

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

ONE

MAGAZINE

A Free Will Baptist Magazine

**DOGGING
DISCONTENT**

• • •

**Like Father, Like Son
WHO REALLY
DISCIPLES CHILDREN?
THE CALL TO
DISCIPLE
SMOOTH PLACES**

• • •

Passing the Torch...

DECEMBER-JANUARY 2015 | WWW.ONEMAG.ORG





AUTHENTIC SPIRITUALITY

FORUM 15
WELCH COLLEGE | MARCH 8-10, 2015

WELCH.EDU

NEW DATES

For the 2015 Deep South Tournament!

MARCH 25-27 | **STONEBRIDGE COUNTRY CLUB** | ALBANY, GEORGIA

The annual **Deep South Tournament** is a three-day, 54-hole, two-man scramble sponsored by Master's Men. A bargain at \$350 (double occupancy), the fee includes three rounds of golf at award-winning Stonebridge Country Club, three nights of lodging at Wingate by Wyndham Albany, three breakfasts, and two dinners. Reserve your spot today: www.fwbmastersmen.org or (877) 767-8039.

Enjoy unforgettable days of fellowship, fun, and fast greens! Course information: www.stonebridgecc.com

MASTER'S MEN | Together, We Can
Make a Difference

ONE MAGAZINE

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

ONE MAGAZINE
ISSN 1554-3323
VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1



Published bi-monthly by the
National Association of
Free Will Baptists, Inc.,
5233 Mt. View Road,
Antioch, TN 37013-2306.

Non-profit periodical postage rate paid
at Antioch, TN 37011 and
additional offices.

POSTMASTER,
SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
ONE Magazine
PO Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002.



Articles

- 06** Sometimes, Improbable Things Happen Before Breakfast
- 09** Who Really Disciples Children?
- 11** Like Father, Like Son
- 14** *Mi Historia*
- 16** Leadership Matters
- 20** The Call to Disciple Others
- 22** Smooth Places
- 24** How Do I Hear When God Speaks?
- 26** New Initiatives for Growth
- 34** Lessons in Humility
- 37** Battle Buddies
- 42** A New Way to Save for Retirement
- 45** D6 Curriculum: The Next Generation
- 48** Connect: D6 2014
- 51** River City Revue

Columns

- 4** First Glimpse: Dogging Discontent
- 31** Leader Profile: Josh Baer
- 32** Intersect: When Repentance Is Not Enough
- 41** Brown on Green: It's a Wonderful Life
- 54** One to One: The Ornament

News

- 18** Around the World
- 29** At Welch College
- 40** Across the Nation
- 44** From WNAC and Master's Men
- 53** About the Denomination

20



First Glimpse >>

Dogging *Discontent*

Feeding Wrigley, our six-month-old, German Shepherd puppy, and Ginger, a six-year-old Bassett Hound, is an adventure, to say the least. Place a bowl of food before one, and the other immediately pushes in to make sure she hasn't been left out. The puppy, in particular, runs from one dish to the other between gulps, to be sure the older dog doesn't receive extra. Crazy animals!



Goofy as they are, I can't help but think their mealtime behavior is a remarkable snapshot of humanity. It's a "dog-eat-dog" world, where few people are ever satisfied, and many spend their lives craving more—snapping and snarling for their "piece of the pie."

The danger of discontent dates to the Garden of Eden and the first human sin. Sure, the cunning serpent laid a trap by casting doubt on God and downplaying the promised judgment, but Eve's desire—her discontent—did the rest. Commentator Matthew Henry described what followed as the downward spiral of sin—discontent, doubt, denial, and ultimately, death.

I would like to think I would have resisted, that I would have been satisfied with the fruit of all the other trees in the garden. But I am also susceptible to the discontent Eve experienced.

I drive a great-running 1996 Toyota Camry with low miles, no rust, cold air, clean upholstery, and a working radio.

Yet, I find myself gazing longingly at a co-worker's sleek, new, fire engine red Dodge Charger. Discontent.

I have a meaningful job I love, with great coworkers and a comfortable office chair...and sometimes, I wish I didn't have to wear a tie to work. Discontent.

I vacation on the Gulf Coast of Florida, and I dream of Hawaii. Discontent.

I have chicken; I want steak. I have sirloin; I want ribeye. I have ribeye; I want porterhouse. Discontent.

I had a small house; I wanted a bigger house. Now, I need to downsize.

Are these items evil? No, but the insatiable appetite for more can be deadly. Just ask Eve.

From Genesis to Revelation, the Word of God speaks clearly about contentment.

It made the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:17: "Thou shalt not covet..."

Jesus Himself weighed in: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

Paul wrote to the Philippians from prison: "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (4:11-12a).

He continued in his first letter to Timothy (6:6-7): "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."

To sum it up, Scripture teaches us to stop craving and start living.

As you read this issue of *ONE Magazine*, I challenge you to three simple acts of contentment. First, stop agonizing over what you do not have and, instead, delight in God's blessings. Second, start looking at life and possessions through eyes of eternity, placing importance on things with lasting significance rather than longing for temporary pleasures. Finally, say no to something you don't need today as a deliberate and symbolic step toward a more contented life. **ONE**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Keith Burden MANAGING EDITOR: Eric Thomsen ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Ken Akers, David Brown, Danny Conn, Elizabeth Hodges, Ida Lewis, Ray Lewis, Stephen Nelson, Sara Poston, Deborah St. Lawrence, Jack Williams LAYOUT & DESIGN: Randall House Publications DESIGN MANAGER: Andrea Young DESIGN: Sondra Blackburn PRINTING: Randall House Publications.

While *ONE Magazine* is provided to the reader free of charge, tax-deductible donations are both accepted and appreciated. To make a donation, simply send check or money order to *ONE Magazine*, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

PHOTO CREDIT: Mark Cowart, Peyton Hoge (cover), Eric Thomsen, Shutterstock.com, Istockphoto.com, Stockxpert.com, Designpics.com.



letters:

**Have something to say?
Say it!**

The editors of *ONE Magazine* look forward to hearing from 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 just wanted to let you know that your article, "The Interim Pastor" (October-November 2014, page 50) was outstanding.

I would like to use portions of it in the Church By-Laws we are creating. Is it okay to copy it?

—Larry P. (via email)

From the ONE editorial staff: Author Roy Harris has granted permission for portions of "The Interim Pastor" to be copied for local church use. For reprints of the entire article, please contact ONE Magazine.

In regards to the article "No Smoking: A Case Against Tobacco," (October-November 2014). The Bible says there is only one sin against the body and it's not using tobacco. Please read 1 Corinthians 6:18.

—David Borders, Columbus, Ohio

This morning, I received an email from a pastor and his wife who had read about our family in ONE Magazine and they and their church were interested in supporting us. They had read about our family six months ago (Hope for Bulgaria, April-May 2014) and felt God leading them to support us. The church had already been setting aside money in a mission fund, but they hadn't adopted a missionary. He told me his church would like to support our family! They're going to begin sending \$50 a month, and they're going to send nearly \$2,000 they had already accumulated. *ONE Magazine* makes a difference! Thank you for featuring Bulgaria. God used the magazine and someone who was willing to give as a major blessing to our family.

—Josh Provow, Shvistov, Bulgaria

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

BEARING FRUIT

From France to West Africa, gifts to WNAC scholarships continue to bear fruit. For over 20 years, the Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship has provided educational assistance to international Christian students while the Dr. Mary R. Wisheart Scholarship offers similar opportunities for women in the U.S.


Contribute today: wnac.org

Photo: Myriam LeLourn is a 2014 Recipient of the Cleo Pursell Scholarship.



Sometimes, *Improbable Things* Happen Before Breakfast

By Brenda Evans



One morning last month, while I ate a bowl of sticks and straw (as my husband calls it) a woman named Rebecca told me that moths drink the tears of birds. Who knew? I didn't even know that birds made tears, much less that moths sometimes came alongside and "drank their sorrows" for them.

Later, on the patio, an Eastern Tailed Blue butterfly with wings the size of half dimes landed on my wrist, put down her tiny drinking-straw proboscis, and sipped my salty sweat. I know my thirsty butterfly was female because, unlike the flamboyant sapphire-colored male, her blueness was muted almost to gray. Still, she was lovely and found my wrist to slake her thirst. Moths drink tears, and blue butterflies gulp human sweat—all strange to me, yet makes me glad, somehow.

That is often how things are with us: gladness and strangeness all wrapped together in one event. John the Unconventional Baptizer, for example, shouted about Jesus and money and repentance in the wilderness. Who would have thought? People had come to the east side of the Jordan for baptism. “Just get on with it, man,” they may have said. In plain and earnest language, John the Forerunner told them they were not ready because they were bleak human wasteland on the verge of judgment. They needed more than water baptism.

He told them to repent and to give good evidence of it. Perhaps he raised his voice; perhaps he whispered. I don’t know, but I do know he was blunt: “You’re a brood of belly-crawling vipers. Jesus is coming. You better prepare yourselves and bear fruits worthy of repentance because He will throw unfruitful ones into fire” (my paraphrase of Luke 3:7-9).

Talk about hellfire and brimstone! Three groups were troubled by his words. “What shall we do?” they asked. “Besides, what are fruits of repentance?”

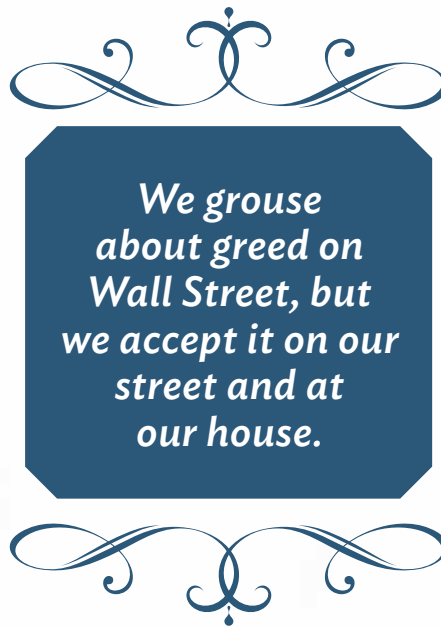
To the first group, John kept it simple: be unselfish, he said. If you have two shirts, give one to a person in need. The same with food—don’t keep it all for yourself. I wonder what his listeners thought. What “religious” things did they expect John to ask of them? Fasting, prayer, synagogue attendance? No, he taught: be generous, think of others’ needs and not just your own. That’s how to show that you have renounced greed.

When was the last time your buddy said, “Hey, friend, let’s go eat a steak and talk about how to renounce greed”? Greed is either a taboo subject, or else we think it’s not such a bad sin after all. Just the other day I heard that old catchphrase *greed is good*. I thought we didn’t use it anymore because everybody was

already living it, but it’s back, a slogan for a new generation.

John the Baptizer brought up greed to show what genuine repentance means. “He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise,” John said. I wonder, of all the examples of genuine repentance John could have used, why did he focus on greed, not once but three times?

When the second group, tax collectors, queried him, he was even more abrupt:



“Collect no more than is appointed” (Luke 3:13). Tax collectors’ reputations stayed tainted because they often fleeced the public, demanding tolls from traders and travelers far above the Roman government’s guidelines. Of course, they pocketed the excess. Greed was the breath and blood of the tax-collecting business, and John said they must not be half-hearted about repenting of it. Do your tax-collecting right, he warned. Collect what is due, no more.

In another twist on the subject, John addressed the third group—soldiers—people with swagger and weapons, peo-

ple who could intimidate and exploit for gain. This band of soldiers may have been under Herod Antipas who later had John beheaded at a birthday party. Whomever they served, John knew their reputation as shakedown artists. Their craft might include intimidation, false accusation, a body search, threats of violence, even blackmail. Whatever the tactic, a soldier was in a position to extort and do harm for monetary gain. So, John instructed them, “Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, and be content with your wages” (3:14). In other words, don’t shake people down so you can put more money in your bag.

If you want to talk about besetting sins, greed is right up there at the top. It is one of what I call The Big Three That Start with G: Greed, Gluttony, and Gossip. John the Baptizer doesn’t talk about the other two—neither do most of us—but he does hammer away at greed out there in the wilderness. Perhaps even more interesting is that John also offered a remedy for greed. He had already demanded repentance and the “fruits” that give evidence of that repentance: generosity, honesty, and fairness. But at the very end of his last response to the questioners, John shared the remedy: “be content” (Luke 3:14).

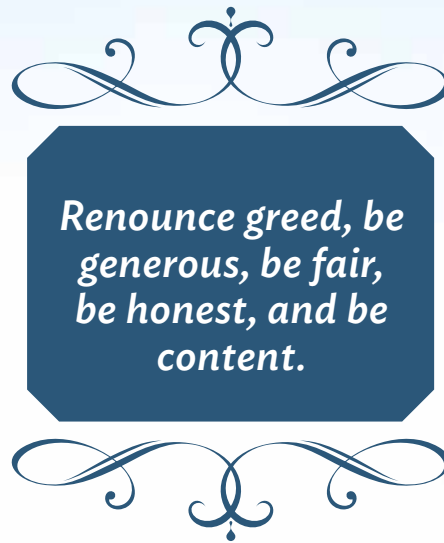
If you think of some of the nastiest names you know—Achan, Ahab, Judas, or, let’s go modern, Bernie Madoff—all were bedeviled by a deep discontentment that birthed greed in one form or another. Each wanted more power or land or status or money, like us. We grouse about greed on Wall Street, but we accept it on our street and at our house. We also forget that John’s final word on the subject was “be content.”

Covetousness, avarice, rapacity—whatever big noun you use, greed is born in a small, discontented heart and mind,

and both Peter and Paul warned that it grows to become large and all-consuming. They used the Greek noun *pleonexia* to label greed's most extreme form. A desire for more and more, or to rhyme it: our insatiable desire to acquire.

Pleonexia is the unwillingness to be satisfied with what we have. It's a spirit of always grasping at yet another thing: money, power, position, and status. It's such a deep longing that Moffatt translates it "lust" in 2 Peter 2:3, and the ESV nuances the meaning even more in 2 Peter 2:14: "hearts trained in greed." In addition, Paul warns that greed is characteristic of the wicked (Romans 1:29) and "not fitting for saints" (Ephesians 5:3).


John the Baptizer is in some ways an enigma, a throwback to the Old Covenant prophets, yet on the razor's edge



Renounce greed, be generous, be fair, be honest, and be content.

of the New Covenant message. He was a son of promise, a forerunner, a man who knew his place in history, and a man who took that place at the feet of Jesus, whose sandal strap he did not feel wor-

thy to stoop down and loose (Mark 1:7). So John was on the same page with the God of the Old Testament, who abhorred greed, forbade it, and punished it (Micah 2:2-3) and also on the same page with Jesus, the New Testament Lamb of God, who warned, "one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (Luke 12:15).

As I said at the beginning, sometimes gladness and strangeness are all wrapped up together. To me, that's true of John the Baptizer. He was a strange and unsettling man, yet he made repentance clear and understandable. I'm glad, because all of us need his message: renounce greed, be generous, be fair, be honest, and be content. 

About the Writer: Brenda Evans is a freelance writer who lives in Catlettsburg, Kentucky.



Skating on thin ice?

If low rates have you "skating on thin ice," find sure footing with a Money Management Trust through Free Will Baptist Foundation, with interest rates of **2.75% or more.**

- +Earn 2.75% or more.**
- +Withdraw funds quickly and without penalty.**
- +Make additional deposits.**
- +Enjoy a higher rate of return.**

Contact us today to learn more:
877-336-7575 | www.fwbgifts.org



A look into
the important
relationship
between church
and home.

Who
Really

Disciples

Children? *By Brian Lewis*

After 20 years in youth and children's ministry, I'm learning what successful discipleship looks like. I have watched a generation grow from small children into adulthood. As a children's pastor, there is great joy when one of your "kids" chooses ministry. When someone you have taught begins to teach others (2 Timothy 2:2), discipleship is a reality.

Christian Wilson is one of my "kids," and now, he is also the youth and children's pastor of the church where I watched him grow from preschool to adulthood. His spiritual maturity, however, did not hinge on my ministry. Several key factors come into play.

The home environment is the most critical factor in seeing a child develop into a mature disciple. While many things influence a child's life, none are more significant or powerful than the home life. God brings about life change, but godly parents pass along to their children

the daily discipline of living out that faith in a practical and intentional way.

Our society has grown comfortable allowing professionals to handle important aspects of our children's development. Schoolteachers provide academic instruction; coaches take care of motor skills; Sunday School teachers and youth ministers are responsible for discipleship. This should not be. Parents, the spiritual development and discipleship of your children are too vital to leave in the hands of any individual or ministry. It is the only aspect of your child's development with eternal significance.

While I wish I could take the credit for Christian's spiritual development, it was two parents, in love with Jesus Christ, who successfully filled their role as disciplinarians. John and Andrea understood the

command to parents in Deuteronomy 6 and worked diligently to create an environment where child-like faith could grow and develop into saving faith.

It's important to mention that parents should be careful to introduce their children to a relationship with Jesus Christ rather than a religion of morality. It's too easy for children reared in a Christian home to adopt the religion without the relationship. They grow up going to church, reading the Bible, praying, and so on, but it's critical that they understand this way of life in the context of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This is best communicated by observing a mom and dad who have their own vibrant relationship with Jesus.

The church does play a vital, although secondary, role in the discipleship of

the next generation. As Paul said in Ephesians, pastors and teachers are to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:12). For parents, discipleship of their children is an enormous and often overwhelming responsibility and flies in the face of our culture.

The church must be a place that empowers, equips, and enables parents to fulfill their God-given role of making disciples; a place where parents can come together, sharing their failures and successes; a place with the common goal of raising a generation that is passionately in love with Jesus Christ.

When the church and parents come together in their God-given roles, successful discipleship is the outcome. **ONE**

About the Writer: Brian Lewis and his family are team members on the 180 Free Will Baptist Church planting team in Clarksville, Tennessee. Brian is the son of Bob Lewis, three-time Free Will Baptist church planter. For more information about Home Missions, please contact the office (877) 767-7674.

Legacy of Faithfulness...

The Ketteman Student Scholarship Drive is named after the long-time promotional director of Welch College. The first student to enroll at the college in 1942, Paul Ketteman worked there for more than 25 years. Generous and fun, he was beloved by the students...and the denomination.

Paul invested his life in the students of the college. He knew they were the future of the denomination, and he committed his life to making the school all it could be. Today, the Ketteman Student Scholarship Drive continues to help the students he loved, a lasting legacy of his faithfulness.

Leave your own Legacy through an endowment for Welch College with Free Will Baptist Foundation. Find out more today:

www.fwbgifts.org | 877-336-7575



Like FATHER Like SON

By Frank Webster

As far back as I can remember, I wanted to be like my dad. That isn't unusual for a son, especially if you're the oldest in the litter. But, here is how it worked. He liked to play basketball, so I liked to play basketball. He liked to keep the yard mowed and manicured, so I worked along with him to do that. He liked Oklahoma Sooner football, so I am a Boomer Sooner fan. He was an electrician, so I worked alongside him and became an electrician, too. He liked to noodle for flathead catfish among the rocks, limbs, and dumped cars along those mud-bottom Oklahoma rivers, so...well, I left that one for my younger brothers.

The point is I wanted to be like Dad. That mentality is key to discipleship, the desire to be like Jesus. We can put together a program by announcing, "The Beginners Class is meeting tonight at 6:00 p.m.," but the program doesn't create desire. We can examine and choose from great materials for a discipleship group study with electronic helps and video clips, but the material is useless without desire within the new Christian.



So, where do we get the desire, the “want to”? I’ve lived in the Show Me State for more than 35 years now, and I guess the “show me” concept is about as simple as I can make it. You see, I wanted to be like Dad in the things he enjoyed. Dad didn’t like doing the dishes; he complained more than he helped. So, I didn’t like doing dishes either. Getting the picture? We need to have fun being a disciple of Jesus and make that clear to the new believers around us.

Stop and think. How much time do you complain about things happening at church compared to how much you laugh about things you enjoyed at church? What is your “Bragging to Nagging” ratio toward the ministry leadership? Are family devotions fun or a waste of time?

There is also another side to this “want to” thing. I remember the first time I beat my dad in a game of H-O-R-S-E. I remember mowing the yard by myself for the first time, and it passed inspec-

tion. I remember wiring my first section of a house with Dad. I was so proud of those small accomplishments. Each one made me more like my Dad. And, I knew Dad was proud, too, because he bragged about me to others.

How did I get to that level of accomplishment? Through practice and obedience! If you’re a fairly new Christian, you have to understand something. You are in charge of you. If I had not gone to the driveway to practice basketball, I never would have been able to outshoot him. It took me more than one shot to pass inspection on the yard. And, the wiring thing took some time, too. Before I arrived at the proud level, I listened to hours upon hours of helpful advice that Dad gave: where to place my hands on the ball; how to keep the mowing line straight; and why you don’t want to get your wires crossed—all valuable pieces of instruction. I wanted to be like Dad, so I worked and listened.

Ask yourself, newbie, do you really want to be like Jesus? If the answer is yes, get in there and do something about it. Be committed, be diligent, listen carefully, and be like Him. Church, do you

It’s too easy for children reared in a Christian home to adopt the religion without the relationship.

want to be proud of your new Christians? Remember to enjoy life together and brag on each other now and again. Between your showing and their doing, you will be amazed how new believers will come to look more like Jesus. **ONE**

About the Writer: Frank Webster is missions director for the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists and serves on the National Home Mission Board.

**WORLD CLASS
FACULTY**

10:1 STUDENT-TEACHER
RATIO



WELCH
COLLEGE

888-97-WELCH | 615-844-5000 | WELCH.EDU

Connect #WelchCollege



D6 CONFERENCE

A FAMILY MINISTRY CONFERENCE FOR YOUR ENTIRE TEAM

SAVE THE

DATE

D6 CONFERENCE.COM

DESIGN 2015 REFINE

**BRING
YOUR PASTOR
FOR FREE**

use this code with any
paid registration:

BOSSMAN

**SEPTEMBER 16-18
LOUISVILLE, KY**

**SUPER EARLY BIRD PRICING
THROUGH DECEMBER 31**

**D6
LOYALTY
OFFER**

for attendees to a
previous D6 conference

**USE CODE:
ILUVD6**

D6

#D62015

Mi Historia (My Story)

By
Lázaro
Riesgo

I grew up in a house divided. My father left home when I was three. My mother is a Christian and a member of First Free Will Baptist Church in Pinar del Río City, Cuba, since 1979.

During my childhood, my mother was faithful to educate me in the Lord, and I accepted Christ at the age of nine during an evangelistic campaign. As a 17-year-old, I rededicated my life to Him and was baptized at First FWB Church in 1995. At that time, I began systematic Bible study and started to preach in several home churches.

In 1996, I met Ariadna Iglesias. She grew up in a non-Christian home. Her father was a volleyball trainer and her mother a medical doctor. Both showed Ariadna a good family model, but not faith in Christ. She accepted Jesus as Savior at 15. Three years later, at age 18, Dr. David Arteaga, her mother's colleague, began pastoring a new home church in her neighborhood. He invited Ariadna to visit the church (today Second FWB Church in Pinar del Río City) and start a personal relationship with Christ. In that church, she found the way to get involved in serving others and helping in many ways.

We felt a mutual attraction and, at the same time, we shared a deep passion for Christ. We decided to spend the rest of our lives

serving God together. We married in January 1998.

Ariadna continued her medical studies, and in September of that year, I decided to go to Los Cedros del Líbano FWB Seminary in Pinar del Río. I made this decision under the call of the Holy Spirit and the influence of several men and women who were models for my life. Those influences fit in three categories:

1. Family: Obdulia Pena, my mother’s aunt, attended First FWB Church in Hialeah, Florida. She shared the Good News with my mother and then put the desire into my heart to read the Bible, pray, and be a minister.

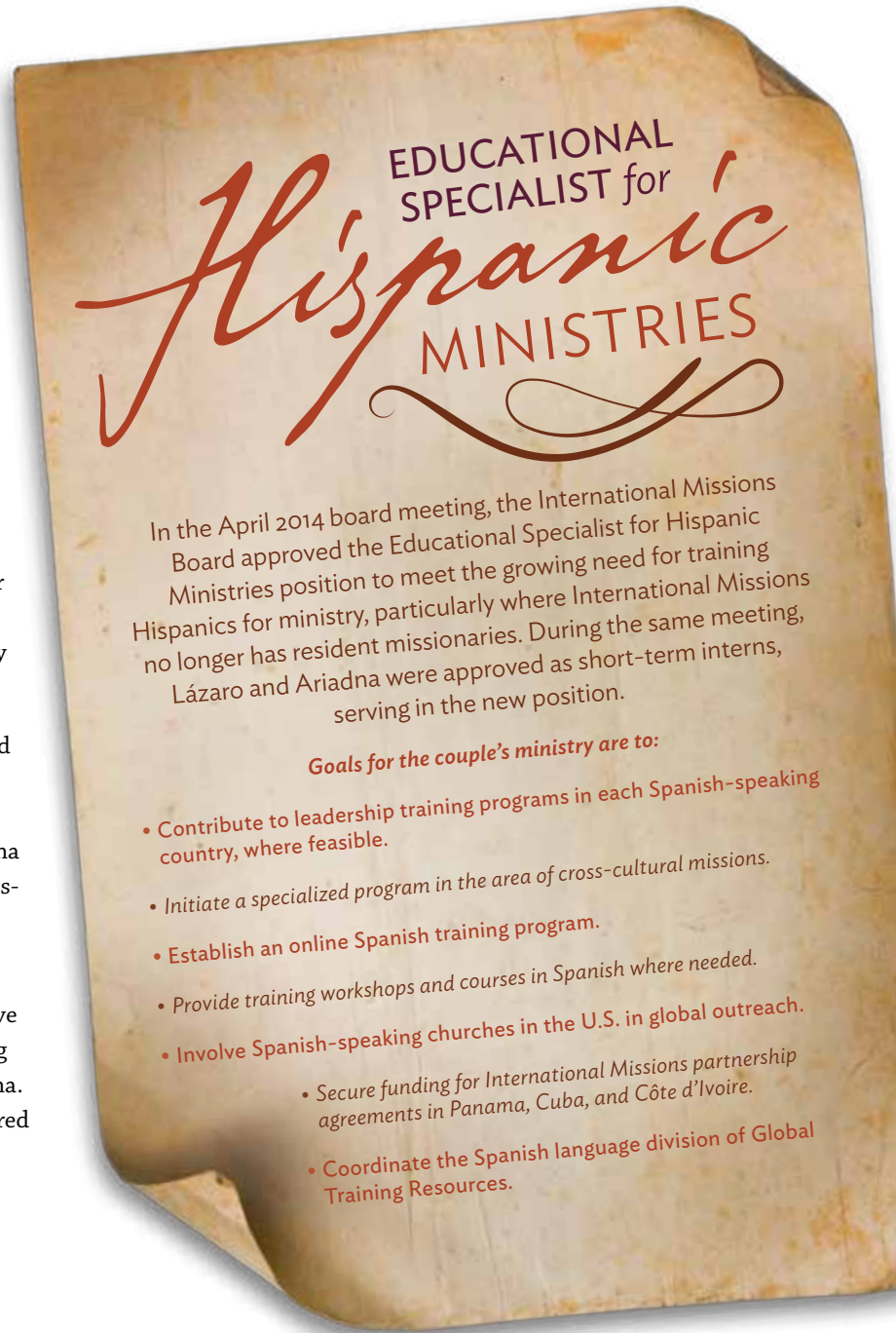
2. Cuban pastors: Ramón and Erundina Giniebra; Antonio and Minerva Hechevarría; Zacarías Hernandez, who prayed for me since I was a child; Israel and Barbara Suárez; and, finally, Rolando and Keila Delgado who introduced me to the seminary and motivated me to attend.

3. Missionaries from International Missions: Steve and Judy Lytle; Stan and Brenda Bunch, who invested in teaching youth through the summer camps; and Ronald and Linda Calaway who taught when I was a student at the seminary. Ariadna and I received from all these families the first model for the Misio Dei (mission of God).

As a couple, we faced many challenges. One was attending seminary with limited economic resources. We spent almost five years under difficult conditions from Monday to Friday. During the weekends, I went to several places for ministry with Ariadna. She served as a medical doctor in the community while we shared the gospel together.

After finishing my theological studies (2003), another challenge was to preach and teach the gospel in a relevant and creative way. Most of the time, we taught biblical principles in houses, garages, and other facilities. We moved ten times in a period of seven years (2003 to 2010), serving at La Conchita Church and working as national youth directors for the Cuban FWB Convention.

In 2007, Steve Lytle and Stan Bunch visited Cuba and motivated the Cuban church to be part of God’s work around the world. Ariadna and I started to pray more often for God’s will for our lives. In 2008, we decided to go to another country to serve Him. Finally, God allowed us to go to Panama in June 2011. In partnership with International Missions and the Free Will Baptist Panamanian Association, we were to work with the Lytles and help train students at the Chame Bible Institute through biblical teaching and a Christian lifestyle. Quickly, Ariadna and



I became involved, and have continued until the present both in teaching and the development of a Christian educational vision for the process of institute transition to national workers.

Jesus is the reason for what we do. We have a commitment to Him to extend the Kingdom, not only in Cuba and Panama, but also in the world. Our passion is to share all that we received from others in fulfillment of the Word of God:

“And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2). **ONE**

LEADERSHIP Matters

BY JEFF TURNBOUGH

I just reviewed a Position Results Description (PRD) of a missionary. The PRD, an enhanced job description, focuses on the desired results of a ministry role rather than the tasks. At International Missions, we have implemented it for both our missionaries and home staff. It forms the basis for our annual accountability and evaluations. We first learned about this practical tool through the Leadership Matters Course, or LMC.

Robert Bryan, Dennis Teague, my wife Susan, and I attended our first LMC in 2006. Since that time, I have incorporated many other LMC leadership tools and skills into my life—regular times of solitude, an eight-fold life management plan, the workshop method, storytelling skills, etc.

The Leadership Matters Course—designed by experienced cross-cultural workers for cross-cultural workers—is sponsored by the International Training Alliance (ITA), a partnership of mission agencies such as Operation Mobilization, Wycliffe, Christian Missionary Alliance, Global Partners, New Horizons, Caleb Australia, Caleb New Zealand, Tentmakers USA, General Baptists, and Free Will Baptist International Missions.

Leaders return to their diverse places of ministry with practical tools and encouragement to enhance their effectiveness. Additionally, friendships formed extend God's Kingdom work. For example, at International Missions, we are working with Operation Mobilization and Christian Missionary Alliance to provide a course to help leaders in Montevideo, Uruguay. Montevideo is the least reached city in all of Latin America. I'm sure the Lord of the harvest smiles when His children from different groups work together in this way.

Because of LMC, I have friends and colleagues on every continent—each of us work-



LEADERS RETURN
TO THEIR DIVERSE
PLACES OF MINISTRY
WITH PRACTICAL
TOOLS AND
ENCOURAGEMENT
TO ENHANCE THEIR
EFFECTIVENESS.

ing to fulfill the Great Commission. This is precisely the fulfillment of Jesus' heart, expressed in His prayer in John 17.

After attending that first LMC as participants, Free Will Baptist International Missions became a partner. Since that time, several members of our Mission team have become senior trainers, offering time, talents, and energy for at least two courses per year.

In case you think I am the only one at the Mission thankful for LMC, read this unsolicited note from a missionary who recently attended his first course:

We just returned from participating in the LMC course. LMC has been the most practical leadership and ministry training that I have taken part in over the past 20 years. It has provided some very concrete and practical tools for forming our team. It occurred to me that when we send out missionaries, they are expected to have sufficient educational and ministerial experience. We also give them extensive cross-cultural training. After completing this training, it seems that LMC should be a requirement or strongly encouraged aspect of any missionary going beyond the first term. I'm glad that FWB International Missions is part of this training and am very thankful that you allowed us the opportunity to attend. I think it will be giving dividends for years to come.

This note reflects the feelings of thousands of cross-cultural workers from dozens of mission agencies, who have attended the Leadership Matters Course.

Consider a handful of the comments from participants in a recent course:

This is the best leadership course I have ever done. I have been encouraged, valued, stretched, and empowered. (Graham, UK)

The best comprehensive training available out there for mission workers that is practical, skills-driven, and relationship-based. (Peter, Creative Access)

This course is well conceived, cleverly put together, and taught with both godliness and excellence. I would recommend it to anyone! (Stephen, Africa)

The LMC is incredibly engaging training. Our leaders walked away with a common language and set of tools we can immediately put into practice. (Dennis)

This course has fundamentally changed my approach to ministry management perceptions and has opened many areas that I didn't pay attention to before. (Geoffrey, Uganda)

A tremendous asset to anyone who wants to shape their leadership skills and pick up some new tools to enhance their abilities. (Andy, OM Ships)

Because it is taught in such a practical manner, I will integrate this course immediately into my form of thinking and working. It will just be a part of whom I am for many years to come. (Kristi, Spain)

Invaluable, priceless! (Melissa, UK)

LEADERSHIP Matters Course

The agencies in the International Training Alliance believe that most of us have done a good job training our workers in Bible, theology, methodologies, and cross-cultural missiology. We have not done as well with practical leadership skills: management, relationships, communication, public relations, basic leadership qualities, personal life management, etc. LMC offers time-tested knowledge in these basic areas, with ample time to practice the skills in an atmosphere of love and respect. Participants return to ministry refreshed and with new tools to use immediately.

With roots in the practical training program for Wycliffe Bible Translators (one of the largest Evangelical missions), the joint effort began in 1995. FWBIM joined ITA in 2006, and has been an active member since that time, sending missionaries as participants and providing experienced trainers for courses. Our commitment includes our senior trainers serving in at least two courses per year. With our financial challenges of the past several years, sister mission organizations have paid our expenses for us to participate! Oh, that we can reciprocate.

More than 30 IM personnel have benefitted from Leadership Training Courses. Six Free Will Baptists (Lannah Thatcher Agreda, Robert Bryan, Sam McVay, Dennis Teague, Jeff Turnbough, and Susan Turnbough) serve as senior trainers, regularly teaching national workers from many countries so they can use these skills as they build the Church around the world.

Visit LMC's website: www.LMCcourse.org

While the trainers are unpaid volunteers, comments like the ones above are more than enough payback for the time we invest! Through these workers on the front lines of ministry, we help touch thousands and thousands of people all over the globe.

Courses last two weeks. The maximum numbers of participants in any course are 36, with at least one experienced mission leader/trainer for every three participants.

One of the strengths of the courses is having diverse nationalities, ethnicities, and mission agencies involved as workers. In the last course I led, 39 participants represented 15 nationalities from 14 different mission agencies. You will find few gatherings like this... all for His honor and for the extension of His Kingdom.

Robert Bryan (Free Will Baptist missionary to France) has led a team of experienced LMC trainers to translate the course into French, primarily for national leaders in West Africa. They have held two successful courses in Cameroon. I have spearheaded a similar effort in Spanish, focusing on Latin America. We piloted several shorter courses to test the materials with select leaders in Spain, Cuba, and Venezuela. What a blessing to be part of this growing Kingdom effort.

Join us in thanking God for the ministry of the Leadership Matters Course. Pray for the global council and management team, as together we seek to fulfill the requests for more courses around the world. Free Will Baptist International Missions exists to labor with the Body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission. With LMC, we train workers to be more effective in fulfilling that goal. **ONE**



About the Writer: Jeff Turnbough has served as director of field operations for International Missions since 2008. Visit www.fwbgo.com.

Around the World >>

Home and International Missions Form Partnership

Antioch, TN—On September 3, 2014, the leadership of Home Missions and International Missions agencies voluntarily and intentionally formed a unique partnership. The departments will work together to organize and implement joint, cross-cultural ministry projects in North America.

The first project will be in Champaign, Illinois, where Tyler and Kellie Penn work among nearly 10,000 international students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Penns, presently working under Home Missions, have applied to International Missions. Home Missions will seek a church planter to partner with the Penns to plant a church in Champaign.

According to a 2013 article from World Education Services in New York, the University of Illinois ranked second behind the University of Southern California for the number of international students enrolled in its programs.

Historically, within the parameters outlined by the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Home Missions is assigned North America ministries (including the United States, Canada, and Mexico) while International Missions

is assigned the world outside of North America. “Please pray for us,” requests Director of Field Operations Jeff Turnbough, “as together we seek other strategic places to reach out to international students, refugees, and/or immigrants around North America.” ■



French Young People “Think”

Nantes, France—At least 130 people, the majority unbelievers, attended the third *J’Pense* (I Think) event. Held September 19, those attending heard Joel Teague present a biblical worldview of why a God of love allows suffering. Previous events tackled the authority of Scripture and why evil exists in the world.



As a whole, French people are suspicious of church and Christians. Holding these events in local civic centers or other facilities lowers one barrier to the gospel. Joel stresses, “These are not meant to be cool events for Christians. We are trying to share the Truth with people who might not listen any other time.”

Free copies of the Bible are offered after each event. As a result, several people have begun reading Scripture for the first time. Others have begun participating in small group discussions and Bible studies. ■

Seven Baptized in Panama

Las Tablas, Panama—Pastor Efraín González, a 2013 graduate of the Chame seminary, invited Lázaro Riesgo to baptize seven new believers at Los Santos on Sunday, September 21. Los Santos, one of the central provinces of Panama, has deeply-rooted Roman Catholic traditions. Efraín pastors in Las Tablas, the capital of the province, some 130 miles from the Bible institute.



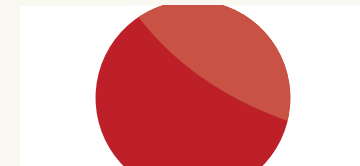
The Sunday morning service was held at El Jobo beach. Around 70 people gathered in an old house near the sand and enjoyed breakfast and worship.

Lázaro wrote, “After preaching the Word of God, I baptized the seven new believers. For Las Tablas FWB Church and the Kingdom of God, it was a day of sun, victory, and joy.” ■

Snapshots Around the World



Bulgaria—New Life FWB Church in Svishtov hosted a back to school party, Saturday, September 13. Six unchurched families were represented. The party launched English clubs for kids, preschoolers, and teenagers. Each of the four English clubs also had good first meetings. Amy Postlewaite and Lydia Awtrey lead these English clubs.



Japan—The family of God expanded by three at the Koinonia Church in Hokkaido in September. Two people made deathbed professions of faith. The wife of one of them accepted Christ as well. Other family members are either seeking or renewing relationships with Christ. Pray for Pastor Hirabuki as he ministers to these families.



Uruguay—Santa Teresa FWB Church in Rivera, celebrated its 52nd anniversary Sunday, August 31. Pastor Casildo leads this, the oldest Free Will Baptist church in Uruguay. Representatives from the other two Free Will Baptist churches in town; former missionary Molly Barker; current missionaries Jaimie and Tammy Lancaster; Brazilian missionary Alex Mendes; and Regional Director Kenneth Eagleton joined the congregation in their celebration. Several musical presentations preceded the message by Pastor Gerardo Acevedo from Montevideo. Attendees fellowshiped during refreshments served after the service.



Uruguay—The Uruguayan National Association met Saturday, September 6, at the Renacer FWB Church in Melo. Representatives from all five Free Will Baptist churches attended the meeting. Along with the usual business, the churches shared reports about their activities. Only three churches have Uruguayan pastors. A Brazilian missionary leads one church and the fifth is without a pastor. The Santa Teresa Church also has an outreach to another location. The Lancasters are making contacts in their neighborhood in Montevideo with the vision of starting a house church in the near future. ■

The Call to DISCIPLE OTHERS

• • • BY NORMA JACKSON GOLDMAN • • •

The imperatives of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 are marching orders for followers of Christ, but there is often a tendency to focus more on bringing people to saving faith in Christ than on making disciples of those already saved. The result is evangelical churches of all denominations filled with immature believers (think unripe fruit). Following baptism, Scripture declares, we are to “teach them to observe everything I (Jesus) have commanded you.” Christ gave this command, of course, under the full authority given Him by God the Father.

But many (who might characterize themselves as unripe fruit) long to be discipled. They yearn for a deeper experience with God—a richer, more intimate relationship with Him. So, how does this process we call “discipleship” come about?

JESUS: THE ESSENTIAL MODEL

Jesus modeled the things He commanded personally, as the New Testament records in great detail. First and foremost, He told us to tell the truth about what God says. The culture, then and now, does not believe “unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” Christ-followers must proclaim that message and engage others with the intention of bringing them to faith, and discipling them to become more like Christ over time.

An abundance of plans, programs and methods are available to share one’s faith, but the clearest, simplest, and most winsome testimonies are found in the Gospels. “Come and see what Jesus has done for me.” “Once I was blind (physically and spiritually), but now I can see.” “Come see the Man who has....” The intention in each case was healing, not only for the moment, but new life in



Christ-followers
must proclaim that message
and engage others with the
intention of bringing them
to faith, and discipling
them to become more like
Christ over time.

Christ, a total departure from their former way of living.

He demonstrated compassion for the downtrodden, the sick, the stranger, the outcast, the orphan, and the widow. He fed the hungry, restored a widow's only son to life, rescued one about to be stoned, and challenged those who abused their positions of leadership and power.

His lifestyle reflected the habits of prayer, intercession, and meditation. He showed patience with those blinded by pride, prejudice, and ignorance. He brought health and healing to those entirely without hope. He confronted sin, while showing grace and mercy to the sinner.

Though He was the Messiah, the Righteous King, He modeled servant leadership—a way of life that people of every generation have struggled to comprehend.

PROVEN METHOD

After carefully teaching His followers, He sent them out to practice what they had learned from His teachings and from observing Him in daily interaction. Then, He coached them further, encouraging prayer, fasting, and personal sacrifice for the sake of the Kingdom.

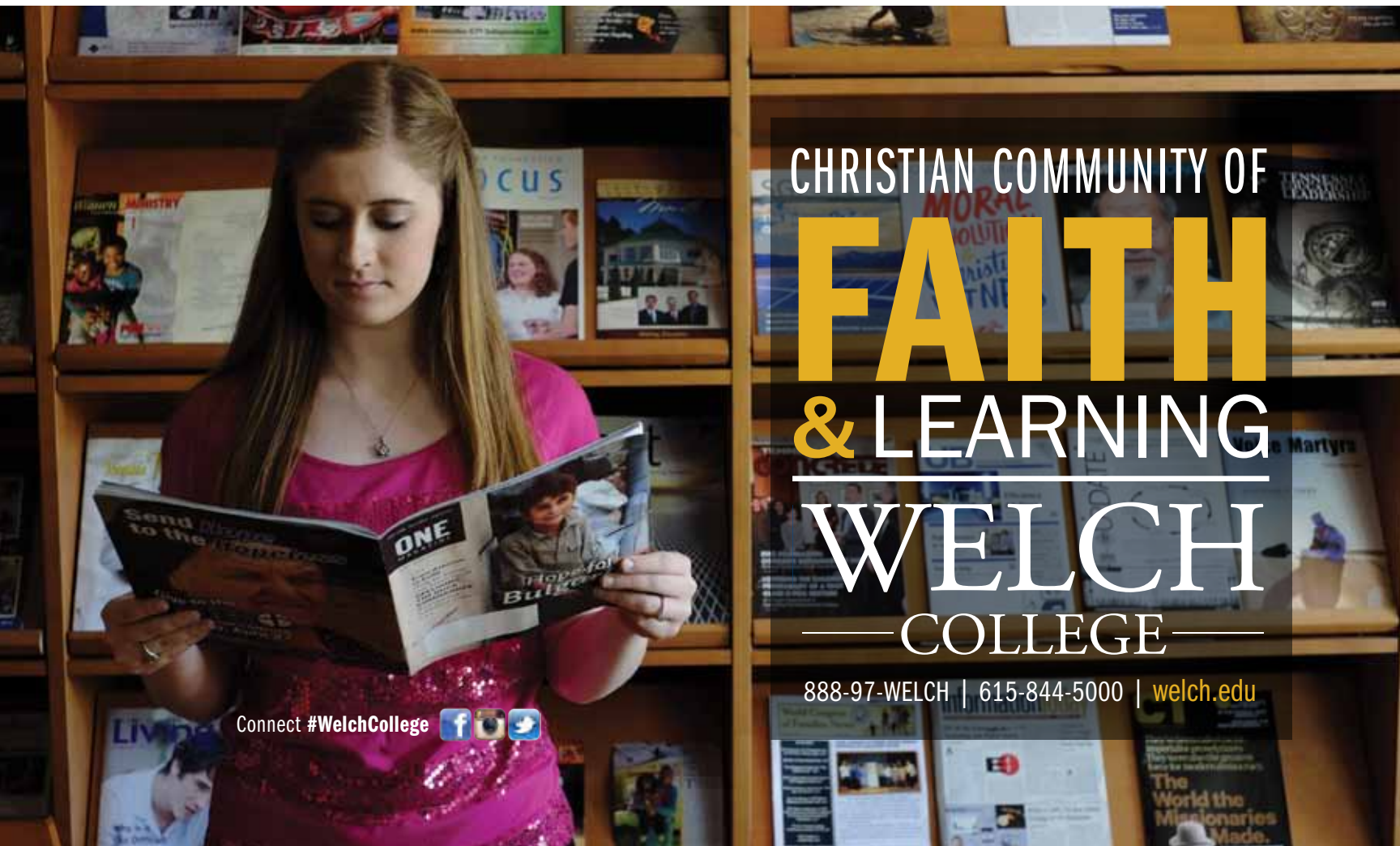
Ongoing discipleship may be one of the greatest failings in the Church today. Many do not follow this model of teaching, coaching, and sending believers so they can practice and mature as disciples *and* disciplers. We focus, unintentionally perhaps, on delivering content—the *what* of the Gospel rather than the *how*.

A RELEVANT MENTOR

Could it be that we have failed to develop coaches, exemplary leaders who model the Gospel, so they may in turn, produce other disciples? A growing movement among churches seeks to discover and train Christ-followers willing to come alongside another believer and do just what we have described. And the good news is that a great many Christians welcome the idea of being mentored!

Many retirees are the perfect answer to this need. Mature in faith, they have the time, experience, and ability to invest in the life of another—to answer the call to be a discipler of men, women, and young people. Will you join them? **ONE**

About the Writer: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman enjoys a successful writing career in her retirement from her home near Houston, Texas.



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY OF
FAITH
 & LEARNING

WELCH
 — COLLEGE —

888-97-WELCH | 615-844-5000 | welch.edu

Connect #WelchCollege   

The **SMOOTH PLACES**

BY MARIE DRAKULIC

“The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their waves. The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea” (Psalm 93:3-4).

I pulled into the sand-covered parking lot, kicked off my flip-flops, and let the golden grains trickle between my toes. Breathing a big gulp of the fresh lake air, I felt at home. This is my sanctuary, my favorite place on earth. The Lake Erie coast of Presque Isle has become my go-to place for long walks and great talks, a place to collect my thoughts and soak in the quiet.

It was Sunday afternoon, a rare moment alone in my week. Moving quickly, I made my way to the water's edge. I wanted to feel the cool tide on my skin and hear the waves ebb and flow on the shore.

As I set my pace, I began to think of all the great writing metaphors in this place. Stepping into the water reminded me of constant change. Trudging along the sandy beach felt remarkably familiar to the weight we carry through the race of life. All stories for another day.

On this day, I was struck by an anomaly on the shore. Between the long, rocky outcroppings, I found small, smooth places. In these smooth places, my feet found the most comfort and ease, as they were some of the firmest places on the beach. I found myself looking eagerly for them and wondering why there were so few.

“Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction” (Isaiah 48:10).

Looking down at the rocks beneath my feet, I noticed something else. They were beautiful. Each rock was different. They varied in texture, size, and color.

I began to reflect. The smooth places might provide the easiest walk, but they lack the richness and depth of the rocky stretches. It's a good reminder. In the midst of the rocky, difficult places in our lives, God draws us to the most magnificent beauty.

It's true in my life. Those times when I felt barely able to breathe, God was doing something amazing. Through affliction (no matter how long the trial or how deep the pain), God was always mightier. The psalmist said, “The flood and the waves were mighty, Lord, but You are mightier” (my paraphrase).

Take a close look at another passage in the Psalms: “I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me” (Psalm 119:75). Wait. Stop right there. Broken sister or frustrated brother, did you hear that? Read it again. “In faithfulness hast afflicted me...”

What? No, it can't be. Why would a loving God afflict me? Keep reading: “Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant. Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight” (Psalm 119:76-77, 92).

I can't imagine where those words find you today. Are you grieving? Are you battling addiction? Are you struggling with infertility? Did your spouse just ask for a divorce? Did your doctor just give you the prognosis you have been dreading? Are you heartbroken? Are you drowning in debt, not sure how you will make it through the week, let alone the month? Do you wonder when God will finally give you the direction you have been seeking?

Oh, I know how hard those words must be to read. In a time

*I don't have deep theological answers for affliction. But I can cling desperately, and with great faith, to this promise . . .
God is faithful, always faithful.*

of deep sadness, an extended period of isolation and loneliness, God directed me to this passage, and I'm still not sure I understand the meaning. I don't have deep theological answers for affliction. But I can cling desperately, and with great faith, to this promise . . . God is faithful, always faithful. It is not just what He does; it is who He is. He is merciful. His love is constant, and it will comfort me. His Word is my delight, my strength, and my portion for this day, this moment, this affliction.

“Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction” (Psalm 119:92).

I must admit that in the smooth places of life, where I feel stable, my mind drifts from His faithfulness. I drift from His word and am distracted when I pray. Perhaps that is why the smooth places are so short-lived. In the hardest times in my life, my prayers are the most fervent. When no one seems to have the answer, my searches become more diligent. I stay in the Word, and I meditate on it night and day. The most challenging times in my life have brought great treasures to share with others—how God has loved and rescued me.

Where are you walking today? Is the ground smooth and firm? Don't lose your focus. Don't forget to seek your Creator. Let Him prepare you for the storms ahead.

Or maybe you are struggling across the rocky ground, and you can't quite remember what the smooth places feel like. Hang in there. Don't give up. Don't quit fighting that addiction or stronghold. Don't stop praying for that loved one. Don't let go of His promises for your life. Above all, don't, don't, don't stop breathing in His Word and living in His grace. He is making something beautiful of your life.

“They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble . . . Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and He bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still” (Psalm 107:26; 28-29).

God alone controls the wind and the waves, and He still delivers. He still calms the raging seas. Don't lose heart! “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory” (2 Corinthians 4:17). **ONE**

About the Writer: Marie Drakulic and her husband Tony are team members with Darryl Grimes, planting Flagship FWB Church in Erie, Pennsylvania. Learn more: www.flagshipchurch.com



HOW DO I HEAR *When God Speaks?*

BY AARON BALDRIDGE

Many things are difficult for Christians to understand. One thing is particularly troubling, especially for new believers—the concept that God “speaks” to His children. We communicate with others through verbal or written words, and it is usually pretty easy to understand what is communicated. But God speaks in other ways that are more difficult to describe. It is even harder to understand unless you have experienced it. He speaks to us spiritually rather than verbally.

When examining this subject, we must keep three important principles in mind. First is the crucial, biblical teaching that the Holy Spirit indwells and empowers every Christian at the moment of conversion.

Second, we must remember that God never contradicts His Word or violates His nature. This means we have a responsibility to spend time learning and digesting God’s Word so we know the truth. If you do not know that Jesus said in the gospels, “No man knows the day or the hour when I will come again,” it will be easy for a slick “snake oil salesman” to lead you astray when he declares the Lord is coming back in six weeks.

Finally, it is important for Christians to remember that God often speaks in a still, quiet voice rather than boisterous thunder. God instructed David to “be still and know that I am God.” We may miss God’s voice if we do not listen quietly and concentrate completely. Perhaps you have experienced this when watching a TV show while playing a game on your phone or tablet. You “pay attention” to both, but it’s easy to miss important details, and later you find yourself wondering what you missed.

With these three things in mind, as

God speaks softly, and we must be centered upon Him and tune everything else out.

we pray and live the Christian life in fellowship with God, how do we hear His voice and know we are walking in his ways? We must be sure we have a clear line of communication with God. Though the Holy Spirit indwells all believers, the Holy Spirit does not always have full control of all believers. Sin interrupts communication between God and man, and when this occurs, it is very hard to hear Him speak!

God speaks to us through His Word.

I am amazed when I reflect upon the many times that God has used a Scripture, devotional thought, or sermon to speak to me about a matter that I have been praying about and needing answer to. Answers have come. Comfort has been given. Directions received. Conviction and chastisement dealt out. It is imperative for God’s children to spend

regular time reading God’s Word. Our ability to hear God speak will come in direct proportion to the time we spend learning in the Word and listening for Him to speak.

God speaks to us by prayer. Prayer is a two-way communication, although we often treat it as a one-way “shopping list” delivered to God on a daily or weekly basis. Sure, one-sided conversations with God are often appropriate—when we invite His presence and blessing on our meals or pray together during worship services. Yet, even these instances are

really two-way communication because God does visit with us and bless us through our meals, services, and activities throughout the day.

It is crucial, however, for believers to make intentional time to hear from God. We need at least one daily time when we get alone with God and pray. During these moments, we must be still and listen for Him to speak—to wait in silence to hear the Holy Spirit’s promptings and nudging. Again, God speaks softly, and we must be centered upon Him and tune everything else out. This is difficult to do even without a television blaring, kids running around, social media sounding alerts, or cell phones ringing. Find a quiet place and a quiet time where you can quiet your mind and get alone with God.

God speaks to us through fellow believers. God did not create His

children to be alone. He created us for fellowship, and fellow believers help us confirm God’s speaking to us. A wonderful illustration is my call to preach. I had no doubt in my mind that God called me to preach, but I was very unsure of myself. Over the years, the affirming words, prayers, and opportunities others gave me confirmed the calling on my life.

Our Christian community of brothers and sisters helps us confirm God’s will in other areas well. I can testify about times I joined others in our church in praying about a particular matter, and God gave all the same answer. If you think you have heard something from God but are unsure, ask a brother or sister—maybe even a group—to pray with you about the matter. He will often affirm the decision through them.

God also speaks to us through circumstances.

While we have free will to make our own choices, God often uses circumstances to guide us. Have you not observed that people are more open to and seeking the Lord during times of tragedy? After Hurricane Katrina, many asked, “Why would God allow that to happen?” Though God does not always cause tragedies, He does work through them to His glory (Romans 8:28-29).

In our connected, busy, loud world, it is easy to lose sensitivity to God’s voice. But the more we listen, hear, and obey, the better we will become at discerning God’s voice. Hearing God speak requires us to be intentional about seeking His direction through His Word, listening to His voice, and becoming deeply involved in a loving community of other believers. Most important, though, is simply being in His presence. We cannot hear God’s voice when we are not near Him. **ONE**

Welch College moves into a future of growth with new academic programs, including fully online undergraduate degree programs and a master's degree in Theology and Ministry.

WELCH COLLEGE:

New Initiatives for Growth

BY MATT PINSON

Things are abuzz at Welch College!

With new initiatives leading the way to growth, Welch's future looks bright.

Enrollment Growth

We are enjoying a trend in enrollment growth, a reversal from the doldrums we endured following the Recession, which really began to affect us in 2008. Last year, Welch experienced a 24% increase in dormitory enrollment, and this year, we've gone up again, between four and five percent.

We hope to build on this traditional-student growth with new academic programs that extend our mission of educating leaders to serve Christ, His church, and His world through biblical thought and life.

New Online Degrees

Last year, for the first time, the college began to offer online degrees through an agreement with the leading online, education-consulting firm, Capital Education, LLC. We now offer four

degrees online:

- *The Associate of Arts degree (A.A.) in General Studies*
- *The Associate of Science degree (A.S.) in Business*
- *The Associate of Science degree (A.S.) in Ministry*
- *The Bachelor of Science degree (B.S.) in Ministry*

Last fall, our first year to offer these degrees, 26 students enrolled in them. This fall, the second fall to enroll students in these online degrees, we are on track to exceed 40 students. As we get the word out about these new programs, we believe we will experience greater and greater growth over the next few years.

The online degree programs are designed to fill a niche: mid-career, adult learners who cannot leave their homes and relocate to Nashville. Thus, they are tailor-made for the highly motivated and flexible adult-learning style rather



than the typical 18 to 22-year-old college student. Our online students have responded positively to these programs that enable them to realize their dream of graduating from a Christian college without leaving their homes and careers.

If you or someone you know might be interested in completing an online degree at Welch, please email online admissions counselor Brian Crouse: brian.crouse@welch.edu.

PRAY FOR US AS WE MOVE BOLDLY INTO THE FUTURE

Master's Programs

One of my long-range goals for Welch College is to have a theological seminary or divinity school offering M.Div., D.Min., and similar degrees. In 2005, we made plans to study the feasibility of offering master's degrees in two core programs—ministry and teacher education.

When the Recession began, we encountered serious financial difficulty

worsened by challenges with our pension plan. As a result, we temporarily shelved the graduate programs.

Now, we believe it is time to move graduate education at Welch College to the front burner. This year, we plan to make a level-change proposal to our accrediting bodies to offer a master's degree program in Theology and Ministry. If the accreditors give us the green light, we hope to begin offering courses for the degree during the 2015-16 academic year.

The M.A. in Theology and Ministry

We are excited about this program, which has already been approved unanimously by our faculty and Board of Trustees. The M.A. in Theology and Ministry is designed as a 33-semester-hour graduate degree that integrates the classical theological disciplines with the study of the practice of Christian ministry. It is designed for college graduates who desire additional education in theological studies and ministry studies, whether they are or wish to be in ordained Christian ministry or lay ministry.

The program of studies is unique in that it aims at the interdisciplinary study of Christian theology and the practice of Christian ministry. Thus, students will study the classical theological disciplines with a focus on ministry practice, and ministry with a focus on the application of theology.

We're planning to structure the M.A. in Theology and Ministry in "hybrid" courses that combine online study with weeklong, on-campus learning experi-

ences. Thus, it will be ideal for those in active ministry who cannot relocate to Nashville to study for a master's degree. Yet, it will still feature a vital lecture-and-discussion and mentoring component in which students will be able to interact with their professor face-to-face.

If you or someone you know might be interested in the prospect of studying for an M.A. in Theology and Ministry at Welch College, please email Dr. Kevin Hester at khester@welch.edu.

How Can You Help?

Some readers may be asking themselves, "How can I help make these new Welch College initiatives a success? Let me encourage you to do three things:

First, pray that God will make the online and graduate degree programs a success. Pray specifically that our accreditors will approve these programs. **Second, make a mental list of individuals you know who might be interested in earning one of the degrees listed in this article.** Tell us about them, and encourage them to inquire about the degree in which they're interested. **Finally, pray and ask God to give you guidance about supporting one of these new programs, or giving toward scholarships that would help students fund their education in one of these programs.**

God is doing great things at Welch College. I ask you to pray for us and support us as we move boldly into the future with plans for growth toward the fulfillment of the mission to which He has called us. **ONE**



Invest in the FUTURE

When young **L. C. Johnson**, new president of Welch College, drove up to 3609 Richland Avenue for the first time in September 1942, Paul Ketteman was waiting on the doorstep. He was the first student to enroll and later worked at the college for more than 25 years.

Mr. Ketteman was beloved across the denomination and even more by students. Many remember him walking up to them while they waited in line at the snack shop, handing them a dollar bill, and saying, “Let me buy your soda today.”

Paul Ketteman invested his life in the students of Welch College. He knew they were the future, and he committed himself to making the school the very best it could be to serve students during his lifetime and beyond. According to Dr. Robert Picirilli, “Paul wanted, more than anything else, for the school to be strong, growing, and faithful to its founding—training young men and women for ministry.”

Ketteman began the annual fund drive renamed The Ketteman Student Scholarship Drive (KSSD) after his death. He understood better than most how costly it is to provide quality Christian education, and how important it is for churches and individuals to provide regular, generous support. More than anyone else, his work made us conscious of the need to provide a legacy for future generations.

Today, Welch College continues to train young men and women for lives of service. From the original majors of Pastoral Ministry and Missions, the college has introduced new degrees that range from Education, Business, Music, Christian Education, and Youth Ministry to Psychology, Exercise Science, and Children’s Ministry. Welch College continues to change the world one student at a time.

Continue the tradition of giving back.



2015 KETTEMAN STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2015

615-844-5000 | welch.edu/kssd

At Welch College >>

Williams Resigns at Welch College

Dr. Jack Williams, director of communications at Welch College since 2005, announced his resignation, according to Provost Greg Ketteman.



Dr. Ketteman said. “He always arrived on campus early each day and maintained an open-door office policy welcoming students, faculty, staff, and visitors. He did an excellent job preparing news releases, editing numerous publications, and fulfilling other duties as communications director.”

Prior to his work at Welch, Williams served 27 years as editor of *Contact*, the official publication of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, and 24 years as convention coordinator, plus eight years as academic dean at California Christian College. He pastored in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Louisiana.

President Matt Pinson said, “Jack Williams was just the man we needed a decade ago when he came to Welch. In addition to his first-rate writing and editing, he brought to the table a deep love for the Free Will Baptist denomination and the college, as well as a keen understanding of our history and culture. We will be praying for him as he writes this new chapter.”

“Almost 10 years have passed since I joined the college staff,” Williams said. “The last two years have been difficult for me physically and financially following my stroke in 2012 and all those unexpected medical expenses. It’s time for me to step aside and let the younger generation take the reins. What a joy it has been to serve at Welch College.” ■

Theological Symposium Meets at Welch College

Nashville, TN—Excellent, high-quality, intellectually stimulating, practical, spiritually challenging, warm-hearted, and well worth attending—these are just a few of the descriptions expressed by Commission for Theological Integrity members concerning the 2014 Theological Symposium.



Welch College hosted this year’s Symposium October 27-28. The event centered on the theme “Evangelism in the Post-Christian West,” with more than 130 in attendance. Presenters and papers included:

Aaron Baldrige (GA): “A Renewed Ministry Model for New Priests: Implications of the Priesthood of Believers for the Ministry of Evangelism”

Jeff Cockrell (NC): “Provoking to Jealously: Paul’s Missionary Strategy”

Charles Cook (TN): “Twentieth-Century Evangelism: Exploring the Legacies of Lesslie Newbigin and Billy Graham”

Mark Coppenger (TN): “Evangelism in a Post-Christian World: Ten Lessons I Think I’ve Learned”

Greg Hollifield (TN): “Danger Ahead: Preaching and Teaching the Warning Passages of Hebrews, or, When the Plain Meaning of the Texts Contradicts Your Own Personal Theology”

Eddie Moody (NC): “Preparing Congregants to Survive, Thrive in, and Influence a Post-Christian Culture”

Phillip Morgan (TN): “‘Let them be hereticks, Turcks, Jewes, or what soever’: Thomas Helwys’s Seminal Argument for Universal Religious Freedom in England”

W. Jackson Watts (MO): “Hearing the Gospel: Reflections on the Hermeneutics of Evangelism”

This year’s program also included a panel discussion including Mark Coppenger (Southern Seminary), Rodney Holloman (Theological Commission member), Clint Morgan (FWB International Missions), and Barry Raper (Welch College), with Jackson Watts serving as moderator.

Attendees spoke highly of the event. One commented, “I went to the theological symposium and revival broke out!” A student remarked, “It was much more practical to ministry and everyday life than I would have expected.”

You may purchase a 173-page, spiral-bound collection of symposium papers for \$25. A downloadable PDF edition is also available for purchase through the Commission website: fwbtheology.com. Back issues of *Integrity Theological Journal* can also be ordered for \$6 (including postage). Checks should be made payable to the Commission for Theological Integrity. Send orders to: Commission for Theological Integrity, Attention: Matt Pinson, 3606 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205

Make plans now to participate in the 2015 Theological Symposium, which will meet in October at Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Oklahoma. To find out more, contact the Commission: fwbtheology@gmail.com. ■

Welch College Enrollment Increases Again

NASHVILLE, TN—Welch College enrolled 329 students from 23 states, one U.S. territory, and two other countries for the 2014 fall semester, according to Provost Greg Kettelman. Enrollment statistics indicate a diverse student body with a wide range of academic interests.

Dr. Kettelman said, “The increases in FTE (full time equivalent), dorm, and online enrollment are noteworthy. The final figures for the fall term will increase since additional student will enroll in the next sessions of our six-week online courses. We anticipate that our final fall head-count will approach 350.”

At press time, October 6, the college reported 195 dormitory students, 42 commuter students, four adult degree program students, and 65 online/lifetime learning students. Officials set the fall semester 2014 full-time student equivalency at 276.

By classes they include 85 freshmen, 88 sophomores, 59 juniors, 46 seniors, 26 non-degree part-time, and 25 dual-enrollment students.

By states, students number:

Alabama	15	North Carolina	25
Arkansas	14	Ohio	12
Arizona	1	Oklahoma	4
California	2	Rhode Island.....	1
Florida.....	14	South Carolina.....	7
Georgia	12	Tennessee	137
Illinois.....	11	Texas	3
Indiana.....	3	Virginia	13
Kansas.....	1	West Virginia.....	2
Kentucky.....	4	Wisconsin	1
Michigan.....	5	Virgin Islands	5
Missouri.....	9	International	23
Mississippi.....	5	(Cuba, Panama)	

President Matt Pinson said, “For the second year in a row, Welch has experienced an increase in FTE, dorm, and online enrollment, with an increase of nearly 30% in dorm enrollment over the last two years. We’ve had a great beginning to a promising academic year. The excitement on campus is palpable as we welcome new and returning students to their home for the next several months. The students have brought energy and high expectations to the campus. We thank God for the opportunity to minister to these young men and women and look forward to an outstanding semester.”

To contact Welch College for more information, email recruit@welch.edu or visit the college’s website at www.welch.edu. ■

Welch College to Sponsor Youth Survey

In an effort to discover where Free Will Baptist teenagers stand on crucial beliefs and behaviors, Welch College is sponsoring a survey aimed specifically at Free Will Baptist youth, according to Dr. Barry Raper, program coordinator for Pastoral Ministry.

Dr. Raper said, “While scores of surveys have been conducted in recent years across denominational lines informing us of American teens and their faith, no extensive research has been available on Free Will Baptist youth. I hope the results of this survey can give an accurate picture of the spiritual condition of youth within our churches.”

A survey instrument was created to measure certain beliefs and

practices ranging from beliefs about the Bible and Jesus Christ to key ethical issues within American culture. The anonymous survey is designed to be administered to youth groups by youth pastors or youth leaders.

A small group of youth pastors in the Nashville area served as an advisory board and agreed to be the first group to administer the survey. The plan is to take the survey to local associations, state camps, and youth retreats. Results of the survey will then be analyzed and made available by the 2015 National Convention of Free Will Baptists in Grand Rapids.

If you would like more information about the survey or would like to participate, please email Dr. Barry Raper at braper@welch.edu. ■

Leader Profile >>

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.

Josh Baer

Growing up with a healthy, biblical support system does not automatically create spiritual maturity, but it does provide some real advantages. Born in Ohio, Josh grew up in Virginia and North Carolina, spending his teen years at Hilltop FWB Church in Fuquay Varina, North Carolina, and then Faith FWB Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina. Josh's parents, youth pastors, and overall environment provided a nurturing setting where Christ-like behavior and attitudes were modeled.

Although his parents have sacrificed to be in full-time Christian ministry, Josh does not remember a sense of martyrdom but joy from his mom and dad. Their simple, dedicated life was the foundation, and youth pastors Jeff Jones and Christian Powell built upon that framework in Josh's journey through adolescence.

It was during his teenage and college years that Josh felt the calling of God to pursue full-time Christian ministry. While at Southeastern FWB College, men like Danny Dwyer, Johnny Sexton, Bruce Barnes, and Mark Going provided exemplary leadership for Josh to find God's will. Josh married Kristie, also from Goldsboro, whom he describes as "a godly Christian wife and mother and my best friend and confidant." Josh graduated with a degree in sacred music and worked for the college in promotion and the music department but felt the call toward pastoral leadership growing.

For the past ten years, Josh has worked under Dr. Danny Dwyer at Cramerton FWB Church, serving as associate pastor and minister of music. In addition, Josh is the acting administrator of Cramerton Christian Academy. Josh knows God is directing him to be a pastor one day and is pursuing a Doctorate of Ministry in Christian Leadership from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

While Josh has the notoriety of playing on two national television game shows, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" and "Wheel of Fortune," winning a large dollar amount, he quickly points out that finding Christ, marrying Kristie, and pursuing God's direction in life are the greater rewards.

Josh grew up Free Will Baptist, but he has chosen to stay because of his own beliefs in who we are, and he is thankful for Free Will Baptists who invested in his life and ministry.

Josh, You are a great leader! ONE



What does your ideal date look like?

We are wannabe foodies, so we enjoy saving up and enjoying a nice dinner around Charlotte followed by some musical theater production.

What are the names, ages, and one-word descriptors for your children?

Meredith, age 14 – gifted
Jackson, age 10 – entertainer
Madison, age 5 – vibrant

What are your top three books of all time (other than the Bible)?

Center Church by Tim Keller
Thinking, Fast and Slow
by Daniel Kahneman
The Tipping Point by Malcolm Gladwell

How would others describe your leadership style? I hope to be a transformational servant leader, one who leads by example and inspires others to achieve a shared vision. I try to be collaborative with my team and sensitive to their perspectives and needs, yet keep the overall picture in mind when making organizational decisions. I hope others see these elements in my leadership style.

What do people misunderstand about you?

I tend to be more of an introvert. My silence can be mistaken for all kinds of things: apathy, pride, etc. I am trying to discipline myself to be more engaging.

Paper or Plastic Questions

Mountains or Ocean? Ocean
Music or Talk Radio? Talk Radio
Coke or Pepsi? Coke Zero
Facebook, Email, twitter, or texting? Email
Mac or PC? PC
Socks or house shoes? Socks

Intersect >>

WHERE REPENTANCE ISN'T ENOUGH

By Barry Raper

A person is shown from the chest up, holding a long, white, rectangular sign with both hands. The sign has the words "I'M SORRY" printed on it in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The person is wearing a dark blue t-shirt. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

2 Corinthians 2:5-11

One Sunday morning, a cowboy entered a church just before the service began. The church was a beautiful, upscale church, with people dressed “to the nines.” The cowboy wore his best pair of jeans, and his shirt was clean. He had an old cowboy hat and worn Bible in hand. When he took a seat, it quickly became obvious he was not welcome. People moved, appalled by his appearance. After church, the preacher approached him and said, “Before you visit again, ask God what He thinks would be appropriate attire for worship at our church.” The cowboy humbly told the preacher he “shore would do that.”

The next Sunday, he was back...wearing the same clean but battered clothes. Once again, people shunned him. After the service, the preacher approached the cowboy and said, “I thought I asked you to speak to God before returning to our church.”

The cowboy replied, “I did.”

The preacher asked, “Well if you spoke to God, what did He tell you to wear to worship here?”

“Well, sir,” said the cowboy, “He told me He didn’t have a clue what to wear here, that He had never been in this church.”

This tongue-in-cheek story shared with me by my mother reminds us that one of the most dangerous situations that can develop in any church are regulations and expectations God Himself doesn’t require. This was true in Corinth. The church

at Corinth acted as if genuine repentance wasn’t enough. In their eyes, there had to be more requirements—at least for one particular person.

As we consider their situation, we discover three important principles regarding repentance:

WE MUST PROCLAIM THE NECESSITY OF REPENTANCE.

The Bible makes clear that people must repent in order to follow Christ. Repentance is a changed mind that leads to a change of behavior. Another way to describe repentance is turning away *from* something—in this case sin and self—and turning *to* God in faith. Repentance and faith are inseparable; two sides of the same coin, and you must repent and exercise faith to become a

Christian. However, we do not leave repentance behind altogether when we become a believer.

We do not know for sure whom Paul described in the text, because the man or woman remains nameless. Perhaps it was the man in 1 Corinthians 5, who was living in unrepentant sexual immorality. Maybe it was one of Paul's opponents—one he had forgiven—that the church was finding it difficult to forgive. Ultimately, it doesn't matter who the person was because the church enacted discipline, and according to verse 6, it was sufficient. No further punishment was needed. The discipline worked, and the individual repented.

WE MUST RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR RESTORATION.

Although the individual genuinely repented, the Corinthian congregation was keeping this man at arm's length. Rather than welcoming him back into fellowship, they were giving him the "cold shoulder." Maybe they were holding his sin over his head. Maybe they approached him with cynicism, suspicion, and a legalistic spirit.

In verses 7-8, Paul urged the church to stop this behavior and forgive him, comfort him, and confirm their love toward him. Verse 10 reminds us that forgiveness takes place on two levels: vertically, between an individual and the Lord, and horizontally, between individuals. The basis of our forgiveness and the motivation to forgive is found in the person of Jesus. Ephesians 4:32 urges, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

In a similar tone, Galatians 6:1 commands, "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in a spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

The original word translated *restore* was sometimes used to describe the act of setting a broken bone or mending a net. It captures a picture of not only fixing what is broken but restoring it to its original purpose. People who repent need restoration so they can start living for God again. Even after genuine repentance, it is hard enough to get past the guilt from previous transgressions.

Paul commanded the Corinthians to restore this repentant brother for two reasons: 1) that he would not be overwhelmed

with excessive sorrow, and 2) because lack of forgiveness would give Satan a foothold within the church. If the Corinthians failed to forgive their brother, they would fall prey to one of the worst schemes of Satan: holding up past sins as the "accuser of the brethren."

HOW WILL WE RESPOND?

How did the church at Corinth respond? We don't know. We don't have a third letter to the Corinthian church. We can only hope they took Paul's charge to heart and welcomed the brother back with open arms.

If they did what was right, they forgave, comforted, and confirmed their love toward this individual. Regardless of the sin, true repentance must lead to genuine forgiveness. This should be our goal today. Consider three simple applications from this passage:

For the sinner: Genuine repentance is necessary—not surface level change for a time, not turning over a new leaf, not simply an emotional feeling. No, true repentance that cuts down to the core of your being and effects your everyday living.

For the church: Author and pastor Mark Dever says, "We offer no good news for unrepentant sinners." But for repentant sinners we have the greatest news. We welcome people from every background, race, or socio-economic level. In short, sinners are welcome—not to be comfortable in sin—but to come and repent. When one genuinely repents, let us rejoice. And when a fallen brother or sister is down and needs help, it is our duty to restore them.

For the individual: Do you find it hard to forgive? Maybe it even seems impossible. Maybe you see it as your job to remind others of mistakes through your attitude and spirit.

Remember the Parable of the Prodigal Son in the Gospels? The wayward son (sinner) reaches the bottom and, in desperation, returns to his father (God) who runs to him, embraces him, and throws a party to celebrate his return. But the older son (Pharisees) would have none of it. In the story, Jesus condemned the Pharisees, the "church people" who refused to rejoice when prostitutes, publicans, and other outcasts repented.

Sometimes, the cruelest people in the world are the most religious. Do you know someone who has been forgiven by God, but you haven't forgiven them? I want to be clear: Jesus is not a Friend of Sin. But He is a Friend of Sinners. How can we be anything less? **ONE**

In an interesting side note, this must have been a difficult decision, because not everyone in the church agreed, and it is significant that the majority made the decision. This is one of the key passages in the Bible that points toward congregational church government.

Intersect: where the Bible meets life is a regular column of *ONE Magazine*.

About the Writer: Dr. Barry Raper pastors Bethel Free Will Baptist Church in Ashland City, Tennessee, and directs the Pastoral Program at Welch College. Learn more about Welch College: www.Welch.edu.

Lessons in **HUMILITY**

By Holly Shuck

My husband and I have been married 18 years, and throughout the years and seasons, we have learned (and relearned) many spiritual lessons. I am grateful God has put me in the right place at the right time to work His purposes in me. But, I must confess, I do have the occasional, fleeting thought that the current circumstances are insane, and I might just drop dead at any second.

As a child, I expected life to work out just the way I planned—a country house with a wrap-around porch on acres of rolling prairie, with a horse or two grazing in the distance. I dreamed of the perfect husband who would be handsome and quite rugged, of course, and who would leave for work every day at the same time to provide a living for our small family. Our children, I imagined, were perfect in body and mind, always dressed nicely, and very well behaved. I even pictured a family dog in my thoughts, and he never aged (or got sick and vomited on the imaginary living room rug).

I dreamed of being the mom who stayed at home to provide a neat, clean home for this perfect family to enjoy. I would cook dinner and always have enough groceries in the cabinets and refrigerator. I guess money was always

available for the taking in my dreams, because I never remember thinking about a day when 14 dollars was as unattainable as a million. Ah, but the Bible says: “When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man I put away childish things” (1 Corinthians 13:11).

(Not) Living the Dream


My husband Travis, though the handsome and rugged man of my dreams, has not always gone to work every day at the same time. In fact, the Lord saw fit to make me a pastor’s wife, and a pastor’s daily life is anything but predictable.

This is only one indication that the life I had dreamed about was as unrealistic as the Tooth Fairy, and I’m sure it will come as no surprise that I don’t live the fairy tale life I imagined.

I have a moderately-sized family of four children, two dogs, and a cat. My home is not in the country, nor do I have a wrap-around porch. If horses are grazing in the distance, I certainly can’t see them through the windows of our rented, suburban home. I certainly couldn’t describe my children as “well behaved” every day, and the family dog has not only vomited on the living room rug, but on occasions, leaves behind pungent gifts as well. I find an occasional note written in the dust on my coffee table, and some days, the neighborhood McDonald’s provides the evening meal. As you might imagine, money certainly does not grow on trees and groceries are sometimes scarce.

Yet, as the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, I, too, am learning, “in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased,





Behind closed doors and in the quiet of the night, Travis and I grieved our own losses and suppressed our own anxieties over the step of faith we had taken.

and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4: 11-13).

This has not been an easy lesson to learn, but as a family, we try to be obedient to the Lord’s call in our lives. As a result, we recently left a full-time pastorate at an established church to help an up-and-coming mission work. We moved from a comfortable home, two steady paychecks, and a familiar lifestyle to a whole new set of circumstances. We knew it was a step of faith, but we had no idea how many challenges we would

encounter, or how it felt to be totally dependent on God. In the days and months that followed, we quickly learned both lessons.

A New Season

It was late when we arrived at the pastor’s house. As we unloaded our belongings, I reassured the pastor’s wife, “This is just temporary. I promise we will not impose on you for very long.” She smiled graciously and said, “As long as it takes.”

In the following weeks, we encouraged our children to be brave as they entered new schools and faced the reality of making new friendships. We encouraged them to take comfort in knowing we had made

the right choice in following the Lord’s call no matter the cost. All the while, behind closed doors and in the quiet of the night, Travis and I grieved our own losses and suppressed our own anxieties over the step of faith we had taken.

Although we had bought, sold, even built homes before, for the first time in our married lives, we had no home to call our own. Two long months later, through God’s miraculous provision, we moved into the house next door to our pastor. Because the owner of the home was moving to Japan and needed an immediate renter, we were blessed to rent a beautiful home at an exceptionally low monthly payment and keep the kids in the same

Two great ways to create income for life...

A Charitable Gift Annuity with Free Will Baptist Foundation will provide fixed income for life in exchange for your gift to Welch College.

When you transfer your appreciated stock or real estate to fund a **Charitable Remainder Unitrust**, you can receive income for life, enjoy a charitable tax deduction, and avoid capital gains tax on the sale of your assets.

Contact the Foundation today to use one of these options to secure your financial future while helping Welch College train the next generation of Christian leaders.

Contact us today to learn more:
www.fwbgifts.org | 877-336-7575



schools. I was sure it was the start of a terrific new season in our lives.

Before long, I learned it was a new season all right—terrifically terrifying! My husband's new job barely paid a third of the income we needed, and I had been unsuccessful at finding employment. Then another new challenge arose. Sometime earlier, I had committed to donate a kidney to a friend's small child. One week after we moved into the new home, the transplant coordinator called to inform me that the kidney donation would take place two weeks later.

Suddenly, the happy new season in our lives turned into a nightmare, with a heavy layer of burden on our hearts. Who would care for my children while we were out of state for the operation? Who would pay the bills? Who would take care of the family dog that needed special care?

In the past, we had thanked God for His provisions and blessings, and we always said we depended on Him. During these dark days, we reached a new level of dependence, and we realized the superficiality of our previous statements. As frightening as the situation became, we experienced one awesome blessing after another as our church family lovingly obeyed Jesus' command to His disciples: "He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise" (Luke 3:11).

All in the Family

We were strangers to our new church, but one by one, every need was met, even exceeded. We were awestruck and humbled to be supported completely by other believers. As the weeks passed, we saw God's hand at work through others. We received food, rent, gas, Christmas presents, even emergency airfare. Our children were treated with great kindness,



and the new church family often invited them on outings and paid their way when we couldn't have provided for them. They truly fulfilled the command of Scripture, "But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" (Hebrews 13:16). I'm sure God was pleased.

I know that others were watching as my family and I endured hardship and received care from our Christian family. Maybe they were looking for failure or maybe they were looking for encouragement. In either case, I am reminded that these seasons of life and their lessons not only have the ability to sanctify me but to bless and encourage others.

These most recent lessons in life have been the most difficult, the most humbling, and yet the most treasured of all my married years. If you can be even a little blessed by my blessings; if you can catch a slight glimpse of God's great provision; if the overwhelming support our church provided can be even a small encouragement to you, then the hardship we endured is even sweeter to me.

Even if my childhood dream could be-

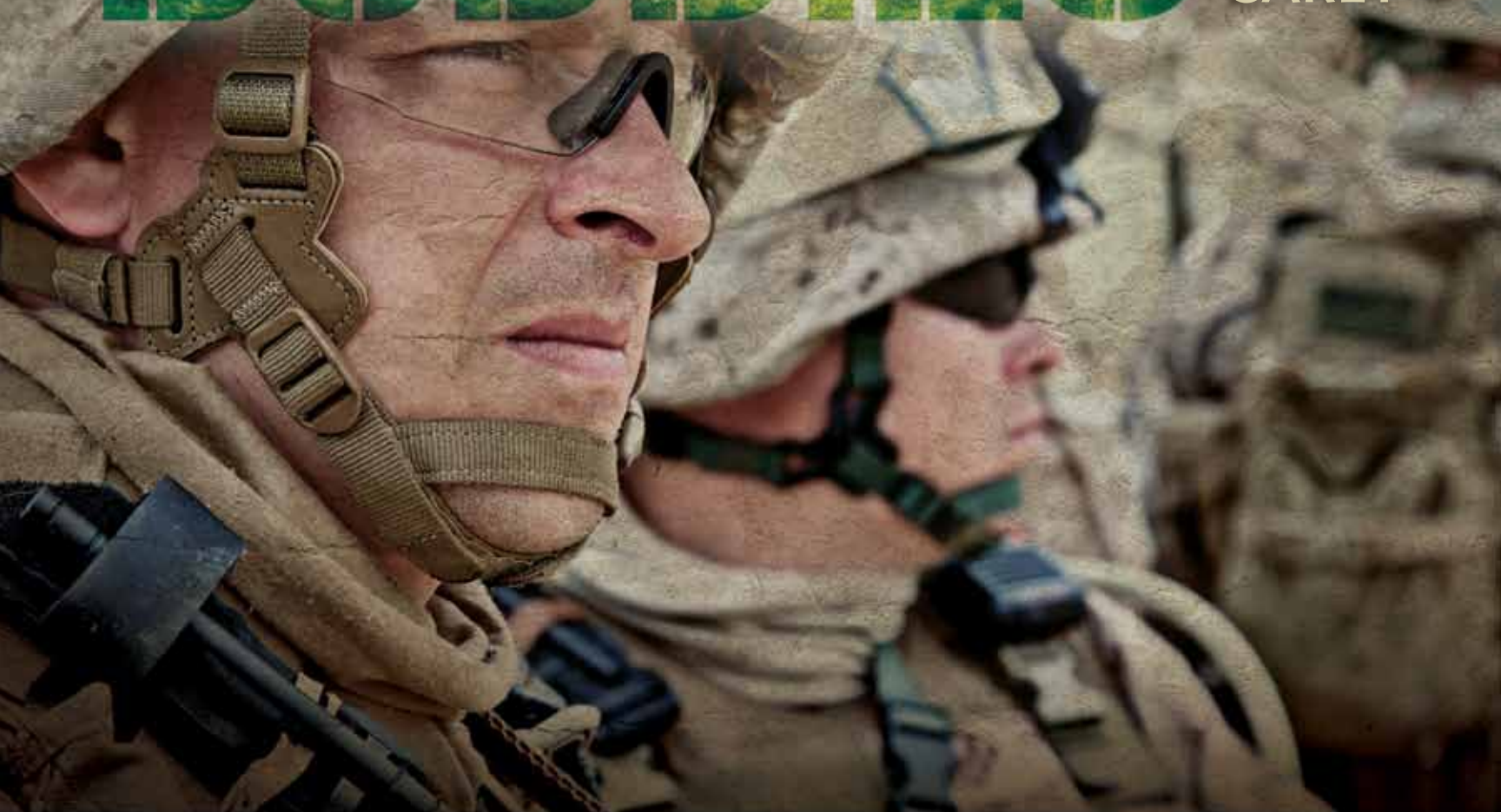
come reality, I wouldn't trade God's way for my own, no matter the seasons of hardship past and seasons of hardship in the future. The five-year-old kidney recipient is healthy and well with my "big beautiful kidney" (his mom's words), and I have learned to trust in the Lord with my heart, without leaning on my own understanding. Through the difficulty, I have learned to acknowledge him, and I trust that He continues to direct our paths (Proverbs 3:5-6). The Lord knows I am not begging for struggles, but I'm serious when I say "If it sanctifies me, if it encourages others, if it glorifies God, then so be it."

"For of Him and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen" (Romans 11:36).

About the Writer: Holly Shuck and her husband Travis are members of the church planting team at Church 180 in Clarksville, Tennessee. To learn more about the church, visit <http://180church.net>.

BATTLE BUDDIES

BY
JOHN
CAREY



I must start this article with a confession. Sometimes, I get so emotionally involved in defending a friend or standing up for a soldier, that I become too passionate. Frankly, sometimes I just talk too much. Why? Because soldiers and their families are among the finest people in America. I love soldiers (and I'm pretty crazy about other service members, too).

Consider a true story from the outset of the war in Iraq. Eleven years ago, reporter Martin Savidge of CNN was embedded with a marine infantry battalion. On March 30, 2003, the reporter was talking with four young marines near his foxhole live on CNN. He told the nationwide audience how well the marines had looked out for him. He went on to describe the hardships these particular marines had endured, and how they all looked after one another.

Savidge told the soldiers he had cleared it with their commanders to use his video phone to call home. One marine immediately asked if his platoon sergeant could make the call instead, to his pregnant wife with whom he had not spoken in three months. A stunned Savidge, visibly moved by the request, simply nodded and the young marine ran off to find the sergeant.

After a few moments, Savidge recovered, turned to the other marines and asked who wanted to call home first. A second marine responded without a moment's hesitation, "Sir, if it's all the same to you, we would like to call the parents of a buddy of ours [name removed] who was killed on March 23, 2003, near Nasiriya, to see how they are doing."

At their request, Martin Savidge broke down completely and was unable to speak. All he could get out before signing off was, "Where do they get young men like this?"¹

I echo his question: "Where do they get young men and women like this?" I have had the blessing of being a U.S. Army chaplain for 14 years. I have preached scores of sermons in military chapels at home and abroad, counseled hundreds, endured four deployments,



including three in a time of war (Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan), and ministered to more than 7,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines.

It's possible that I may retire—or be retired—by the Army within the next few years. While I've never considered myself the best and brightest in the military, the Lord has truly blessed my work and me. I have had a wonderful opportunity to work with countless commanders, officers, non-commissioned officers, and other enlisted personnel, and I've had the chance to represent Jesus Christ on both homefront and battlefield.

I left the Armed Services 26 years ago, on June 16, 1988. I was proud of my two years of service, and my service provided the funds to return to Welch College. Although I was proud of my service, returning to the Army was not in my plans. I was ready to get on with life and glorify God wherever He wanted me.

I had never considered the ministry. I never heard or sensed a call, and I would have told you that God would have been desperate to call me. I had too many other great preachers in the family: my brother, Doug Carey of Crossroads FWB Church in Jenks, Oklahoma; my uncle, Wayne McDaniel, pastor of the First FWB Church in Sylacauga, Alabama (now retired). Frankly, if you had told me then that God would call me into a ministry to

serve soldiers and their families, I would have suggested a psychiatric evaluation.

Isn't it amazing what God can do? He saved me and blessed me with my wife Lynne and our sons Will and Bobby. And then, He called me to minister to soldiers. I am eternally grateful.

"Where do they get young men like this?" The question has been asked countless times by politicians, pastors, news reporters, entertainers, and ordinary people like you and me. I imagine the late General Eisenhower asking himself that same question when the Allied Expeditionary Force headed to Normandy to liberate France, thus beginning the end of World War II. Where do we get young men and women to "serve a cause greater than self," and sometimes die for that cause—the freedom of those they're defending, even the freedoms many Americans take for granted.

We get these young men and women from Main Street, USA, from farmlands, and countrysides, and backwoods. We get them from cities, neighborhoods, and suburbs. We get them from healthy families and broken homes.

No matter where we get them, it's our job to train these young men and women to do their job and defend their "battle-buddies," their fellow soldiers. It's our job to provide a home to them and their families, and to take care of them as they

¹ Live interview with Martin Savidge: <http://www.thehighroad.org/archive/index.php/t-16470.html> (30 March 2003).

defend our great nation. It is my job—my calling—to minister to them and to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This calling hasn't changed in the face of flourishing political correctness. In recent years, right and wrong in the world have been turned upside down. It would be easy to become discouraged and take refuge in family and retirement. But this is not the time to let discouragement win. It is not time to quit the ministry here, any more than it's time for pastors and our churches to close the doors of the church. Christians are not in a popularity contest, and we never will be.

Jesus is guiding those committed to following Him, regardless of what the world thinks. He told His disciples in John 15:18-19, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

Now is not the time to allow the world to control and compromise our faith. Embrace John's encouraging words, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). We believers have something huge to cheer about, and it is something that will continue for eternity.

As for me, I will continue to share the gospel of Jesus Christ out of love and appreciation for soldiers and families, including my own family. My oldest son, Will Carey, recently graduated with honors from Olivet Nazarene University. He graduated from the Army ROTC program and was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant, Air Defense Artillery. I had the honor of swearing my son into active service, and his mom and brother pinned on his new rank. Will is currently at BOLC (Basic Officer Leadership Course). He'll graduate soon and head anywhere the Army sends him as a platoon leader.

When I look at Will and my younger son Bobby, I think I know where "young men like these" come from...at least two of them. And, I thank God for them both. **ONE**

About the Writer: A chaplain since July 2000, CH (MAJ) John Carey has served in the Global War on Terror in both Kuwait (Operation Enduring Freedom) and Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom II). John currently serves the 1st Medical Brigade based in Fort Hood, Texas.

INTRODUCING CH (COL) KERRY STEEDLEY, U.S. ARMY (RETIRED)

Home Missions welcomes CH (COL) Kerry Steedley to the staff as director of chaplain support. The department is the endorsing agent for all chaplains who wish to serve under the Free Will Baptist denomination.

Free Will Baptist chaplains, currently serving in all U.S. military branches, continue to be a vital component of the ministry of Home Missions. Chaplain Steedley will work as a liaison between the department and both active duty and retired chaplains.

Colonel Steedley served the military faithfully for 34 years, as a Free Will Baptist chaplain. Upon retirement, Steedley said, "I've had the best job in the U.S. Army!" He and his wife Brenda reside in Semmes, Alabama.

For more information on the chaplaincy, please contact North American Ministries (877) 767-7674 (toll free).



Across the Nation >>

Bible Institute on the Move

Bartlesville, Oklahoma—God has blessed the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute. Two hundred and eighty-three students have graduated from the institution to scatter throughout the Western Hemisphere starting Free Will Baptist churches. Now, God is moving the institute into another era in ministry.

First, the name will change. South Carolina pastor Earl Hendrix was instrumental in founding and developing the institute. In his honor, the name will become The Earl and Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute. Both Earl and his wife felt compelled to be involved in planting churches in Mexico, and Earl was an instrumental member of the Home Mission Board. Yet, the name is just one of the changes the institute is experiencing.

The campus will relocate from Inman, South Carolina, to Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Moving provides many advantages, including Pastor Alfredo Botello, an instrumental leader who will remain on campus.

God has also provided facilities that will allow for future growth. Pastor Alfredo has an organization that will provide food for students, and five of the school's professors live nearby.

God has used this institute for His Kingdom work among the Hispanic people for years, and we look forward to a bright future. Millions of Hispanics live in the United States, and yet we have less than a hundred Free Will Baptist works.

You can play an important part in the future of this ministry through prayers and financial support. To make a contribution, please designate your gift to Home Missions to the Earl and Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute. Classes will resume in January at the new location. ■

About the Writer: Rick Bowling is director of Hispanic Ministries for Home Missions. For more information, please contact the office (877) 767-7674.

THE POWER



CONFERENCE

FOR CHURCH GROWTH
& LEADERSHIP

Join Home Missions May 25-26, 2015, for a church revitalization conference featuring speakers David Crowe, Jeff Jones, Jim McComas, Rob Morgan, and Brad Ransom with music by Southern Raised and Aaron Wilburn. The conference is free, but you must pre-register to receive conference materials and resources.

MAY 25-26, 2015 — BRANSON, MO

Pre-register today by contacting Teresa:
615-760-6132 | teresa@nafwb.org

Brown on **Green** >>

It's a *Wonderful Life,*

INVEST RESPONSIBLY

One of the most striking scenes from the old movie It's a Wonderful Life comes when George Bailey gets to see what the world would be like if he had never been born. In the scene, he walks down the street of his hometown of Bedford Falls but doesn't recognize any of the businesses. Apparently, because he had not been born, the Bailey Building and Loan went out of business, and the city was severely affected. Rather than a family-friendly town, the main street was filled with nightclubs and other unsavory businesses, and prostitution was rampant. While the scene might seem overly dramatic, the truth is, without Christian influence in society and businesses, all our cities would be less family friendly.

Free Will Baptist Foundation practices "responsible investing." Specifically, our policy states "Free Will Baptist Foundation will not invest in stocks whose primary business involves alcohol, tobacco, or pornography." We receive copies of every purchase our investment firms make for our approval. Responsible investing is our policy, and we follow it.

While we make no direct investments in these areas, sometimes, it is difficult not to be indirectly invested. For example, if we invest in a grocery store chain, some locations may sell tobacco and beer. If we invest in the restaurant industry, some establishments may choose to sell alcohol.

Some individuals may set stricter policies, but regardless of how strict the policy, it is nearly impossible to avoid indirect investments in taboo stocks or businesses. Some may argue that perhaps we should look elsewhere for investment. Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT) may be attractive; however, as a shareholder in a REIT, you have no control over whether a particular REIT company may choose to lease space to a store that sells pornography. What about banks? Banks finance all kinds of businesses, including some that are objectionable. Government bonds may seem like a safe haven; but again, the government uses money from bond investments to subsidize industries on our list to avoid.

At the Foundation, we believe we should never directly support sin industries through our investments, and we believe Christian individuals should do the same. At the same time, we understand that on occasion, investments might indirectly be invested in sinful industries.

No matter where you put your money in the investment world, this is bound to happen. We monitor our investments carefully to avoid direct exposure to sinful businesses; but it is nearly impossible to see where every dollar goes indirectly. I can guarantee that your investment in the Foundation will be invested wisely, with gains returned to Kingdom ministry, and the dividends you reap will be eternal. **ONE**

I can guarantee that your investment in the Foundation will be invested wisely, with gains returned to Kingdom ministry.

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

A New Way to Save For Retirement:

ROTH 403(B) CONTRIBUTIONS

By Ray Lewis

Beginning in 2015, the Board of Retirement will offer a new retirement savings option to participants in the Free Will Baptist Retirement Savings Plan. For the first time, participants will have the option of making Roth 403(b) contributions into the Plan. Modeled after the Roth IRA, the new option allows employees a second way to make after-tax contributions.



How does the Roth 403(b) work?

Contributions to your Roth account are deducted from your salary just like salary reduction contributions and are sent to your account by your employer. These contributions are made with after-tax dollars and do not reduce your current taxable income. They are subject to federal, state and Social Security tax before they are invested in the Plan.

How is this different from after-tax contributions available in the past?

Both Roth and traditional after-tax contributions are similar in tax treatment before retirement. Both types of contributions are considered taxable income the year they are contributed to the Plan. The earnings accumulate differently, however. Earnings on the traditional after-tax contributions

accumulate tax-deferred while the earnings on the Roth contributions accumulate tax-free.

The big difference is not realized until the funds are withdrawn. Roth funds, the money you have accumulated through the Plan, will be completely yours when withdrawn, as long as those withdrawals meet the Qualified

Distribution rules explained below.

Withdrawals of traditional after-tax contributions will have taxes due on the accumulated earnings only. Since you have already paid taxes on the funds you contributed to your account, no taxes are due on the contributions when withdrawn. Taxes are only due on the accumulated earnings.

Who should consider Roth Contributions?

If you anticipate being in a higher tax bracket in retirement than you are now, you may want to consider a Roth account. Also, if your present income is more than what the income limits allow for contributing to a Roth IRA, you may want to consider a Roth 403(b) account with the Board of Retirement, because there are no income limits for making Roth contributions to the Plan.

How much can I contribute?

At the time of this writing, the 2015 contribution limits were not available. In 2014, participants can potentially contribute up to \$26,000.

That figure is based on three factors:

- \$17,500, plus
- \$5,500 if you are at least 50 years old, plus
- \$3,000 if you have been employed by Free Will Baptists for a minimum of 15 years.

It is important to note this limit is a combined limit that includes any pre-tax salary reduction contributions as well as any Roth contributions. In other words, your salary reduction contributions and your Roth contributions combined cannot exceed the above contribution limits.

Can my employer match my Roth contributions?

Yes. But keep in mind that employer

contributions are made on a pre-tax basis. Therefore, you will owe income taxes on the employer matching contributions as well as any accumulated earnings on those funds when you withdraw them.

What are the Qualified Distribution Rules?

Withdrawals from a Roth 403(b) account are tax-free for federal income tax purposes (state tax rules vary) provided they are Qualified Distributions. A Qualified Distribution must meet the following criteria:

1. Funds must be held for at least five years. The five-year period is determined by the earlier of: 1) the first year you contribute to your Roth 403(b) account with the Board of Retirement, or 2) if you make a rollover contribution to your Roth 403(b) account, the first year you made a Roth contribution to the Plan from which the rollover originated. And ...

2. The distribution must be made after you:

- have reached age 59½
- are permanently disabled, or
- made to your beneficiary or beneficiaries after your death.

Withdrawals that do not meet these conditions are considered non-qualified withdrawals, and the portion of the distribution that represents earnings will be subject to ordinary income tax and possibly a 10% federal penalty for early withdrawal.

Can I roll the funds in my present Plan account over to my Roth 403(b) account?

Yes. The Plan allows you to make an in-plan direct Roth rollover by transferring certain non-Roth funds that you have contributed to the Plan into a Roth account in the Plan. This is known as

Roth 403(b) funds are subject to the same required minimum distribution rules as other 403(b) funds. This means you must begin taking distributions no later than April 1 following the calendar year in which you reach age 70½ or the calendar year in which you actually retire.

an “in-plan rollover” or “in-plan conversion.” Contact our office for regulations on rolling over your current funds into the Roth.

Even though you might choose to make both types of after-tax contributions (traditional and Roth), you will have only one account with the Board of Retirement. In other words, you don’t have to make separate investment decisions for your traditional and Roth contributions. Instead, your investment elections will be applied to both. Roth contributions, like all other types of contributions, can be made into any one or more of our four investment options: conservative, moderate, default, or maximum.

We are pleased to offer this new type of investment option. If you would like more information on Roth accounts simply call our office for more details. We are here to serve you and count it a privilege to help you prepare for your retirement years. **ONE**

About the Writer: Ray Lewis has been director of Board of Retirement since 2005. To learn more about retirement options, visit www.boardofretirement.com.

Flourish!

Retreat & Refresh With WNAC

September 3-5, 2015 | Murfreesboro, TN

www.WNAC.org

Master's Men >>

Together We Can: Ken Akers Explores New Directions for Master's Men

Antioch, TN—As 2014 began, I began to brainstorm a new slogan for Master's Men. For several years, we have used the phrase "Count Me In." This year, I wanted a new slogan that expressed how Master's Men works in cooperation with Free Will Baptist men, churches, and other departments to accomplish great things. After much consideration, we settled on "Together We Can." I had no idea how appropriate this slogan would prove to be.

When Home Missions shared the idea of merging Master's Men with Home Missions, I had mixed feelings. While I knew I could work with the Home Missions staff, I wanted to make sure the goals and programs of Master's Men would continue to be met.

After weeks of discussion, research, and prayer, I found myself at peace with the merger. The Master's Men Board shared my concerns but agreed this would be a good move that would benefit both departments and the denomination.

While Master's Men will continue most current programs, we will also look for new ways to serve the denomination. One area is to recruit volunteers to assist home mission churches with building projects. We will also continue to help churches through service projects and disaster response.

While I will no longer be the national director of Master's Men, I will still be the director of Master's Men ministry through Home Missions. In other words, I will continue to serve Free Will Baptist men, churches, denomination, and our Lord, with fewer worries and much more help.

Please pray with me as we approach January 1, 2015, when the merger with Home Missions will officially take place. Please consider how you can help as we labor for the Master. And, be assured, our new slogan is more than just words: "Together We Can." ■

D6 Curriculum: The Next Generation

By Danny Conn, Ed.D.

In 2004, Randall House launched a new line of curriculum designed to help churches equip parents in their God-ordained role of discipling their children as outlined in Deuteronomy 6:5-7.

One of the unique aspects of the new curriculum was the “every age on the same page” concept. Elementary students, teens, and adults studied the same biblical theme each week. The themes were even adapted for preschool students and three themes were presented each quarter in bite-sized portions for the youngest members of the family.

Originally identified as CLEAR curriculum for the trademarked CLEAR Learning System® developed by Randall House and employed in the lessons, the curriculum was renamed D6 Curriculum in response to the popular use of the term by customers. The curriculum continued to use the CLEAR Learning System so teachers could help students Connect, Learn, Explore, Apply, and Respond to biblical truths and principles in the lesson.

The D6 concept has gone viral. It hit a felt need in families—marriage, parenting, and kids all of which need a real connection. The D6 Conference has broadened the awareness of the need for churches to help parents to be directly involved in training their children to love God and His Word. Parents and churches have embraced the D6 philosophy. Other Christian publishers have followed suit and now produce curriculum that incorporates a family ministry approach to varying degrees. Randall House is pleased that God has used our ministry to reach across His kingdom. We continue to help shape family ministry and generational discipleship.

Randall House is recognized as a leading voice in family ministry. In ten years of producing D6 curriculum and six



**One
fit for all
sizes**





years of presenting the D6 Conference, we have learned even more about this foundational biblical principle and how to more effectively equip parents and teachers to train the next generation to love God and His Word. D6 2nd Generation curriculum is the natural outgrowth of this process.

D6 2nd Generation will maintain the “every age on the same page” approach. It will continue to tell the story of the Bible in a six-year scope and sequence to promote biblical literacy. The CLEAR Learning System will be adapted to emphasize application after each point of the lesson and the Explore portion will be expanded throughout the lesson to include a timeline of biblical and world events, key word studies, connections between Old and New Testaments, prophecies and fulfillments, and other important background, cultural, and exegetical aspects of the biblical text.

The most significant differences in D6 2nd Generation curriculum will be the structure of the 13 weeks of the quarter and increased emphasis on

biblical worldview. D6 curriculum has always represented a biblical worldview, but the 2nd Generation will include features that focus on helping people define, develop, and defend a biblical worldview. The revised structure of the quarter will enable this approach.

D6 2nd Generation will include three units each quarter. Each unit will be a 4 or 5-week Bible study. The schedule will provide more opportunities for new people to join in on the beginning of a study. The length of each study provides more manageable portions. Each quarter will include a study from the Old Testament and a study from the New Testament, both of which will advance relatively chronologically through the Scripture, so students will learn the progression of the story of the Bible.

Each quarter will also include a special topic study on a key subject related to the Christian Faith and our culture. These studies will address a variety of subjects including apologetics, marriage and family, gender and sexuality, difficult questions, and other practical issues. Helping students recognize that the Bible is relevant to the 21st century, and how to properly understand it and apply it to daily decisions and actions is a key goal of the curriculum.

The family was God’s original small group designed for generational discipleship. Jesus also commissioned the church to make disciples of all nations. It is our prayer that D6 2nd Generation curriculum will help parents and church leaders fulfill their God-ordained responsibilities of teaching the next generation to love God, love His Word, and teach their children to do the same. **ONE**

About the Author: Dr. Danny Conn is Editorial Director of curriculum at Randall House. He and his wife Diane live in Antioch, Tennessee, and attend the Grove FWB Church.



D6 2ND GENERATION CURRICULUM

ARE YOU READY FOR THE BIG REVEAL?



ONE FIT FOR ALL SIZES

RELEASES FALL 2015



STAY TUNED FOR THE BIG RELEASE. VISIT D6FAMILY.COM FOR DETAILS.

D6FAMILY.COM

by randall house

D6



CONNECT:

D6 Conference 2014 BY ERIC THOMSEN

Shoop...click. Shoop...click. Shoop...click. The round plastic discs slide one by one into the Connect Four™ game board...yellow, red then yellow again. Two players—one adult, one child—concentrate intently as the board soon becomes a chaotic hodge-podge of color.

Shoop...click...red. Shoop...click...yellow. Suddenly, the child's face lights up, and she shouts, "Connect four! Connect four!" Sure enough, from the confusion of the board, a pattern has emerged: four yellow circles standing together in sharp contrast to the disorder around them.

The simple game paints a beautiful picture of the connection that should exist between today's churches and families. In our chaotic culture, with its moral hodge-podge of mixed messages, the Church must stand together with families in sharp contrast to the culture around them: God. Parents. Kids. Church. Connect Four! This is what the D6 Conference is all about.

Make the Connection

Two thousand attendees from 40 states including Washington and Rhode Island made their way to Dallas, Texas, September 18-19, and Louisville, Kentucky, October 1-3, for the sixth annual D6 Conferences. There were also attendees from France, Canada, Sweden, and the Philippines. More online viewers joined them as main stage sessions streamed live around the world. Over four intense days, 68 speakers tackled a wide range of subjects with one primary goal: to connect families and churches to Christ and one another.

The conference offered nearly one hundred seminars and workshops led by presenters such as Richard Ross, founder

of True Love Waits; Timothy Paul Jones, professor and associate vice president at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky; Lysa TerKeurst, president of Proverbs 31 Ministries; and David Jones, young adult editor at Randall House Publications.

To help create conversations, D6 2014 offered a unique opportunity. Twenty-three Coaching Intensives provided attendees with intimate, small-group training sessions where they came face-to-face with a leading advocate of family ministry. Each speaker/coach spent almost two hours with a maximum of 20 people, answering specific questions about ministry challenges and opportunities.

The Main Stage

During Main Stage Sessions, conference goers heard from 24 keynote speakers on a wide variety of topics related to generational discipleship. Ted Cunningham, author of *Fun Loving You* and founding pastor of Woodland Family Church in Branson, Missouri, debunked the "myths" of marriage and parenting sometimes perpetuated by our culture. He reminded listeners, "The fast track to a healthy marriage is to unplug from your spouse as your source of life." He took this one step further, challenging parents to eradicate kid-centered homes and make Jesus the source of life, not one another.

Discouraged parents, disheartened

children, and full disclosure of God's plan for parenting—three topics tackled by Emerson Eggerichs, founder of the Love and Respect Conference. He encouraged parents not to give up hope because a “discouraged parent can lead to a disheartened child.” He reminded them that children have freedom to choose their own will and way. God calls parents to parent His way...whether or not children ever respond. “Christian parenting has nothing to do with your children, and everything to do with pleasing God.”

Husband and wife team, Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott, authors of many marriage and relationship books and founders of the Center for Relationship Development, “knocked out” the topic of marital conflict with three rounds of “Fight Night.” They offered simple solutions for resolution: confronting the issue without conflict and working together to solve the issue without attacking one another.

Following his daughter Chrystal, Dr. Tony Evans, pastor, best-selling author of dozens of books and pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship near Dallas, Texas, warned listeners, “The foundational issue of our day is the breakdown of the family.” He reminded the audience that just as God chose Abraham to transform his family in the very face of a collapsing culture, he is calling parents today to raise kids, “not just to become adults but to advance the Kingdom.” He and Chrystal urged listeners to live out their faith and message at home and to make the dinner table a place for ongoing discipleship.

Kyle Idleman, author of *Aha, Not a Fan*, and *Praying for Your Prodigal* and teaching pastor at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky, spoke from Luke 9:23, reminding attendees of the priority of the gospel. “We can do a lot of incredible things,” he said, “but it is ultimately the gospel that saves.” He warned against confusing knowledge of God with intimacy with God, urging listeners to teach their children the passionate pursuit of the heart of God: “You can’t say yes to Jesus without saying no to yourself.”

For a second year, D6 Minis gave several speakers an opportunity to deliver short messages in rapid-fire succession. Lydia Randall challenged listeners to disconnect to connect, reminding them, “There is something that happens in a real-life connection that simply doesn’t

happen through technology.”

Brian Haynes, creator of Legacy Milestones and lead pastor at Bay Area First Baptist Church in League City, Texas, reminded the audience that staffing is crucial in family ministry. He suggested hiring based on values rather than strategy, and encouraged church leaders to hire and promote from within when possible.

Walker Moore, founder and president of Awe Star Ministries and author of *Escape the Lie*, defined the Orphan Heart as the void left when someone lives as if he or she has no heavenly Father. Moore shared his own struggle and healing, concluding with the powerful statement: “Today, I no longer have an Orphan Heart. Today, I am my Father’s favorite child.”

During the final Main Stage Session in Dallas, Greg Stier, founder of Dare 2

Dannah Gresh, creator of Secret Keeper Girl and author of many bestsellers including And the Bride Wore White and Six Ways to Keep the Little in the Girl, challenged the church to focus on middle schoolers. She urged the church not to avoid the difficult topics of sexuality, but to teach three truths to set them free from the world’s twisted view of sexuality:
My primary purpose is to glorify God (1 Corinthians 6:20).
My primary practice is to look like God (Genesis 1:26-27).
My body is a living sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1-2).



Larry Fowler, director of global networking for Awana, challenged church leaders to stop asking, “How many were there?” and start asking, “How often do they come?”



Share ministries and author of 13 books, passionately urged the audience to rekindle their urgency for sharing the gospel... effectively. He recounted his own life and conversion and reminded listeners that it takes everyone—parents, church, friends, and mentors—to disciple young people until they complete the cycle by sharing their faith. “Discipleship, Jesus style,” he said, “is reaching people who reach people who reach people who reach people...”

Face Time

The D6 conference is much more than seminars and main-stage speakers. Between sessions, attendees flooded sponsor exhibits and consumed record amounts of coffee while connecting over common challenges, swapping solutions, and even praying together over ministry burdens.

They sang along with Matt Papa, minister and recording artist from Durham, North Carolina, whose music is saturated with theology, with lyrics that, in his own words, “help people see the beauty and glory of Jesus.” They enjoyed the high energy of Seeds Family Worship, Nashville-based worship leaders who write songs designed to help kids (and parents) memorize Scripture.

Perennial D6 favorites, Tommy Woodard and Eddie James, The Skit Guys, balanced sidesplitting humor with serious sketches that called listeners to examine their priorities in ministry, prayer lives, and more.

Conference emcees Tommy Swindol, discipleship pastor at Donelson Fellowship, Nashville, Tennessee, and Josh Griffin, high school pastor at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest, California, kept the conference moving at a fast pace, with a good balance of humor and serious dialogue with speakers...not to mention a number of quirky activities when least expected. (It’s amazing what a room full of church leaders can do with Lego® bricks in five minutes!)

As D6 drew to a close, Tommy Swindol challenged attendees to connect to Jesus

above all else, reminding them that He is the true vine, the source, the core of strength for life and ministry. After a time of dedication and prayer, united voices lifted in worship, ended the conference with the haunting refrain, “Spirit, lead me where my trust is without borders; let me walk upon the waters, wherever you would call me. Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander, and my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Savior.”

“I am so proud to be part of the D6 Conference team,” said Brandon Roysden, conference coordinator. “It was another great event. The speakers were right on target, from the main stage to breakout rooms, and the Randall House team worked hard to make this a success.”

“I’ve gotten more out of a half-day of D6 than most conferences that last a week.”

—Will Beauchamp, pastor, First FWB Church, Seffner, Florida, via Twitter

According to Ron Hunter, D6 Conference director, the “D6 Conference continues to be the global leader in generational discipleship.” Ron noted, “D6 has redefined family ministry to reflect the way Scripture originally described it, and thousands of churches and homes are healthier today because of this movement.” He shared several international milestones including Norway hosting the first international D6 Conference in 2013, and the D6 Conference meeting in Paris in September 2015, bringing an emphasis on generational discipleship to Europe, and then to Asia in 2016.

Closer to home, the 2015 D6 Conference will meet September 16-18, in Louisville, Kentucky, to explore the theme *Refine*. **ONE**

The Free Will Baptist Convention heads north in 2015.

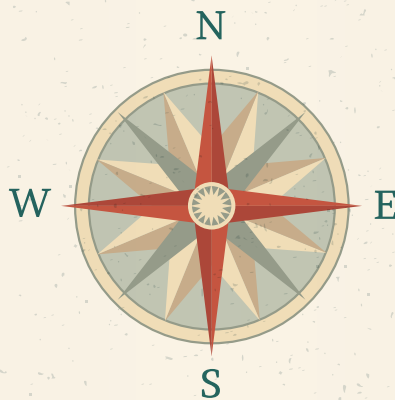
River City Revue

By Stephen Nelson

Quick! What do furniture, Free Will Baptists, and a former Vice-President turned President have in common? The answer is Grand Rapids, Michigan, of course.

Grand Rapids lies on the Grand River, from which it gets its name, 25 miles east of Lake Michigan. The city is founded on the former location of an Ottawa Indian village. The United States government acquired the land, including the site of modern-day Grand Rapids, as part of the Treaty of Chicago in 1821. Over the next few years, missionaries and traders recognized the rich opportunities in the area and migrated east. Detroit native and wealthy fur trader Louis Campau purchased a 72-acre tract of land that eventually became a large area of the city. He called the purchase “Grand Rapids.”

Before long, others began to move into the area. It quickly became known for bustling lumber and furniture industries, so much that it eventually earned the nick-



name “Furniture City.” Even today, Grand Rapids ranks among world leaders in office furniture production.

Grand Rapids Today

Today, nearly 200,000 people live in the city, with just over a million in the greater metropolitan area. Many conventioners

will be happy to know that on Wednesday afternoon of the 2014 convention, while temperatures reached humid triple digits in Fort Worth, Texas, the high for the day in Grand Rapids was 77 degrees.

When needing a break from competition, business meetings, and seminars, convention goers will find Grand Rapids has much to offer in the way of family fun, entertainment, and more. The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum gives visitors a unique opportunity to explore Ford’s life, from his childhood in Grand Rapids to his presidency. The city also houses John Ball Zoo, home to over 2,000 animals. Golfer? Grand Rapids is the place for you, with 36 courses located within a short drive.

Though it probably isn’t the first thing that comes to mind, Grand Rapids is only

IMPORTANT UPDATES

About 2015 Convention Housing

Several changes are coming to the reservation process for the 2015 convention. Here are the three important things you need to know about making reservations this year:

1 Online Reservations

Online reservations will open Monday, May 4, 9:00 a.m. CT (10:00 a.m. ET). No phone reservations will be accepted on this day. Links to online reservations will be provided at www.nafwb.org.

2 Phone Reservations

Phone reservations will open Tuesday, May 5, 9:00 a.m. CT (10:00 a.m. ET).

Internet reservations are highly encouraged by the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. Due to limited reservation staff, call-in reservations to the hotel will experience wait times **in excess of an hour** on opening day. Calls will be answered in the order received. The Amway Grand Plaza Hotel is not responsible for dropped or lost calls, or if the block sells out prior to speaking to an agent.

3 Group Reservations

Due to individual reservation limits imposed by each hotel, **groups making eight or more reservations should contact convention manager Ryan Lewis (615-731-6812)** between February 1 and April 24 for information on making group reservations.

—GRAND RAPIDS—
MICHIGAN

45 minutes from some of the world's finest beaches on the western shore of Lake Michigan. Crystal-clear fresh water stretches to the horizon, with beautiful sugar-sand beaches and unforgettable sunsets. Condé Nast *Traveler* recently listed the shoreline among the 25 best in the world.

Heart of the City

The National Association of Free Will Baptists will converge on Grand Rapids July 19-22, 2015. This will be a historic meeting, as the convention will take place in the "River City" for the first time. Speakers will address the theme "The Word of God."

The Grand Rapids convention center, DeVos Place, is situated in the heart of downtown and surrounded by restaurants and shops. Rooms have been blocked at three downtown hotels for the 2015 Convention in Grand Rapids. The Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, the JW Marriott Grand Rapids, and the Courtyard by Marriott Downtown Grand Rapids.

A housing form with information including reservation information, rates, and a downtown map will be published in the February-March issue of *ONE Magazine*. Make plans now to head north for next year's convention. For more details as they become available, visit www.nafwb.org.

About the Writer: Stephen Nelson is publications editor for Welch College, copy editor at Randall House Publications, and was convention press assistant at the 2014 meeting in Fort Worth.



About the Denomination >>

Free Will Baptist Family Ministries Celebrates 75 Years

Greenville, TN—Free Will Baptist Family Ministries celebrated 75 years of ministry with the dedication of a newly constructed school, Stokes Academy, on Saturday, October 18. Nearly 500 people attended the outdoor dedication ceremony and festivities.

The organization, which began in 1939, was first established as the Free Will Baptist Home for Children, an orphanage operated by Mr. and Mrs. I.L. Stanley. Today, the ministry to orphans and other hurting children has expanded to meet the needs of the entire family through residential care in both Tennessee and Arkansas; foster care; The Hope Center for crisis pregnancies; The Oaks Retreat Center; assisted living facilities at The Laurels (VA) and Governor's Bend (TN); Heart Stone Farm equine therapy center; and the Jackson-Tolle Learning Center, which serves children and youth who may have emotional or behavioral problems or academic deficits that prevent them from functioning successfully in a regular classroom setting.

Director Frank Woods presided over the dedication of the new school building, which was named in honor of Rev. O.P. Stokes and his wife, whose estate gift helped underwrite the cost of construction. The facility includes two wings of classrooms equipped for 44 students and a beautiful chapel.

Tim York, board chairman and moderator of the National Association of Free Will Baptists reflected on the impact FWB Family Ministries has made over the years before introducing Keith Burden, executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, who congratulated the organization on achieving the milestone.

Alumni of the Children's Home came from coast to coast (California to North Carolina) to attend the event, representing every decade since the school opened, from the 1940s to the present. They assisted



Frank Woods with the ribbon cutting at the dedication.

After a luncheon of chicken and barbeque, attendees enjoyed music from gospel group Southern Raised and nine-year-old fiddler prodigy Carson Peters.

The celebration marked an important day for the organization as they marked 75 years of serving at-risk children and families. As they look toward the future, Family Ministries will continue to strive “to be nationally recognized

as a model of excellence in faith-based family, adult, adolescent, senior, and child care services that strengthen and preserve the family and provide dignity to those we serve.”

Learn more about Free Will Baptist Family Ministries at www.fwbfm.com. ■

Board of Retirement Calls for Resumes

Antioch, TN—The Board of Trustees of the Board of Retirement announces the retirement of Rev. Ray Lewis as President and CEO, effective January 1, 2016.

In light of his retirement, the board is accepting resumes. Qualifications include a mature, born-again Free Will Baptist with a minimum of a bachelor's degree—preferably in a business-related field. Additional requirements include extensive financial experience and insight and the willingness to travel frequently. The director is responsible for oversight of the Board of Retirement office, including almost 2,000 accounts totaling nearly \$60 million.

The director is also charged with promoting and representing the Board of Retirement at local, state, and national association meetings. Therefore, organizational and public relation skills are a must.

Resumes may be emailed to ray@nafwb.org, or mailed to the Board of Retirement office to the attention of Ray Lewis: PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Deadline for resumes is February 28, 2015. ■

Photo: Mark Cowart



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

ONE to ONE >> The Ornament

The year 2000 was a difficult year.

My mom had been suffering from the devastating effects of Alzheimer's for almost four years. We watched her go from a healthy, energetic woman to a 94-pound shell of a person. She lost the ability to recognize her family. She was bedfast and unable to talk. In June, God mercifully ended her suffering and ushered her into His presence.

In December, I received in the mail a small, golden angel ornament with her name engraved on it. It was a gift from the hospice group who helped care for her during her final days. That ornament was placed on our Christmas tree in loving memory of my mother.

I recall sitting in our living room one evening that December, admiring our beautifully decorated tree. My eyes scanned the various ornaments on the branches, pausing momentarily to reflect on each one's unique, special significance of Christmases past.

Suddenly, a glistening shimmer of light caught my attention, and my gaze became fixed on Mom's little angel ornament. In that instant, boyhood memories flooded my mind. I remembered those Christmas mornings when my younger brother and I would excitedly open our gifts. I recalled the warm embrace of family members as we gathered for the holidays. I reminisced about those festive meals we enjoyed around my mother's table. I reflected on those special times of worship as we gathered with our church family to celebrate the birth of Christ.

I was overwhelmed with emotion and began to weep as it dawned on me that this would be my first Christmas without my mom. She nurtured me as a child and set an example I could follow. Her influence and prayers played a major role in my decision to accept Christ as my Savior. Throughout my ministry, she was one of my biggest fans and staunchest supporters.



Although Mom has been gone for more than 14 years, I still cherish those lingering Christmas memories. They are responsible, in large part, for the traditions we established and continue to perpetuate with our children and grandchildren. The only way it could be better is if Mom were here to enjoy them with us.

What kind of Christmas legacy will I leave behind? Hopefully, it will be one that reminds my family and others that I knew the *real* meaning of Christmas. I want my life to have a lasting spiritual impact on those who mean the most to me.

To me, my mom is more than an angel ornament on our tree. She's what the writer of Proverbs 4:9a called an "ornament of grace," and I proudly treasure it in my heart. Merry Christmas, Mom! You were an angel to me. **ONE**

Do you have a plan for the future?

Let's face it...no one wants to think about death. But death is an inevitable part of life. Have you prepared your estate in such a way that it will benefit your children and the ministries you love?

The Free Will Baptist Foundation and Cornerstone Estate Planning provide help in this crucial area of life.

Almost 600 Free Will Baptist families have already taken advantage of this opportunity for peace of mind about their estate. **Contact the Foundation today** to learn more.

www.fwbgifts.org | 877-336-7575



Take a (Long) Walk Through History...

What do you really know about Free Will Baptists? With dozens of Baptist groups, why would one group add "Free Will" to their name, and how are they different?

Free Will Baptists are one of the oldest Baptist groups in America. For more than 250 years, this movement has contributed to the moral and spiritual fibre of the nation. **Want to learn more about your spiritual heritage?**

Visit www.FWBHistory.com to access books, documents, blogs, and more.

www.FWBHistory.com



Ketteman

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE

Sunday, February 22, 2015



Educating Leaders to Serve Christ

Gifts from alumni and friends make Welch College's world class education possible for Ben, Kayla, Leah and more than 300 other students who call Welch College home.

Every Gift Matters.

Make yours today at welch.edu/givenow



WELCH
— COLLEGE —

3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205
615.844.5000 | welch.edu

Connect #WelchCollege   