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MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

DECEMBER-JANUARY 2011

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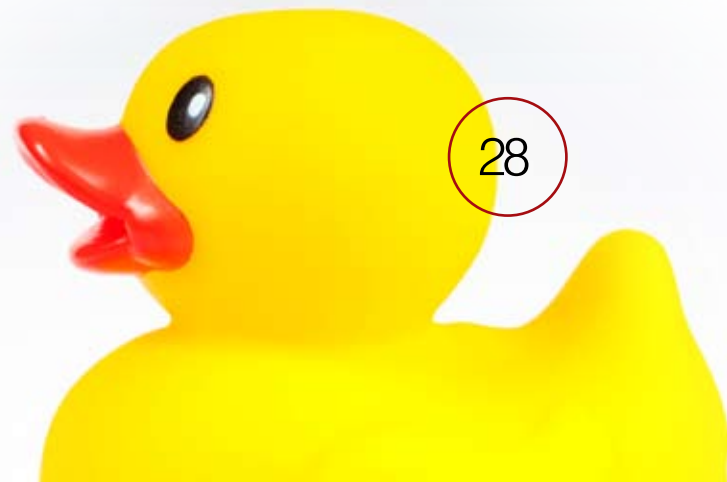
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FIRST GLIMPSE

Frustrating Friday

ERIC THOMSEN
MANAGING EDITOR



Photo: Mark Cowart

IT STARTED EARLY ONE FRIDAY MORNING.

As I leaned back in my office chair and took a first satisfying sip of strong, black coffee, I glanced down and froze. Brown shoes, gray pants, black belt, plaid blue shirt, and orange striped tie—I looked like a high schooler ready for Tacky Day. Pretty bad, even for a guy who struggles with colors.

As I tried to shake off the obvious wardrobe malfunction, a coworker stuck his head in the door and asked, “Are you ready for your trip?” I shot him a blank look. “What trip?”

The rest of the morning was lost in a flurry of last-second travel plans and “let them know I’m coming” calls. Perhaps that is why I missed the urgent voicemail from my wife. When I finally returned her call, I learned that our recently repaired roof had sprouted a leak. Water was streaming into the entryway of our home.

Rain! Muttering a quick apology, I hung up the phone and dashed to my car to roll up the windows. Not that it mattered. Puddles already stood in the floorboards, and my seats were soaked through.

I sloshed my way back into the office wondering, “What else could go wrong?”

That’s when I found a Fed-Ex package waiting in my chair—waiting with freshly printed copies of *ONE Magazine*. For several moments, I simply stood and held the box in my hands. Should I open it on such a frustrating Friday? What would I find inside? Would the headline be misspelled or the cover printed upside down? Holding my breath, I slid a letter opener through the packing tape.

It was beautiful. With the exception of a couple of small typos, I found nothing that would distract from the important messages within. I breathed a deep sigh of relief.

As I recounted my misfortunes to my family later that afternoon, we shared a good laugh. Then my daughter said something I will never forget. “Dad, aren’t you glad that tomorrow is another day?”

You know, I really am.

Perhaps that is what the prophet Jeremiah had in mind when he laid aside his weeping to pen the following words. “It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning.”

I relish the thought of a new day, a new issue, a new year—a new beginning. As we find ourselves on the brink of 2011, I challenge you to cling to Jeremiah’s promise. Forget the failures of the past. Embrace the promise of the future, and revel in the opportunities and challenges of the coming year.

With that in mind, I am going to ask my wife to help me pick out some matching clothes for tomorrow. **ONE**

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

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LETTERS

Have something to say?

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

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

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

I APPRECIATED THE EDITORIAL, "THE BUCK STOPPED AT MY HOUSE," (FIRST GLIMPSE, February-March 2010). I prepare Sunday School material for my church, and I am working on Stewardship lessons for January. I would like to include an excerpt from your article in a handout I am preparing. I will make 250 to 300 copies for our adult Sunday School classes. What would I need to do to get your permission to reprint?

Larry Gunnoe (via email)

FROM THE EDITOR: Thank you for your question, Larry. Local churches and other ministry organizations may reprint articles from *ONE Magazine* with the following credit line: Reprinted by permission from *ONE Magazine*: www.onemag.org. A courtesy email to editor@nafwb.org is always appreciated.

YOUR ARTICLE "THREE-QUARTERS" REMINDED ME OF A SIMILAR SITUATION MY WIFE AND

I encountered many years ago in Virginia City, Montana. We noticed a sign that said "Alder's Gulch: Five Miles" posted on the side of a building. We followed the road and soon came to a plate-sized sign in a tree with the number one painted on it. We continued on past similar signs numbering up to five, with no sign of our destination.

When we came to a fresh-made stockade with horses inside, we figured someone might be able to give us directions to Alder's Gulch. That "someone" turned out to be about six-foot-six with a shotgun over his shoulder. When we made our inquiry, he replied rather sternly, "I don't know nothing about Alder's Gulch!"

When we returned to town, a closer reading of the sign showed point five (.5) mile. We had a good laugh as we realized we had driven well beyond the gulch! Thank you for reminding me of a most pleasant vacation with my late wife. That was the week of our 18th anniversary.

Robert E. Esler, Taylor, MI

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A Free Will Baptist soldier finds God's hand at work in the desert.

LET IT

RAIN



BY BEN CRABTREE



OVER AND OVER,
THEY BEGGED FOR
RAIN TO FALL.

DEPLOYED

The first deployment is unforgettable! While waiting in Baltimore airport for the plane that would take me to a desert war zone on the other side of the globe, I made one final call to my best friend—my wife. I couldn't hold back the tears as we talked, in spite of the hundreds of soldiers sitting around me.

I muttered the words "I love you" at least a hundred times. I was sick to my stomach because I didn't know whether or not I would see my family again. I couldn't even talk to my children because I was crying too hard.

Then my wife did something I will never forget. She prayed. She prayed hard, and she didn't stop when I got on the plane. Every night my family sits down together and prays for their daddy. They read Psalm 91 and ask for God's continued protection for me. I can honestly say I have experienced that protection more than once since I arrived in Afghanistan. I have experienced His miraculous intervention again and again.

Even as a soldier, my ultimate desire is to tell others about Jesus. I take every opportunity to share what the Lord has done in my life, and many times, fellow soldiers come to me with questions. One night, a soldier asked the meaning of the phrase, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

I was taken aback by his question, to say the least, but the Lord gave me an opportunity to speak to him for nearly an hour. I think the Lord is dealing with him, and hopefully by the time this article appears in print, he will already know Christ as his Savior.

A DRY AND WEARY LAND

I want to share another story with you in this article, however. You might call it one of those "God moments." After I told this story to Home Missions Director Larry Powell, he asked me to share it with everyone. My hope is that you are encouraged by what I have to say.

As I'm sure you know, Afghanistan is a dry land. I now have more insight into the men of the Bible and the land they inhabited. The mountains, hills, and deserts contain little water. After many months without rain, the land began to get extremely dry. My interpreter told me that the river had dried up, that the country was in dire need of rain. Snow had not fallen as usual, and there was not enough water to supply the needs of the population.

He continued by telling me that once a week, many of his people went to the mosque to pray for rain. Over and over, they begged for rain to fall. As I listened, I am not sure what came over me, but I told him that I would pray that very day for rain. He just stared at me, and I knew the discussion was over.

RAIN IN THE DESERT

When my work for the day was completed, I found a place to be alone and said a quick prayer for rain. "Lord, would you use this opportunity to show my interpreter who You are, and let it rain tonight? I know you are God, and I pray for the right words to say." After praying, I went back to my room to begin my coursework.

EVEN IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE I AM NOT ALLOWED TO SHARE THE GOSPEL OPENLY, THE LORD HAS GIVEN ME OPPORTUNITIES TO WITNESS.

When the first notes of the Christian song “Let It Rain” began to play, I felt chills run down my spine. I got up and went to the door. It was raining. Not sprinkling...raining! It rained for five days without stopping. God not only answered my prayer, He went above and beyond. I could hardly sleep that night for my excitement. The next day, I said nothing to my interpreter during my mission. But at the end of the day, he turned to me and said, “Crabtree, you are clean. You are different.” That was the last of our conversation.

Even in an environment where I am not allowed to share the gospel openly, the Lord has given me opportunities to witness. In fact, He has amazed me with the opportunities He has provided! Not only has He sent people to me, He has proven time and again that He is behind me completely. He has demonstrated that the gospel of Jesus Christ is “the way, the truth, and the life,” and He is “not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9b).

Any time I feel alone, out of place, isolated, or even in danger, I rest peacefully, knowing God is the one and only true God. My Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He

is the Alpha and Omega. The Holy Spirit is with me, and I am never alone. He hears and answers my prayers.

I am not sure if my interpreter will ever come to know Christ. My duty is to live a holy life and to be a light to those who do not know the truth. I am grateful that I have been given an opportunity to serve my country and protect others from the enemies of freedom. As a result of my deployment, I have a deeper appreciation for John 3:16, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, and 1 John 1:9.

WHERE ARE YOU DEPLOYED?

It does not matter where our roads lead us, whether it is Afghanistan or across the street. Wherever we go, God wants us to be witnesses to His grace. He will give us the boldness and the words to say if we are just willing to speak up for Him. Jesus has promised to be with us all the way. My goal in writing this article was to encourage you to be a witness where God has placed you, and remember, He will never leave you or forsake you. He might even bring rain to the desert! **ONE**



ABOUT THE WRITER: PFC Benjamin Crabtree is the son of Home Missionaries Jeff and Donna Crabtree who minister in Canada. “I want to thank everyone for their support,” Ben says. “Please continue to pray for the soldiers who are deployed, and when you get a chance, read Psalm 91 about God’s protection. God Bless!”

DISCIPLE- SHIP: **MORE** THAN INFORMATION

CERTAINLY, SHARING TRUTH FROM

God's Word is necessary to help new believers get off to a good start in their new life in Christ. Their continued discipleship will depend greatly on a steady diet of God's Word. At Sloan Canyon Church, we immediately place them in a class for new believers where we use Robert Morgan's book, *Simple: The Christian Life Doesn't Have to Be Complicated*. After completing the course, we incorporate them into a Bible study group and strive to provide them with solid expository preaching in corporate worship services.

But, discipleship doesn't stop there! It requires not only information but also atmosphere. Our church family shines in this area. Our congregation is chatty and loves hugs. We have to turn off the lights and start locking doors to encourage them to go home. Even then, they may stand on the front porch talking. It is not unusual to have a crowd still enjoying fellowship an hour or so after the service has ended.

Each Sunday morning, we have a time for greeting one another, which is almost a disruption because it takes several minutes to get everyone to return to their seats. But, after experiencing this time of fellowship, it is obvious our congregation genuinely loves

one another in a Christ-honoring way. I often am tired after a service, but I take great joy in finding a place to rest where I can watch our congregation like a proud parent, praising the Lord that they really do love one another.

You may think, "That's nice, but what does talking and hugging have to do with discipleship?" It has *everything* to do with discipleship. A loving, nurturing, accepting, and encouraging atmosphere is vital to discipleship. Not only are people more likely to come to Christ in a loving church atmosphere, they also are more likely to attend that church and grow in Christ. A nurturing and encouraging atmosphere where people are loved, accepted, and inspired is the most appealing aspect of our church. New believers desire to grow in Christ, and they want to help others grow as well. This makes the church an exciting place!

When the Apostle Paul was concerned about the Christians in Colosse turning away from their faith in Christ, he shared the burden of his heart for their fellowship. It was his desire that, "Their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love..." (Colossians 2:2a). Paul hoped the close-knit relationship would lead them to attain the "riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of



the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; in Whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:2b, 3). Paul knew that the right atmosphere is a key source of strength for those who are growing in their Christian walk.

There are many great sources for discipleship material, but your church must supply the atmosphere. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: D. Keith Bartlett is pastor of Sloan Canyon FWB Church in Castaic, CA. Learn more about the work of Free Will Baptist Home Missions at www.homemissions.net.

A LOVING, NURTURING, ACCEPTING, AND ENCOURAGING ATMOSPHERE IS VITAL TO DISCIPLESHIP.

Kristina's Hope

BY KRISTINA FILIPPOVICH

**My name is Kristina.
I'm 25, and the brightest part of
my life began when I turned 22,
the day I heard God's voice.**

From the time I was a little girl I had the feeling that Someone was watching me, the One who always helped me through difficult times. I knew that people called Him "God." I have no idea how I knew about Him; probably, my parents told me that once.

I was a quiet child, always trying to do everything right. I thought, "I have to be a good, nice person." I remember feeling that I wanted to know a purpose for my life. Often, I would ask myself, "What happens after my life is over?" I couldn't find the answer.

In 2002, I graduated from high school and had to choose a profession. As a child I dreamed of becoming a dentist, so I decided to follow my dream and attend a medical university. This required me to move to another city—a huge step for me and a serious change for my parents. When I was accepted to the university, I moved away from my hometown.

That's when my grown-up life started.

For me, it was a school of real life. I saw more violence, faced indifference from the people around me, and experienced lies and slyness. I had to survive among such people, and I began to be like the people around me. But inside of me there was a fight. Somehow I knew I was created for other things. I was always ready to help people, but there was no use for my help. No one cared. Often, I felt that I was turning into a different person whom I didn't recognize. I didn't feel free.

Sometimes I would go to an Orthodox church with my Mom, light a candle, and pray the "Holy Father" prayer. While I was in the church, I felt peace inside. But when I left the building, my peace would disappear and I would be the same girl. The world was luring me back to "normal" life. I was eager to change something, but I had no exact idea what I should change. I had wonderful, loving parents, a good education, and a great profession, but these things seemed to have no sense. My heart was empty inside. One day I said to myself, "That's enough. I have to change my life!" But how? I slipped into a deep depression, staying at home most of the time or wandering the streets alone.

I lived in a dormitory on my university campus, and my roommate was a former classmate who had shared the same school desk. In high school our friendship fell apart,

as happens with stubborn people. When I met her at the university, I noticed she had changed. She won my attention with her kindness and open heart. I remembered she had been just the opposite. I was astonished how much she had changed! I knew she went to church every Sunday. She always praised God when she spoke and kept saying that everything she had was because of Him. So, I asked her to take me to her church one day.

It was February 2007 when I went to Good News Baptist Church in Chelyabinsk. I felt peace and calmness. People smiled at me; they were interested in who I was. I had missed that feeling in my life. I felt I was visiting a whole different planet, where people have other views and treat one another differently. I saw the “sense of life” for which I was searching. When I heard the preacher for the first time and heard the beautiful songs of worship, my eyes filled with tears. I don’t remember what it was about—the sermon, the songs—but I do remember the call of God, the One who called me for so long. I felt as if I came broken into a thousand small pieces, and then all of them came together into a new person, a person free and pure. I accepted Jesus, and thanks to Him, I found myself. My eyes saw the world in a new light. I saw my past life, my sins, and I accepted Him with all of my heart and never want to let Him go.

I went to a Bible study group and a year later, on April 6, 2008, I was baptized. After that, I was invited to sing in a church worship group. All this time I am more and more thankful to Him for His love, His strength inside of me. He holds me in His hands, takes care of me, teaches me, and shows His Love. I’m so thankful to Him for the life He gave me, for the miracles He makes in my life, for the people

around me, for His mercy on me. He gave me a chance to become one of His people. I’m His daughter, and He is my loving Father!

I always want my life to belong to Him. I pray to Him where I can. I want to serve Him here in the world with the talents He gave me. Now I know the answer to my lifetime question, “What happens when my life is over?”

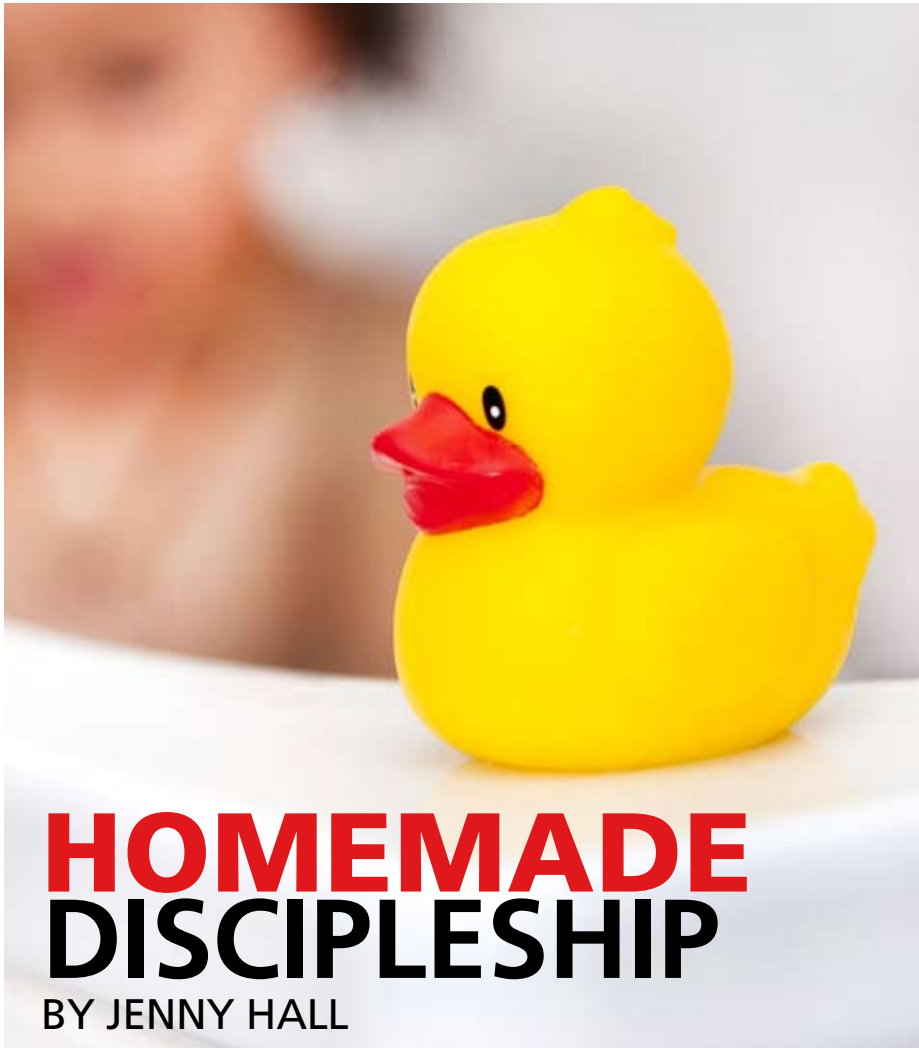
I felt as if I came broken into a thousand small pieces, and then all of them came together into a new person, a person free and pure.

"Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands" (2 Corinthians 5:1).

About a year ago, I heard about a Christian ship ministry called *Logos Hope*. I had an opportunity to meet with people from the ship and felt a desire to be a part of that ministry. For several months I prayed about it, knowing that everything is in God’s hands. And now I have an opportunity to join the mission on the ship as a volunteer dentist. I want to become a missionary, serving other people. **ONE**



EDITORIAL NOTE: Kristina met Christ through the ministry of Good News Baptist Church in Chelyabinsk, Russia. Mike and Cathy Corley served within this congregation for many years and helped found the Chelyabinsk Bible Institute. Following graduation and internship, Kristina left Chelyabinsk to study at the I.P. Pavlov Medical Institute with specialization in general dentistry. She is leaving her job in a private clinic in St. Petersburg to serve on *Logos Hope*, a ship operated by OM, a ministry partner of Free Will Baptist International Missions.



HOMEMADE DISCIPLESHIP

BY JENNY HALL

MY DAUGHTER ALLISON WAS only 2½-years-old when our family answered God's invitation to plant a Free Will Baptist church in York, Pennsylvania. One of my first thoughts was, "Allison will miss out on the children's programs. How will she come to know Christ? You see, not many months before I had written the following in my journal:

"I just put Allison to bed—what a humbling, heart-stopping thought I had—she is going to spend *eternity somewhere!* It's my privilege and totally overwhelming and awesome responsibility to lead her to my Lord and to Heaven. I've known this all along, but it almost makes me sick to my stom-

ach to think about it tonight."

I cannot express the ache I felt in the depths of my soul that winter night, and I began to pray fervently for Allison to come to know the Lord personally and at an early age.

Not long after we moved to York, Allison began asking a lot of questions about salvation. For several months, as she took her bath, she would say, "Mommy, tell me about how Jesus died." I would share with her the story of Jesus, beginning with His prayer in the garden and ending with Him at the right hand of God. She never tired of hearing the story.

Finally, one night, Allison (who had by then turned four) had a new ques-

tion. "Mommy, why does everybody have to die to live in Heaven with Jesus?" I thought a moment and answered, "Everybody doesn't get to live in Heaven with Jesus when they die. Only those who accept Him as their Savior get to go to Heaven."

"I've never done that," Allison responded.

"You've never done what, Sweetheart?" I asked.

"I've never asked Jesus to forgive my sins."

**IT'S MY PRIVILEGE
AND TOTALLY
OVERWHELMING
AND AWESOME
RESPONSIBILITY TO
LEAD HER TO MY LORD
AND TO HEAVEN.**

I hadn't said anything about forgiveness of sins, so I knew the Holy Spirit had been dealing with her heart. Allison, her daddy, and I sat down on the couch. Allen began asking Allison question after question, and she answered each one with conviction.

When her daddy was finally satisfied that Allison knew what she was doing, he told her, "If you want to be saved, you need to pray yourself. Mommy can't do it for you; I can't do it for you, and nobody else can do it for you, either."

Allison said okay, and proceeded to invite Christ to be her Savior.

When she finished praying, we hugged her and told her how thankful we were that she had chosen to accept Jesus. She started laughing then giggling, and all of a sudden, she started to cry and quickly escalated to sobs.

I pulled her close and asked, “Allison, why are you crying, Honey?”

Between sobs she stammered, “Because . . . I . . . got . . . saved!” What a precious time we shared together.

As I thought back to my first reaction to starting a new work, the Lord encouraged my heart that it’s not programs that change lives; it’s the message that brings repentance. We did not even have a children’s Sunday School at our church yet. Allison was our very first convert in York! Isn’t God good?

It is amazing how many choices we make in a day. Some we have to think about, but most are decided on the spur of the moment. The everyday choices we make let others know what kind of person we are on the inside. We often forget that others are watching to see

what kind of choices we make.

Recently, our family was reminded of this truth while enjoying a meal at Cracker Barrel. As we finished eating,

WE OFTEN FORGET THAT OTHERS ARE WATCHING TO SEE WHAT KIND OF CHOICES WE MAKE.

a lady approached our table. She spoke to Allison and said, “I’ve been watching what a well-behaved young lady you have been. You are also dressed like a little girl should be dressed.” Allison thanked the lady for the compliment, and her daddy and I added our thanks as well.

When I helped Allison dress that morning, I did not think hard and long about what she was going to wear. We had already made the choice that she would always dress modestly. Further, it was not easy for Allison to choose to have a sweet spirit as a hungry four-year-old, but she made the right choice and was rewarded.

It was good for our family to be reminded that people are watching to see what choices we make. People are watching you and your family, too. I pray the Lord will help us all to remember to make the right choices, no matter where we go or what we do. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Allen and Jenny Hall serve as home missionaries in York, PA. Learn more about the ministry of Home Missions at www.homemissions.net.



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MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE

BY RUSTY
CAMPBELL

“GIVE INSTRUCTION TO A WISE MAN, AND HE WILL BE YET WISER; TEACH A JUST MAN, AND HE WILL INCREASE IN LEARNING. THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM; AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY IS UNDERSTANDING” (PROVERBS 9:9-10).

PERILS OF A SECULAR EDUCATION

College students are at a critical point in their lives. It is a time when they develop an identity, formulate worldviews, and prepare for independence. Although the decision of where to attend college will have a significant impact on students and families for the rest of their lives, many still fail to consider Christian higher education as a viable option.

Dr. Steven J. Henderson, president of Christian Consulting for Colleges and Ministries, wrote an article in *Christianity Today* about why parents and students should choose a Christian college. The most revealing statistic from Dr. Henderson’s study was

that 52% of incoming freshmen who identify themselves as born-again and attend a public university will no longer identify themselves as born-again four years later. Freshmen who attend private secular colleges have a greater rejection rate at 63%.

In light of such grim statistics, many parents might contend that their child would fall into the 48% who did not reject their faith after four years. After all, they had 18 years to train and prepare them for what they will face at the university.

However, Howard Kurtz of *The Washington Post* reported a study that concluded 72 percent of those teaching at American universities and colleges are self-described liberals: “The liberal label that a majority of the faculty members attached to themselves is reflected in a variety of issues. The professors and instructors surveyed are, strongly or somewhat, in favor of abortion rights (84%); believe homosexuality is acceptable (67%); and want more environmental protection ‘even if it raises prices or costs jobs’ (88%).”

ALTERNATIVE TO A SECULAR EDUCATION

At Free Will Baptist Bible College, our mission is to educate leaders to serve Christ, His Church, and His world through biblical thought and life. When I visit families of prospective students and discuss the potential role that FWBBC can play in their lives, I usually encounter a number

of objections as to why they can’t see themselves at FWBBC. Here are four that frequently arise.

Reason #1—Attending FWBBC is too expensive.

The subtitle to Dr. Henderson’s article asks: *Is A Lower Price Worth the Cost?* The impetus for his research was the downward spiral of his own freshman daughter who went to a public institution on a scholarship. He contends that the cost of the pain and suffering their family endured far exceeded the monetary savings of attending the public institution.

That’s why FWBBC is committed to helping students pay for their education and graduate with a minimum of debt. The good news is that 90% of our student population currently receives some type of financial aid. In 2008, that financial aid totaled nearly \$4 million, which means substantial resources are available in the form of scholarships and federal aid, and are within the reach of almost every FWBBC student. Each semester, some 300 FWBBC students find ways to finance their education. You can be one of that number, and we can help!

Reason #2—FWBBC doesn’t have my major, so I must go somewhere else.

While it is true many Christian colleges only offer a handful of degrees, “up to 50% of college students change their majors at least once before graduation, and some several times” (Leonard, 2009). A student can obtain

a solid biblical foundation by attending a Christian college his first two years. Dr. Henderson's research shows that the first year of college is the most critical for establishing a course for religious commitment while in college.

At FWBBC, we are aware of the need for Christian laity in a variety of fields for which we do not offer degrees. However, we also have a number of associate's degrees that can be obtained in two years. With regional and national accreditation, these degrees can transfer to virtually any college to be applied toward a bachelor's degree

52% OF
INCOMING FRESHMEN

who identify themselves as born-again and attend a public university will no longer identify themselves as born-again four years later.



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 Leonard, Michael J., "Major Decisions for Students Exploring Majors." Penn State, <http://www.psu.edu/dus/md/mdintro.htm> (accessed August 25, 2010).

in a student's field of choice.

Reason #3—FWBBC is just for preachers and missionaries.

FWBBC offers over 40 programs of study. These programs include not only pastoral ministry, youth ministry, missions, and teacher education, but they also include sports management, psychology, business, English, science, music, pre-law, pre-nursing, and others.

One of the benefits of a FWBBC education is that all our graduates are required to take a strong core of Bible classes. FWBBC believes this is a key component in fulfilling the mission of educating leaders to serve Christ and His Church.

Reason #4—I won't be able to do anything with a degree from FWBBC.

FWBBC is accredited regionally by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The commission also accredits the best private and public institutions, including flagship state universities, throughout the south-east region.

FWBBC also maintains its long-standing accreditation with the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), which is approved by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). The FWBBC teacher education program is approved by the Tennessee State Department of Education to offer degrees leading to teacher education licensure in grades Pre K-12.

Many FWBBC graduates transition easily into graduate school once a bachelor's degree has been obtained.

Additionally, the teacher education program enjoys a 100% placement rate for graduates, and approximately 75% of business graduates will have job placement on graduation day.

YOU ALWAYS HAVE A CHOICE

While the importance of a Christian education is significant for today's culture, it is not a new phenomenon. Daniel and his peers faced the same challenges 2,500 years ago when the Babylonians forced their culture on the captive Hebrew teenagers (Daniel 1). As the author of the Proverb said, "...the knowledge of the holy is understanding."

Choosing Christian higher education provides young people with the biblical foundation necessary to navigate the postmodern culture of today. Like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, may our students be found 10 times better in all matters of wisdom and understanding in all the realm.

This brings us back to Dr. Henderson's question: Is the lower price of a secular education worth the cost? Remember that you *can choose* the Christian education alternative at FWBBC, and we are ready to help you make that option a reality.

For more information regarding Free Will Baptist Bible College, visit www.fwbcc.edu. To request information about attending FWBBC or to learn more about financial aid, please send an email to: recruit@fwbcc.edu.

ONE

ABOUT THE WRITER: Rusty Campbell is director of enrollment services at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Learn more about the college at www.fwbcc.edu.

RETIRED... But **STILL** a Disciple

BY NORMA JACKSON GOLDMAN

No set date or time establishes the point at which a believer transitions from being discipled to being a disciple maker. The transition may be so subtle that the person involved actually makes no note of it. But maturation as a believer is a natural process—part of the life-long transformation of becoming more and more like our Savior, the process Scripture refers to as “sanctification.” There is no more beautiful picture than a person, redeemed by faith in Jesus’ work on the cross, who takes on more and more of the likeness of the Father.



God designed the process in the context of relationships on two levels. The first is our relationship with Him, a vertical relationship that focuses upward, acknowledging Him as the source of strength, the focus of worship, and the One who shapes the pattern of our lives. The second is relationships with those closest to us, our extended families and neighbors, our coworkers, community and our world—relationships changed as a consequence of our growing intimacy with God.

The first person to disciple me was my pastor, possible because the church where I came to faith in Christ was fairly small. He took me under his wing spiritually and taught me the foundational principles of Bible study, prayer, worship, giving, and serving. He did not use difficult theological terms (I don’t think I ever heard him use the word disciple) but spoke in practical, everyday terms I could understand and apply. He guided me into a Bible study with other teens, talked with me personally about giving and serving and modeled all these behaviors naturally, in easy to understand ways.

Thankfully, he believed the best way to learn was to practice (under his watchful eye), and he led me to believe that service is essential to faith in Christ. So, I practiced going to the hospital as he visited the sick. I practiced outreach as I helped him take a community census. I practiced prayer with a group of teens. And I practiced teaching with a group of nine-year old

AS I PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S PLAN FOR BECOMING MORE LIKE HIM, HE REPAYS EVERY EFFORT A HUNDRED TIMES OVER.

girls! Because of his investment, I fell in love with God's Word and dedicated myself to learning as much as I could, as fast as I could. Simply put, he disciplined me.

It would be virtually impossible to describe all the teachers and leaders who contributed to my experiences as a maturing disciple, but my pastors all had a profound influence on my spiritual growth and development. It would be hard to determine whether my understanding of the need to stand

beside new believers and support their maturity came from personal Bible study or from the pulpit, but God used these experiences to impress upon me the urgency of building others in their faith.

In retirement, many have more time to do what they have been doing for years—time to disciple others and to invest in their spiritual growth. Is this your experience? Do you have more time to invest in young pastors—coaching, encouraging and strength-

ening their ministries through personal discussions and prayer.

For me, there is a great deal more time to mentor other women, those who were not so blessed with a strong biblical foundation. Disciple makers find tremendous joy and satisfaction in seeing other believers blossom and thrive because of their investment of time and prayer. As I participate in God's plan for becoming more like Him, He repays every effort a hundred times over. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman enjoys a successful freelance writing career in her retirement. Learn more about the Board of Retirement at www.boardofretirement.com.



How will you make an impact?

Impact
CHARLOTTE

Saturday
07.16.11



WHAT MAKES D6 WORTH THE EFFORT?

By Matt Markins,
Conference Director



**PASSING FAITH ALONG TO THE NEXT
GENERATION DOESN'T COME IN A BOX
SOLD FOR \$199.99.**

IT'S FACE-TO-FACE, LIFE ON LIFE.

**/// I'M A HUGE FAN OF THE NATIONAL
FOOTBALL LEAGUE. IN HIGH SCHOOL, I WAS CONVINCED
I WOULD PLAY PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL. I'VE ALWAYS
BEEN FASCINATED BY WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN A SUPER
BOWL: DEDICATION, HARD WORK, AND ATHLETIC
TALENT. THE GREATEST TEAMS ARE WILLING TO DELAY
GRATIFICATION, SACRIFICE, GO ABOVE AND BEYOND,
AND ENDURE PAIN.**



That's what I see when I look at the team of people who make the D6 Conference a reality. I see people who understand the Word, embrace the vision, and are willing to lead others down the path toward God, even when it means great personal sacrifice.

face, life-on-life. Resources help, but they will never replace the role of Dad and Mom when it comes to discipleship.

Through the D6 Conference, Randall House is bringing a timeless, God-centered message of generational discipleship to a church

CHANGE IS VERY DIFFICULT. IT IS FAR EASIER TO HAND KIDS OVER TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH PASTORS AND SAY, "YOU DISCIPLE THEM."

From time to time, as I watch the Randall House staff make enormous sacrifices for D6, I ask myself if it is really worth it. And time and again, I answer yes. Randall House has been placed in a unique position for such a time as this. Recently, I heard Edwin Hayes, promotional director for the Ohio State Association, describe the mission of Randall House as "getting back to the Bible." It's true. The D6 Conference is about promoting the most effective way to transfer faith to the next generation—generational discipleship. It's an ancient path being lived out in a culture whose slogan is "There's an app for that."

culture where it will be met with resistance. Change is very difficult. It is far easier to hand kids over to children and youth pastors and say, "You disciple them." In contrast, it is difficult, time consuming, and messy to train parents to disciple their own children and teens.

So, what does this mean for Randall House? For whatever reason, God has allowed this small non-profit, Free Will Baptist organization to be the tip of the spear, taking faith back into the home, and piercing a culture that does not always appreciate the things of God. We are pioneers, and pioneering is difficult, dangerous work.

The North American church has become quite efficient at programming, and programming can be good. After all, organization and efficiency are good things. However, passing faith along to the next generation doesn't come in a box sold for \$199.99. It's face-to-

/// IS IT WORTH IT?
Absolutely! God is on the move in our culture, and He is using Randall House and the D6 Conference to light the way.





/// D6 CONFERENCE PROMOTES THE VITAL ROLE OF PARENTS

DALLAS, TX—Nearly 2,000 attendees from Canada, Ecuador, Norway, Scotland, Venezuela, 37 states, and 35 denominations streamed into Frisco, Texas, a suburb of Dallas, to attend the 2010 D6 Conference, September 15-17. The annual, three-day event sponsored by Randall House Publications focuses on building stronger families through mentoring, intentional parenting, and a strong connection between church and home.

D6 stands for Deuteronomy 6:5-7, the passage where God commands dads and moms to take advantage of everyday opportunities to impress God's Word upon the hearts of their children.

Ed Stetzer, president of Lifeway Research; Kevin Le-man, prolific author and marriage/family expert; and Carey Casey, CEO of the National Center for Fathering and director of the White House Task Force on Fatherhood and Healthy Families were among the dozens of speakers that headlined this year's program.

The speakers and workshop presenters tackled difficult issues that threaten today's families, offering suggestions

and creative solutions. Mark Holmen, author of *Faith at Home*, defined D6 as a movement spreading across the world and invited listeners to join the growing number of families who have returned to the biblical model of parenting.

"This year's speakers challenged all of us," said Conference Director Matt Markins. "They inspired us, provoked us, and pushed us to do more to help parents realize the vital role they play in the lives of their children."

Director Ron Hunter summed up the event in one word—momentum. "After a fantastic first year," he said, "we gained credibility with conference attendees, and in our second year, we took a significant leap forward. D6 has become so much more than a conference. It has become a movement."

The 2011 D6 Conference is scheduled for September 21-23. Visit www.d6conference.com to take advantage of early registration pricing.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Eric K. Thomsen is managing editor of *ONE Magazine*.

/// HILLSDALE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE D6 CONFERENCE

THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY DEPARTMENT OF HILLSDALE Free Will Baptist College brought 21 students to the 2010 D6 Conference in Dallas, Texas. In addition to enjoying the conference, the students assisted the staff in a variety of ways: distributing materials, hosting speakers, and setting up and tearing down.

Jeff Sloan, pastoral ministries director, said, "Hillsdale appreciates the opportunity that Randall House offered to our students to be involved in D6. The conference is a great experience for them and has been written into the requirements of our ministry coursework. The D6 ministry model plays an important role in the philosophy of our ministry program."

Randall House Director Ron Hunter thanked the students for their participation at D6. "The students bring energy and excitement to our volunteer team, and I can't tell you how much I appreciate their work. Hillsdale has become a valuable partner of the D6 Conference."



D6 TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2011

DO YOU HAVE A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER IN NEED OF RECOGNITION?

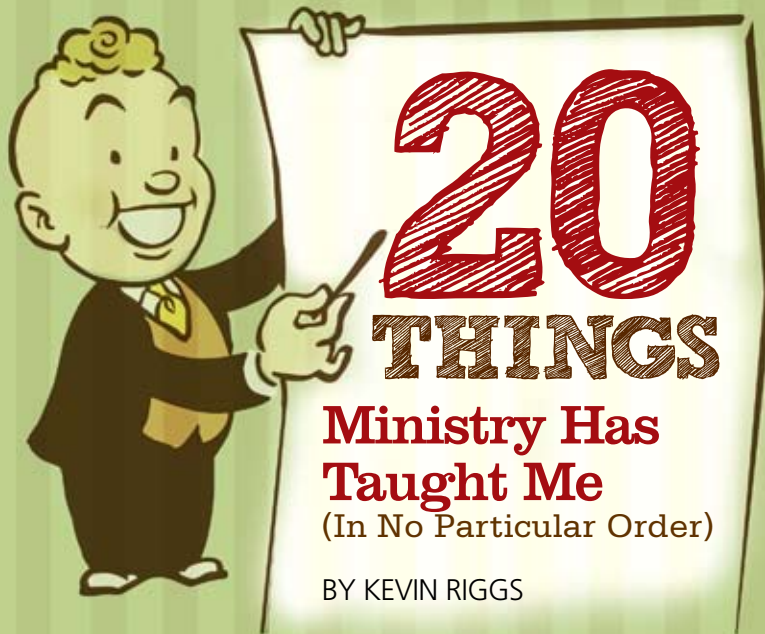
Why sit around and wish?

You can give your Sunday School teacher the acknowledgment he or she deserves by nominating him for the D6 Sunday School Teacher of the Year Award. Go to www.d6curriculum.com/toty to access the nomination form.

Complete the form. Include specific examples and testimonies concerning what makes the teacher worthy of being recognized. Encourage your pastor, Sunday School superintendent, or Christian education director to write a recommendation for the teacher. Send it to Randall House by April 30, 2011.

Nominees must use D6 Sunday School curriculum in order to be considered. All age groups are eligible. The winner will receive a D6 Conference prize package to the 2011 D6 Conference in Dallas, Texas. This prize includes three night's lodging, \$100 meal allowance, \$100 conference book allowance, and a transportation allotment. An additional guest registration to the D6 Conference will also be included. Randall House sponsors this award annually.





01 Every pastor would benefit from some time in bivocational ministry. It will change your perspective, keep you connected to the real world, and give you empathy for the schedule everyone else in the church must keep.

02 The best advice I ever received was during my first few months on the job. The advice was, "Kevin, always remember your walk with Christ is more important than your work for Christ." (Thanks, Rob.)

03 Every pastor needs a Paul and Timothy in his life. My Paul was Dr. James Davis (I miss him terribly), and my Timothy is a guy named Tim.

04 The greatest church I will ever pastor only has four members (counting myself) and a Golden Retriever named Sandy.

05 God has called me to pastor His people, not be the CEO of a religious organization.

06 One of my greatest accomplishments is I have only pastored two churches in 20 years.

10 My harshest critics are other pastors. (I don't understand why.)

07 After 20 years I am more passionate about the power and potential of the local church than ever.

11 Every pastor needs a hobby. Mine is scuba diving.

08 My biggest encourager is my wife Misty. I love you.

12 I love being called "Rev Kev."

09 My greatest passion is seeing God change lives, beginning and continuing with my own.

13 Neckties don't make me any more spiritual.



14 If I could do it all over again...I would.

15 Character is more important than competency.

16 Church growth is the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit, under the sovereign hand of God. Therefore, comparing my church's growth with another church's growth is a waste of time and energy and may even be sinful.

17 The size of my church does not define who I am in Christ Jesus.

18 If I were not a pastor, or if I quit being a pastor tomorrow, Jesus would still love me.

19 Burnout results from losing focus or trying to be something you're not.

20 The single most important thing is love. Love God and love others. In the end, what else is there?

Be a kid again.

2011 Deep South Tournament

Dothan National Golf Course

March 23-25, 2011



The Deep South Golf Tournament is a 54-hole, three-day, two-man scramble sponsored by Master's Men. A bargain at \$325 (\$300 for Master's Men members), the fee includes green and cart fees, three breakfasts, two dinners, and three nights of lodging. Don't miss this chance to enjoy three unforgettable days of fun, fellowship, and fast greens!

Reserve your spot today: (877) 767-8039 | www.fwbmastersmen.org

Course information: www.dothannational.com/golf.html



The changing world of athletics at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

BUMP, SET, SPIKE... SERVE

BY GARY TURNER



Since the age of 12, my life has been devoted to serving Jesus Christ. Trusting Him is a way of life for me. Sure, there have been a few low spots along the way, but God has blessed me many times, and I've learned to trust His will and timing for my life. So when He directed me to Free Will Baptist Bible College to become athletic director in the summer of 2009, I knew it was just another step along my spiritual journey.

Something's Happening Here

This past year (2009-2010) marked my 30th year in Christian higher education. Coming from a university where I administered 14 sports while awarding over \$600,000 in athletic scholarship funds to a school with four sports and no scholarships, I knew this position would be a challenge. But after meeting with President Matthew Pinson and Provost Greg Kettelman, I believed the foundation was in place to see great things happen in the athletic department. Their support for athletics and belief that we could build the program inspired me.

We currently offer four varsity sports (men and women's basketball, baseball, and volleyball). The men's basketball program is the most visible on campus, thanks to efforts of third-year coach Nathan Willhite (2008 FWBBC graduate). But we want to do more and we can do more.

President Pinson and I met last September to discuss the future of athletics at FWBBC. We soon realized we had the same goals in mind—to provide more varsity sport opportunities for Free Will Baptist high school students who wanted to attend FWBBC and to strengthen the sports we already offer.

Going Forward

The first step is to view athletics as vital to the total education of our students. Athletics, if handled correctly, can be an invaluable asset. Not only do our athletes benefit through physical activity, teamwork, and Christian fellowship, the rest of the campus benefits as well. Fellow students, faculty, and staff can attend games and support the Flames' teams. This draws the en-



tire campus together. If more Free Will Baptist high school students attend FWBBC, local churches can follow their athletic progress on our website.

The next step is to add sports that provide opportunities for prospective Free Will Baptist students. Since we currently offer only team sports, it makes sense to add individual sports. The logical choices are men's and women's cross country and men's and women's golf. Although our current campus is landlocked, golf and cross country can be added without additional outdoor facilities. This means a lower operating budget, plus it allows us to widen our athletic recruiting base.

I proposed the addition of cross country and golf to President Pinson, and was amazed at his response: "How soon can we start?"

One Step at a Time

Originally, I thought about adding cross country first. I had done a great deal of research on both cross country and golf, and it appeared to me that cross country should come first. But God had other plans.

One day in January 2010, Sam Horne walked into my office. "I hear you're starting golf at the college," he said. "I want to help any way I can."

Horne, a graduating senior with aspirations of making the pro tour, was an answer to prayer. With his expertise, my mind quickly changed as to which sport should be added first. This fall we started golf, and it has gone well.

Next Steps

Amy Brewer Walker (2003 FWBBC graduate) agreed to be our head volleyball coach. She has brought a new energy to the team and desires to see it grow. A.J. Turner was hired to lead the women's basketball program. So far, numbers look good and expectations are high.

With golf underway, cross country will come on board in fall 2011. Rusty Campbell, enrollment services director, has been working on how to best recruit student athletes. His enthusiasm, energy, work ethic, and desire will definitely make an impact on Free Will Baptist students.

Since more than 90% of our students come from Free Will Baptist churches, we want to target student athletes from within the denomination because they are familiar with the college and more likely to attend. We plan to aggressively recruit Free Will Baptist high school athletes. I believe many young people in our denomination would love to attend FWBBC and have an opportunity to participate in intercollegiate sports.

Positive Attitude

We are a great college, and I believe many of you feel just like I do. Intercollegiate athletics can be a vital part of any college campus.

As the college catalog states, "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." Since sports are a significant part of our society, student/athletes who attend FWBBC not only are trained to lead, but can use their athletic gifts to further the Kingdom.

We Are in This Together

Free Will Baptist Bible College is here to stay. I hope Free Will Baptist churches will join with us and get excited about athletics at FWBBC. We want to fulfill the mission of the college. You can help.

Pray for us.

Attend games if you are in the area.

Send us names of student athletes in your churches who would benefit from attending FWBBC.

If you know of high school athletes who want to participate in collegiate athletics, please contact me immediately at gturner@fwbbc.edu or call me at 615-844-5276. This could make a difference for them both now and for eternity.

If you are a former Flames player, contact me. I would love to hear from you about the benefits you received from sports participation at FWBBC. See you at the ballpark or in the gymnasium or on the back nine.

Go Flames! ONE

ABOUT THE WRITER: Gary Turner is the Physical Education program coordinator and athletic director at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

NEWS at FWBBC

College Enrolls 283 Students

Free Will Baptist Bible College enrolled 283 students from 23 states and five foreign countries for the 2010 fall semester, according to Provost Greg Ketteman. Enrollment statistics indicate a diverse student body with a wide range of academic interests.

Dr. Ketteman said, “We thank God for the students who enroll at FWBBC. That’s especially true this fall as parents confront the harsh economic climate, and by faith send their sons and daughters for a Bible-based education. What an amazing responsibility God has placed in our hands as the next generation of pastors and church planters, missionaries and Christian education leaders, as well as psychologists, musicians, business entrepreneurs, and more, register for classes. We’ve graduated almost 250 students in four years, and this impressive group of young adults will soon join that group of world-changers.”

At press time, the college reported 150 dormitory students, 56 commuter students, 23 Adult Degree Program students, and 54 Online/Lifetime Learning students. Officials set the fall semester 2010 full-time student equivalency at 228. One hundred seven students are enrolled in ministry-related fields.

This marks a 26-year high in local church ministry enrollment (pastoral, Christian education/youth ministry, and ministry studies) with 89 students, demonstrating the success of FWBBC’s online Associate of Science degree in Ministry.

By classes, they include 40 seniors, 52 juniors, 75 sophomores, 81 freshmen, 34 non-degree/part-time students, and one special student. There are 127 women and 156 men in the student body. Enrollment personnel were pleased that in spite of a harsh economic climate, the first-time freshman enrollment count increased slightly.

“Enrollment for our Online Degree and Adult Degree Programs will continue through mid-semester,” Dr. Ketteman said. “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 300 students for the fall term.”

By states, students number:

Alabama12	Indiana7	Ohio8	Virginia6
Arkansas14	Kansas.....2	Oklahoma.....5	West Virginia2
Delaware1	Kentucky11	Oregon2	International.....28
Florida.....5	Michigan18	South Carolina3	(Cuba, Japan, Kazakhstan,
Georgia.....9	Mississippi6	South Dakota1	Mongolia, Panama)
Idaho1	Missouri14	Tennessee.....104	
Illinois8	North Carolina.....14	Texas2	

President Matt Pinson said, “There’s nothing like the excitement of fall enrollment on the FWBBC campus. The dreams of graduating seniors combine with the energy of incoming freshmen to put a smile on every face. This is a special time of year for us. We’re also delighted with the interest of a serious buyer for our current campus as relocation plans move forward. In addition, our expanding academic programs in pre-nursing and science, plus a strong response to Online/Lifetime Learning Programs, keep us in touch with the changing educational needs of our denominational constituency.”

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. ■

FWBBC Students Minister in Cuba

Four Free Will Baptist Bible College students traveled to Cuba this summer and spent 10 days (July 31-August 9) working in one of the Free Will Baptist youth camps in Pinar del Rio, according to Ron Callaway, FWBBC Missions program coordinator, who led the team. In addition to their youth camp outreach, the students received instruction in Cuban evangelism models and practices.

Mr. Callaway said, “The joy and faith of the Cuban Christians impacted our students’ lives. I believe the friendships started there will form lifetime bonds between them and the Cuban Free Will Baptist Convention.”

An invitation from the Youth Department of the Cuban Free Will Baptist Convention resulted in the FWBBC students serving five days on the campus of Los Cedros del Libano Bible Institute working with campers ages 12-15. Each FWBBC student was assigned to one of four teams of campers who competed in week-long Biblical Olympics (Theme: Book of Acts), athletics, camp work, and initiative projects.

Each student shared with campers what Christ meant to his life. Junior Christian Education major Tim Clements (North Carolina), senior Psychology major Josh Coker (Mississippi), and sophomore Pastoral Training major Zach Maloney (Kentucky) also preached at the camp or in local churches in Havana. Junior Music major Kimberly Harden (Missouri) played the guitar and sang for the campers.

Since one purpose of the trip was to acquaint students with cross-cultural adaptation, they were hosted by the Free Will Baptist Church of the La Lisa neighborhood in Havana. The local congregation provided meals, friendship, and a translator. The students spent one day walking through “Old Havana.”

The four FWBBC students expressed their gratitude for the U.S. Free Will Baptist churches and individuals who prayed for them and gave offerings so they could experience Cuba and the friendship of the Cuban Christians. ■



PHOTO: (L) Zach Maloney, Josh Coker, Cuban translator Adonis, Kim Harden, Tim Clements.

U.S. News & World Report Ranks FWBBC Among Nation’s Top Colleges

Free Will Baptist Bible College was notified in mid-August that the institution is ranked 54th in the Top Tier among “Best Regional Colleges” (South Region) in *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2011 edition of *America’s Best Colleges* guidebook, according to President Matt Pinson. Highlights of the college rankings were published in the August 31, 2010, issue of *U.S. News*.

President Pinson said, “How gratifying it is to see FWBBC ranked again among America’s best colleges in this prestigious national study. We are delighted that the college’s academic programs are recognized not only by our supporters but also by those beyond the institution. This recognition reassures prospective students and their parents that FWBBC remains a top quality institution of higher learning that delivers on their educational investment.”

The “Best Regional Colleges” category where FWBBC is ranked includes 319 institutions that focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs in the liberal arts, and in professional fields such as business, nursing, and education. The colleges in this category are ranked within four geographic regions: North, South, Midwest, and West.

The *U.S. News* rankings offer the opportunity to judge the relative quality of institutions based on widely accepted indicators of excellence: peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving, and more.

Mr. Wayne Spruill, director of institutional research at FWBBC, said, “Once again, *U.S. News* lets us tell the broader community what a great school we have, plus it gives prospective students an opportunity to make sound decisions about enrolling here. I find it rewarding that one of the numerous annual surveys and questionnaires we prepare has placed FWBBC in this highly regarded national publication.”

FWBBC received particularly high marks in four strategic areas—percent of classes with under 20 students (88%), student/faculty ratio (9/1), freshman retention rate (65%), and graduation rate (49%).

Provost Greg Kettelman said, “This marks the third time that FWBBC has been included in *U.S. News’* list of best colleges. What a testimony this is to the hard work our faculty and staff pour into the college. They prepare themselves to teach in a rigorous collegiate academic setting or serve in administrative or other vital support roles. We have a great team at FWBBC. They make it easy for me to say that I believe every Free Will Baptist student should look at FWBBC first when considering a college.”

More information is available about the rankings and methodology in the annual *America’s Best Colleges* guidebook at: www.us-news.com/collegemeth. ■

FWBBC President Speaks at Free Will Baptist Heritage Conference



JESUP, GA—Free Will Baptist Bible College president Matt Pinson spoke four times August 6-7 during South Georgia Association’s historic Free Will Baptist Heritage Conference which met in concert with the quarterly meeting at New Hope Free Will Baptist Church in Jesup. Under the leadership of Moderator Wayne Miracle, some 160 pastors and members from four local associations came together Friday evening and Saturday morning for the conference and business sessions.

Dr. Pinson addressed the group on the subjects: “Renewal Through Retrieval: On the Value of Tradition,” “Our General Baptist Heritage and Roots in the Reformation,” and “Traditional Values: Things We Can Learn From Our Tradition.” The fast-paced, 50-minute lectures were tightly researched and designed to raise awareness regarding the significance of Free Will Baptist origins and doctrine, and the importance of those traditions in a shifting postmodern culture.

Moderator Wayne Miracle said, “The seminar was extremely well received, and we’ve had many positive re-

sponses from those who attended. One of our goals was to be proactive regarding a market-driven approach to ministry and call our churches back to a more biblically-centered ministry. Dr. Pinson was the ideal choice to handle the subject—he understands the issues confronting our churches today, and he is most capable of articulating how to explain and deal with the cultural and theological challenges.”

A spirited question-and-answer exchange followed Dr. Pinson’s second lecture Friday evening. During a scheduled book-signing, attendees purchased copies of his books, *A Free Will Baptist Handbook* (1998) and *The Washing of the Saints’ Feet* (2006). Both volumes focus on Free Will Baptist heritage, beliefs, and ministry. Conferees also purchased Heritage Conference DVDs as well as copies of two other Pinson books, *Four Views on Eternal Security* (2002) and *Perspectives on Christian Worship* (2009).

“One pastor who attended called thanking me for scheduling the Heritage Conference,” Reverend Miracle said. “He said that as Brother Pinson spoke during the seminar it seemed that a light came on in his mind, and suddenly he understood the issues and the cultural battles confronting our churches. I think all of us had several of those ‘Ah Ha’ moments during these seminars.”

The Free Will Baptist Heritage Conference was sponsored by South Georgia Association’s Executive Board. The gathering was also an unofficial open-house for host New Hope Free Will Baptist Church’s 300-seat sanctuary. A first-ever Friday night session was added to the quarterly meeting schedule, and officials minimized Saturday business to allow Dr. Pinson more time to speak.

Following the conference, Pinson traveled to Statesboro and preached at New Life Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church where Moderator Wayne Miracle pastors.

Dr. Pinson said, “What a great weekend to remind us of the importance of Free Will Baptist doctrine, polity, and heritage. I was delighted for the opportunity to speak to the South Georgia Association on a subject that stirs me and is dear to my heart. It was a time to remember what is so special and unique about our denominational heritage. I hope to continue sharing the story with other Free Will Baptists beyond Georgia.” ■

Alumni Join Enrollment Management Staff



Mrs. Deborah Mouser (B.S., 1985) and Mr. Nathan Willhite (B.S., 2008) joined Free Will Baptist Bible College's enrollment management team, filling two newly-created staff positions, according to Rusty Campbell, director of enrollment services. Mrs. Mouser has been named office manager; Mr. Willhite has been named senior enrollment counselor.

"We are excited to have Debbie Mouser and Nathan Willhite coming on board in EMT," Mr. Campbell said. "Their previous experiences with our students as well as their personal achievements will be positive assets in our efforts to increase enrollment. Debbie and Nathan embody those principles of strong Christian character and a firm commitment to the college's mission that mark them as special people who understand the purpose of FWBBC."

Well known for her musical skills, Mrs. Mouser has toured with the College Choir as pianist since 2008. She developed a sales team of 50 women while working as an independent sales director with Mary Kay Cosmetics. During that 15-year period, she oversaw regional and local events and was responsible for monthly newsletters and correspondence. She previously served five years as receptionist with The Mathews Company, a major Middle Tennessee construction firm.

Mr. Willhite, FWBBC's athletic supervisor, has been an adjunct faculty member since 2003. He currently serves as men's basketball coach (2008-). He coached the Lady Flames five years (2003-2008) and led them to a national championship in 2007. He will continue as coach of the Flames basketball team, but will step away from responsibilities as gym supervisor and intramural coordinator in order to focus on his primary duties as senior enrollment counselor. ■

You passed Bible and History...

But have you taken the right steps to pass your assets to the next generation of Free Will Baptist Bible College students?

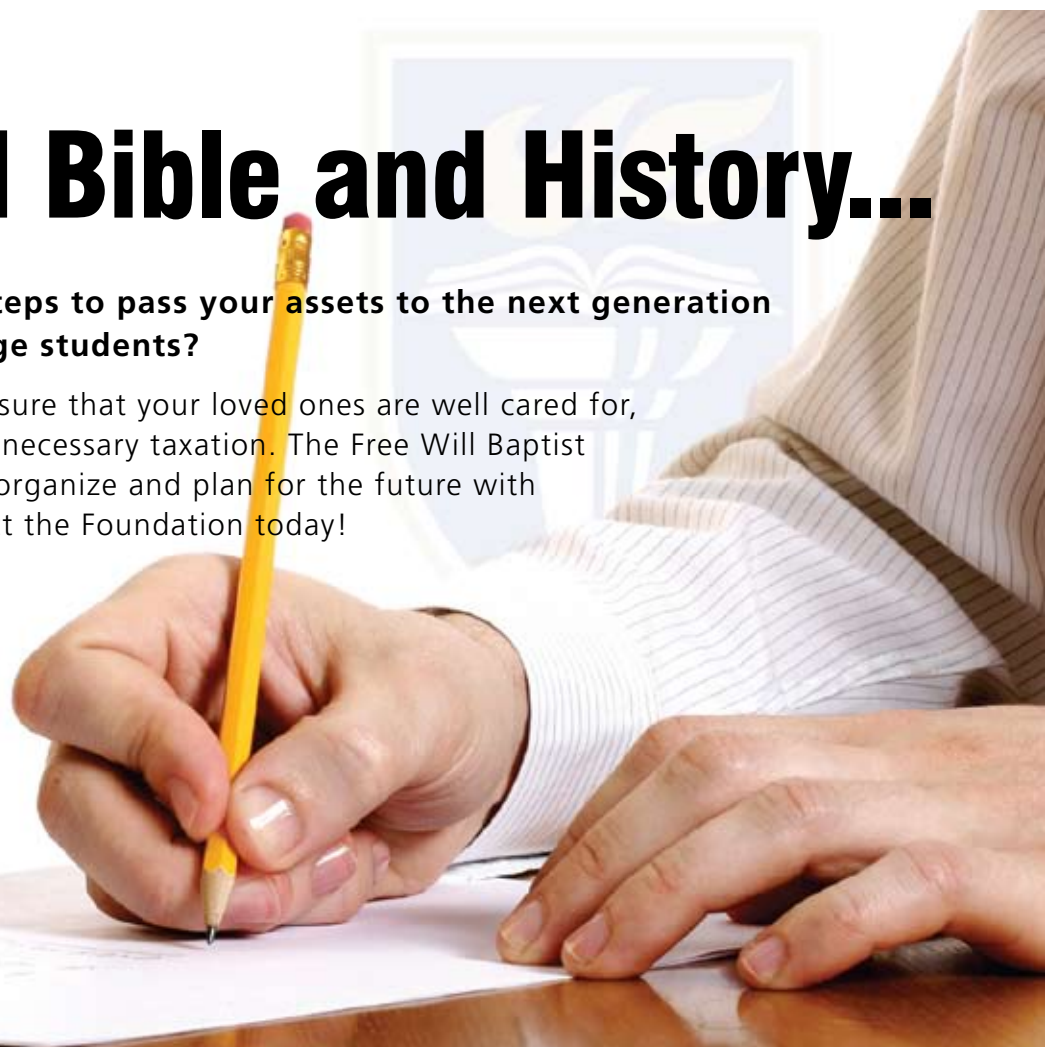
Careful planning is important to ensure that your loved ones are well cared for, and your estate is not subject to unnecessary taxation. The Free Will Baptist Foundation would like to help you organize and plan for the future with a free Wills Planning Guide. Contact the Foundation today!

Free Will Baptist Foundation:

www.FWBGifts.org

877-336-7575

foundation@nafwb.org



He's a fundraiser. He's a father. He's a Free Will Baptist. He lives on the road. He can't help but ask...

Is It Worth It?

BY DAVID WILLIFORD



“It just doesn’t make sense.” That sentiment, if not those exact words, is frequently expressed when I talk with parents about sending their children to Free Will Baptist Bible College. For most in our denomination, FWBBC is a long way from home. But every year students from 25 states decide that the long-term benefits of attending FWBBC outweigh the convenience of dollars and distance that a community college offers.

What’s My Story?

I understand about sending your child 400 or more miles from home to attend college. It’s not easy to load the car and watch Junior set out on an eight-hour trip to attend college. It’s hard on the emotions.

I also understand the financial side of the picture. When my children made the decision to attend FWBBC, I was a pastor in Florida. My wife worked for the state. In case you didn’t know, neither of those vocations will carve out a spot on the *Forbes* list of the 500 wealthiest Americans!

To complicate matters, we knew we would have two in college at the same time for two years. I remember talking with my wife during our daughter’s senior year in high school. We looked at the realities of the checkbook and just shook our heads.

“How are we going to keep two kids in college at the same time?” she asked.

“I don’t know,” I replied, “But there’s one thing I do know. There’s no way it will happen naturally. If we make it, it will be a God thing, because there’s no way to figure it financially. It’ll be interesting to sit back and see how God does this.”

The good news? We did it. The “we” is all-inclusive. It includes my wife, me, our kids, God’s supernatural provisions, denominational and government aid, and a willingness to make sacrifices. Our children both worked while they attended FWBBC. Did it hurt them? No. It helped them. They learned to budget their time as well as their finances.

The denomination helped. I knew that the giving of our people subsidized the cost of an FWBBC education, but until that time I didn't know how significant it was. When my kids attended, the cost per semester hour was reduced by almost \$150 because people gave selflessly to the ministry of FWBBC. Did that make a difference? Yes. A significant difference!

We accessed Pell Grants, student loans, and tapped associational scholarships and loans as well. Was it easy? No. Was it worth it? Yes. It made sense to us.

What About Now?

Fast-forward 14 years. Now I'm the guy on the road raising money for FWBBC. Trying to get people to buy into the idea of Christian higher education. Making the 6:00 a.m. flight to be at a state meeting, or catching the red-eye home after being in a local church or meeting with a donor.

My average year has me saying goodbye to Donna and hello to the folks at the Hampton Inn or Holiday Inn more than 100 times. I interact with pastors, donors, parents, and friends of FWBBC. During breaks in meetings, I'm on the phone to someone at the college, making sure my office is functioning. Conference calls, texts, emails, and faxes are part and parcel of the day.

Much time is spent on my cell phone late at night, checking in with my wife before we go to sleep 300 or more miles apart. It is often tiring, mostly enjoyable (just don't get me started about airlines), and seldom dull. I meet people who love the college I represent and others who tolerate us. Some are passionate about Christian higher education. Others are indifferent and wonder aloud if the cost the denomination pays is worth the return on investment.

I do what I do because I believe in it. FWBBC and what it stands for make

sense to me.

Should I Do It?

That's the question I'm asked in a dozen different ways. It's the question parents ask when their child wants to attend FWBBC and the parents are unsure. "Should I encourage them to go? Should I bless their decision?"

I can speak from experience, and, yes, it is worth the cost. How much is it worth to know that every professor, staff member, and administrator who interacts with your child has his/her spiritual wellbeing at heart? How much is it worth to know that someone will pray for and with your child if there is a problem? How much is it worth to know that every course taught in a college curriculum is taught in light of eternal truth and unchanging principles? How much is it worth to know your child is in a structured environment designed to help him or her become a deeper disciple of Christ?

And how important is it to know they do not have to sacrifice a quality education to receive those benefits? FWBBC is ranked 54th among the "Best Regional Colleges" (South Region) by *U.S. News & World Report*. We offer the complete package.

That's why it makes sense to me.

Why Should I Do It?

It's the question I sometimes hear from donors. "Why do you deserve my support? What are you doing that someone else cannot do cheaper and more effectively? Are you worth it?"

When I'm asked that, I remember students whose lives are changed when they attend FWBBC. I think about the young man who came seeking a degree in English and answered the call to preach. He now pastors a Free Will Baptist church.

I think about the young lady who wanted a degree in international busi-

ness so she could carry the gospel into a restricted-access country as a businesswoman, because she could not get a missionary visa for that region.

Today, she runs a business in Southeast Asia, providing help for women who have been sold by human traffickers. Her company provides employment and training for women leaving lives of prostitution and degradation, but most of all she offers the grace of God to people who have known only abuse and evil. FWBBC prepared her to impact lives for eternity.

These two young people and hundreds more like them experience the life-changing atmosphere that is FWBBC because people give. So my answer to the questioner is, "Yes, FWBBC is worth it. What we do matters. It matters right now. It matters eternally. No other denomination's school and no independent school has a greater passion for preparing workers for Free Will Baptist ministries."

Why should you give? Because FWBBC is educating young people to change the world for Christ. There is no higher calling. There is no greater need. That makes sense to me.


Most Bible colleges, including ours, operate on a shoestring budget. Funding is always an issue. Faculty salaries lag far behind their contemporaries at secular colleges, although the faculty is just as qualified. Maintenance needs are routinely delayed because needs exceed resources. But our people serve cheerfully, in spite of difficulties, because they know it matters. It just makes sense.

Is It Worth It?

Resoundingly, yes! It will be worth the sacrifice for your child to attend. It will be worth the financial gift you make, and it is worth my time, efforts, and energy. **ONE**

When it is totally dark, we have two choices:

We can light a candle,
or we can curse the darkness.



Free Will Baptist Bible College has been sending lights into the darkness since 1942. Our students shine bright in classrooms, businesses, factories, and churches on five of the seven continents.

Partner with FWBBC to continue lighting the darkness with your gift to the 2010 Ketteman Christmas Scholarship Drive.





What Is Your **KINGDOM FOOTPRINT?**

By DANNY GASPERSO

FORMER VICE PRESIDENT AND RECENT

Nobel Peace Prize winner Al Gore has spent years urging people to consider their carbon footprint to help save the planet from global warming. The purpose of this article is not to debate the validity of his claims or the importance of his cause. Instead, I challenge individual Christians and churches alike to contemplate another kind of footprint with undeniable validity and unequalled importance—a kingdom footprint.

Regardless of how noble protecting the earth may be, caring for people of the world so loved by God that He was willing to give His only Son to rescue them is the Church's undisputed responsibility.

While a carbon footprint measures the negative impact a person has on the earth's environment, a kingdom footprint describes the positive influence we make on this world for the Kingdom of God. Unlike Mr. Gore, my plea is not to reduce but to enlarge our footprint, making the greatest possible impact.



**WE CAN INCREASE
OUR KINGDOM
FOOTPRINT BY
PARTNERING
WITH OTHERS
THROUGH PRAYER,
PROVISION, AND
PARTICIPATION
AS THEY LABOR
TO BUILD THE
KINGDOM OF GOD
IN OTHER PARTS
OF THE GLOBE.**



BIG FEET

How can we enlarge our kingdom footprint? The first and most obvious way is to grow the local church. As the body grows, the feet expand proportionally. By reaching family, friends, and neighbors in our community with the gospel and bringing them into our church fellowship, we enlarge our kingdom footprint.

We must be diligent to obey the Lord's command to "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled" (Luke 14:23). Most of us understand this mandate from God and devote time, energy, and resources to fulfill this responsibility.

However, I want to encourage churches to consider another way to measure their kingdom footprint. You see, many churches measure their kingdom footprint by the size of their congregation. I humbly suggest that the biblical definition of a small church is one whose kingdom footprint is no bigger than the size of her attendance, no matter how many gather to worship there on a given week.

This means, when it comes to the local church, it is biblically fashionable to have disproportionately large feet. Acts 1:8 makes it clear that our obligation to the world extends beyond the confines of our neighborhoods. No matter how quickly and effectively we impact the world through community outreach, we will never satisfy our global responsibility if we rely solely upon local church growth.

The Bible makes it clear that we can increase our kingdom footprint by partnering with others through prayer, provision, and participation as they labor to build the Kingdom of God in other parts of the globe. The Apostle Paul went to great lengths to convince New Testament churches they were essential partners in his ministry because they prayed for him, provided for his needs, and participated in his efforts. This can be true of every church, no matter the

size of the congregation.

A PERSONAL EXAMPLE

I pastor Zephyr Hills Free Will Baptist Church in Asheville, North Carolina. It would not be considered a large church based on our weekly attendance. Please understand that acknowledging this truth does not mean we are content with it. We are passionate and committed to winning souls to Christ. Nothing would please us more than to see our numbers grow exponentially. We hope for it, pray for it, work for it, and believe it will happen. Church growth would obviously enlarge our kingdom footprint.

At the same time, looks can be deceiving. As God reminded Samuel, God does not see as man sees. Man looks on the outward appearance. God looks at the heart (or in this case, the feet). Zephyr Hills is bigger than she seems. We have discovered ways to expand our kingdom footprint beyond our attendance. We are informed, invested, and involved in what God is doing in the world. Missions is not just one of the many things we do. It is who we are. It is part of our spiritual DNA. Our journey has only begun, and we have plenty of room for improvement.

Still, our feet are growing and the cry of our heart is for "bigger shoes." We have defined our God-given roles as involvement, incubation, and inspiration.

INVOLVEMENT

We do everything we can personally to advance God's Kingdom to the ends of the earth. Our involvement strategy is three-fold; to pray, to provide, and to participate.

Prayer for kingdom growth occurs regularly at Zephyr Hills. Jesus said He would build His Church or expand His Kingdom. It is imperative that we plead for His help.

During each Sunday afternoon service, we focus on “Missions Moments.” The church missions coordinator uses *IMPulse*, the prayer hotline, and letters from missionaries around the world to share stories, updates, or prayer requests from the field.

For the past five years we have hosted a regional Prayer Summit for World Missions. We invite missionaries, International Missions staff members, and other churches to gather for a weekend of inspiration, instruction, and prayer. Together, we pray faithfully, fervently, and even forcefully for missions. The annual event has become the highlight of the year. We have discovered that we are never closer to God than when our hearts beat in tune with His greatest passion—

reconciling a lost world to Christ. In addition, the event has enabled us to build deep personal relationships with missionaries whom we treasure.

We help provide for His work by participating in the World Mission Offering each year. We devote the entire month of April to emphasizing global outreach and designate the last Sunday as World Missions Day. We have come to understand that all of God’s blessings have a purpose. The purpose is not our own amusement but kingdom advancement. We give generously and gratefully to support that cause.

Zephyr Hills also has the privilege of being Strategic Ministry Partners with Josh and Alicia Crowe, missionaries serving in Japan. The relationship we have established with them

reminds us that we are not just giving to a fund. We are enabling God’s faithful servants to carry the gospel to the unreached places of the world. We may not have the resources to do what others can do, but we believe God will use our “widow’s mite” for His glory.

We are constantly amazed by the way God provides supernaturally and unexpectedly to enable us to give. And it has been incredible to discover that providing for kingdom growth has never created unmet needs in local ministry. It really is true that we can never outgive God!

We participate in kingdom expansion personally. Approximately 20% of our congregation has experienced the joy of a short-term mission trip. Our church has sent teams to Mexico,

Zephyr Hills Mission Journey

Year	Prayer	Participation	Provision		
			WMO Goal	WMO Offering	Total Giving
2004	FWBIM Prayer Summit	Mexico Mission			
2005	FWBIM Prayer Summit		\$1000	\$2000	
2006	ZH Prayer Summit Neil, Doug, Portells	Financial Partnership with Church in Taldyqorghan	\$2500	\$4405	\$14,705
2007	ZH Prayer Summit James, Neil, Outlaws, Crowes	KZ Mission	\$5000	\$11,645	\$17,423
2008	ZH Prayer Summit Neil, Lytles, Crowes, Angela, Donahues	Danny to KZ Mission - CMP	\$10,000	\$13,000	\$19,236
2009	ZH Prayer Summit Neil, Doug, Heath	Jon & Josh—Haiti Danny & Ashley—KZ-CMP Cody to Japan—E-TEAM	\$10,000	\$16,641	\$17,528
2010	ZH Prayer Summit Neil, Morgans, Donahues, Lydia	Panama Mission Danny—KZ-CMP Cody—Cuba E-TEAM Strategic Partners/Crowes	\$10,000	\$18,000	

WE HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT ALL OF GOD'S BLESSINGS HAVE A PURPOSE. THE PURPOSE IS NOT OUR OWN AMUSEMENT BUT KINGDOM ADVANCEMENT.

Kazakhstan, Haiti, and Panama. Our young people have been to Kazakhstan, Japan, and Cuba with E-TEAM or CMP. Our church families host numerous missionaries who have been honored guests in our church. The rich relationships we have built over the years make it so much easier to pray and give.

We trust that prayer, provision, and participation have increased the size of our kingdom footprint, and we know that the effect on our church is undeniable. The emphasis on global outreach has intensified our passion for local outreach.

INCUBATION

We also feel called to incubation. It is our desire to become a missionary “maternity ward.” We want to create such a global kingdom environment within our church that God will entrust to us those whom He has chosen to serve cross-culturally. Every person who comes to our church is exposed to, educated in, and encouraged to se-

riously consider his or her specific call from God to a kingdom purpose.

We are doing everything we can to rear a generation of kingdom-minded children who believe missions involvement is a normal part of discipleship. It thrills my heart to hear the kids in our church say, “When I am a missionary, I want to go to ...” In their minds, it’s not if but when. We realize it may not be God’s plan for all of them to serve as full-time missionaries, but we want God to have to convince them to stay rather than go.

INSPIRE

Finally, we believe we have a responsibility to inspire—to encourage our missionaries. At Zephyr Hills, missionaries are regarded as heroes. We count it a great honor to host them. We want our church to be a place they find refreshment and revival. We want to cultivate deep personal relationships with them, listen carefully to their stories, celebrate their victories, and share their burdens.

We also want to inspire sister churches by sharing the joys and blessings we have discovered while expanding our kingdom footprint. We want to encourage them to join us in our quest for bigger feet. I understand their fear that unusually large feet will only slow them down. I especially sympathize with the reservations a small church might experience, because we struggled with that concern as well. But we have found that large feet provide an unusually firm foundation.

Enlarging our footprint has not crippled our local efforts to expand the kingdom but enhanced them. The Great Commission was not delivered to a select few. The responsibility to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth belongs to every individual, every family, and every church.

Our enemy has effectively crippled the Body of Christ with ecclesiastical foot binding. Some might argue that smaller, proportional feet are more attractive. But our Lord has a radically different opinion. He says, “How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things” (Romans 10:15).

As you consider the size of your kingdom footprint, it is my prayer that the Lord gives us all extraordinarily big, beautiful feet! **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Danny Gasperson pastors Zephyr Hills Free Will Baptist Church in Asheville, NC. To learn more about Free Will Baptist missions work around the world, visit www.fwbgo.com.



NEWS around the world

Panama Seminary Property Paid Off



**Chame,
Panama—**

International Missions made the fifth of five \$50,000 pay-

ments to New Tribes Mission for the seminary property in Panama in October 2010. The property has proven a wise investment, serving not only to educate young people for effective ministry, but also providing a retreat, conference location, youth camp, and general meeting space for Free Will Baptists in Panama.

Currently, 11 students are enrolled. Three students are schedule to graduate with their three-year diploma on January 8, 2011. ■



Spain—The Alpedrete congregation participated in a baby dedication service on Sunday, October 17. Sixty-one people filled the standing room only service. ■



Uruguay—Carlos Silvera was ordained to preach on Saturday, October 30. After serving several months as interim pastor of the Central Church in Rivera, he has been elected to pastor the church. ■



Brazil—The São José FWB Church in Campinas hosted a baptismal service for 23 people (17 from São José and six from Ouro Verde Mission) on Saturday, October 16. Four were married adults and the rest were adolescents, teens, or young adults. ■



Brazil—Hundreds of children heard the gospel during vacation Bible schools in Campinas in July. The First FWB Church had 90 children participate and São José FWB taught 520 children. The parents of one child accepted Christ as Savior during the closing program at São José and have faithfully followed through in the weeks since. ■

IM Ambassadors Celebrate Five-Year Anniversary, Set WMO Goal for 2011



The 2011 ambassador team members and the states in which they will promote the WMO are Jimmy and Janie Aldridge—Alabama, Florida; Earnie and Jean Deeds—Arkansas, Oklahoma; Galen and Barbara Dunbar—South Carolina; Fred and June Hersey—Alabama, Georgia; Tom and Nancy Hughes—Arizona, Idaho, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Northwest District; Mark and Deanna Price—Kentucky, Ohio; Norman and Bessie Richards—Arkansas, Kentucky; David and Pat Shores—Illinois; Jim and Vicki Sturgill—West Virginia; Henry and Virginia VanKluyve—Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee; Earl and Debbie White—West Virginia; and Rodney and Mary Yerby—Alabama.

Antioch, TN—Ambassadors for Free Will Baptist International Missions gathered in Antioch September 13-14 to celebrate the five-year success of the ambassador program and plan WMO initiatives for 2011.

During a celebratory dinner on September 13, Director of Development Barry Simpson honored seven five-year ambassador veterans: Earnie Deeds, Galen Dunbar, Fred Hersey, Norman Richards, David Shores, Henry VanKluyve, and Rodney Yerby.

Simpson stated, “The Ambassador team is the driving force behind the success of the WMO. Since the inception of the program, their influence has tremendously impacted the funding of global evangelism.”

Since the program was established in the fall of 2006, the WMO has experienced ever-increasing momentum. Through the combination of the *Go10: Walk for the World* project and the 2010 WMO, Free Will Baptists came incredibly close to raising one million dollars for overseas evangelistic efforts in 2010. This led the ambassador team to set the 2011 World Missions Offering goal at \$650,000. ■



Panama—The Chitré FWB Church welcomed over 100 people, 48 of whom were unchurched couples to their “Cena de Amistad” (Friendship Dinner) on Saturday, August 21. A trailer for *Fireproof* was shown to promote a series of lessons/meetings on marriage. The movie *Fireproof* was shown August 24, with weekly follow-up sessions. ■



Bulgaria—The room for children’s ministry at the Good News FWB Church in Svishtov was woefully small for the number of children present each week. In October, a dilapidated storage room was renovated to provide a vibrant classroom for the eager students. The new classroom was unveiled on October 24. Funds for the renovation were supplied by First FWB Church in Washington, NC. ■



Côte d’Ivoire—The congregation in the village of Kouafo held an evangelistic campaign on August 27 and dedicated a new church building on August 28. The evangelistic campaign resulted in more than 50 people responding to the Christian film and preaching. Of those, 18 people have professed Jesus as Savior. Pastor Daniel Miazan and others from the Zanzan FWB Church in Bondoukou are discipling these new believers. A pastor is being sought for the church. ■



Brazil—More than 150 people celebrated the 33rd anniversary of the First FWB Church in Uberlândia, Minas Gerais, Brazil, on September 19. The pastor, Martin, recently resigned. ■



France—The St. Sebastien Church sponsored a vision retreat for the entire congregation September 25-26. The two-day retreat was designed to encourage believers; strengthen the bonds of unity; and provide productive, strategic planning for the coming year. ■



Brazil—The Ouro Verde FWB Church in Campinas, Brazil, hosted a buffet dinner for couples on Sunday, September 12. The event drew about 60 people, including unsaved friends of church members. Kenneth Eagleton spoke on “Resolving Conflicts in Marriage.” ■



Spain—On Sunday, September 5, Jhon Fredy Agreda, pastor of the Villalba FWB Church, baptized two people: Roberto and Patti. ■



Panama—Paul and Chrissy Collins graduated from language school August 13 in Costa Rica. The family of five settled in Chame, Panama, for a few months of orientation and cultural adjustment. They plan to relocate early in 2011 and begin a new work in Santiago. ■



JCrois Urges Hardcore Discipleship

France—JCrois (I Believe), the annual youth event in Nantes, held October 30-31 “was one of the best” according to Dennis Teague. God’s hand was evident in every detail, from early completion of preparations to the record attendance. Dany Hameau, the president of the Federation of Evangelicals in France, was the featured speaker. He delivered straight-forward teaching from the Sermon on the Mount, reinforcing this year’s theme, “Being a Disciple Hardcore.”

At least 10 people renewed their commitment to the Lord or accepted Christ as Savior on Sunday. The event is designed to encourage Christian young people in their faith, give them the tools to defend what they believe, and create opportunities to evangelize friends. ■



THE MINISTER'S HOUSING ALLOWANCE

BY RAY LEWIS

The minister's housing allowance is the most important tax benefit available to ministers.

Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code says that "in the case of a minister of the gospel, gross income does not include... (an) allowance paid to him as part of his compensation, to the extent used by him to rent or provide a home." To provide a home is defined as including the purchase of a home or any expense directly related to owning or maintaining a home.

This benefit is only available to "ministers for tax purposes." Even though someone serving in a church staff position may be recognized by the church as a minister, this does not necessarily mean they are a minister for tax purposes. To make that determination requires looking at the IRS criteria.

The IRS has five criteria for determining who is a minister for federal tax purposes.

1. Is the person ordained, licensed or commissioned?
2. Does the person administer ordinances (i.e., baptism and observance of the Lord's supper)?
3. Does the person conduct religious worship?
4. Does the person have management responsibilities in the church?
5. Is the person considered to be a religious leader by the church?

Generally, a minister for tax purposes must be ordained, licensed or commissioned and answer yes to a majority of the other four questions. If they do, they are eligible for a church-designated housing allowance.

Many ministers think the housing/parsonage allowance only pertains to rent or house payments and utilities. Others don't think they can exclude a housing allowance because they own their own home and do not have house payments. The housing allowance includes much more than rent or mortgage payments, however.

Ministers who own their own homes are allowed to include the following expenses in computing their housing allowance exclusion:

- Down payment on a home;
- Mortgage payments (both interest and principal);
- Real estate taxes;
- Property insurance;
- Utilities;
- Furnishings and appliances (purchase and repair);
- Structural repairs and remodeling;
- Yard maintenance and improvements;
- Maintenance items (household cleansers, light bulbs, pest control, etc.);
- Homeowner's association dues.

Ministers who live in a parsonage can exclude from their federal income taxes "the portion of their ministerial compensation designated by their employer as a parsonage allowance," to the extent that it is used to pay for parsonage-related expenses such as utilities, repairs, and furnishings.

For ministers who rent their homes, actual expenses may include rental payments, furnishing, and utilities.

Therefore, whether a minister owns his home, rents his home, or lives in a parsonage, his church/employer should designate part of his income as a housing allowance. Unfortunately, many churches fail to do this for their pastor, thus denying him an important tax benefit.

Ministers can exclude the lowest of the following three amounts from income for federal income tax purposes when their church employer properly designates a housing allowance for them:

- **The housing allowance designated by their church; or**
- **Actual housing expenses; or**
- **The fair rental value of the home (furnished, including utilities).**

If actual expenses exceed the church designated allowance, the minister can only exclude the allowance. If the actual housing allowance exclusion is less than the church-designated allowance, then the minister will need to report the difference as additional income on his federal tax return.

It is important to remember that a housing allowance may be excluded from income for federal income tax purposes, but not for SECA tax purposes. The church treasurer excludes this value from Box 1 of the W-2.

The housing/parsonage allowance exclusion is an important benefit for ministers. If your church has not voted for this exclusion, it is not too late to do so. Just remember the exclusion will be effective only for the remainder of the current year in which it is adopted. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: D. Ray Lewis became general director of the Board of Retirement and Insurance in August 2005. He and his wife Ida live in Antioch, TN. Read more about the Board of Retirement at www.boardofretirement.com.

Introducing New Home MISSIONARIES



Randall and Collette Wright and their children, Joshua, Rebekah, and Leah are going to North Dallas, Texas, to plant a new church. The project is a joint effort between the State of Texas and Free Will Baptist Home Missions.

The Wright Family comes to Home Missions from Bethel FWB Church in Kinston, North Carolina, where they have served as staff members for the past five years. The couple also has served in youth ministry and in two pastorates. Randall earned a Bachelor's Degree in Bible and Pastoral Theology from Southeastern FWB College and is currently working on a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies at Liberty University.

The Dallas/ Fort Worth population has grown by nearly 1.3 million since the last census in 2000. It is the largest metropolitan area in Texas, the largest in the South, and the fourth largest in the United States. Dallas also has been the fastest growing metropolitan city in the United States for the past decade.

Tennessee natives **EDDIE AND DALE (EDWARDS) YOUNG** are associate missionaries in Albuquerque, New Mexico. They moved to Albuquerque from a pastorate at First FWB Church, Tucson, Arizona. Before moving to Arizona, Eddie was a professional musician and national champion guitarist. Dale was a Christian educator in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee. The couple married in 1998, when Eddie was pastoring Pleasant Hill FWB Church in Dover, Tennessee.



God has burdened their hearts for the southwest. New Mexico has three Free Will Baptist churches, including the Mountain View FWB Church in Albuquerque, pastored by Home Missionary Mark Shores. Albuquerque is home to almost a million people, the world famous Balloon Fiesta, and the University of New Mexico. The Youngs anticipate being used for the glory of God in the Mountain View Church.

HEATH AND AMANDA WEBB are home missionaries to Boise, Idaho. They come from the pastorate at Pearce Chapel FWB Church in Smithville, Mississippi. Heath attended FWB Bible College, majoring in Pastoral Studies and Bible. Amanda also attended FWB-BC, majoring in Missions and Bible. She also attended Calhoun Community College in Decatur, Alabama.



Heath has had a burden for the mission work in Boise, the capital city of Idaho, for some time. Located in the northwestern part of the United States, Boise has a population of approximately 600,000 people. The city boasts historic landmarks, logging companies, and a multitude of technology business ventures. Heath and Amanda have a young daughter named Sarah. Please pray for the Webb family as they make the transition to Boise.

DARYL AND MICHELLE GRIMES are home missionaries to Millcreek Township near Erie, Pennsylvania, where they will plant a new Free Will Baptist church. They have three children—Charity, Luke, and Isaiah. The family comes to Home Missions from a pastorate at Harrison FWB Church in Minford, Ohio. Daryl graduated from Southeastern FWB College with a Bachelor's Degree in Bible and Missions, and is currently working on a Master's degree at Gateway Christian College. He has pastored churches in Michigan, North Carolina, and Ohio.



Erie County boasts a population of approximately 300,000, and Erie is the fourth largest city in Pennsylvania, with a population numbering more than 100,000 people. Millcreek Township is a suburb of Erie where the majority of the population ranges in age from 25 to 41 years of age. According to published data, a large segment of these residents claim no religious affiliation. Please pray for Daryl, Michelle, and their children as they begin their work in Pennsylvania. **ONE**



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

BY RICHARD ATWOOD

“On the Road Again” could be the theme song for home missionaries out raising support. Dad and Mom load up the kids and head out to find partners for their ministry. It’s a lot of traveling, meeting new people, packing and unpacking, and saying the same things week after week. That’s why I have been surprised that I have never met a home missionary who didn’t have an overall pleasant experience on itinerate. They all say the same thing, “I’m ready to get to the field, but itinerate was a good experience.” I asked some of the missionaries who just finished raising support to tell me some of the things they liked about the experience. The following are some of their comments:

“OUR ITINERATE WILL ALWAYS BE A FOND MEMORY FOR

us. I loved the way most churches made our kids feel special. It was so interesting to meet people all across the U.S. and enjoy their differences. Seeing the U.S. was a huge bonus, and we enjoyed being on the road together. Of course, I couldn’t possibly leave out all of the great food we enjoyed from so many different regions. Folks fed us like royalty!” **Donnie Burke, Castle Rock, CO**

“ONE THING I APPRECIATED WAS WHEN THE PASTOR OF

the church would show the congregation his filled out Faith Promise card. This encouraged the people to also support the missionary. I enjoyed being at a church when they had potluck afterwards. I liked the food! I also liked it when people asked questions, and I had time to get to know them.” **Jim Kilgore, Greenfield, CA**

WE LIKED IT WHEN:

People were warm and friendly. It made us feel at home.

Folks helped take care of our children while we set up.

Churches took up an offering for our work.

They gave us McDonald’s gift cards.

Gift baskets were given to our wives.

Churches put us in their budget.

The pastor would support us verbally.

The church fed us and provided a place to rest on Sunday afternoon between services.

The church provided a motel where they would be willing to stay and not a scary, bug-infested one.

The church covered the expenses for transportation, meals, and lodging.

Jeff Goodman and Josh Bennett in Arizona

“WE WENT TO ONE CHURCH THAT HAD SCHEDULED A PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY. HE SCHEDULED US NOT KNOWING ABOUT

the church’s plans. Even though it was a special day for the pastor, the church made up a basket of food and other items and presented it to us. They said they wanted us to know how much they appreciated our willingness to go. It was encouraging when a pastor would say he would call you back, and he did. It was encouraging to arrive at a church and be treated as though they wanted us there.” **Barry Long, Denver, CO**

Thank you for your support and encouragement to all our church planters. I, too, have met salt of the earth followers of Jesus all over this country. One last quote from Barry Long, “Itinerate has been a long journey for us, but we met some great people that I know are praying for us.” **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Richard Atwood is director of missionary assistance for Free Will Baptist Home Missions. To learn more about Home Missionaries and the fields where they are planting churches, visit www.homemissions.net.

MATTHEW'S CHRISTMAS Déjà Vu

BY GARNETT REID

Stop me if you've heard this one.

A power-hungry ruler in Israel feels threatened by a young boy who is the rightful heir to the throne. The crazed monarch then lashes out on a murderous rampage, a killing spree aimed at disposing of all his potential rivals.

But the family of the true king, this young heir to David's throne, hides him from the blade of the mad monarch. Soon, the deranged despot dies and the boy king receives his rightful acclaim from the people of his kingdom.

Who's Missing?

This intriguing story came to my attention as I read the first two chapters of Matthew's Gospel. No, it's not the story of King Herod and the slaughter of the baby boys when Jesus was born. That account is in chapter two. I'm talking about what happens in chapter one. Or, actually, I mean what *does not* happen in chapter one—what the text does *not* say.

If you read Jesus' genealogy closely, you'll notice some names missing from the roster of Judah's kings descended from David. The latter part of verse eight reads, "and Joram the father of Uzziah." Take a look at 2 Chronicles 21–26. For his own reasons, Matthew left out three kings between Joram and Uzziah: Ahaziah, Amaziah, and Joash (also spelled Jehoash). Uzziah was actually Joram's great, great, great grandson; but the Hebrew writers often used "father" in the sense of a "grandfather" and beyond.

The Hidden King

The story I mentioned above about the blood-thirsty ruler and the hidden prince could have been about Herod and Jesus, but I had another incident in mind. Athaliah, a queen, was the monarch, and Joash, one of the "missing" kings from Matthew's list, was the boy.

Yet the parallels between the two events are amazing, aren't they? More than eight centuries before Christ's birth



Jehu assassinated King Ahaziah of Judah. Ahaziah's mother, Athaliah, daughter of the infamous Ahab and Jezebel and a Baal worshiper, had all of her grandchildren killed in a desperate attempt to take over the throne herself—all, that is, except Ahaziah's infant son Joash.

Joash's aunt and uncle, Jehosheba and Jehoiada the priest, tucked the little boy away in a makeshift bedroom for six long years! They probably hid him "in plain sight." However they managed the ruse—imagine trying to keep an infant then a toddler "quiet" for so long—Athaliah never knew Joash was alive until the fateful day when Jehoiada sprang his trap.

A Queen Comes to Church

The cunning priest arranged for all the temple guards and other servants to mass around Joash in a protective gauntlet as the boy stood by the pillars and received his crown. As a Baal worshiper, Athaliah rarely entered the Lord's house, but she appeared that day when she heard the commotion. Ignoring her hypocritical cries of "treason, treason," the guards escorted the stunned queen from the scene and promptly executed her near the place where horses entered the precincts. Read all of this in 2 Kings 10-11 and 2 Chronicles 22-23.

Redemption Hangs by a Thread

As suspenseful as the story is, it is more significant and relevant to Christmas than might appear on the surface. As with Herod's vicious plot, Athaliah's affront reminds us that God's enemies will stop at nothing to foil His purposes.

The Lord's plan to bring a Redeemer into the world through David's family, is clear throughout the Old Testament. With Joash's life in jeopardy, the Messiah's line hung by a thread. Imagine it: the redemption of the world tucked away in a spare room for safekeeping, as it would one day be tucked away briefly in Egypt.

Yet God will do as He promises! He worked through a loyal priest and his brave wife who risked their lives to see the true king enthroned. Through it all, in the fullness of time, God's Son, David's son, entered the world on schedule. No Athaliah with her Baal, no Herod with his broadsword could prevent that, try as they might.

The little bundle in the manger testified to the universe of the power and will of the infinite Creator whose uncreated Gift creates limitless hope and endless joy in the hearts of those who receive Him as their Savior. Wrapped in those "swaddling clothes" was the fabric of God's pattern for all the ages and all our hopes for all our days.

"O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray.

Cast out our sin, and enter in,

Be born in us today." ONE

INTERSECT: Where the BIBLE Meets Life is a regular column written by Dr. Garnett Reid who chairs the Bible Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

LEADER **PROFILE** by Ron Hunter Jr.

Leadership comes in all forms and sizes, but the results are the same. Leaders influence behavior and make a difference in people's lives.

Profiling leaders shows a diverse combination of traits, but impacting lives is always a common theme.



MIKE STOKES, OHIO

How many leaders can claim they have worked in the same state leadership role for 25 years? The Ohio State Association of Free Will Baptists honored Mike Stokes this year for serving as state clerk for 25 years. Promotional Director Edwin Hayes (quoting Robert Henry) said with a smile, "The only time Free Will Baptists believe in eternal security is when we keep reelecting the same clerk to keep the minutes." Being a clerk requires an immense amount of detail and understanding of the flow and order of meetings. Mike received a plaque for his service and continues to serve in the role.

Originally from LaFollette, Tennessee, the Stokes family moved to Ohio to find work. His dad passed away while he was young, and Mike was required to be a leader much earlier than most young men. While still a child, he felt the call of God to preach but did not yield to the call even while faithfully walking with God.

Midway through his career as a quality control supervisor in the tool and die industry, God spoke to him on the job so clearly it almost frightened him. In that moment in 1979, He answered the call to preach and served as a bivocational minister until he retired. He continues to fill many pulpits in the state of Ohio and has pastored three churches.

A year ago Mike was diagnosed with cancer of the larynx. Through God's grace, he has endured seven surgeries, three life-threatening stints in ICU, intense radiation, and recently has learned to use an artificial voice box. Those who hear him speak today can still hear Mike's personality in this new sounding voice. He said his wife Judi has been his invaluable strength through these recent health issues, and he loves spending time with her. He pointed out that he was introduced to Free Will Baptists by dating Judi back in 1961. **Mike Stokes you are a great leader! ONE**

What are your favorite books of all time?

1776 – by David McCullough

Flying Closer to the Flame – by Chuck Swindoll

Pilgrim's Progress – by John Bunyan

Who is your favorite author?

Chuck Swindoll

One-word descriptors for his kids:

Pam (43): wonderful

Quiet Time Habits:

He described special moments with the Lord and noted that every night before he goes to sleep, he says, "Father, I am resting in You."

Borrowing Brains



BY BRENDA EVANS

“You can borrow brains, but you can’t borrow character,” Mozelle said, looking me straight in the eye. I could tell she was serious. Then she tilted her head playfully to the side and laughed, “I heard that almost 60 years ago from old Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., and he was right, you know.”

Mozelle West has lots of brains and doesn’t need to borrow any, but I understood what she meant: I’ll learn as much as I can—beg, borrow, and almost steal—to become the woman God wants me to be. “I find I have to keep renewing my mind. Push out the bad, put in the good right regular,” she said. That commitment to using her mind to follow Jesus and serve others was her theme during our conversation.

Right away, both laughter and seriousness swirled around in Mozelle—like vinegar and oil in a good raspberry vinaigrette. Sometimes they mingled, sometimes not. Humor and joy, discipleship and service—that’s the stuff of which she seems to be made.

A joke or punch line is always on the table when Mozelle is in the room. “I paid for Bronco to marry me,” she teased. “It was at church in 1951, and we weren’t even Christians then. We didn’t go to Sunday School, but at the break, we came in through the amen corner, got married, went out the door, didn’t stay for preaching, and headed for our honeymoon. I had already paid the preacher \$5 because Bronco claimed he didn’t have any change. So he always said I had to pay to marry him.” She grins, and the corners of her eyes crinkle with delight.

When Mozelle is on a roll, you tumble right along with her. “Old-time medical remedies like Castor Oil were bad,” she said, “then I found a doctor

that said it was only good for wagon wheels. I went to him until he died.” She pauses, knowing I understand the mischief stirred up by a spoonful of Castor Oil.

Mozelle quietens a moment then continues. “My husband Bronco was a riot. He could make an audience laugh so loud you’d think they’d broken the sound barrier. One time at college he had me doing a Houdini trick on stage with him, and later a professor wanted to know how we did that. I asked the man if he could keep a secret. He said he could, and I said, ‘Well I can too!’”

Even widowhood hasn’t stolen her joy. Married almost 50 years to pastor, clown, and chalk artist Bronco West, Mozelle has been widowed for the past

10 years. She says, “Bronco was my best friend, my husband, my pastor. I still miss him.”

Tears glisten in her eyes. “But you know, there are two ways you can go. You can be depressed, let your world come to an end, be miserable, and make everybody else miserable, or you can be a joy to yourself and others. That’s what I’ve chosen to do. I love life, and I love living it too much to go the other way.”

When Mozelle was 30 and Bronco was 44, he answered the call to preach—just three years after they were saved. She clearly remembers the day. She had just come home from work and was in the bathroom brushing her teeth. In the mirror, she saw Bronco coming through the door. She knew he had something on his mind. “What if I told you I was called to preach?” he asked.

Mozelle stared at him in the mirror and replied, “What makes you think that?”

“There’s been no dove on my shoulder, no burning bush, but I just know that if I don’t preach, I won’t be in God’s will,” Bronco answered.

“I figured if God had called him to preach, then he had called me to be a preacher’s wife. So when he said a little later that he wanted us to go to Bob Jones University, I said, ‘Well, if God’s called you to preach, you’ve wasted enough time already; let’s go.’”

But Mozelle doesn’t linger long over “how it used to be.” With a grin, she says, “I’m still called—called to teach, so I study and plan and work at it. I’ve had no greater joy in life than to sit down at a table with my Bible and lead someone to Christ. Then I like to get something simple into their hands. Something concise about how to live the Christian life, what to believe,

what to do.”

When our conversation turned to discipleship and what it means to be a follower of Jesus, Mozelle became introspective. “I guess I’m a fish out of water. I’m not a joiner, not a society person. Living the Christian life is just part of me. I don’t have to work at it as much as I do rest in it—rest in Him without hope in anyone or anything else.”

“You know, I’ve never had a name, an identity. When you’re the wife of someone like Bronco, you’re just his wife. Besides, the only name that really counts is Follower of Jesus. I’ve worked mostly in the background, organizing, teaching, all those things you do in mission churches that nobody realizes is being done. And I won’t quit. I still teach, and I try to be a friend and encourager to my pastor.”

Mozelle is a serious Lady Barnabas, if you know what I mean. Several years ago she “borrowed brains” again, that is, learned yet another way to bless those who need blessing. Like Barnabas in Acts 4, she shares, stands up for, and vouches for the troubled. In other words, she is an encourager.

“Take anything I’ve got—TV, stove, refrigerator, whatever you want—but don’t take my telephone. I talk to the lonely, those who can’t get out anymore. I’m 80, and I know how it is, and I intend to help them through it,” she explains. “My first question when I call is ‘Are you in the middle of something?’ Some will laugh and say, ‘Yeah, I’m in the middle of the couch waiting for you to call.’”

Mozelle keeps life simple, even theologically. “Salvation is Jesus plus nothing. He must get greater, and I get smaller. I don’t live in the past or the future. I’m going to let the future take care of the future. To me, what I do



I talk to the lonely, those who can’t get out anymore.

now is what matters.”

That commitment to the present is what fuels her love for and gifts to Christian education. “I wish that people could learn that money is not the answer. I have a cousin who thinks it’s terrible that I’m not leaving what I have to my kinfolks. All I can say is, I don’t intend to buy cigarettes and dog food. I’ve got something more important to do.”

“I’m going where the need is. We need preachers and missionaries—now. We need parents who send their children to Free Will Baptist Bible College—now. If Bronco and I had known about Free Will Baptist Bible College, that’s where we would have gone. We need people giving—now. That’s what we need.”

Mozelle has a firm practical view of the Christian life like Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., suggested all those years ago. You study, you work, you yield, you learn, you use the resources the Lord puts in your hand. In other words, you borrow all the brains you can, live with Christian character, and let God do the rest. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Brenda Evans, a retired English teacher, lives in Cattlettsburg, KY, with her husband Bill, former director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation. They are proud grandparents of seven. To learn more about planned giving, visit www.fwbgifts.org.

BROWN

on green BY DAVID BROWN

How to Beat the Lottery

LOTTERY FEVER IS ON THE RISE IN THE UNITED

States with 43 states now operating games of chance. Lotteries actually have a history in America that dates to the 1600s, but state run lotteries had been banned by the early 1900s.

The first state to establish a state run lottery in the modern era was New Hampshire in 1964. Many states use the proceeds to fund education, hoping to pull in folks who wouldn't normally purchase a ticket. The truth is, once a lottery is established, states come to depend on the funds for education and spend money previously earmarked for education elsewhere. That means that lotteries really don't generate new money for education.

People get caught up in the excitement of becoming an instant millionaire. We are bombarded constantly by advertisements on radio and television that entice us to purchase tickets. Media coverage of big winners beaming and holding giant checks creates the illusion that "it could be me."

In reality, most jackpot winners don't thrive. A recent

story by Bankrate.com followed eight lottery winners who lost their millions. Few people can handle sudden wealth. If you haven't done a good job of handling your finances before you receive a windfall, you will not suddenly learn how to manage a large sum overnight. Wealth is easier to handle when it builds over a long period of time.

Unfortunately, lotteries are also a form of regressive taxation because those people who are most likely to buy the tickets are those who can least afford to do so. Studies indicate that those who earn less than \$13,000 a year spend an average of nine percent of their earnings on lottery tickets—more than \$50 a month even though the odds of winning the grand prize are 195 million to one.

Here's a better plan. Instead of investing \$50 a month in lottery tickets, how about putting it into a retirement plan? An individual who invests \$50 a month for 40 years with an average interest of 8% will add \$175,000 to their retirement fund. Now *that* is the only sure way to beat the lottery. **ONE**

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



The odds of winning the Powerball lottery are 195,000,000 to 1. Consider the following list of things that are more likely to happen:

Odds of becoming president - 10,000,000 to 1

Odds of being struck by lightning - 576,000 to 1

Odds of becoming a professional athlete - 22,000 to 1

Odds of finding a four-leaf clover on your first try - 10,000 to 1

Odds of a hole in one - 5,000 to 1

What is less likely to happen than winning the lottery?

Odds of a meteor landing on your house 182,138,880,000 to 1 (I know you will sleep better tonight.)



Can the church help today's families?

Many Christian leaders throw up their hands in despair over the state of today's family. They paint a bleak picture, with words such as dysfunctional, beyond hope, under attack, struggling, and failing. It seems the church has little influence on its congregation... the number of broken families varies little between the secular and the sanctuary. Yet all is not lost.

Statistics from a 2009 LifeWay Research survey reveal that Millennials—those born between 1980 and 1991—place a higher priority on family than anything else, giving churches a great redemptive bridge for ministry.

According to Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Research, "To minister effectively, the church should tap into this priority among Millennials. Churches with a strong understanding and sense of family... with ministries that cross generations... could be highly effective in connecting Millennials to Jesus."

The **Forum11** conference is designed to help students, youth workers, pastors, and other church leaders become more effective in family ministry and intergenerational discipleship by presenting a broad spectrum of speakers offering a wide array of perspectives and experiences.

Keynote speakers include Voddie Bauchum, pastor of

Grace Family Baptist Church; Curt Gwartney, youth pastor at Locust Grove FWB Church, Garnett Reid, professor at FWBBC, Haddon Robinson, professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Charles Thigpen, former president of FWBBC; and others.

According to FWBBC President Matt Pinson, "**Forum11** will stretch the boundaries of ministry by pushing, challenging, even provoking listeners to take the next step in renewing the family with the Word. I don't think anyone will walk away unchanged."

Sponsored and hosted by Free Will Baptist Bible College, the two-day event will take place March 7-8, 2011, in conjunction with the annual Bible Conference, March 6-9, 2011.



Forum11 is free. Register early and receive a free gift:
www.fwbcc.edu.



PRAYING THROUGH THE YEARBOOK

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE DOES A

great service in compiling, editing, proofing, and printing the annual *Free Will Baptist Yearbook*. Each year, copies are shipped to district clerks to be distributed across the denomination. I always wonder how pastors and churches use the volume they receive. I am sure they consult the *Yearbook* for the location or phone number of a church or pastor on occasion. After all, that is the most obvious function of the volume.

However, let me suggest what each pastor should do with his *Yearbook*. He should pray every week for the churches and pastors in his state.

When I became promotional director for the Tennessee State Association, I decided I should pray every week for the churches, pastors, and officers of the state, association, and regional levels of our work. For 15 years, I prayed weekly for those serving in Tennessee.

When my wife and I moved to Georgia in May 2007, I decided to pray for the pastors, churches, and officers listed in Georgia. But I felt so attached to my Tennessee friends that I did not feel I could forsake them. So, now, for more than four years, I have prayed weekly for the officers, churches, and pastors in Tennessee and in Georgia.

Permit me to humbly suggest that every pastor use his church's *Yearbook*



to pray weekly for every church, every pastor, and the officers listed on each level in his state.

I can think of no better way to make use of the *Yearbook*. Pray for a fresh infilling of the Holy Spirit upon each pastor. Pray for souls to be saved, for believers to be built up in the faith, and for genuine revival. Pray for national leaders, for each department of the denomination—for all of their needs and concerns. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Charles A. Thigpen served 12 years (1979-1991) as the third president of Free Will Baptist Bible College, six years as moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists (1954-1960), and 15 years as promotional director for the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists (1991-2006). He and his wife Laura live in Macon, GA.

Can you think of a better way to use the Yearbook?



FWB National Youth Conference
 July 17-20, 2011 – Charlotte, NC
www.fwbny.com

FWB Youth Worker Gathering to Meet at Youth Pastor Summit in Orlando

The Youth Pastor Summit at Universal

Orlando is geared to all youth pastors and key youth leaders—staff or volunteers. Each church may bring up to five attendees to this free conference scheduled for February 28-March 1, 2011. Registration for the 2011 Youth Pastor Summit will open by January 10, 2011. For more information go to www.studentleadership.net/leadership-programs/youth-pastor-summit.

The FWB Youth Worker Gathering is planned in conjunction with this annual event. Stay an additional day for fellowship and networking with other FWB youth workers. For details, go to www.OutpostX.net.

Revised Competition Guidelines



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

2011 Bible Competition Study Pack CD



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

NYC Buck-a-Week

What are you doing to change your world?



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

Just \$1 a week can make a world of difference.

Home Missions project: Hispanic Seminary Scholarships
International Missions project: Bible Study resources for Bulgaria



Charlotte: City Fit for a Queen

By Mary Kathryn Driggers, 2010 Convention Press Intern

After traveling to Oklahoma City, Cincinnati, and Little Rock, the next national meeting will take place in the city fit for a queen...and several thousand Free Will Baptists.

In July 2011, Free Will Baptists will convene for the 75th annual convention in the southern metropolis of Charlotte, North Carolina. Charlotte received the nickname “Queen City” in honor of the wife of King George III. Resting along the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, Charlotte is located 15 minutes from the South Carolina border in the south central part of the state. It is the 18th largest city in the United States with a population of more than 750,000. The city hosts more than 700 places of worship, prompting another nickname: “City of Churches.” Charlotte is also home to professional football (Carolina Panthers) and basketball (Charlotte Hornets).

Between the hustle and bustle of competition events, seminars, and meetings, Charlotte offers many opportunities for visiting Free Will Baptists. The Billy Graham Library gives visitors a glimpse into the life of the well-known American evangelist, and admission is free. For racing fans,

the newly opened NASCAR Hall of Fame honors the history and heritage of NASCAR. Carowinds, an amusement park near Charlotte, thrills guests with rides, shows, and attractions the whole family can enjoy. Discovery Place, a science museum and IMAX Dome theater, will amaze visitors with larger-than-life displays.

To see all Charlotte has to offer, various forms of public transit are available including the CATS Bus Service. From the Charlotte Trolley, an educational tour, and the free Gold Rush historic trolley to the LYNX Light Rail system, there are many opportunities see the city. Many fast-food restaurants are scattered across downtown Charlotte, making meals convenient for church groups on the go.

Some will travel to Charlotte for the competitive activities or worship services; others for meetings, convention business, and seminars; and more just to experience a national convention of Free Will Baptists. However, all will enjoy the opportunity to explore a city filled with history, entertainment, and excitement. Next summer’s conventioners will leave Charlotte with the feeling they have visited a city fit for a queen. **ONE**

NEWS

about the denomination

Executive Committee Initiates Efforts to Promote Unity and Cooperation

ANTIOCH, TN—Nine men gathered in the Executive Office Boardroom October 20 to discuss denominational unity as it relates to the cultural issues confronting Free Will Baptist churches today. The informal committee assembled at the request of the Executive Committee of the National Association and included representatives from the Commission for Theological Integrity, the Executive Committee, and pastors from various regions of the country. Participants included Keith Burden (TN), Leroy Forlines (TN), Will Harmon (AR), Paul Harrison (TN), Glen Johnson (VA), Matt Pinson (TN), Karl Sexton (VA), Craig Shaw (OK), and Tim York (TN). Committee members Steve Ashby (OK) and David Potete (IL) were unable to attend the meeting.

“We met to identify the ways our churches have been and continue to be impacted by today’s culture,” said Executive Secretary Keith Burden. “We want to help churches know how to respond to the cultural shifts taking place that affect their congregations.”

During the meeting, the committee defined four specific goals to pursue over the next five years:

1. To bring greater understanding between ministers from various regions of the denomination.
2. To create a forum for constructive discussion about issues that are sometimes controversial and divisive.
3. To develop a greater understanding of and appreciation for the value of the denomination.
4. To equip pastors and churches to address the cultural issues confronting them.

The committee scheduled a second meeting with state leaders at the 2011 convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. In addition, the subjects raised by both meetings will be addressed at the 2011 Leadership Conference scheduled for December 5-6, at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. ■

Theological Symposium Features 10 Papers

NASHVILLE, TN—More than 90 people registered for the 2010 Theological Symposium, which met October 18-19 at Free Will Baptist Bible College. The annual two-day event sponsored by the Commission for Theological Integrity featured 10 presenters from a variety of backgrounds, including pastors, missionaries, college professors and administrators, and graduate students.

The presentations featured a wide range of topics such as “Do We Dare to Discipline?” by Barry Raper, “Would a ‘Simple Christian’ Ever be a Calvinist?” by Bobby Poole, and “A Primer on Denominational Unity” by Glen Johnson, among others.

The symposium closed Tuesday evening with a stimulating, two-hour panel discussion featuring Leroy Forlines, Robert Picirilli, Paul Harrison, Craig Shaw, and Matt Pinson. Symposium papers have been spiral-bound and may be ordered for \$20 from:

Commission for Theological Integrity

Attention: Matt Pinson

3606 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205

(Please make the check out to Commission for Theological Integrity.)

The 2011 Theological Symposium will meet October 17-18 on the campus of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College in Moore, Oklahoma. ■

National Departments Reorganize Office Space

ANTIOCH, TN—The month of September found several national departments in transition as they relocated office space. Master’s Men and Women Nationally Active for Christ agreed to share an office suite on the lower level of the National Office Building. While the departments will continue to operate independently, sharing space will enable them to save money. Phyllis York, part-time office assistant for Master’s Men since 2005, will serve both offices in a full-time role, dividing her time between the departments.

“It is just good stewardship,” said Ken Akers, director of Master’s Men. “Sharing space will not change the way either department operates, but it will save us both a lot of money that we can put back into our ministries.”

The Board of Retirement moved to the office space previously occupied by Master’s Men, while the Free Will Baptist Foundation retained the area previously shared with Board of Retirement. The two departments had occupied the joint space since July 2005, when the Foundation became a separate entity.

“We have enjoyed our time with the Board of Retirement,” said Richard Davis, accounting director for the Foundation, “but the two departments have two specific and separate ministries and sharing offices had created some confusion. It will be good for both departments to have space of their own.”

Although the physical locations of the various departments have changed, phone and FAX information will remain the same. ■

ONETOONE

Rolling Up Your Sleeve

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



Photo: Mark Cowart

ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2010, I ACHIEVED A PERSONAL milestone. On that day I donated blood for the 208th time. That amounts to exactly 26 gallons of blood or blood products. Who says you can't get blood out of a turnip (or a Free Will Baptist preacher)?

Some people get queasy or squeamish when you talk about blood. A lot of people can't stand the sight of it! And yet it's a substance that every human being shares in common. It is essential to life. You can't live without it.

I give Gary Curry credit for my becoming a blood donor. Gary is a regular blood donor himself and was a layman in a church I pastored. One day in the early 1990s he invited me to donate. I politely declined his offer. "I'm just not into donating blood" was my excuse. Actually, I was scared.

A few days later I watched a television documentary on, of all things, donating blood. I sat there in disbelief as the narrator explained that in one of our major cities, 60 percent of the blood used in their hospitals was imported from outside the U.S. because there wasn't enough "safe blood" locally to service their medical facilities. That did it! Shortly thereafter I went to the local donor center, rolled up my sleeve, faced down my fear, and gave my first unit of blood.

According to the American Red Cross, the number one reason donors give blood is because they "want to help others." Frankly, that has been my primary motivation over the past two decades. Knowing that I am doing something to help others—saving lives—is personally gratifying.

I am not specifically suggesting you should donate blood, volunteer at a rescue mission, deliver Meals on Wheels, or

any other benevolent activity. However, I am challenging you to ask yourself, "What can I do to help others? How can I make a difference in someone's life?"

Before answering those questions, make sure you understand that helping others usually involves a high level of commitment. Genuine commitment requires personal sacrifice, and almost always involves pain. I wish I could tell you that it doesn't hurt to give blood, but I would not be telling the truth. It hurts when they prick my finger to check my iron level. It hurts when the phlebotomist puts the needle in my arm. It hurts when they remove the tape from my hairy arms after the procedure.

You may be wondering, "If it hurts, why do you keep going back?" I keep going back because people can't live without blood. Therefore, if it takes some pain, I'm willing to endure it.

You don't have to be creative to relate this to our Christian walk. Following Christ requires genuine commitment...the kind that will cost you in time, effort, and money. It will almost certainly involve pain. He never promised being a disciple would be painless.

There are scores of synthetic products on the market today, but there is no substitute for human blood. And so it is when it comes to meeting man's basic spiritual need. The apostle Peter says the **ONLY** thing that can redeem a poor lost sinner is, "The precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."

God help us all do our part to help others—to share this Good News. After all, Jesus was the ultimate blood donor.

ONE



Equipping Parents at Church to Drive Faith at Home

Everyone is talking about training parents to drive faith at home, but "how" and "where" in our church ministries do we actually do this?

What if there were some way to equip parents to lead their families spiritually that integrates right into your existing discipleship process?

Based on Deuteronomy 6:07

That's 607!

Impressing Faith on Your Kids

by Mark Holmen

Impressing Faith on Your Kids (releases April 2011) is designed for a discipleship initiative, a church-wide campaign, or even a parenting class.

In this upcoming release, Mark helps parents understand the important and critical nature of transferring faith from generation to generation, but he doesn't stop with vision. This book will mobilize parents into action based on the practical, biblical insight of Deuteronomy 6:7.

- Sure to motivate parents to engage with their kids about faith in Christ.
- Perfect for a church-wide initiative or a parenting class.
- A brief read to encourage maximum participation.
- Priced to be sold in large quantities for classes and church-wide initiatives.

**Releases
April 2011**



The 607 Experience

The 607 experience is a *layered approach* for the church to transform, train, and provide resources for parents to fulfill their role as the primary spiritual leaders in the lives of their kids and teens.

Family Worship Experience:

This curriculum comes equipped with nine interactive worship experiences, built around the school calendar, to use at church that will give parents a confidence-building experience with their kids and teens. Parents will leave church having gained experience, skill, and a tool they can implement at home.

Senior Pastor Helps:

This layer equips and resources the senior pastor/lead pastor to emphasize a life in Christ with sermon enhancers and illustrations that motivate listeners to drive faith at home. These fit perfectly into your pastor's sermons!

Assessment Tool:

Included is a measurement tool that will help you discern where you are and evaluate your effectiveness and progress.

**Releases
Summer
2011**

A gift that keeps on giving.

Through a planned gift with the Free Will Baptist Foundation, you can continue to support Free Will Baptist ministries you love long after you are gone!

At the same time, you can secure your own future with benefits such as:

- +Secure income for life
- +Charitable tax deductions
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- +Capital Gains tax shelter

Contact the Foundation for more information:



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