsey Whyde of Ohio made their first mission trip as husband and wife. They feel God is calling them to long-term missions at some point. Joe was on the first CMP team to Bulgaria last year. Lindsey has gone to Cuba and Panama with E-TEAM.

Samantha Bevis (Missouri) had been to Mexico with E-TEAM and is planning on traveling to Germany soon to visit her brother who is in the army. She also plans to move to Japan. Matthew Lindsey, from Ada, Oklahoma, has been on numerous church trips to Mexico and has participated in E-TEAMS to France and Panama. He will tell you he feels more at home in a foreign country than he does at home.



Samuel Davis, our fearless team leader, is from a variety of places. He goes wherever the Lord leads him, including New York, Kazakhstan, and Nashville. And then there is me, Caitlin Gray. I am also from Ada, Oklaho-

ma. I had never even left the country... or been on a mission trip.

PREPARATION

We arrived at our destination after many hours of travel, dumped our luggage in nice hotel rooms, and went to dinner at an outdoor restaurant. At dinner we met Shelly Bracey, the overseas apprentice helping Tim and Lydia Awtrey. We were served some odd-tasting but extremely edible chicken-kabobs and shopska salad. During the meal, the Awtreys told us about Bulgaria.

We learned that many Bulgarians are superstitious and suspicious. They close all doors and windows because they believe drafts are evil spirits that will kill you. They do not drink beverages with ice because they think ice will give you a sore throat. I was warned that feta cheese would be served with every meal.

The Bulgarians, they said, would not hesitate to ask us why we were there. We were advised not to be evasive, because they would know we were faking. Finally, we were discouraged from using “Christianese” when telling someone about God. Bulgarians don’t know what a real Christian believes or what it means to be saved. Most Bulgarian people believe that if you go to a Protestant church, you belong to a cult. At last year’s English camp many students heard the message of Christ and decided to believe it...months lat-

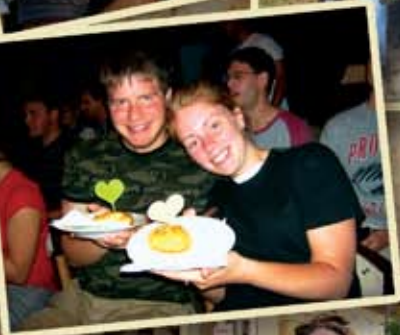
er. It took time and much prayer for those lives to be changed.

Three days later, we traveled to the camp for our summer project. We prepared to teach English along with two other teams: one from the University of California at Santa Cruz and one from southern England. These teams were part of an international Christian student organization with a branch in Bulgaria. UC Santa Cruz alum Craig Weyrens and his wife Tanya were the camp coordinators.

Craig and Tanya stressed that everyone attending the camp could understand broken relationships. They told us we could show the students that Jesus Christ came to love them, and He is the only source of complete healing. We met our counterparts, went over the camp schedule, and had a Bible study and prayer time together that first night. We read Isaiah 55. Verse five stuck with me throughout the entire camp: “Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, and nations who do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and the Holy One of Israel; for He has glorified you.” The next afternoon we met our students.

SUMMER CAMP

I ate my first meal with Pacho. He liked to talk. He talked about football (soccer), himself, Bulgaria, football, himself, food, football. . . you get the idea. He liked to slip all the English



“cuss words” he knew into the conversation. He eventually noticed that we flinched when he said certain words. He fell in love with a card game called “Bang” and called me Claire. I like Pacho.

Not all Bulgarians were as outgoing and easy as Pacho. Dimitar and Matt, who were roommates, had a difference of opinion on the very first day. Dimitar is a Christian and a film director. Matt likes to make videos. Dimitar is also a vegetarian and a pacifist—two things that are not openly admitted in Oklahoma. Matt didn’t quite know what to say to him.

Nora, the daughter of one of Lydia’s dear friends, attended the camp last year and accepted Christ only a few months before this camp. Lydia has prayed for Nora to come to know God since she was born. Gyeri is also a Christian. She lives in the capital city of Sofia and drives on those scary roads with all those crazy drivers. She liked my voice and was always trying to get me to sing for her. I wondered where the suspicion and mistrust we were warned about had gone. These Bulgarians were very warm-hearted and open.

Overall, we had a lot of fun. We went on photo scavenger hunts; played football, Frisbee, and card games; learned Bulgarian folk dances and sang. We had water fights, and we went hiking. We toured cities, tombs of Thracian kings, monuments, scenic villages, and cathedrals. We held Summer Project Idol (a spinoff of American Idol). We presented cultural evenings and traditional dances. We made coke floats, tried English tea, played cricket, ate bonitza (oily Bulgarian bread with feta cheese inside), and created mimes about drive-thrus. The absolute best part was not what we were doing, but who we were with and who we were doing it for.

A MIRACLE

We had prayer and worship every morning at 8:15. Although Bulgarians were never required to attend worship, some had a relationship with God and worshiped with us. Other students weren’t sure what to believe, but were curious to find out what was going on and came to check it out. Angel came often. Once, when the group he was with was going to pray, he asked Sam if they should hold hands so the positive energy would flow better.

Early in the camp, God allowed me to witness a miracle named Yavor. A talented artist, athlete, and dancer, he is laid-back, very social, and his favorite phrase is “it cannot be done.” He had some level of faith, but is easily led astray by whatever catches his eye. Matt, Yavor, and I were at morning worship and were asked to pray with and for each other. Matt and I asked prayer for unimportant things, but Yavor said, “I feel very far from God.” He caught me off guard. Matt assured him that we would pray for him, and he seemed grateful. Matt then said he would continue to pray for Yavor for the rest of his life. Yavor was floored. He couldn’t understand how people he had just met could care for him that much. I saw God open a door to his heart in that instant.

It seemed every time I saw Sam, he was telling another person how much God loves them. He has a God-given knowledge of who needs a hug—the kind of hug that allows brokenness to dissolve in tears and be mended with the love of Christ. I also needed a couple of hugs in those weeks.

IT CANNOT BE DONE

Plamen, Matt’s other roommate, became a believer early in the camp. This was significant! Several people



have come to know Christ long after leaving the camp, but this was the first time someone was saved during camp. Matt said he often walked into his room and found Plamen reading his new Bible or asking Dimitar questions.

Yavor and Dancho have agreed to participate in discipleship studies with

Tim Awtrey two to three times a week. Yavor has decided to get serious about what he believes. After camp was over, we went back to Svishtov and ate dinner with the local students. Yavor was walking with us when he saw a group of friends. He caught up with us later and said his friends saw something different about him, a light in his eyes.

The day before we began the long trip home, we went to church in Svishtov. Plamen, his sister Sveti, Nora, Dancho, Vesi and her sister, and Angel met us there. Angel had never been in a church before. Nora, Dancho, and Vesi have continued to attend.

God worked in my team as well. Shelly immersed herself in the Bulgarian culture to the point that it became a part of her. I cannot begin to know

how she can pick up her old life in the States. Sami cried the night before we left. She doesn't know if she'll get to go back, but she desperately wants to. Joe and Lindsey are planning a way to return next summer.

If Tim had his way, they would be there permanently. Matt is no longer at home in Bulgaria, because he is in Oklahoma once more. Sam is probably still being a walking testimony of God's love. I praise God for all that He has done, and I am wondering what is next! **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: An Oklahoma native, Caitlin is a junior at East Central University in Ada, OK. The 20-year-old hopes to use her voice to worship God and seek employment in performance of opera and musical theater.

Do you have...

- ...a dress Laura Belle Barnard wore?
- ...the Cronks' boarding passes for their first trip to India?
- ...Tom Willey's Stetson?
- ...Dr. Miley's favorite stethoscope?

International Missions is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2010. One of the many ways we will celebrate this milestone is through an interactive "museum style" booth at the 2010 National Association.

If you have artifacts you'd like to donate or are willing to loan, please contact Elizabeth (elizabeth@fwbgo.com or (615) 760-6118) for more information.



FREE WILL BAPTIST
INTERNATIONAL
MISSIONS

Thank you!

The IM family appreciates the National Association's overwhelming support of the restructure of the funding system.



I was relieved when the funding restructure was passed. Ever since I joined the Mission we have talked about the need for changes in the funding system.

— Debbie Griffin (Japan)



I am so grateful for that thrilling moment when our FWB family stood and voted to endorse the funding restructure. In essence they said, "we are ready to be a part of a more effective and strategic way of getting the gospel to the ends of the earth!"

— Danny Williams (FWBIM Board Chairman)





I actually cried as I realized they (delegates) were standing in support of missions and missionaries around the world.

— Kristi Johnson (Spain)



As I looked at those who were voting overwhelmingly in support of the new plan, my heart was so encouraged. I have never been prouder to be Free Will Baptist.

— Matthew Price (France)



Geneva and I believe this is a major step in the right direction.

— Bobby Poole (Brazil)



FREE WILL BAPTIST
INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

NEWS

around the world

Weekend Seminar Trains French Leaders

LA ROMAGNE, FRANCE—A six-member team led 17 participants through a three-day workshop on developing relationships to minister effectively at the Le Vallon Boarding School in La Romagne, south-east of Nantes, on September 12-14. For the first time, the seminar was given in French. The teaching revolved around the theme “Relationship is the bridge Jesus walks from one person to another.”

Participants, representing all three FWB churches in the Brittany area, discovered tools to help them develop and maintain relationships in their families and churches, among their neighbors, and with colleagues at work.

Comments from attendees highlight the effectiveness of the training. “It is very non-French to open up to others, to lower the barriers that protect our privacy,” shared one participant. “Some parts of this weekend were hard, but it made me open up. I realized I hadn’t been sensitive to others; now I want to go deeper in my relationships.”

Another confessed, “I feared relationships. They were painful, and I hid from them. I loved rainy weekends because I could curl up in bed and not have to worry about seeing people. Now I have tools I can use to develop relationships with those around me.”

Several participants said they were leaving training committed to developing closer relationships so they can minister to people and show them Christ.

One man indicated he realized he doesn’t know most of the people in his church very well. “The tools we’ve received this weekend are good tools to use, not only in our relationships at work, but we need them in our churches as well!”

This weekend was an important first step in the process of translating and adapting the full Leadership Matters Course (LMC) into French. FWB missionaries Robert Bryan and Dennis Teague are two of the committee members who have taken on this responsibility.

The full LMC offers a 13-day training program that guides leaders in the development of Christ-centered skills in building relationships, communication, administration, creative thinking and decision-making, cultivating motivation, public relations and ministry. It is a highly interactive and participant-driven course.



Dennis Teague summed up his thoughts on the training: “I feel great satisfaction in the fact that a part of LMC is now in French and that the French participants responded to it very positively.” ■

Help Build History

ANTIOCH, TN—“In ongoing efforts to improve our web presence and to tell the story of the Mission, I am pleased to announce the addition of a timeline to our website,” FWBIM’s Deputy Director of Stateside Operations Mark McPeak recently announced. “This interactive, wiki-style tool will become available at fwbgo.com on January 2, 2009.”

The timeline contains two tracks: stateside and international. Each is populated with major events in the Mission’s history. However, from January 2 to December 31, 2009, constituents, national Christians, the Mission family and their extended family, are invited to add their stories, photos, and video to the timeline.

Free Will Baptists can bring a unique perspective to the story of FWB missions. McPeak encourages, “Reveal what it meant to have a particular missionary visit your church or home. Tell short stories about missionaries as real people. Give testimonies. Share photos. Help build International Missions history.”

Visit www.fwbgo.com today and add your contribution. ■





NANTES, FRANCE—JCROIS, the annual youth conference in France, took place August 29-31. “The whole weekend was good, but Sunday was the cherry on the dessert,” exclaimed Robert Bryan. The FWB church in Nantes was filled with just over 200 people. This year’s theme centered on helping Christian high school and university students answer the tough questions posed by teachers and classmates. Several lives were changed, and several more young people made commitments to follow God’s call in their lives.



CUBA—Two hurricanes within two weeks during September left the island nation of Cuba under water, without electricity, and with billions in damage. Leaders of the FWB work in Cuba were able to visit some of the affected areas and reported damage to several churches and parsonages. Tax-deductible donations to assist Cuban Christians can be made to FWBIM.



RIVERA, URUGUAY—The Santa Teresa church in Rivera celebrated its 46th anniversary on August 30, 2008. The church is the oldest work in Uruguay. Several from surrounding churches attended and a standing-room only crowd was present during the service. Jaimie Lancaster brought the message. Various presentations were made by local churches. One person was saved.



BELO HORIZONTE—The First FWB Church in Belo Horizonte had a children’s dedication Sunday, September 7. According to Jim Sturgill, “This dedication was a special blessing since I helped this family a couple years earlier with a broken relationship.” While scheduling the baby dedication, the mother mentioned that she would also like to present her eldest daughter. Although, the whole family was present for the dedication, the mother is the only one who is saved. Events like this continue to open doors to reach entire families.



TOKYO, JAPAN—Two young girls who attend the Kamifukuoka FWB Church were presented certificates of achievement for their hard work on August 31. The mother of these two girls worked diligently with her daughters for 12 months to help them memorize their weekly memory verses.



NANTES, FRANCE—Working from a foundation laid by others, Tim and Di Keener have ministered to a husband of a Christian lady for approximately three years. After much witnessing and prayer this man has come to know the Lord. He emailed Tim, “My life has completely changed, I now live with God and for Him. I sense a deliverance, relief. I now know that I will live with God and that his presence will always be with me.”

NEWS around the world



Tallent Joins International Missions

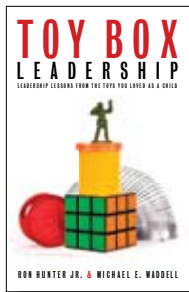
ANTIOCH, TN—Deputy Director of Field Operations Jeff Turnbough announced September 5, 2008, the addition of Charolette Tallent to the International Missions staff as field operations stateside manager. She began her duties on October 16, 2008.

Charolette’s responsibilities include candidate coordinator (currently filled by Judy Lytle), administrative assistant for the department of field operations, and stateside manager of all field operations.

Charolette served as a career missionary to France for 20 years (1976-1996). “I am grateful for the opportunity to return to my heart’s passion—missions,” says Charolette. “I look forward to re-joining the FWBIM team and being on the cutting edge of what the Lord is doing among us.” ■

For more in-depth versions of these and other stories visit www.fwbgo.com

IN REVIEW



Toy Box Leadership by Ron Hunter Jr. and Michael E. Waddell

ISBN 9780785227403

Price \$19.99

Toy Box Leadership is a creative look at the toys from our childhood and the leadership lessons gained from hours of playing with Lego® bricks, Mr. Potato Head, green army men, and many more. The authors take ten classic toys and create practical object lessons on leadership, providing a refreshing overview of themes ranging from relationships to communication to endurance.

Here is an excerpt from the chapter on Lego® bricks:

Nathan Sawaya's largest Lego® project to date is a replica of a Chris Craft Speedster.

It took him more than 180 hours, and he used almost 250,000 bricks. It is more than ten feet in length, and it holds the world record for the largest Lego® boat. When commenting on his method, he said that building with Lego® bricks takes a "bottom-up approach."

This same is true with relationships. When you make a connection, it lays a foundation upon which you can build. The more connections you make, the stronger your foundation becomes and the higher you can build.

Executives, managers, and even parents will find *Toy Box Leadership* full of easy-to-learn and simple-to-use lessons to successfully lead and influence others.

Here is what others are saying about *Toy Box Leadership*:

"Toy Box Leadership is a creative, enjoyable book that allows the reader to remember yesterday while preparing for tomorrow." —JOHN C. MAXWELL, *New York Times* best-selling author, speaker, and founder of INJOY and EQUIP

"Toy Box Leadership will take you back in time while helping you move your organization forward, using favorite old-school toys as metaphors to teach strategies and leadership principles." —KEN BLANCHARD, Co-author, *The One Minute Manager* and the *One Minute Entrepreneur*

"Toy Box Leadership serves as a teaching tool and resource that can be invaluable."
—DICK VITALE, ESPN



Walking With Moses— Talking With God by Cinda King

ISBN 9780892656677

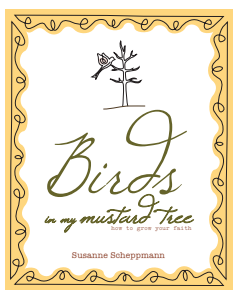
Price \$10.99

Walking With Moses—Talking With God is a six-week study that will take you on a journey through the most significant events in the life of Moses as he finds himself serving as an unlikely leader to the children of Israel. Cinda King found herself serving as an unlikely leader in ministry and relates to the journey of Moses.

This topical study examines the leadership role of Moses found in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Each day of the study begins with a focus text to review and ends with a summary statement relating to the walk of Moses accompanied by a reminder to talk with God along our own journey.

The author uses situations lived by Moses to bring clarity to the path many others walk in following God; times of questioning, strange encounters, significant markers, and evidence of provision and protection. The example Moses set of hearing and faithfully answering the call of God is a wonderful lesson for all ages.

★ Leader profile



Birds in My Mustard Tree by Susanne Scheppmann

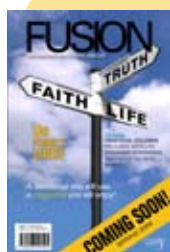
ISBN 9780892656684

Price \$10.99

Birds in My Mustard Tree is a six-week study by Susanne Scheppman, a gifted author and speaker serving with Proverbs 31 Ministries. Faith may begin as a mustard seed, but the author shares the goal to expand it until we have birds roosting on our mustard tree of faith.

The study begins with a review of the concept of faith that leads to lessons on exercising faith, amazing faith, shattered faith, resting in faith, and a stronger faith. The author examines several heroes of the faith in both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

She also adds modern anecdotes, personal stories, and a place to journal in the form of a prayer in each day's study. Each lesson ends with a place to journal as a prayer relating to the topic of faith in that day's study.



Coming this Spring!

CLEAR
FUSION

for more information
www.CLEARcurriculum/fusion



Pete Dunn

A native Ohioan, Pete Dunn has lived and worked in the same community since he was nine years old. Pete currently serves as the federal programs coordinator for Western Local School District, but has previously worked as a school administrator, principal, and teacher of third and fourth graders. He also applies those administrative and educational skills in his other role —pastor of Dailyville Free

Will Baptist Church in Waverly, Ohio. Pete has been a part of the Dailyville Church for almost 29 years and has been their pastor for the last four years. People often recognize Pete and are influenced by his leadership in the community as well as among various Christian organizations.

Known for his creative sermon series and teaching abilities, he recently developed a sermon series to include CSI-type investigations of the blood of the sacrifices made in the Bible. He illustrated them by pointing to the cross where it is noted no murder was committed. Rather, he defined the fact that Jesus willingly died for us.

★ About Pete:

Quiet time routine: Typically the dining table in the evening (sometimes during the night)

Ideal date with wife: Sitting at home watching a romantic movie.

Kids (one-word description) of each: Allison (10), beautiful; Ryan (8), inquisitive

Goals for church: Build solid Christians who feed on God's Word daily through education in the Sunday School.

Favorite three books: *The Last Battle* by C. S. Lewis, *The Listener* by Terry Blackstock, and *The Orchard* by Elissa Morgan.

Current/Recent reading: *The Shack*, and rereading *Pilgrims Progress*

Biggest failure: Not putting family high enough on the priority list.

Where success is found: Recognizing that God brings very talented people around to help build His kingdom so the leader does not have to do it all.

Why Free Will Baptist? Truth is not watered down and beliefs are accurate, as he understands God's Word.

Stranded on Island – 3 things you would NOT want: grass (hates to mow), cats or dogs, and telephone.

3 things you would want: laptop (has his Bible on it), family, and people from church.

Pete is a creative leader who motivates people with his loving spirit and study of the Word. He reads more and more, and watches TV less and less. Pete knows the value of interacting with family is far more vital than people think. **Pete Dunn, you are a great leader!**

CLEAR Teacher of the Year

Teaching Sunday School is a privilege that requires commitment, dedication, and sacrifice. While all teachers are special people, to be nominated CLEAR Teacher of the Year is a distinct honor. If your Sunday School teacher meets the following criteria for CLEAR Teacher of the Year, fill out the form available online at www.CLEARcurriculum.com/teacher.

1. Does your teacher use CLEAR curriculum?
2. Does your teacher capture the interest of students and relate to them on their level?
3. Does your teacher study to become more knowledgeable and skilled in teaching and applying the Word of God? (Workshops, TEAM Church, D6 Conference, etc.)
4. Does your teacher go outside the classroom to help students grow in spiritual maturity and Christian service?

The CLEAR Teacher of the Year will receive 3 days, 2 nights stay at the 2009 national convention. This prize includes food, lodging, and a transportation allotment. Also the CLEAR Teacher of the Year will receive a \$200 decorating allowance for his or her classroom and a \$100 gift card to Randall House.

Randall House sponsors this award annually. To place a nomination for the 2009 CLEAR Teacher of the Year, visit www.CLEARcurriculum.com/teacher and complete the online form. If you have any questions regarding the CLEAR Teacher of the Year award, or need a paper copy of the form, call 800-877-7030 ext. 315. The deadline for nominations is April 30, 2009.



SCM NEWS

The Gathering of FWB Youth Workers at the Youth Pastor Summit in Orlando was such a great success we want to do it again in 2009. Go to www.fwbgathering.com for information about this event. The registration is FREE. Plan to stay an extra day after the YP Summit and fellowship with FWB youth workers.

National Youth Conference 2009

Theme: 60 Minutes With God
Seek the Lord and His strength (Psalm 105:4)

Youth Camp Bible lessons on the NYC theme, *60 Minutes with God*, will be available in the spring as a free download at www.fwbny.com.



ISBN 9990125457
\$49.99

The SCM Youth Ministries Kit

The SCM Youth Ministry Kit is a brand-new tool from Randall House to help make youth ministry preparation time more efficient and effective. It includes an Annual Calendar with dates, reminders, and links to a wide variety of events and projects of interest to youth and youth workers. It offers over a year's supply of Bible Studies, and contains 15 Categories of Resources & Web Links:

- o Outreach & Service Projects
- o Ministry Development
- o Forms & Templates
- o Fundraising
- o Missions
- o Worship
- o Scheduling
- o Discipleship
- o Recommended Reading
- o How Do I . . .
- o Blogs & Podcasts
- o Addictions
- o Skits & Puppets
- o Apologetics
- o Miscellaneous

+ INTERSECT

where the BIBLE meets life



DR. GARNETT REID
is a member of the
Bible faculty at Free Will
Baptist Bible College.

The King Thing When the King of Kings invaded the world on the first Christmas, very few people knew about it. Oh, the pieces of the puzzle were all out on the table: prophecies about Him, wise men with royal-type gifts, David's family connections, announcements about a throne, and more. Read the first two chapters of Matthew and Luke. You'll see them. Not many onlookers back then put the pieces together, though.

On Holiday in the Kingdom—The United Kingdom Yet the birth of Jesus was a royal event! A king like no other had slipped into our dimension. I confess that the impact of all things royal is lost on me; monarchs are just not my cup of tea. Kings and queens and crowns and palaces just don't resonate with this boomer child of the modern American south.

However, I do understand much more of monarchical matters thanks to a recent visit—er, holiday, as they say—in the U. K. It's one thing to read about William the Conqueror, Richard the Lionhearted, Henry the Eighth, Victoria, Charles (pick a number), Diana, William, Harry, even Camilla in books and newspapers. Yet I must admit that the castles, armor, and jewels are impressive when one is actually in the "realm" and among flesh and blood royal subjects.

Real Royalty To be sure, the British monarchy isn't what it once was. Do keep in mind, though, that I speak as a lad who grew up not in an East Sussex village but in an East Nashville 'hood. I've never seen a king—unless you count Roy Acuff or Arnold Palmer, "kings" of country music and golf, respectively.

As grand as all the trappings of British royalty are when seen firsthand, nothing compares to the glory of King Jesus. Here are six differences I noted in reflecting on our U. K. holiday.

- **START OF REIGN**—Westminster Abbey has hosted the coronation of every English king from the time of William the Conqueror in 1066. Newly crowned monarchs

have occupied the Abbey's coronation chair upon their investiture since 1300. But Jesus' reign had no point of origin. He has existed and will exist throughout eternity as King of Kings. "Glorify me with the glory that I had with you before the world existed," He asked the Father in John 17:5.

- **END OF REIGN**—Our U. K. visit took us to cathedrals and cemeteries filled with royal crypts. At St. George's Chapel in Windsor, Henry the Eighth's tomb lies beneath the choir aisle, of all things. The reign of Christ, however, is without an end. He died and was buried once, but is "alive forevermore" (Rev. 1:18), ruling "a kingdom that cannot be shaken" (Heb. 12:28).

- **GLORY ON DISPLAY**—The Tower of London houses the Crown Jewels—diamond-encrusted crowns, scepters, swords, and the like. Jesus displays His glory not in glass cases but throughout a designer-made universe formed by His own word (Ps. 19:1) and redeemed by the glorious gospel of grace (2 Cor. 4:4; John 1:14).

- **THREATS TO POWER**—While British monarchs depend on the Grenadier and Coldstream Guards for protection, the Lord Christ lives and reigns without threat in His absolute supremacy. "No one takes (my life) from me, but I lay it down of my own accord," He affirmed in John 10:18.

- **CHARACTER ISSUES**—Despite the honorable image of royalty, rulers have sometimes lived less than stellar lives. Henry the Eighth and Mary the First's (bloody Mary) misdeeds come to mind. By contrast, King Jesus is holy, innocent, and without sin's stain (Heb. 7:26).

- **LIMITS OF POWER**—At Salisbury Cathedral we closely examined one of only four copies of the Magna Carta. Signed in 1215 by King John, the document began the efforts of the common people to limit the often arbitrary powers of the king. Yet Christ's power knows no limitations at all. He "upholds all things by the word of his power" (Heb. 1:3).

I have a different mindset as I approach the Advent season this year. I plan to look more closely at the infant Jesus for royal reminders of His reign in my life. Christ is the King. Be sure He is your King. **ONE**

NEWS

around the denomination



Randall House Digital Editor

NASHVILLE, TN—Adam Clagg has been selected as the Digital Editor for Randall House *Curriculum on Demand*. He will be working with a variety of freelance writers to develop topical Bible studies, which will be available to download from the *Curriculum on Demand* website that will be launched this summer.

Adam serves as the executive pastor of Covenant FWB Church in Soddy Daisy, TN. He also teaches online for University of Phoenix and Grand Canyon University.

Adam is a graduate of FWBCC. He holds an M.A. in Youth and Family Ministry from Lee University, and an ED.S. in Educational Leadership from Liberty University. Currently, he is working on his doctorate at Liberty.

Contact Adam at adam.clagg@randallhouse.com



Congress Passes IRA Gift Options

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In response to the recent Wall Street crisis, Congress passed the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, which permits investors ages 70 and older to make donations to FWB ministries of up to \$100,000 per year from their IRAs.

While no income tax deductions are available for IRA gifts, donors may save taxes anyway, when gifts take the place of required minimum distributions (which otherwise are 100% taxable).

To take advantage of this opportunity, donors should contact their IRA trustee or custodian as soon as possible—preferably before receiving any required minimum distributions. Transfers for 2008 must be completed by December 31, 2008. Distribution checks should be issued in the name of a FWB ministry, not to the account owner, with notification to the charity.

To learn how the IRA gift options can benefit you or the ministry you support, contact the Free Will Baptist Foundation at (877) 336-7575.

Nineteen Attend Palmer Leadership Institute

ANTIOCH, TN—Nineteen Free Will Baptist leaders from 12 states gathered in Antioch, TN, September 23-24, for the *Palmer Leadership Institute*. The training program designed for pastors and church leaders was sponsored by the Executive Office and conducted by Dr. Douglas Earls (OK) at the National Office Building near Nashville. Presented in three two-day courses, the institute will eventually be offered to all Free Will Baptist pastors and church leaders through a series of regional conferences.

“Those who attended the conference gained a wealth of leadership training,” said Ryan Lewis, conference organizer. “Dr. Earls shares practical, real life information in a down-to-earth, enjoyable presentation. I think any church leader will benefit from these sessions.”

A Missouri native, Earls has pastored Calvary Chapel FWB Church in Buffalo, MO, for 19 years. Under his leadership, the church has experienced significant numerical growth. Doug presents leadership training in the nation of Panama each year and has assisted in the development the seminary in Chame.

NEWS

around the denomination

A New Logo, A New Purpose



ANTIOCH, TN—The Media Commission of the National Association of Free Will Baptists is pleased to unveil its new logo, the winner of a design contest sponsored by the commission in September. Marc Nepl, a 2007 graduate of Gateway Christian College, submitted the winning entry.

Marc and his wife Casie are associate home missionaries at CrossPointe Free Will Baptist church in Suffolk, VA. Entries included 14 designs from six participants and were judged anonymously by a panel of professionals including the commission, design department at Randall House, Eric Thomsen, editor of *ONE* magazine, and Sarah Fletcher, editor/designer of *WNAC's Together With God* magazine. Judges were impressed with the quality of all entries, and the winning entry was commended for its simplicity and clean, contemporary feel.

The Media Commission will feature this new logo on a redesigned website located at fwbmedia.com. The site will play a large role in refocusing the commission's emphasis to new forms of media.

The commission plans to develop its website into a clearinghouse of information about new technologies, resources, and vendors. Churches will be able to recommend and review local, regional, and national sources for web and print design, sound and projection systems, and worship resources. The Media Commission hopes to pool the expertise of the denomination for the best and most efficient use of ministry dollars.

A survey of over 200 Free Will Baptists is providing commission members with insights into the media needs and current technologies used by our churches. The results of this survey are available on the commission's website. For more information or to provide feedback to the Media Commission, please see fwbmedia.com or email info@fwbmedia.com.



Phase Two of the Ridge Church Restoration Nears Completion

NEW DURHAM, NH—Seven men from five states recently gathered in New Durham, NH, to complete phase two of the Ridge Church restoration project. The church, founded by Elder Benjamin Randall, was the first church in the northern movement of Free Will Baptists. The congregation, which began meeting in 1793, completed the current building in 1820, making it the oldest FWB church structure in existence.

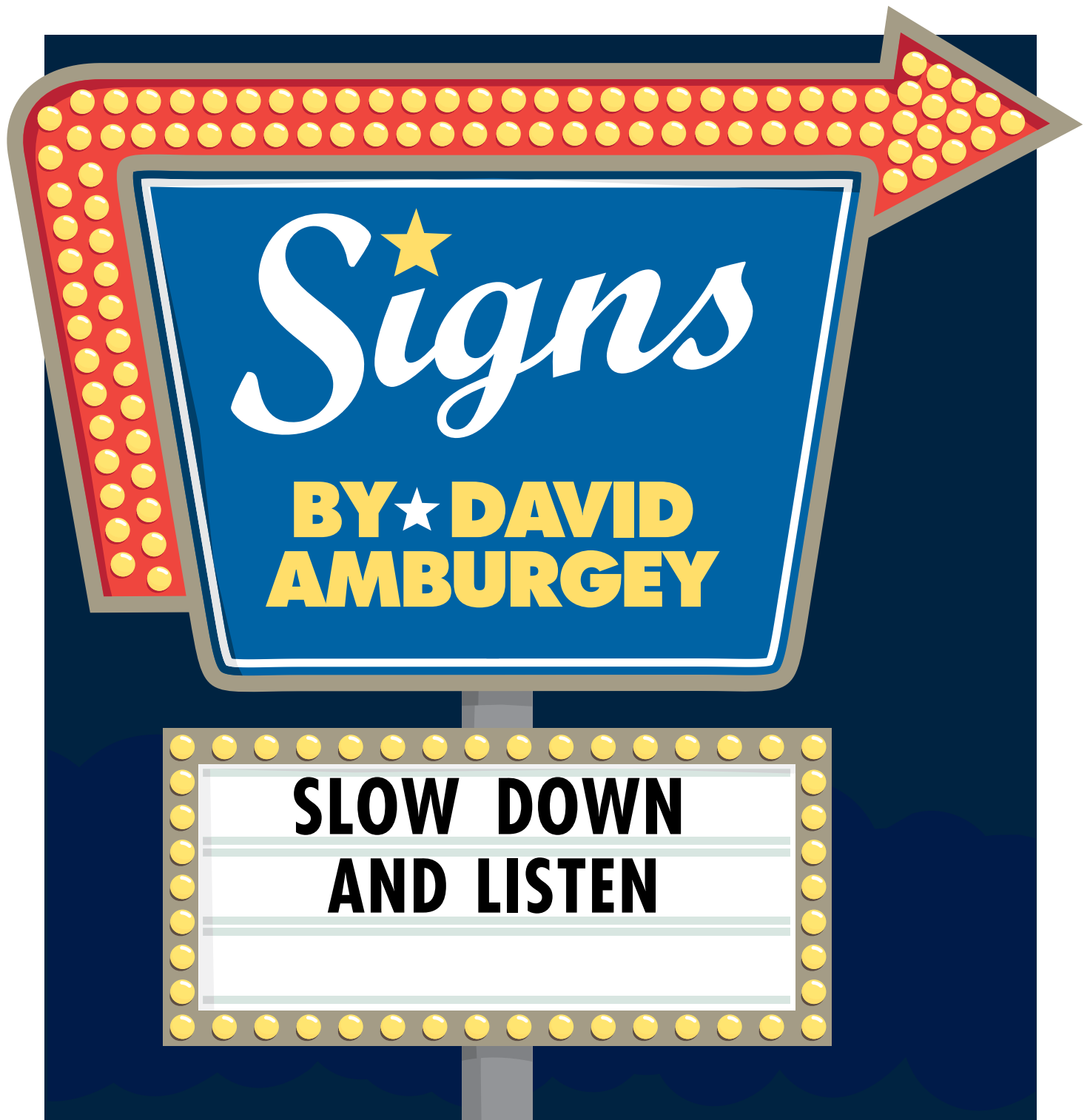
Delegates to the 2007 national convention in Little Rock, AR, voted to help the New Durham congregation (which no longer meets in the Ridge Church) maintain the aging structure in light of its historical significance.

During phase one of the project, volunteers added support beams to repair the sagging roof and replaced the shingles. In addition, the group removed two chimneys and reinforced the bell tower.

Volunteers for phase two of the project stripped peeling paint from the building, carefully restoring the surface for painting. Although hampered by rain, the group finished painting everything but the bell tower. In addition, they painted the foyer of the church and installed a drainage system to prevent standing water.

Coordinator Ken Akers said, "These men came to paint, and paint they did! We finished almost everything we came to do and had a great time doing it."

To find out how you can be part of Phase Three, or to learn more about the Ridge Church restoration, visit www.fwbmastersmen.org.



IF YOU EVER FIND YOURSELF traveling north on I-95 from Savannah, Georgia, you will encounter many signs and billboards along the way, each pointing travelers to a particular destination or attraction.

This particular stretch of highway introduces drivers to an unusual character named Pedro. Every few miles (and

sometimes every few feet) another billboard featuring a beaming Pedro in a large sombrero advertises “South of the Border,” a tourist trap near the North Carolina state line. Over the years, the quirky character and his brightly colored billboards have become as well known as the amusement park itself.

Everywhere we go there are signs to show us where to go. No matter what you are looking for—gas station, fast food, dry cleaners, or department store—you can find it if you follow the signs. Sometimes, signs urge us to do things we wouldn't normally think of doing or even want to do.

Jesus described two signs to His followers in Matthew 16:4, the sign demanded by the Pharisees (proof of God's power) and the sign of Jonah (instructions to carry out God's will). Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for looking for a sign of proof. Instead, He emphasized the importance of following God without "proof" of His power.

Day in and day out, God provides signs—reminders pointing in the direction He wills us to go. The key to understanding the will of God comes from learning to recognize the signs. If we truly wish to follow what God has in store for us, we must follow His signs. Do you know what to look for?

Subtle Signs

God's signs are often subtle, and we must be alert to catch them. Peter tells believers to be sober and vigilant (1 Peter 5:8). The term *vigilance* describes staying awake and keeping watch. Peter learned this lesson well when Jesus told his disciples, "Keep watch and pray, that you may not enter into temptation." When the tired men fell asleep, Christ promptly rebuked them for not being vigilant. We must remain alert for the signs God has for us.

In Galatians, Paul told his readers to "walk circumspectly," constantly aware, observing our surroundings and noticing everything. We need to take the blinders off, get out of our own little world, get out of the box, and see what is going on around us.

Have you ever been driving somewhere and missed your turn because

you were not paying attention? This is often how we miss the signs God places before us. If our minds are preoccupied, it is easy to miss his direction.

What happens when we miss the sign or miss our turn? Hopefully, we turn around. If not, we end up lost in the maze of life.

God's signs are usually not flashy—accompanied by a big voice and flashing neon lights. Instead, they are subtle and easily missed. We must remember that God did not speak to Elijah in wind, fire, or earthquake but in a still, small voice.

When He called Samuel, He used that same, quiet voice in the still of the night. Thankfully, even as a child, Samuel was more alert than most. You can be sure God will not smack us on the forehead and tell us, "You should have had a V8!" He quietly gives us direction. If we aren't paying attention, it's our fault.

Spiritual Signs

God's signs are always spiritual, so we need to remain acceptable. Paul told the Romans to present their bodies as "living sacrifice(s), holy, acceptable unto God" (12:1b). Holy, surrendered living is a natural by-product to remaining alert, sober, and vigilant. And this lifestyle makes us sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

During my time in the United States Air force, I was stationed in Okinawa. Like the States, Okinawa had many signs along the road. Though I sometimes understood the gist of what the sign was advertising, I never knew for sure what the sign said, because I didn't know the language.

When a Christian is not in proper communion with God, he cannot understand God's signs because he no longer "speaks the language." We must stay close to the Lord in order to understand His directions for our lives.

Serious Signs

God's signs are always serious business. Too many times we miss His direction because we fail to take our Christian lives seriously.

This is evident in a lack of availability. Other things begin to take precedence over the things of God, the things that God wants for us in our lives. Family, friends, jobs, sports, hobbies—we must not allow them to rob God's time.

When our priorities are out of order, we begin to think things such as, "I don't have time right now," "God will tell me again later," or "I can do that anytime." God wants us to be available now and always.

As drivers pass the North Carolina state line on I-95, a forlorn Pedro informs them, "You missed it!" How often do we miss the signs God has placed before us because we weren't paying attention? We must remain alert, become and stay acceptable, and be available. Only then will we be able to follow God's roadmap for our lives. **ONE**

About the Writer: David Amburgey pastors Baxley FWB Church, Baxley, GA.

Side Trip: Want to visit Pedro from your living room? Visit www.wikipedia.org and search for "South of the Border" for more information and a gallery of humorous Pedro billboards.



ONETOONE

My Pastor—My Hero

He was my father in the ministry and epitomized the word PASTOR.

Preacher. He was a true preacher of the gospel. I had the privilege of sitting under his preaching for 17 years. He did not have much formal education but was a genuine student of the Word.

I never heard him preach a “bad” sermon. He didn’t tell jokes, stories, or use many illustrations. He kept Scripture in proper context.

His delivery was powerful, passionate, and persuasive. He believed what he was saying and convinced listeners to agree. He followed the advice he gave me—stand up, speak up, shut up, and sit down!

Abrupt. Other synonyms could be used...direct, frank, candid, honest. I never asked my pastor what he thought unless I really wanted to know, because he would tell me the truth.

Singer. This guy had a voice! No one could sing *The Master of Blue Galilee* quite like him. He influenced me to love and appreciate music and encouraged young folks to use their voices by singing in church. He showed me that you didn’t have to be a sissy to be a singer.

Tenderhearted. His tough exterior could fool you. Unless you spent some time around him you could miss this quality. Though not overly emotional, he could feel deeply. On occasions I saw him weep.



*In loving memory of
Reverend Bailey Thompson (1931-2008)*



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



Photo: Mark Cowart

Alzheimer’s disease ravaged his final days, but when he still recognized me he would hug me, tell me he was proud of me, and wipe tears from his eyes.

Observant. While attending youth camp the summer of 1971, I sat struggling with God’s call upon my life during an evening service. It had been an ongoing struggle I thought was unnoticed. My pastor walked over, put his arm around my shoulder and asked, “Is the Lord calling you to preach?”

That’s all it took. I surrendered my life to the ministry. Without his encouragement it would have been difficult to publicly acknowledge the call to preach. He later told me he had observed God dealing with me for some time.

Responsible. My pastor was responsible for my going to Hillsdale. He said if I was going to be a preacher I needed to attend a Free Will Baptist college. He was also responsible for my staying in school. My freshman year I became unsettled and considered changing colleges. One winter’s day, my pastor drove over 200 miles to give me one of his “abrupt” lectures. I don’t remember all he said, except he convinced me to stay in school. He kept me from doing something I would have regretted later.

My pastor was partially responsible for my life partner. Before I ever met her, he told me I would marry Debbie. The rest, of course, is history.

To some extent he was responsible for my being Executive Secretary today. Unknowingly, he pointed me down this road—baptizing me in 1966, ordaining me in 1975, and he never stopped cheering me on to be all that I could be for God.

Without apology I say thank you to my hero, Pastor Bailey Thompson, for being a godly role model and believing in a little nobody boy from Poteau, Oklahoma. **ONE**



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