

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

ONE

magazine

Ripple
EFFECTS

ONEMAGAZINE.COM | FEBRUARY - MARCH 2021 | @ONEMAGAZINEFWB

If Not You, Then Who?

.....

Three Perspectives

.....

**Committed to the
Commission**

.....

Uncomfortable Lessons

.....

Our Living Hope

re:invest

REINVESTING INTO THE FUTURE OF OUR DENOMINATION

Reinvest...provides online resources on topics ranging from personal finance to the business side of leading a fruitful ministry.

+Blog

+Podcast

+Conference

+Educational Materials

reinvestfwb.com

A Ministry of Free Will Baptist
Board of Retirement

Contents

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2021 | VOLUME 18 | ISSUE 2

To communicate to Free Will Baptists a unifying vision of our role in the extension of God's Kingdom



08



16



44

ARTICLES

- 06 **Ripple Effects**
- 08 **The Farmer**
- 10 **Hairy, Six-Footed Honey-Makers, Part 2**
- 13 **Three Perspectives**
- 16 **If Not You, Then Who?**
- 18 **Committed to the Commission:**
Becoming a Mission Active Church
- 20 **Go Global**
- 24 **Our Living Hope**

- 29 **Better Together**
- 30 **Uncomfortable Lessons**
- 36 **Seven Laws Every Teacher Should Obey**
- 44 **What Is the Purpose of Music for the Gathered Church?**
- 48 **What You Told Us (About ONE Magazine):**
The Results of the 2020 ONE Magazine Reader Survey

COLUMNS

- 04 **First Glimpse:**
The Bonus Bag
- 26 **Refresh:** The Importance of a Mission Statement for Church Health
- 32 **Leadership Whiteboard:** Mental Toughness and Whack-A-Mole
- 38 **Brown on Green:**
Cheap Gifts
- 40 **Intersect:** Faith in Action

- 54 **Better Together:**
They Need You!

NEWS

- 22 **Around the World**
- 27 **Across the Nation**
- 34 **In Publication**
- 42 **At Welch College**
- 50 **In Memoriam:**
F. Leroy Forlines
- 51 **NAFWB 2021 Pre-Registration Form**
- 52 **About the Denomination**

The Bonus Bag

BY ERIC K. THOMSEN

Dog Food Bonus Buy: Fifty-six pounds only \$21.99. Now, with six more pounds free!

The bright placard above the preferred flavor (chicken and lamb) of Ginger the Bassett Hound and Wrigley the rascal immediately caught my eye. “What a great buy!” I thought to myself, picturing Wrigley’s entire body “wagging” with excitement when I walked through the backyard gate. I couldn’t help but smile.

Stepping to the rack, I muscled the 56-pound bag onto the sturdy push-cart provided by our local warehouse superstore. After completing my purchases, I headed for the parking lot.

As I crammed the enormous bag of food into the backseat of my tiny Scion, I glanced down at the 56-pound label one more time. The thought suddenly hit me like the proverbial ton of bricks: *56 pounds...* the exact amount I had lost after an 18-month weight loss journey.

I stepped back in amazement, shaking my head at the bulky bag. “No wonder my knees were hurting,” I muttered as I returned the cart to the stall.

Later, during my afternoon run, my mind returned to that “bonus bag” I no longer carry around my middle. I couldn’t help but think of the familiar passage in Hebrews 12:1-2, where the writer describes “running the race” of our Christian life, urging readers to lay aside “weight and sin.”

What is this *weight* we must lay aside? *Anything*—even good things like family or ministry—that comes before God in our lives. So often, we allow small things, from ministry responsibilities or bad habits to damaged relationships, to become weights in our lives. Even small weights accumulated over a long period of time gradually push God out of first place and make us spiritually bulky, weighing us down

and keeping us from the best the Savior has for us.

How do we fight this spiritual “battle of the bulge”?

- **Spend time daily alone with God in Bible study and prayer**, carefully tending our relationship with Him. “Laying aside the weight” is not a one-time quick fix. It should be a daily, lifelong discipline. Easy? No. Crucial? Without doubt.
- **Prayerfully repent of any unconfessed sin** and let the Savior wash away our guilt.
- **Align priorities carefully with the Word of God** from home to work to church.
- **Leave time to listen for His voice.** We should never become so busy we cannot observe the biblical command, “Be still and know I am God.” Unplug the television, turn off the computer, and hide your phone. Then listen for that still, small voice.

Let go of the weight and let God lighten your load. **ONE**

About the Columnist: Eric K. Thomsen is managing editor of **ONE Magazine**. Email: eric@nafwb.org.

MAKE PLANS TO
JOIN US IN

Memphis

2021 NATIONAL CONVENTION | JULY 18-21 | MEMPHIS, TN

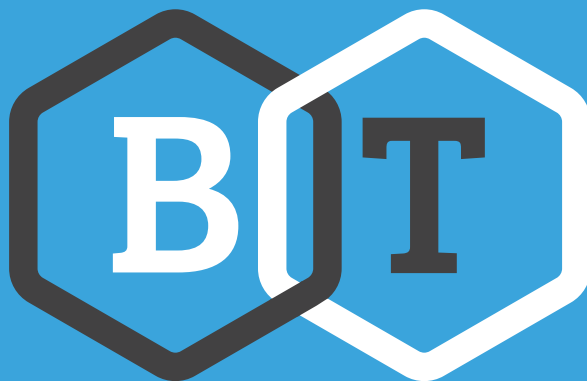
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Eddie Moody MANAGING EDITOR: Eric Thomsen

ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Ken Akers, David Brown, Kathy Brown, Chris Compton, Danny Conn, Elizabeth Hodges, Josh Owens, Deborah St. Lawrence
LAYOUT & DESIGN: Randall House Publications DESIGN MANAGER: Andrea Young DESIGN: Marianne Stewart 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: Sean Warren, Mark Cowart, Eric Thomsen, Shutterstock.com, Istockphoto.com, Stockxpert.com, Designpics.com, Rodney Yerby.



BETTER TOGETHER PODCAST™

In a 2019 survey, the top request from Free Will Baptist leaders was more training and resources.

The Better Together Podcast provides short, practical interviews where people share what they have learned from their ministry—what has and hasn't worked for them.

Subscribe today: www.nafwb.org/podcast

Facebook: @BetterTogetherNAFWB or your preferred podcast app for Apple and Android

Ripple Effects

BY JOHN BRUMMITT

Growing up in church, the idea of giving back to the Lord was taught regularly. When I began working and earning income for myself, I tithed and continue to tithe from my income as part of my worship to God. As churchgoers, we often miss the reasons God asks us to give because we look at it only through the church's lens. But of the \$410 billion given to charities last year, only \$127.37 billion went to religious organizations. So, why is the other \$282.63 billion being given?

In the past, many Christians focused on the rule of the tithe, but failed to look at the benefits that God, in His ultimate wisdom, built into the system and our physical make up. A 2008 study by Harvard Business School revealed that giving increased participants' happiness more than spending on themselves, even though many participants expected spending on themselves would make them happier. A similar result was discovered by University of California Riverside psychology professor Sonja Lyubomirsky, who had participants perform five acts of kindness per week over a six-week study.

The happiness produced by giving is reflected in our biology. A 2006 study by the National Institutes of Health found that giving activates regions of the brain associated with pleasure, social connection, and trust. Scientists believe philanthropic behavior releases endorphins in the brain. And, it is interesting that even giving for non-religious reasons causes this reaction to occur.

Giving has also been shown to improve our general health. Wide-ranging research has established links between generosity and health, regardless of health or age. A study at University of California

Berkeley found older adults who volunteered at two or more organizations were 44% less likely to die in the following five years than their non-volunteer counterparts, even after controlling the study for age, exercise, general health, and smoking. These results were also found in a University of Michigan study in 2003. In 2006, a study by professors from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Tennessee found people providing social support to others had lower blood pressure than those who did not. The general conclusions from these studies suggested one reason giving may improve physical health and longevity is it helps reduce stress associated with various health issues.

ONE PERSON'S
INFLUENCE
STRETCHES
TO DOZENS
OR EVEN
HUNDREDS,
MANY
UNKNOWN BY
THE GENEROUS
INDIVIDUAL.

The physical health benefits of generosity are measurable, but the benefits do not end there. Several studies have shown when you give, it starts ripple effects throughout your life and extends to others in your community. Whether you are giving or receiving a gift, it creates feelings of gratitude. Gratitude, research has found, is tied to happiness, health, and social bonds.

In a study at Florida State University, gratitude was found to strengthen our sense of connection to those to whom gratitude was shown. Gratitude also has been shown to boost positivity both in self and in others. It not only affects the individuals directly involved but spreads throughout our communities. Studies at the University of California, San Diego, and Harvard have learned generous behavior spread by three degrees.

In other words, one person's influence stretches to dozens or even hundreds, many unknown by the generous individual. Think about someone paying for the next meal in a drive-through line; that person returns the favor, and so on. Medical studies show giving is linked to the release of oxytocin (also known as the "love hormone" because of its association with pair bonding). In other words, it causes a more robust social connection to others, even though you may never meet them.

When we look at giving from a secular viewpoint and see all the benefits, it reinforces the truth that God created the process of giving to show His love for us. An action as simple as giving creates physical and psychological changes that not only make us feel good but bring us closer to God and the community around us.

If everyone gave, the ripple effects would make a drastic change in the world around us. **ONE**

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



THE FARMER

BY JOSHUA EIDSON

The farmer is a steward of the land.

The farmer is a conservationist of natural resources.

The farmer invests his time, sweat, blood, and money to produce a harvest.

The farmer lives out the blessing of the first God-ordained job: tend the garden.

The farmer endures the curse of man's sin by beating back the thorns.

The farmer knows the fulfillment of a hard-day's work.

The farmer rests well after a long day of effort.

The farmer leaves a legacy of discipline, enduring work-ethic, and intimacy with creation.

The good farmer leaves a legacy of faithfulness and intimacy with the Creator, as he knows the blessings of the land he has enjoyed come from the Creator.

The good farmer enjoys the closeness of working hand-in-hand with the Creator.

The farmer provides us with a multifaceted picture of a faithful steward. Farmers are a blessing to their family and community as disciplined collaborators with God, producing a bounty that provides nourishment to everyone around. This legacy leaves an example worth following.

This may be an idealistic picture of a farmer, but the unique role the farmer serves paints a vivid example of who we are called to be as stewards of our faith, family, and finances. The farmer can teach us much about the value of working with what you have and not being wasteful. When we seek to fully utilize the blessings God provides, He can make them go further than we can imagine (Matthew 14-15). God delights in us when we work hard with His blessings and provisions. If we can be faithful in the small matters, He may entrust us with weightier responsibilities and blessings (Matthew 25).

I find the example of the farmer helpful as a reminder of the qualities I want to possess and work towards developing in myself. And, by God's grace, if we faithfully live this example, we can leave behind a godly legacy for our children. As Marcus Aurelius wrote, we must stop *asking* what a good man is and start *being* one! Live a faithful and wise life that will be a worthy inheritance and example for your family. **ONE**

About the Writer: Joshua Eidson is accounting administrator for the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement. He graduated in 2007 with a B.S. in business administration from Welch College. He has over 13 years of experience in finance and accounting.



World Missions Offering

2021

The UNFINISHED TASK

APRIL 25TH

GIVE in obedience to the **Great Commission**.

Your financial gift has an impact: lives are **changed**, people find **hope**, churches are **planted**, and **discipleship** begins.



IM  iminc.org/wmo

HAIRY, SIX-FOOTED

Part



Two

HONEY-MAKERS

BY BILL AND BRENDA EVANS

Honey harvest—as we called it—came in high summer in northeast Kentucky. It was near noon, July-hot, and oppressively humid outside Chuck Hennecke’s honey house. But bees were working, and so was Chuck in his white beekeeper’s coverall, wide-brimmed hat and veil, and heavy latex gloves up past his wrists. All his gear was white. Bees instinctively perceive dark colors as threats, apiarists say.

Chuck and his friend Warren Rogers call honey harvest *honey extraction*. That’s why we were there: to watch them extract a year’s worth of honey Chuck’s bee colonies had stored in thousands of the tiny hexagonal cells of their honeycombs.

We drove our car into the grass alongside the hives to watch, double-checking that our windows were rolled up tight. Chuck lifted the top “super” off the first wooden hive among small swarms of honeybees. A *super* is a box in which rectangular frames are hung for bees to build honeycombs and store their honey. Chuck’s super held ten honey-heavy frames and weighed 60 pounds. Even by itself, honey is heavy. A gallon of honey weighs 12 pounds, while a gallon of water weighs just 8.3 pounds.

Minutes later, inside, extraction begins. Chuck’s honey house is a 12 by 34 foot concrete block building, white inside and out, with good lighting, two deep utility sinks, long work counters, large plastic pans to catch honey during uncapping, jars of already extracted honey stored in cardboard boxes, two large cylindrical stainless steel

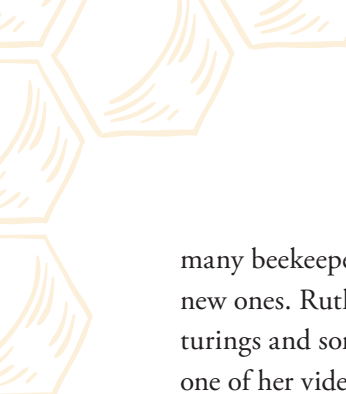
containers (that turn out to be a honey extractor and heater), and a blue, 55-gallon tank of bee-food syrup. His honey house is cooled and heated by an HVAC system, and out through a door into his attached woodworking shop are a shower, sink, and stool. Little is missing here except a kitchen and bedroom.

Sonya, Chuck’s wife, waits inside the honey house with fluffy homemade biscuits, butter, a jar of light amber honey, and bottles of cold water. We eat, sip water, and chit-chat.

Right away, Chuck and Warren start uncapping the hexagonal honeycomb cells, alternating between two implements: a long, straight knife and a scratcher. The knife slices or scrapes the beeswax caps off honeycomb cells. A scratcher perforates the sealed honeycomb caps. Both implements free sealed-up honey from its comb and release it into a large catch pan. It’s sticky work.

The two men banter back and forth. Warren reminds us he hates the extracting process. He’d rather be capturing feral swarms of honey bees, which





many beekeepers do to sell, replenish their hives, or start new ones. Ruthie, Warren's wife, joins him for these capturings and sometimes films the process. We've watched one of her videos on Warren's phone. This season, Chuck has captured nine feral swarms.

We eat Sonya's buttery biscuits and honey and watch the slicing and scratching. Golden honey oozes and eases out of the tiny beeswax cells into the catch pans.

"Try it," Chuck urges. We dip a finger into the shining ooze.

"Delicious. Right out of the hive!" What more can we say, except to quote Winnie-the-Pooh: "The only reason for being a bee that I know of is making honey...And the only reason for making honey is so I can eat it."

Pooh knew honey right out of the hive (not to mention Sonya's tender biscuits) is a pleasure.

We've seen several definitions of *honey*. One is "a sweet viscous material elaborated out of the nectar of flowers in the honey sac of various bees." The words *material* and *elaborated* just fail for us. That lexicographer may as well have said, "honey is stuff from nectar that is developed in a bee's belly" and stopped there. No hint of the amazing transformation in the bee's stomach, the regurgitation, the fanning, or the storage in cells they have also made.

On the other hand, his word *viscous* is good. Chuck's and Warren's honeys are thick and sticky, between a solid and a liquid. They ooze and ease; they don't gush or splatter. Dip your finger in their honey—no drip or drool. It stands up a little. A fat globule. Gold! You have to lick it off, and it's good.

Unofficially, honey is bee vomit. Officially, "*Honey* is the substance made when the nectar and sweet deposits from plants are gathered, modified and stored in the honeycomb by honey bees," according to the National Honey Board. In simple language, nectar is gathered, swallowed by a forager (always female), processed in her crop (or

"honey stomach," the first of two stomachs), regurgitated, stored in hexagonal cells, fanned with her wings at 200 times

per second to remove excess moisture, capped (or sealed) with beeswax from eight glands under her abdomen, and the final result is honey.

But honey is not the only bee product. Chuck "grafts" and raises queens to sell or restock his hives. We watched him transfer 30 slimy gray, grape-seed sized larvae from worker cells to artificial cells with a tiny curved instrument. This began his latest queen-rearing process. About 16 days later, Chuck had 20 new queens. Not all survived. Another product, beeswax cappings, are reprocessed for candles, cosmetics, sealants, lubricants, chewing gum, lip balm, and more. And there's propolis (bee glue), royal jelly, and pollen. When petroleum was scarce in World War II, beekeeping was designated "war essential." Beeswax waterproofed munitions and other equipment, and honey replaced tightly rationed sugar.

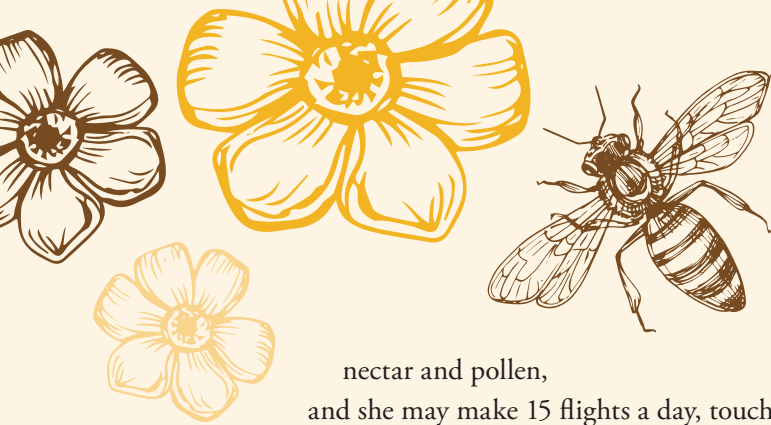
After uncapping several frames of honeycomb, Chuck loaded his stainless steel extractor with six frames of honeycombs. Operating by centrifugal force, the extractor spins, flinging out whatever honey didn't ooze out during uncapping. Honey pools in the bottom of the cylindrical extractor and is drained out through a spigot. The honeycomb itself is left intact and returned to the hive to be reused by the bees.

For long-term storage, honey's water content needs to be no more than 18%. The honey heater extracts moisture to prevent fermentation and crystallization.

What does it take to be a good beekeeper? A lot, it seems to us. "Chuck likes all of it," Warren said. "I only like parts of it." Both men agree beekeepers must be patient and organized. Have more in mind than making honey. Be attentive and observant, willing to study and learn. If you join a beekeeper's organization, be ready to spend some money. Warren recalls buying a queen once, and despite Ruthie's pleasure in his hobby, she exclaimed: "You spent \$45 for a bug!"

"Honey bees are amazing little creatures," Chuck said. Who can argue with that? One female worker/forager will fly up to five or six miles, if she needs to, to gather





nectar and pollen, and she may make 15 flights a day, touching as many as 1,500 flowers. A whole colony of foragers of 30 to 60 thousand can collect four or five pounds of nectar a day, which, when processed in their honey stomachs, will produce one pound of honey. For that one pound of honey, the horde of foragers may visit two million flowers and fly 55,000 miles. A female worker/forager lives a short life—three to six weeks—and is always busy. Geoffrey Chaucer noticed this busyness back in the late 1300s and coined the phrase “busy as bees” in *The Canterbury Tales*.

“When you study them, you know there has to be a designer, a creator, because of what they know and do and produce,” Warren said. Do honey bees think? Warren nods. “I’ve seen workers cut off the wings of drones. They

know they need the best workers and the best queen. So, they get it done.”

Our time at the honey house talking with Chuck and Warren about their “amazing little creatures,” inspired wonderment. What we learned was like what Joseph Parker, a nineteenth century British preacher, once called “white truth.” Or as he said, “lamps by which we see God...signs of a power as beneficent as it is unlimited... light upon light.”

Hairy, six-footed honey bees are white truth to us, light upon light through which we see God, His power, His unlimited beneficence to us amazing, less hairy, two-footed creatures. **ONE**

About the Writer: Bill and Brenda Evans live and eat good honey in Ashland, Kentucky. Contact them at beejayevans@windstream.net.



Lasting legacy...

A few short weeks before his death in 1808, **Benjamin Randall, founder of the northern Freewill Baptists**, wrote the following note to be read at a quarterly meeting: "Oh, my brethren, the cause of God is mine. My soul's care and delight is to see it prosper...My labors are almost over, and I am about to receive my crown...Much, very much depends on you, as to the promotion or destruction of the cause...For Christ's sake, my brethren, let us continue to be little, humble, cross-bearing disciples."

Benjamin Randall understood that although his time on earth had reached its end, the work of the Lord would continue. Before his death, Benjamin Randall arranged his affairs to bless the denomination he loved.

Create your own lasting legacy to help the future ministry of Free Will Baptists through an endowment with FWB Foundation.



Free Will Baptist Foundation
877-336-7575 | www.fwbgifts.org

Three Perspectives

BY CLAIRE RYAN, KARAH GROOMS, AND CAITLYN HAYES

The following brief articles come from the perspectives of a talented and thoughtful new generation of Free Will Baptist writers. Find similar articles at shinefwb.com.

He Has Gone Before Me

He has gone before me.

There are times I sit on the back porch, simply to take in the beauty of creation. The sky is so blue, the grass so green, and the birds so talkative. They warble melodies back and forth, as if trying to outdo one another. Each song is prettier than the last. Nature is alive.

Pawpaw and I enjoy watching the deer. A doe and her two fawns like to roam the back woods, sometimes venturing beyond the edge of the forest into human territory. The fawns are always curious, frolicking into the unknown and experiencing the newness of life. However, when it comes to being out in the open, with no trees for coverage, they are timid. Perhaps their mother taught them the dangers of exposure. Or, maybe, it's an instinctive knowledge.

The mother deer knows all too well the dangers they may face, so, taking charge, she leads the trot away from the forest. Her babies watch from further back, uncertain. Eventually, curiosity wins out, and they join her, drawing strength from their mother's courage. They trust her fully. If a problem arises, they believe she will protect them.

Trust. It isn't always easy. It requires giving up control. When I stop and consider that truth, I am quickly reminded nothing has ever truly been in my control. *I have the freedom to make my own decisions, but God ultimately determines the direction of my life.*

Life can be really scary, unknown, a daunting prospect, especially during 2020. When I see those baby deer staring anxiously after their mother, sometimes it's like

looking in a mirror. I am tiptoeing on the edge of my forest, looking out into the large, open world. So many dangers lurk there, especially as a Christian. Jesus tells us in John 16:33 we will face trials and tribulations in this life; however, He is our blessed hope. We can take heart; we can rest in Him, because He has overcome the world. Like that doe going before her babies, bravely marching outside of their comfort zone, Jesus takes me by the hand and

leads me into the open fields of this dangerous world. He will never abandon me but protect me in His perfect way.

Deuteronomy 31:8 reminds us the Lord goes before us. He is with us and will never leave or forsake us. So, we should never be afraid or discouraged.

He has gone before me. **ONE**



About the Writer: Claire Ryan lives in Hendersonville, Tennessee, and teaches 7th grade English at Shafer Middle School. She is the assistant women's basketball coach at Welch College. Claire enjoys reading, writing, sports, spending time with family and friends, coffee, and cheering Alabama Crimson Tide athletics.

Does God Care About Me?

One day during college I was listening—or at least trying to listen—to a chapel speaker. My mind was filled with all kinds of distractions, and I allowed them to overtake my mind for most of the sermon. I was going through a particularly hard time in my life. I was battling hopelessness, loneliness, and depression. Honestly, chapel was the last place I wanted to be.

First Peter 5:6-7 says, “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, casting all your anxiety on Him,

because He cares for you.” I had heard that passage many times before. The speaker paused after he read it, looked up, and said, “Do you know that?” I leaned in. “Do you know that He cares for you?” he said. It woke me and pulled me out of my thoughts. “Do I *know* God cares for me?” I asked myself.

God loves you more than anyone in this world ever could. He created you *intentionally* and *purposefully* in your mother’s womb. He sent his beloved Son to die a sinner’s death on a cross for you. He cares for you.

In these dark days, it is easy to isolate ourselves. We think no one cares about us, or what we are going through. It’s easy to pretend we are okay and hide behind a mask. It’s easy to cling to our pain, regret, struggles, and sins.

The beginning of verse 6 says we must *humble* ourselves. Holding onto our burdens is an issue of pride. Grasping our problems and not giving them to God is saying we are strong enough to fight our battles alone. Or, even worse, that God is not big enough to fight our battles.

The truth is God is a big God, and *nothing* is too heavy for Him.

Verse 6 refers to the “mighty hand” of God. The verse is referencing God’s mighty hand saving His people the Israelites from Egypt. His hand is still mighty, and if He can bring a whole nation out of bondage thousands of years ago, He still can handle your burdens today. Christ calls us to cast our anxiety on Him, because He cares for us (verse 7). Bring all of your sin, all of your hurt, all of your day-to-day struggles to Him. No load is too heavy for Him to carry.

I pray today you can turn from yourself and your problems and turn to God, giving Him all the burdens you are carrying, because He cares for you. **ONE**

About the Writer: Karah Grooms is a senior at Welch College in Gallatin, Tennessee, studying Intercultural Studies and Psychology with an emphasis in Counseling. She hopes to one day become a missionary and use her knowledge of psychology on the field. In her free time, she loves making earrings, watching Gilmore Girls, and thrift shopping.

S.U.Ds.

You may be wondering, “What is an S.U.Ds.?” S.U.Ds. stands for **Seemingly Unimportant Decisions**. My very intelligent mom and Sunday School teacher taught a lesson on this one time. The lesson not only impacted my life, but also the lives of others in the class.

S.U.Ds. are the small choices we make in daily life that seem minor, but over time, can end up snowballing us, and can have major, long-term impacts. Some examples of S.U.Ds. are:

- I will skip church tonight because I would rather hang out with a friend, play a ballgame, or just don’t feel like going.
- I will go to a party I shouldn’t because I am in control. I will be fine, and I can resist temptation.
- I will lie about what I did, so I don’t get into trouble.



These examples may seem silly, but that is the point.

Seemingly unimportant decisions still have consequences. Skipping church once can lead to skipping church more often, until you eventually quit going at all. Going to parties with a bad environment can lead to needless temptation, and you can fall away or hurt your testimony. Lying to get out of trouble may seem beneficial at first, because you get out of a punishment, but you are likely to find yourself lying more often and becoming more deceptive.

The book of Proverbs has always been my favorite book of the Bible, because it gives great wisdom on how to make good choices in life. Proverbs 2:11-13 says, “Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:



to deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things; who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness.” Maybe this seems extreme, but it is so true: *small decisions make big impacts on our lives.* **ONE**

About the Writer: Caitlin Hayes is from Columbus, Ohio. She has a Master of Science in Psychology from Tiffin University, and has served as a facilitator for Impulse International Missions for the past nine years. She has taught Sunday School for many age groups, and is currently the nursery leader for her church. In her free time, Caitlin likes to travel, watch documentaries, and spend time with her two awesome nephews.



Now Is the Time...

... to get on track for a secure financial future. Don't wait until the last moment, make sure you are headed in the right direction TODAY.

The longer you save, the more time compound interest can work for you. **We are here to help you all along the way!**



BOARD OF RETIREMENT
www.boardofretirement.com
877-767-7738 |

"Preparing For Your Future Ministry"



If Not You, Then Who?

BY RICK BOWLING

“Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

Usually, when we talk about stewardship, we talk about tithes, talent, or time given for the work of the Lord. Paul, in these verses, is not talking about these familiar subjects but about the stewardship of the “mysteries of God,” the gospel or “good news” of salvation in Christ Jesus—the greatest news ever known.

Paul was faithful in his stewardship of sharing this good news. While preparing a sermon on Paul’s “unknown God” in Acts 16:23, I began to study the context of this passage. I discovered that Paul, while traveling to Athens, preached the gospel in every town he visited. He preached in more than ten cities and established mission churches in each. In other words, he won people to Christ everywhere he went.

He was waiting for Timothy and Silas in Athens, and guess what he did? He went about sharing the gospel, winning people to Christ, and establishing churches.

Think about it: in a short period of time, Paul and the other Apostles established Christ’s Church that has grown through the ages and continues today.

I have known people in the Free Will Baptist movement who were just like Paul. A few who influenced my ministry of stewardship were Bob Shockey, Roy Thomas, and Connie Cariker. Trymon Messer was another awesome soul winner who lived with the goal of sharing the gospel with at least one person each day.

This emphasis on the gospel is especially true among Free Will Baptist Hispanic church planters. Their whole life is consumed with sharing the gospel with the Hispanic people. Recently, in Mexico City, Pastor Fernando Bustamante was waiting at a bus stop. Two young men approached, trying to sell some artifacts of Mexico. They started talking about the good deals they had for these artifacts. Pastor Fernando began talking to them about

the *great* deal God had for them. He told them they were sinners condemned in their sins, but God so loved them that He gave His only begotten Son; if they would trust

HE WAS
WINNING
PEOPLE
TO CHRIST
EVERYWHERE
HE WENT.

Him, they would not perish but have everlasting life. After a half hour of talking, both young men accepted Jesus as their Savior.

I was blessed to come to the Lord under the ministry of W.B. Hughes. He exposed me to the ministry of “knocking on doors” in the town of Hamilton, Alabama. He made sure I attend-

ed soul winning Bible conferences and exposed me to preachers who were fervent soul winners. He introduced me to Icy Mae Frederick, a missionary to Haiti and one of the greatest soul winners I have ever known. Our church hosted mission conferences where missionaries

told about preaching the gospel in other countries. Then, as Paul did with Timothy, Brother Hughes sent me out to preach and teach the Word.

The greatest need of the church today is to get back to the basics of being good *stewards of the gospel*. The Macedonian call is still clear: “Come over and help us!” The voice of God is still calling, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”

Isaiah’s response was simple: “Here am I; send me.” How will you respond to the Lord’s call? And, if not you, then who? **ONE**

About the Writer: Rick Bowling is the cross cultural officer for North American Ministries. Learn more: www.fwbnam.com/cross-cultural.

SAVE THE DATE

[APRIL 26-30, 2021]



Master’s Men encourages everyone to save **April 26-30, 2021**, as a date to come together for an important service project. After more than 20 years, the National Offices Building needs exterior repair and painting. Master’s Men is recruiting volunteers to assist. (All materials and tools will be provided.) If you or your church group would like to help, or perhaps donate funds to offset expense, please contact:

ken@nafwb.org | 615-760-6141 | 877-767-8039 | 615-731-4850 ext.280

Committed to the Commission

BECOMING A MISSION ACTIVE CHURCH

BY DANNY GASPERSON

God has ordained the Church, led and empowered by the Spirit, as the means to accomplish His purpose and work until Christ returns. But even a cursory glance at church history shows the people of God have not always stayed on track. At times, the direction and magnitude of her straying are both surprising and heartbreaking. For example, at one time, the church's predominant view held the Great Commission was only for the original Apostles.

When the young preacher William Carey, considered by most to be the father of modern missions, expressed his desire to carry the gospel to spiritually dark India, he was reprimanded by senior pastors: "Sit down, young man. When God chooses to win the heathen, He will do it without your help or ours." We are grateful Carey did not listen to this terrible advice.

Thankfully, we have corrected this erroneous view and understand spreading the gospel and building the Kingdom of God are the primary marching orders for the Church. But while our doctrine has been corrected, I fear our practice still has room for improvement. Although we claim the responsibility of the Great Commission belongs to all of us, many Christians and churches are not directly involved in its fulfillment. They act as if this is someone else's job. The issue is not a lack of desire or concern, they just have not discovered how they can become more mission active. How can a church increase her engagement and involvement in the Great Commission?

I vividly remember struggling with this challenge when I first became a pastor. I was blessed to pastor Zephyr Hills FWB Church in North Carolina. Together, my congregation and I embarked on the journey to become more mission active. We discovered a handful of principles to increase our direct involvement in the Great Commission.

Recognize your responsibility. A serious study of Scripture reveals the Great Commission is of greatest importance to God. As a church, we wanted our priorities to match God's priorities. The Bible also teaches every believer be actively involved in the Great Commission endeavor. We have not all been called to be missionaries, but we are all called to be mission active. We should feel both the burden and blessing of that responsibility. How should we respond to His call? It is said necessity is the mother of invention. When we become convinced something must be done, our determination, diligence, and creativity propel us toward our goal. When our church embraced the realization the Great Commission is not optional, stepping up our game in mission involvement became our primary focus.

Aim to be comprehensive. The Lord gave us three primary touch points for involvement in the Great Commission: **prayer, provision, participation.**

- We are to **pray** faithfully, focused, and fervently (Luke 10:2).
- We are to **provide** generously, sacrificially, and joyfully (Romans 10:15).





BEING MISSION ACTIVE IS NOT ONLY ABOUT THE THINGS WE DO. IT MUST BECOME WHO WE ARE.

- We are to **participate** personally and passionately (Matthew 28:19).

Every Christ-follower is responsible to utilize each of these avenues to engage in the Great Commission.

Acts 1:8 outlines four geographic/cultural arenas in which we are to apply these touch points. *Jerusalem* represents those who live nearby—family, friends, neighbors, coworkers.

Judea represents those with whom we are connected culturally but separated geographically. *Samaria* represents those closer geographically but culturally distant. The *uttermost* includes those from every nation, kindred, people, and tongue.

This is not a list of options from which to choose while neglecting the rest. We have responsibility in each of these arenas.

Start where you are and begin immediately. The good news is any individual or church can make the decision to deepen their mission involvement. One can never start too early. In our journey, we discovered we needed to eliminate some comfortable excuses we used to justify our inactivity.

“We are too small.” This sounded reasonable to us until we realized when Jesus first issued the Great Commission in the New Testament, He was talking to 12 men.

“We can’t afford to do it.” Some people use this same excuse when it comes to tithing. Most pastors would rightly remind them it is impossible to outgive the Lord. He has promised to bless our faithfulness. I suggest the same truth applies to churches. We experienced the reality of this in our journey. Certainly, we experienced times of sacrifice, but we always found God’s abundant and generous supply for our needs outpaced our giving. You

may think you cannot afford to become more involved in the Great Commission. We found we could not afford to neglect it.

“We don’t have time.” You will be glad to know I am not offering a list of new activities for you. Most of us have too much to do already. Being mission active is not only about the things we do. It must become who we are. It may affect what you do to an extent, but it is more about *why* and *how* you do the things you do. As we examined those things keeping us so busy, we found some items occupying a significant portion of our resources were not things God considers priority. Yet, they inhibited our involvement in the one clear priority the Lord gave us.

Don’t feel you must do it alone. Every time the Great Commission is repeated in Scripture, the pronouns referring to our involvement are plural. Our responsibility is individual, but *always* in the context of community. The Great Commission is given to the universal Church, but you have an important part to play. Your local church has an essential role. God’s will is that “the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:16). Use the resources of partnering with IM, NAM, state and local mission boards, and other churches to find support, direction, and encouragement.

Realize it is a process. Becoming mission active is not a destination but a journey. It is a process; it takes time. You cannot flip a switch to instantaneously become missional. But making it your primary purpose and devoting yourself to it passionately will launch you into the most satisfying adventure you can imagine.

Our desire as Free Will Baptists is not to just talk the talk, but to walk the walk. Our challenge is to deepen our commitment and involvement in the Great Commission. **ONE**

About the Writer: Danny Gasperson is director of mobilization for IM, Inc. Find resources at: www.IMInc.org, including a world prayer guide to help you become more mission active.



Go Global

BY JERRY AND BARBARA GIBBS

I'm sure you are familiar with the term *Great Commission*. If not, you have plenty of company. A recent survey by the Seed Company and Barna Research reported half of U.S. churchgoers (51%) do not know this term. The Great Commission did sound familiar for one in four (25%), although they didn't remember what it is. Six percent of churchgoers were not sure they had heard the term at all. Where do those regularly attending a Free Will Baptist church stand?

One of the purposes of IM's development department is to help our churches better understand what the Bible says about the Great Commission. We provide the means to not only understand God's command to His people, but also provide ways to participate in His global purpose of seeing *all* nations come to worship Him. Around 7,200 unreached people groups, representing 3.2 billion souls, have never heard the name of Jesus. How can we as Free Will Baptists close the gap and be effective in reaching people who have never heard the name of Christ?

For several years now, IM has promoted **Go Global**, a missionary workshop-conference event. Since it started, Go Global has raised missionary awareness in local churches, quarterly meetings, association meetings, and state meetings. An interactive program, attendees are invited into the "kitchen" of IM to see how we operate and why; understand the goals and objectives of the Mission; answer questions of policy, finances, and purpose; and see how we all fit into God's global purpose.

The first goal of Go Global is to inform, to help the listener understand God's heart, His plan to bring the world to Himself. Jesus issued a mandate: "As My Father

hath sent me, even so send I you" (John 20:21). He launched a movement to take salvation to every people group of the earth. He chose His followers and gave them a strategic, intentional mission. Our mission is to continue the work until every nation has heard the Good News. Informing also involves sharing the tasks IM has designated and demonstrating how missionaries carry them out in their ministries. Missionaries share their stories, either in person or by video. This involves **the second goal—inspire**. It's a time for "Amen" and "Praise the Lord" as we hear current stories of God at work changing lives worldwide. He allows IM missionaries to be part of building Christ's Kingdom. It's exciting to hear from those who understand God's mandate and seek to fulfill it among a people group with little contact with the gospel.

The third goal of Go Global is to engage. Carl F.H. Henry said, "The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time." God has a plan and a place for each one of us. Go Global seeks to help attendees find their place of service, whether in their local church or across the globe. We share possibilities for participation in short-term field ministries such as,

- **ETEAM**, for high schoolers from the end of 10th grade to graduation.
- **College Missions Program**, for any Free Will Baptist college student (regardless of the college/university attended) who want to impact their world for Jesus Christ.
- **The Hanna Project**, an NGO taking help, hope, and healing around the world. Scores of church members have traveled with The Hanna Project and testify to its impact.

Since the Lord has given His people the mandate to reach the world for His glory, we each have our place and responsibility.

Go Global seeks to be a practical resource and help. So, what is the takeaway for attendees?

David Taylor, executive director of Arkansas Free Will Baptists, remarked: “The Go Global program presented at the Arkansas state meeting was outstanding! It was a powerful presentation of the heart of God and how He is building His Church.”

Marcus Brewer, Texas state moderator, said, “It was a real blessing to have IM organize the program for the Texas state meeting. Not only did IM provide the speakers and content for our worship services, but the topics were informative and relevant to our people. They organized two different workshops for our pastors and lay people. They were full of insights on the needs and duties of our missionaries and gave us great information on how to organize a missionary visit to our churches and promote giving to and praying for missions. The worship services were meaningful to everyone, reminding us of a biblical mandate for missions and motivating us to do our part and reach the world.”

Clint Morgan, general director of IM, emphasized, “We want Go Global to become the premier, intensive, mission-focused training program of IM.”

Missions is not an optional accessory to our lives. It is the heartbeat of all we are called to be and do. Our Lord’s life purpose was to bring about God’s glory on earth by

6 Steps to Going Global

- Use the IM directory or map to adopt a missionary(ies) for prayer and support.
- Subscribe to the weekly Hotline email, for the latest missionary prayer and praise news.
- Request the free world prayer guide from IM, an invaluable guide as you pray for the world.
- Talk to your church leadership about having five-minute missions moments during your services—either in person or by video.
- Host a missionary in your church and your home.
- Help plan a Go Global event in your church or association.

Contact IM (877-767-7736) to bring Go Global to your church, quarterly meeting, or state meeting.

accomplishing the Father’s work of redemption (John 17:4). When God’s people are gripped by God’s mandate to take the salvation message to every part of the world, we will seek to find our place in bringing about His glory on earth. Then, everything done and said will have as its goal this glorious fulfillment of God’s redemptive purpose. May His name be preached to all the peoples of the earth. **ONE**

About the Writer: After decades of overseas service, Jerry and Barbara Gibbs transitioned to the States in 2014. They continue serving the Mission as development associates.

Snapshots Around the World

Cuba: Pastor Leonel Sotero baptized six people in Cuba November 29, 2020.

Bulgaria: Lydia Awtrey meets online weekly with three women (individually) for discipleship studies. As a result, two of the women decided to move forward with baptism. On December 4, she began working as a full-time volunteer in the COVID

Côte d'Ivoire: Pastor Silas Noufé baptized 12 people in the village of Bayana, near Bouna, Ivory Coast, November 6.

ward of the Svishtov hospital. She requests, "Please, pray for me to be useful and to show God's love with my actions and words."



Bulgaria: Brenton and Debbie Driscoll hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for friends in November 2020. They wrote, "It was encouraging to see so many people at our apartment; it was a wonderful mix of friends, old and new, and we look forward to building relationships with them as we continue our time

here, in Shumen. During our dinner, everyone took turns sharing things for which he or she is thankful. We heard people offer thanks for health, job opportunities, family, and friends. We pray one day we will hear those same people offer thanks to our Father for the grace and salvation He so freely gives."

Pansy Murray With the Lord

Antioch, TN—Pansy Campbell Murray moved to life eternal October 25, 2020. The 76-year-old succumbed to complications of COVID-19. Dr. Ron Callaway, former missionary to Spain and Panama, conducted the graveside service Tuesday, October 27, 2020.

Appointed missionaries to France December 27, 1977, John and Pansy Murray served until December 1989. The couple ministered in Nantes, leading the renovation of the church building. Friends and former missionary colleagues expressed how much

the French people appreciated Pansy. Her gift of hospitality made her a vital part of the ministry in many practical ways.

IM General Director Clint Morgan stated, "Our hearts grieve with the passing of another IM family member. The IM fam-



Pansy Murray

ily joins our hearts to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice. Our prayers are with John and his children as they navigate life in the valley of the shadow of death."

Pansy left behind her husband of 59 years, John Dawson Murray, Jr., son John David Murray, daughter Patricia Murray Fite, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested contributions to Nashville Rescue Mission (nashvillerescuemission.org).

ONE

IM Board Holds Year-End Meeting

Antioch, TN—On December 8-9, 2020, the IM board met. Cameron Lane and Mark Price opened the sessions with personal reflections and devotions.

The IM board adopted a new family leave policy for adoptive and natural parents. The board also approved establishing two endowments which will assist new missionary appointees (Grow Endowment) and supplement the general fund (Cornerstone Endowment). Director of Development Don Matchett proclaimed, "What an exciting day! These endowments, when mature, will support new missionaries and support ministries for generations to come. Watch for fundraising to begin soon."

The IM board heard testimonies from two candidates. Emily Petty and Abby Walker received unanimous

approval to serve as two-year interns to Japan. Chairman Jeff Nichols expressed, "It is always a joy to serve on the IM board, but the opportunity to approve these two new missionary interns is special. Free Will Baptists are blessed to have a stream of young people saying yes to God."

CFO Rob Conley presented a financial report stressing God's faithfulness during the trying COVID season. Rob confirmed, "God is good! Even in a pandemic and all that is 2020, God is good."

As a final business point, the board adopted the 2021 budget including active ministries, new candidates, trips, projects, and IMPact projects.

General Director Clint Morgan reflected, "Each board meeting is unique since the topics for discus-



Emily Petty



Abby Walker

sion change regularly. However, the IM board and leadership team is laser-focused on getting the gospel to the unreached."

All board members participated. Chairman Jeff Nichols (TN), Vice-Chairman Rodney Yerby (AL), Secretary Mark Price (OH), Casey Cariker (OK), Rick Cason (NC), Will Harmon (AR), and Darren Walker (NC) gathered in the IM office. Janice Banks (OK) and Cameron Lane (AR) joined via Zoom. **ONE**

Russian Institute Holds Graduation

Chelyabinsk, Russia—Eleven students graduated from the Chelyabinsk branch of the Moscow Theological Seminary in Russia, December 11, 2020. Graduates studied five years while maintaining their responsibilities as pastors, deacons, musicians, preachers, etc. in Baptist churches in the Ural region. A total of 18 students studied at the Chelyabinsk institute this year.

IM began partnering with Russian Baptists in 1996 after discovering

their Arminian doctrine dovetailed with FWB doctrine. Throughout the 20-plus year partnership, IM has support-

ed the training of more than 140 ministers by sending professors and helping underwrite some of the Bible institute's expenses. Some who participated in training at the institute over the years include Leroy and Dr.



Fay Forlines, Dr. Robert Picirilli, Dr. Garnett Reid, Dr. Paul Harrison, and Dr. Kenneth Egleton. Many others

have contributed to the long-term effectiveness of this ministry, notably Randy Wilson and the Bethany Church in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and missionaries Mike and Cathy Corley. **ONE**

Our Living



BY TERRY AUSTIN

One thing life has taught me is that I can't always have my way. But, I admit I often try. I want to plan my day and accomplish my tasks without surprises or interruptions. But surprises and interruptions always seem to arise, and I have to figure out another plan to win the day and accomplish my tasks.

On a larger scale than my day is how things affect our world. For example, September 11, 2001, changed our lives forever when the day was interrupted by an attack on the United States. Along with thousands of other things, airport security changed, financial transactions changed, and, for a while, many people walked around in fear or stopped doing things to feel safe.

During the past year, we faced another problem that created fear in our lives and caused us to start doing some things to protect ourselves. I am referring to the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. Across the world, many became fearful and began doing things differently. The pandemic stopped us from gathering as a society, including attending worship or going to sporting events with large crowds of people. We had to become innovative in our witnessing, discipleship, and fellowship by finding new ways to communicate. Social media played a big part

in our efforts to communicate, but the healing touch of humanity, which provides hope and strength, was lacking.

Our world and our way of life have been challenged for quite some time now. We live in changing, volatile times with daily challenges to our faith and mental wellbeing. Some things we simply cannot control. But there is hope; there is reason to believe in a brighter day. There is light at the end of the tunnel. Say it however you want, but we have great hope and confidence because God is still in control. He has not been voted out of office or overthrown. He has not changed His love for us, and He still cares about every detail of our lives.

Scripture teaches us in Hebrews 13:8 that Jesus Christ never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. As Christians, Jesus Christ lives in us, and we live in Him. He not only cares about us individually, He

also cares for the world in which we live. He has brought generations through famine, persecution, wars, drought, storms, fire, climate change, and floods. He brought

WE HAVE
GREAT
HOPE AND
CONFIDENCE
BECAUSE
GOD IS STILL
IN CONTROL.

Job through the personal loss of his family, his health, and everything he cherished. Jesus has seen it all and been through it all, because He has been around forever, and He has promised never to leave us nor forsake us. Not only do we have a Friend who sticks closer than a brother, we have a

Guide who will lead us through

whatever comes our way—day by day and over the span of a lifetime. Jesus Christ is our hope.

As a military chaplain I was privileged to carry Jesus Christ to our military members wherever they served. I offered hope to soldiers in three different wars and stress-

ful times of training. I found ministry was greatly appreciated and much more effective when times were tough and uncertain. It was not a time to hide or be fearful; it was a time to shine and offer hope.

I know these are turbulent, frightening times, but allow me to encourage you to remain hopeful and optimistic. It is during these times the world looks to us to find their way through the surprises and interruptions in their lives. As they struggle to make sense of the events that come their way, let them see Jesus ready to take them in and provide refuge. Let them know He can be their Hope for every day. **ONE**

About the Writer: Terry W. Austin is chaplain support officer for North American Ministries. Learn more about the ministry of Free Will Baptist chaplains: www.fwbnam.com/chaplaincy

Tipping the scales at 2.5%!

In spite of a topsy-turvy financial year in 2020, the **Free Will Baptist Foundation remains strong.** With our Money Management Trust, you can enjoy the stability of knowing your rates are locked in for six months at 2.5%.

Contact the Foundation today:

FREE WILL BAPTIST
FOUNDATION 

foundation@nafwb.org | 877-336-7575 | www.fwbgifts.org



The Importance of a Mission Statement for Church Health



BY BRAD RANSOM

As a national denominational leader, I enjoy the opportunity to visit state meetings and hear reports from other national agencies. One thing I appreciate about our departments is when their representatives start their reports with their departmental mission statement, which often sounds like this: “We exist to...”

Here are some examples of these national mission statements:

- **North American Ministries:** *equip and send church planters and chaplains to plant healthy churches and to make disciples in North America.*
- **IM, Inc:** *labor with the Body of Christ to fulfill the Great Commission.*
- **ONE Magazine:** *communicate to Free Will Baptists a unifying vision of our role in the extension of God’s Kingdom.*
- **Welch College:** *educate leaders to serve Christ, His Church, and His world through biblical thought and life.*
- **WNAC:** *provide opportunities for each woman to fulfill the Great Commission through her God-designed roles at home and abroad.*

Here are some examples of local church mission statements:

- *Know Jesus and make Jesus known.*

- *Love God, love people, make disciples.*
- *Introduce people to Jesus and help them follow Him.*

Any organization needs to know *why* it exists; especially the local church. Have you ever wondered if your church people know why your church exists? Do you know why your church exists?

Why is a mission statement important? A mission statement sums up your church values and objectives. It answers the question, “Why does this church exist?” It serves as a tool to help everyone understand what’s important. A clearly defined mission statement keeps the focus on what’s essential to the church. It keeps the church from “majoring on the minor and minoring on the major.” It guides the thinking of the congregation, shapes the budget, and allows leaders to focus on those things most important to the church.

I have always believed a church should create a mission statement based on the Great Commission. Sure, the church needs to edify the saints, care for the needy, and have great pot-luck meals. But far more important, **we exist to make disciples** (Matthew 28:19-20). The church must take seriously its responsibility to evangelize and disciple the world.

Everything the church does should point to this truth. If the church isn’t about reaching the lost, it basically will become a religious country club, striving to provide a pleasing atmosphere and safe place for Christians to enjoy each other’s company. While fellowship is biblical, Scripture is clear: the Church exists to make disciples.

When a church clearly defines its purpose and makes it known to their people—experts say we have to remind the congregation every month—it points them in the right direction. It helps avoid and redirect inward thinking and preservation of the status quo.

Many things must happen to bring about real change, but with a clearly defined mission statement, your church can begin its quest to reach your community.

“Our church exists to...”

You finish this mission statement, pass it on to your church, and remind them frequently. **ONE**

About the Columnist: Dr. Brad Ransom is director of church planting and chief training officer for North American Ministries. Contact Brad: brad@nafwb.org.

Alvis Resigns as Associate Church Planter

Erie, PA—More than seven years ago, Darin and Joy Alvis and their three children moved to Erie, Pennsylvania, to help plant Flagship FWB Church. As Flagship moved toward self-supporting status, it became apparent the church would not be able to employ two full-time staff members once self-supporting. Over recent years, discussions about this dilemma have continued.

After much prayer, Darin and his family decided to resign. Please

pray for the Alvis family as they seek God's will and their next place of service. Their talents and help will be sorely missed by the Flagship Church family, but we trust God in His direction moving forward.

North American Ministries truly appreciates the work and sacrifice the Alvis family invested in Erie and the Flagship



Darin and Joy Alvis and family

Church and anticipates how God will use them in the future. **ONE**

Marcus Stephens Joins Church Planting

Sevierville, TN—North American Ministries welcomes Marcus and Tonya Stephens and their family to the team. The Stephens come to NAM from Mount Olive FWB Church in Guin, Alabama, where Marcus served as youth pastor for ten years.

The Stephens have three boys: Andrew, Jacob, and Luke. Marcus will serve as associate church planter in Sevierville, Tennessee, alongside Chad and Paula Kivette, helping plant 24/7 FWB Church. This is a joint project with the Tennessee State Mission Board. For more



Marcus and Tonya Stephens, Andrew, Jacob, and Luke

information, visit fwbnam.com/stephens. **ONE**

Assessment Center Launches

Antioch, TN—North American Ministries is excited to announce the launch of the first Free Will Baptist Onsite Church Planter Assessment Center and welcomed our first candidates in September 2020.

The assessment process was held at the office in Antioch, Tennessee, over a three-day period. We are excited about how this tool will help NAM send strong candidates ready to face the daunting challenges of church planting wherever God has called them. **ONE**

Hawaii Church Plant Expands Ministry

Kaneohe, HI—While COVID-19 restrictions have challenged the church planting efforts in Hawaii, NAM is excited to share how God provided a unique opportunity to expand the ministry in Hawaii. Carl and Cynthia Spruill are working to plant a new church in Kaneohe, on the east side of the island of Oahu. Carl's grandfather planted the first Free Will Baptist church in Waipahu, Hawaii, in the late 1950s, approximately 17 miles from the current work.

The Waipahu church has been without a pastor for several months. Through opportunities made possi-

ble by God through COVID, the two congregations have come together on Sunday mornings to gather for worship over the last few months. It has been through all of this that the Waipahu FWB Church has requested to follow Carl's leadership as their pastor and become a part of *Reflection Ministries*.

This expansion gives *Reflection Ministries* a home base and will help grow both churches moving forward. While both the Waipahu and Kaneohe locations are not merging into one location permanently, they will begin a phase of cleanup and renovation at



Carl and Cynthia Spruill and family

the Waipahu Church, and eventually will become one church with two locations.

We thank God for His providence and look forward to seeing many new disciples in the state of Hawaii. **ONE**

Lee Resigns From the Bridge Church

Champaign, IL—Jamie and Heather Lee have served as joint project church planters with the Illinois State Mission Board and North American Ministries. Effective January 1, 2021, the Lees tendered their resignation. In a final newsletter to supporters, Jamie wrote, "COVID brought many changes and challenges in 2020. It has been very hard to navigate through this hard time. These challenges have brought financial hardship and loss, but it also brought gain, not only for our family, but our church and supporters. All three put us in a position of making a major decision regarding whether it was in our family and our people's best interest to continue with the Bridge Church. Through prayer

and counsel, we felt it best to step away." Lee continued, "We will forever be grateful for Free Will Baptists and our supporters. To our financial supporters, you placed us in your personal budget and sacrificed greatly."

The Lees will join the family construction business and relocate to Florida. Tyler Penn, IM missionary serving international students at University of Illinois, has been appointed interim until a new church planter can be found. Adam Garrett's role as associate church planter will remain unchanged. We appreciate your prayers during this transition for these families involved and the congregation at the Bridge Church. **ONE**

NAM Holds Boot Camp

Antioch, TN—Five church planters, associate church planters, and pastors joined Dr. Brad Ransom, chief training officer, October 26-29, 2020, for 25-plus hours of intense training. Ransom and other NAM directors, including Sam McVay and David Crowe, taught sessions. Additional training came from several church planters via Zoom video conferencing.

Other Free Will Baptist directors participated by leading sessions, including John Brummitt (Board of Retirement) and Clint Morgan and Neil Gilliland (IM). The boot camp training is one part of the overall training program for new church planters. **ONE**



Better Together

BY KEN AKERS

While many of you are familiar with the title phrase, I have a different understanding of what it means. In 2005, Master's Men set up the Free Will Baptist Disaster Response Team. Following Hurricane Katrina, we were able to mobilize dozens of volunteers to assist the Gulf Coast recovery.

Since that time, we have worked with state Master's Men groups, state disaster response teams, and many local churches. It always has been, and always will be, a team effort. Because of the size of our country and the many areas marked by disaster, we are not always able to get teams to distant locations. When a hurricane hits Texas, it is easier for a local group to help rather than a team from the East Coast (which might be involved in their own response efforts in that region).

We have seen groups step up time after time, with each new disaster.

Several years ago, the disaster response team formed regional directors to assist locations close to them. I appreciate these men who continue to give time and effort to organize response efforts. We understand with everyday responsibilities, it's not always easy to drop everything and go to the next disaster site. That's why we need more volunteers involved.

Over the past 15 years, hundreds, if not thousands, of men and women have stepped in to offer assistance. While not everyone can go, you can support those who

do. We have been blessed with trailers and equipment. All of this needs to be onsite during response activities. To travel to the disaster sites and keep equipment stored and maintained takes money. Would you consider making a donation or, better yet, put Master's Men DRT in your church budget?

While I would love to list everyone and every group that has assisted over the years, I'm sure I would miss more than a few. Please know God hasn't forgotten your work and will honor your service done in His name.

We are better together!

If you would like to be added to the DRT email list or make a donation, contact Master's Men at masters@nafwb.org or send a check to: Master's Men DRT, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011. **ONE**

About the Writer: Ken Akers is CFO of North American Ministries and director of Master's Men. Learn more: www.fwbmastersmen.org/disaster-relief.

A white piggy bank is being held by a pair of hands. The piggy bank is simple in design with two small black dots for eyes and two vertical lines for nostrils. The hands are positioned around the piggy bank, with fingers visible. The background is a warm, reddish-brown color. At the bottom of the page, there is a pattern of scattered coins, including US pennies and quarters, on a textured surface.

Uncomfortable Lessons

BY MICHAEL LYTLE

As a missionary kid, I well remember visiting a different church each week while our family was on stateside assignment (back then it was called furlough). My parents shared about what the Lord was doing in Panama. Often, my mom provided special music, and then my dad preached. At some point in the service, my parents would thank those in the church who had supported our ministry and ask others to get involved in supporting us in prayer and through their giving.

I was always a little uncomfortable about having to ask for money. While some people surely have a gift in fundraising, I imagine most people dread the idea of asking others for financial help. What I failed to realize as a child was my dad was doing so much more than asking people for money. He was giving individuals and churches across the denomination an opportunity to partner with our family in the cause of making disciples of all nations.

I also failed to fully comprehend everything we have belongs to the Lord anyway. In His grace, He grants us the privilege of joining what He is doing, both in our communities and around the world. It is such a wonderful thing to use what God has blessed us with to be a blessing to others!

I have worked for Randall House most of my adult life. While Randall House is a nonprofit ministry, our mission has always been funded by selling curriculum, books, and conference registrations. As we reflect on 2020, we hear the word “unprecedented” used quite often. I guess that is to be expected when we

are in the midst of a global pandemic. At Randall House, we have had to ask ourselves, “How do we continue as a ministry providing curriculum for churches when churches have stopped meeting?”

It helped me to remember the lessons I learned many years ago watching my parents share about our ministry in Panama. Randall House exists to build believers through church and home, and much like missionaries, we invite churches and individuals to partner with us as we provide resources to help make disciples of the families in your church.

That partnership may take the form of ordering Sunday School curriculum if your church is meeting for Sunday School. For others, it may take the form of ordering At-Home bundles for the families in your church, so they continue in their discipleship journey while churches are not meeting in the same way they have in the past. For others, it may mean donating to the ministry of Randall

House as a church or as an individual. All of these are options to consider. For all our churches, we ask you to keep Randall House in your prayers as we navigate these uncharted waters and seek to fulfill the mission the Lord has laid out for us.

We don't take lightly the opportunity to be involved in what God is doing, both in the United States and around the world. We thank all those currently supporting Randall House through prayers, curriculum orders, and generous gifts. If you are not involved in the ministry of Randall House, we challenge you to prayerfully consider how you can be a part of this wonderful work that God is doing. **ONE**

About the Writer: Michael Lytle is the chief financial officer for Randall House Publications. Learn more about the Randall House mission: www.RandallHouse.com.

D6 EveryDay™

NOT JUST SUNDAY. EVERY DAY.

Curriculum Discipleship Plan

Spring 2021 Scope and Sequence

- | | |
|---|---|
| Week 1 - Jesus Is the Son of God | Week 8 - God Demonstrates Miraculous Power |
| Week 2 - Jesus Modeled Humility | Week 9 - The Church Has a Purpose |
| Week 3 - The Holy Spirit Is Our Helper | Week 10 - The Gospel Is Powerful |
| Week 4 - Jesus Died for Our Sins | Week 11 - The Gospel Is for Everyone |
| Week 5 - Jesus Conquered Death | Week 12 - Share the Good News |
| Week 6 - God Prepares Us for Service | Week 13 - Defend the Faith |



To order, call 1-800-877-7030
or visit www.d6curriculum.com



Mental Toughness and Whack-A-Mole

BY RON HUNTER JR., PH.D.

Have you participated in the game Whack-A-Mole? Not as the player with the club, but as one of the moles getting whacked? Not the desired role we want! But, in reality, those little varmints possess a resilience to keep popping back up.

Everyday life can make you feel like the mole. The year 2020 pounded you, church whacked you, and life keeps taking swings. How do you get through when life gets much harder? What if the odds seem stacked against you? How do you prepare yourself when it seems undoable? How do you cope? Can we encourage ourselves with a newfound mental toughness discovered over the past few months?

If you have ever played organized sports and run laps, you know about endurance and mental toughness. Just hearing the coach's whistle announcing suicide drills makes everyone cringe. Similarly, serving in the military makes one mentally tough for almost anything. It starts when you are commanded to stand at attention without being able to scratch your nose, which suddenly itches unmercifully. That same drill sergeant showed you how many push-ups, road marches, and sleepless hours you could actually handle.



It's no wonder studies have been done surrounding sports and the military on mental toughness. What lessons can we learn from these two arenas that produce physically and mentally tough individuals you want on your team?

The coach or drill sergeant never starts with ten miles. It takes many runs or marches of one or two miles, and then builds up to three to five miles, and soon eight feels like nothing. The athlete or soldier remembers the previous accomplishment and says, "I did that one, and this one is just a little harder."

Each arena repeatedly pushes you through incremental increases by demanding heavier, longer, harder, and under adverse conditions. The old saying, "If it were easy, everyone

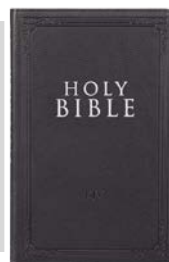
would do it" truly reminds us how we appreciate things that don't come easy. You build on previous difficult accomplishments and failures. Tough is like the running back who gets knocked down every four to five yards. Likewise, you learn to recognize the value of getting back up and pushing forward. The repeated stretching process makes you tougher mentally and physically.

Perspective and resilience are everything when accessing what is in front of you. Keep popping up; God needs you in the game! **ONE**

About the Columnist: Ron Hunter Jr. has a Ph.D. in Leadership and is CEO of Randall House Publications. You may contact him at ron.hunter@randallhouse.com.

LEADERSHIP QUOTE

"Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude." —Thomas Jefferson



RECOMMENDED BOOK

Nehemiah

I think you all have this one on your shelves!

D6[®] conference

JOIN US WITH SOME OF THE LEADING VOICES IN FAMILY MINISTRY



AND MORE!

ORLANDO, FLORIDA
APRIL 7 - 9, 2021

JOIN US IN MAKING A
GENERATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP DIFFERENCE
IN YOUR CHURCH AND HOME

D6conference.com



Randall House Announces New Director of Events and Development

Antioch, TN—Randall House and D6 Family Ministry announces the newest team member, Derek Altom, as director of events and development. After Tim Owen's resignation to return to pastoring, Randall House began looking for a leader with combined skills in the areas of fund raising and conference planning. In addition, because the director of events guides all aspects of Vertical Three and the logistics of the D6 Conference, a leader who has served as a youth pastor brings many advantages. Derek brings experience in all three areas to Randall House.

Born in New Castle, Indiana, Derek accepted Christ through the ministry of First Bible FWB Church at the age of 11, while attending Indiana State Youth Camp. Derek attended Welch College, earning a bachelor's degree in Bible and Christian Education. While at Welch, Derek met and married his wife of over 15 years, Jennifer (Bryan) Altom. His marriage made him the grandson-in-law of Randall House icon Jim Lauthern. Derek served as youth pastor of New Oak Grove FWB Church in Nauvoo, Alabama; youth and music pastor, and later senior pastor of First FWB Church in Ada, Oklahoma. In 2015, Derek transitioned to Welch College to serve in the Office for Institutional Advancement.

Derek and Jennifer live in Old Hickory, Tennessee, with their four boys:

Stephen, Larry, Josiah, and Silas. Derek is currently completing the M.A. in Theology and Ministry at Welch College. He enjoys watching his boys play sports, reading a good book, spending time at the lake with family and friends, and watching Indianapolis Colts football.

Derek anticipates working with youth pastors and lead pastors to offer opportunities to develop young people through Vertical Three, CTS Expo, Youth Evangelistic Teams, and Truth & Peace Student Leadership Conference. Derek will additionally serve as the D6 Conference coordinator, handling the bulk of logistics for this global event, which now meets in five countries.

Randall House is looking to Derek to help launch the development area, knowing the future health of Randall



Derek Altom

House must combine products, events, and gift income. Because our churches love our mission, we know they will continue to support these endeavors. We welcome Derek to the Randall House and D6 Family Ministry team. **ONE**

CTS Guidelines Available in July

Antioch, TN—The *CTS Competition Guidelines* will be updated and available in July 2021 and be in effect for the 2022 CTS Ministry Expo. A printed copy of the *Guidelines* can be purchased at the Vertical Three Conference, or by contacting

Randall House online or by calling 800-877-7030. It will also be available through the Firebox bundle at **firebox.verticalthree.com**. **ONE**



Becky Beverly Announces Retirement

Antioch, TN—After parking her gold Dodge Duster in the Randall House parking lot August 5, 1978, Becky Beverly walked through the doors for her first day on the job, not knowing she would eventually manage the Randall House bookstore and later retire as a most valued team member.

Becky began her tenure with Randall House during the budding bookstore days. She moved the store into the computer age with an inventory and point of purchase software called IRT, written in DOS. She served under three directors: Dr. Roger Reeds, Dr. Alton Loveless, and Dr. Ron Hunter, Jr. Becky contributed powerfully during each era, and it would be hard to imagine Randall House's care for mission and customer service without her influence.

The Randall House bookstore outlasted many others in the Amazon era because of Becky's leadership and attention to details.



Becky Beverly

She watched the trends, created rapport with every customer, and worked hard at every conference. She headed up the Welch College on-campus bookstore and coffee shop. She knew how to reinvent herself and adapt during the growth of the organization.

Becky took these same skills and personality into the sales arena, ran the distribution center and ware-

house, and ultimately defined the balance between selling products and meeting the needs of customers. Serving 42 years the way Becky served is quite an accomplishment. She will be sorely missed. **ONE**

Calling for History!

The Free Will Baptist Historical Collection still has gaps. If you have books or records to donate, please contact curator **Phillip Morgan:** pmorgan@welch.edu.

Let's work together to **preserve the amazing Free Will Baptist story** for new generations!

FWBHistory.com



Randall House Study Bible Update

After petitioning to license the ESV translation, Crossway the publisher who owns the rights to the ESV, denied usage. Known to be Reformed in theology, they cited a reluctance to allow an Arminian set of notes

accompanying their text. Randall House is exploring other translations, seeking one suitable for our people and providing the highest quality study helps for our pastors and teachers. **ONE**



Seven Laws Every Teacher Should Obey

BY JEFF COCKRELL

John Milton Gregory is an important American educator you should know. He was born at Sand Lake, New York, July 6, 1822. He became a schoolteacher at age 17, and in 1852, he became head of a classical school in Detroit, Michigan. Almost immediately, he was recognized as a leader. In 1858, he was elected to the Michigan state superintendency of public instruction. Then, in 1864, he became president of Kalamazoo College. When the University of Illinois was established in 1868, he was asked to organize the educational structure and served as its president for the next 62 years.

Yet, one of Gregory's most important contributions to education is the little book *The Seven Laws of Teaching*, first published in 1884.* The short book lists the important factors governing the art of teaching. For many years it was used as a handbook for Sunday School teachers. Dr. Gregory said teaching has natural laws just like other laws in the universe. As these laws are observed, positive results are achieved. These are important laws for every teacher to obey, from church classroom to school classroom.

Law 1: The Law of the Teacher. A fundamental truth often ignored is that the teacher must *know the lesson* to effectively communicate to others. You cannot teach what you do not know. Often, one of the best ways to gauge your understanding of the subject, or to organize your thoughts, is to write out the lesson. This will help clarify your thoughts and identify any areas of deficiency. Another method? Talk the lesson over with a friend. Clearly understanding and communicating the material helps the teacher have enthusiasm for the lesson. Thus, he can more easily inspire students.

Law 2: The Law of the Learner. The teacher must never begin the lesson until the student is listening. This law is about the importance of gaining the attention of the student. Observe the faces of the class to be sure all are mental-

ly present, not just bodily. A teacher should evaluate the “nature” of the class. In other words, recognize the ages of the students and any teaching goals. Then, adapt the length and content of the class to the ages of the students.

Remember to teach using multiple senses. The power of attention increases with mental development. Dr. Gregory says, “Each sense-organ is a gateway to the mind.” The preacher uses a gesturing hand, a smiling or passionate look, and a many-toned voice. A teacher has the power to vary the use of body language—face, voice, and hand. A picture, some other illustrative material, or the sudden raising or lowering of the voice arouses fresh attention. Genuine interest may be developed by relating the lesson to the life of the learner. Eliminate distractions. Distraction is the division of the attention

Law 3: The Law of the Language. The teacher must communicate *clearly* if the student is to grasp the material. Thus, the language used to teach must be common to teacher and learner. The teacher should try to understand the degree of the student's understanding and take care to use words that will communicate the information most effectively. This means using words the student understands. Dr. Gregory notes: “No teaching was ever more clear and instructive than the parables of Jesus, drawn from nature around him.”

Just as Jesus understood the world and lifestyle of those in the crowds who followed Him, a teacher should think about the world of the student. Pause and allow the student to respond. This gives students the opportunity to express their thoughts and allows the teacher to gauge the student's comprehension of the material and make necessary corrections.

Law 4: The Law of the Lesson. Connect the old with the new and break the lesson into easily understood steps. Teachers will make little progress if they fail to observe this

law. First, use what the student knows (the old) to explain what they do not know (the new). Illustrative speech—similes, metaphors, and allegories—can be used to relate new truths to the old. Help students find illustrations from their own lives. Use real-life problems and scenarios to demonstrate how the new information relates to life. Connect the old with the new by using common illustrations relating to the student.

Take care that the student has mastered each step or fact before moving on to the next. Here, you want to link facts together. This means bringing new elements of knowledge into relation with the truths the student already knows. Sometimes this might come as baby steps.

Law 5: The Law of the Teaching Process. Teaching is more than just giving out information. It is about teaching students *how* to learn. Dr. Gregory advises, “True teaching, then, is not that which gives knowledge, but that which stimulates pupils to gain it. One might say that he teaches best who teaches least; or that he teaches best whose pupils learn most without being taught directly.” By making learning an exciting adventure, the student becomes a searcher with you.

Find ways to excite the student’s interest in the lesson, perhaps by some question or statement that will cause curiosity about the subject. For example, young children can be intrigued by bright colors, live animals, or things in motion. Older children relate to stories. Teens are concerned with questions with thoughtful answers. Adults are often interested in facts and statistics.

Law 6: The Law of the Learning Process. True learning involves application. We often make the mistake of thinking that once a student has memorized the facts, learning has been accomplished. Usually, this results in frustration. We’ve all heard a parent or teacher say something like, “I already told you ten times!”

Strive to move the student beyond memorization to interpretation. Think about teaching the Bible. While it’s important to know the Word of God and be able to recite its verses, it is much better to live out its principles in daily life. Teachers can observe this law by allowing students to explain what they have learned.

Law 7: The Law of Review and Application. After the lesson has been taught and students have ingested and

absorbed the material, the teacher might wonder, what more is needed? The work seems complete. But difficult work yet remains.

It takes repetition to absorb something fully. After all, practice makes perfect, as the old adage goes. While a person may gain knowledge and begin to put that knowledge to use, one must return to the information again and again. This is certainly true with the Bible. As a person studies the Bible, it becomes richer and more rewarding as they grow more fully into the likeness of Christ. But, as with any subject, review and application are required.

Have the student summarize the lessons learned. Sometimes, it is helpful to allow some time to pass between the learning of the information and the review. A sort of “mental incubation” is required. All students know a lesson studied only once will be soon forgotten.

Dr. Gregory ended his book by saying, “The study of these laws may not make of every reader a perfect teacher; but the laws themselves, when fully observed in use, will produce their effects with the same certainty that chemical laws generate the compounds of chemical elements, or that the laws of life produce the growth of the body.”

We are all teachers in some form or fashion. Whether you stand before a Sunday School classroom, work in an office, gather at the dinner table, or put pen to paper, you are teaching. With this in mind, I encourage you to be the best teacher you can be. In 2 Timothy, Paul encouraged his young protégé to do his best in teaching the Word of God, standing in sharp contrast to the false teachers. It’s a good reminder! Timothy, or anyone who seeks to be a teacher approved by God, must correctly share the Word of God with others. **ONE**

About the Writer: Dr. Jeff Cockrell holds degrees from Liberty University (B.S., M.A.), Gordon-Conwell Seminary (M.A.), and the University of Wales (Ph.D.). After three decades in pastoral ministry, Jeff joined the Welch College faculty in 2016, and recently accepted an administrative position at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology. Dr. Cockrell is a member of the Free Will Baptist Historical Commission.

Cheap Gifts

BY DAVID BROWN, CPA

This is not an article about how to give cheap gifts for birthdays and Christmas! It is about how to make a significant gift to ministry that doesn't cost the giver as much from a tax standpoint. Currently, our denomination has many ministries raising money for large capital projects. Welch College has a capital campaign to retire the debt on their new campus. At least two camps are raising funds for major buildings, and a number of large churches are in building campaigns.

All of these ministries need large gifts. How can a major gift be made? Every major gift can be discounted through the charitable gift tax deduction. For instance, a cash gift of \$200,000 will cost someone in the 35% tax bracket only \$130,000 when you consider the tax benefit of the charitable deduction. However, even cheaper ways to give are available.

Consider a person who has stock valued at \$200,000 for which he or she only paid \$10,000 decades ago. If this stock is given to a ministry, the donor still receives a tax deduction of \$70,000 in the 35% bracket but avoids 20% capital gains tax on the \$190,000 of growth. This amounts to another \$38,000 in savings, reducing the actual cost of the \$200,000 gift to \$92,000.

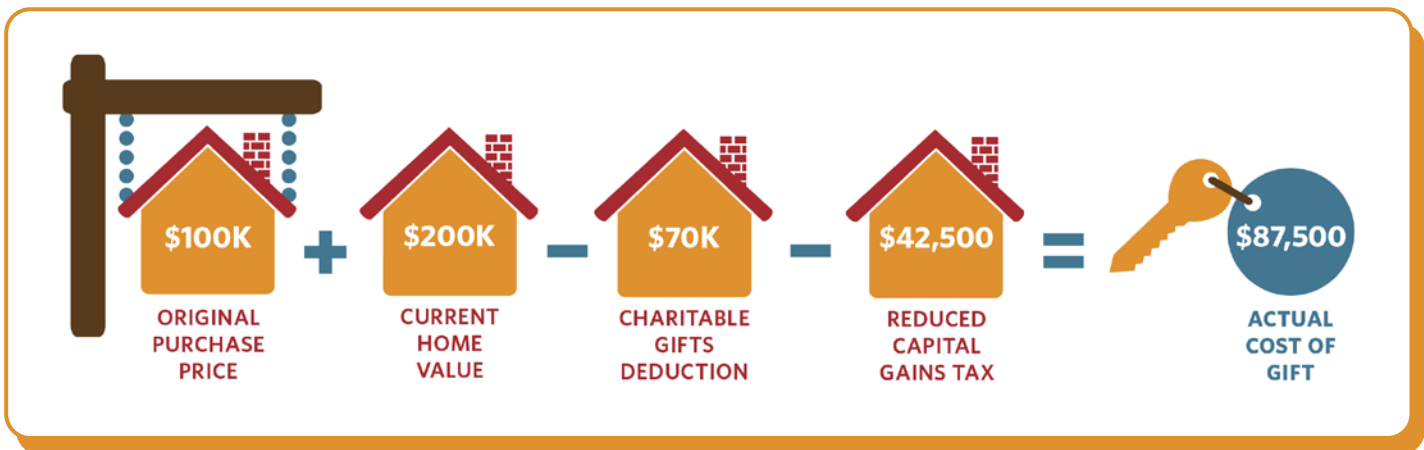
Another, even cheaper, way to give is through highly appreciated real estate. Consider a rental home now valued at \$200,000 though purchased for \$100,000 years earlier. Perhaps the value of the land at the time of purchase was \$10,000, and the house itself was \$90,000. Again, the savings due to the charitable gift deduction is \$70,000 but the capital gains tax savings are split in this situation.

The house has been completely depreciated, so a \$90,000 recap-



ture of depreciation capital gains tax is due at 25% or \$22,500. Regular capital gains tax of 20% is also due on the increased value of \$100,000 or \$20,000. That makes the true cost of this \$200,000 gift \$87,500

However, the "cheapest" gift comes from the individual who owns a business and gives a portion of closely held C corporation stock to ministry. Consider this scenario. An individual has a company where the stock appraises for \$2 million. A thousand shares outstanding are each worth \$2,000. The donor owns 61% of the outstanding shares





or 610 shares worth \$1,220,000. Since the owner formed the company in his garage, the basis in the stock is practically zero.

A gift of \$200,000 will equal 100 shares, so the donor still owns 510 shares of the thousand and retains control of the company. In this case, the donor still receives a \$70,000 charitable deduction and avoids capital gains tax of \$40,000 on the gift of stock. Here is the best part. The ministry then sells the share back to the company. This means

the donor pays nothing out of pocket to give the \$200,000.

Again, the donor receives a \$70,000 tax deduction, avoids capital gains of \$40,000, and pays zero dollars out of pocket while the ministry realizes a \$200,000 gift.

At no time does the donor lose control of the company. Temporarily, the donor has 51% of the stock while the ministry holds it. When these shares are sold back to the company these shares are retired. This means the owner of the com-

pany now owns 510 shares of the 900 outstanding or 57%.

We have ministries that need major gifts now. Consider using one of these generous methods of “cheap giving” to further the Lord’s work.

ONE

About the Columnist: David Brown is director of Free Will Baptist Foundation. To learn more about the grants program, visit www.fwbgifts.org.



DON'T WAIT TO
Make a Plan!

It's never too early to prepare your estate to benefit your children and the ministries you love. Let **FWB Foundation & Cornerstone Estate Planning** help in this crucial area of life.

Watch a brief video to learn how you can have peace of mind about the future.

fwbgifts.org (estate planning tab) or Facebook: Free Will Baptist Foundation



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



Faith in Action

BY BARRY RAPER

“Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality” (Romans 12:13).

George Mueller saw God answer prayer over and over again in his life. Perhaps you recall this faithful man started an orphanage for children, relying upon the financial and physical needs of the orphanage to be met through prayer. God met those needs in many incredible ways. One morning, the housemother informed Mueller the children were ready for school but there was no food to eat. He instructed her to seat the 300 children at the dining hall tables. He thanked God for the food, and they simply waited. Within minutes, a baker knocked on the door and said, “Mr. Mueller, last night I could not sleep. Somehow, I knew you would need bread this morning, so I got up and baked three batches for you. I will bring it in.”

A few minutes later, a milkman knocked. His cart had broken down in front of the orphanage. Knowing the milk would spoil by the time the wheel was fixed, he asked George if he could use the milk. George smiled as the milkman brought in ten large cans. It was just enough for the 300 thirsty children.

I don’t know whether the baker and milkman were Christians or not, but I do know God *delights* to supply the needs of His people. And

I also know He typically chooses to meet those needs through ordinary people like you and me. Understand your help may be the answer to someone’s prayers.

Romans 12:13 calls Christianity into action. You would probably agree there’s often too much talk in the church about doing good but not enough action. In this verse, we are confronted with two simple and straightforward actions to impact people around us:

Provide for the needs of the saints.

This word *saints* should not be confusing. It is simply one of the ways Scripture refers to Christians. It doesn’t describe a special class of Christians, some elite group. No, it is a designation for anyone who is in Christ. You are declared to be *holy* or *set apart* for God because of your faith in Jesus. And, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, He is producing holiness in your life. The word *saint* literally means *holy one*.

Paul made it clear we need to focus on meeting the needs of those in the church, the family of God. This doesn’t mean we do not care about the unbelieving world—quite the contrary. We are called to love everyone. But you take care of

your family first, the principle and practice laid out in Scripture for your spiritual family as well as your physical family.

Acts 2 tells us the believers in the early church “had all things in common.” That is, they sold their possessions and belongings, brought the wealth together, and distributed the proceeds to all, as needed. This wasn’t an early version of socialism, a mandated pooling of resources. Instead, these actions were motivated by the love these believers had for one another. The primary takeaway for us? Share your material wealth and possessions to help those in need within the church family.

This principle can be expanded to include other needs—emotional needs, spiritual needs, and relational needs. Quite frankly, we are needy people. Where do we go to have the needs met? It is an easy answer: the church. And by church, I don’t just mean the building and services, although needs are met when believers come together. But the church is the family of God, brothers and sisters God uses to meet needs.

Pursue love for strangers. Most translations use the word *hospitality* here. This is a compound word—the

first part means *love* and second part is the word for *stranger*, so love of or for strangers. Hebrews 13:1-2 reminds us to let brotherly love continue, and to show hospitality to strangers.

No Tom Bodet and Motel 6 “left the light on” for people in the days of the early church. In those days, having a safe and welcoming place to stay in someone’s home was a tremendous blessing, especially true for a traveling Apostle and missionary like Paul. Today, this passage should encourage us to welcome strangers into our church. We all remember what it was like to be new to a place or group. Whether you were the new student at school or moved to a new town, it is refreshing and encouraging to have someone make you feel at home, to feel welcome.

Strangers to the local church are no different. A couple of years ago, Dr. Thom Rainer suggested churches could improve their “welcome” by inviting mystery guests to visit and then asking them to share their experience. How would your church do if no one knew when the visitors were coming? When someone comes as a guest in your house, you have the opportunity to straighten up, but when it comes to church, we don’t always have time to “clean up” our welcome.

Based on this verse, I encourage you to do two simple things: 1) be friendly; and 2) take the first step to wel-

come visitors to your church. Obviously, COVID has made things different and difficult in every sphere of life, including this area. It is *hard* to welcome people from a distance. You aren’t always sure how comfortable another person is with someone getting close. Make the effort anyway. Even a small measure of friendliness goes a long way.

When we provide for the needs of the saints and welcome strangers, we are being Christ-like. He met each of us at our point of need and He continues to provide for us, as we provide for the needs of others. We would do well to remember what Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 25:

Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit



you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ **ONE**

About the Columnist: Dr. Barry Raper pastors Bethel FWB Church near Ashland City, Tennessee. He also serves as program coordinator for ministry studies at Welch College and is a member of the Tennessee Christian Education Board. Barry and his wife Amanda have five children.



Carlisle Hanna Inducted to TICUA Hall of Fame

Gallatin, TN—Veteran Free Will Baptist missionary to India and humanitarian Carlisle Hanna (Welch College Class of 1952) was recently inducted into the TICUA Hall of Fame, according to President Matt Pinson.

“TICUA stands for the ‘Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association’ and represents the private accredited colleges and universities in the state,” Pinson said. “We’re so honored they have selected Welch alumnus Carlisle Hanna for their Hall of Fame.”

TICUA Executive Director Claude

Presnell said, “Tennessee’s Independent Colleges and Universities are home to some of our state’s most distinguished and impressive residents—from Nobel laureates and Pulitzer Prize winners to faith leaders, entrepreneurs, and elected officials.”

“The Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association (TICUA) created the TICUA Hall of Fame to honor the distinguished alumni of its 35 member institutions while highlighting their contributions to our state, nation, and world. The honorees exemplify the value of the liberal arts education and how



Hanna (right) speaks in Welch chapel October, 2015

it can be used in a variety of career fields.”

The 2020 inductees can be viewed at cdn.ymaws.com/ticua.org/resource/resmgr/news/ticua-hall-of-fame-v4-spread.pdf. **ONE**

Welch Music Department Chairman “Making Music” During Pandemic

Gallatin, TN—Welch College Music Department Chairman James Stevens stayed busy composing during the pandemic, with over a thousand publications released with various outlets in the past year, according to Provost Matthew McAfee. The publishing outlets include Sheet Music Plus, Shawnee Press/Hal Leonard, Spotify, Pandora Radio, Apple Music, Amazon Music, and

others that include music for choral, piano, organ, and various instrumental solo/piano combinations.

Several of Stevens’s choral anthems over the past year have been released by Shawnee Press of Hal Leonard. These include “Song



James Stevens

of Grace and Hope” with Gaye C. Bruce and “Jesus Is the Way” with Karen Crane. These and Stevens’ other recent choral music with Hal Leonard consist of practical compositions and arrangements for the local church choir.

“One publication, ‘Italian

Rejoice! Ministry Team Announced

Preludes, Nos. 1-8,' is a piano album and book released in the heart of the pandemic at a time when Italy was suffering great losses, with the songs representing various moods of the time," McAfee said. In July, "Italian Preludes" was listed as number 10 of The Top 100 Radio Airplay Chart at Music Zone Reporter (<http://www.zonemusicreporter.com/charts/top100.asp>).

In July of 2020, Stevens was named as a Whisperings Piano Solo Artist at SoloPiano.com, which consists of many of the world's leading pianists/composers and founded by famed pianist David Nevue. This site carries Stevens' music from his albums, "Minimal Piano," "Italian Preludes, Nos. 1-8," "Quiet Christmas Piano," and his most recent album and book, "Autumn Moods," released October 9, 2020.

Since the beginning of 2020, Stevens has also released four new collections of original organ music, much of which has been recorded by Harvard University organist and composer in residence, Carson Cooman, including all the compositions from Stevens' October 2020 book, "Swan Serenades for Organ, Nos. 1-5."

Dr. Stevens has served as chairman of Welch College's Department of Music since 2004. For more information on the music department at Welch College and the various programs of study offered by the department, email Mark Lancaster at mlancaster@welch.edu. **ONE**

Gallatin, TN—The 2020-2021 *Rejoice!* Ministry Team has been selected, according to Daniel Webster, director. "After extensive tryouts and interviews, I'm pleased to announce final selections for this year's team. We had a great number of quality musicians to choose from, but we finally selected these students to be our representatives for this year."

Female members of the group are Meredith Baer, Erin Goucher, Krista Lindsay, Sarah Lovett, Abby Myers, Raygan Sellers, and Elizabeth Yerby. Male members are Ben Barcroft, Sam Lane, Mason McClure, and Samuel Rodriguez. Jesse Viers will be the sound technician.

The group likely will be unable to

travel as extensively in the spring semester as groups have in the past due to COVID-19, but it is hopeful some limited travel will be possible, and the group will be able to enjoy a full summer tour. Plans are being made for the group to use a video recording that will be made available to churches. According to Mr. Webster, "We see this as a way to have a presence in our churches even in the midst of the pandemic. A video produced by *Rejoice!* in the spring broke the record for number of views by any Welch College video. We think the songs we produce will be received equally well."

Congratulations to this group of young people. Pray for them as they rehearse and prepare to serve.





What Is the Purpose of *Music* for the Gathered Church?

BY DANIEL WEBSTER

Paul's words in Colossians 3:16 are straightforward: "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

However, this straightforward command is not always easily understood and applied...

- What does it mean to use songs to teach the Word to the church?
- How do we admonish through songs? What does admonish even mean?
- Paul is commanding the believers in this verse. As a worship leader, am I obedient to this command?
- If not, what things are keeping me from doing this?

While it is true we disagree from church to church about how to worship, true Christian churches agree the prima-

ry purpose of church music is to worship and praise the Lord.

Along the way, however, we have recommended other purposes. One is that music is to "prepare the heart for the preached Word of God." Another is that music should be used to "draw sinners to God." These purposes are almost always expressed by well-intended believers truly trying to please God and reach their communities with the gospel of Christ. At some point, I have made both claims.

While both of these objectives will be byproducts of healthy church music, both lack scriptural support as

primary purposes, and if made primary, will detract from what Scripture prescribes as the purpose of worship.

The above-stated goals are also (in my opinion) the most basic musical-theological contributions to our worship wars and may very well be the most common misunderstandings among pastors and church musicians. Thankfully, in Colossians 3:16, Paul lays out a two-fold purpose for music in what may be the most concise philosophy of church music found in Scripture.

THE PURPOSE FOR MUSIC IN THE CHURCH

In Colossians 3:16 (and other passages listed below), Paul gives two purposes of music for an assembly of believers:

As praise unto God:

“. . . singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God” (Colossians 3:16).

“Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God” (Acts 16:25-26).

“. . . singing and making melody to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19).

To teach and admonish the listener/singer through the Word:

“. . . teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” (Colossians 3:16).

“. . . addressing (or speaking to) one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs” (Ephesians 5:19).

TEACHING AND ADMONISHING THROUGH MUSIC

While scholars are divided as to the exact translation of Colossians 3:16, Paul was undoubtedly urging the church to use music as a means of teaching and admonishing believers through the Word.¹ Douglas Moo concludes “Paul wants the community to teach and admonish each other by means of various kinds of songs, and he wants them

1 Barry Joslin provides an excellent syntactical and grammatical breakdown of the various families of translations: Barry Joslin, “Raising the Worship Standard: The Translation and Meaning of Colossians 3:16 and Implications for Our Corporate Worship,” SBJT 17.3 (2013): 50-59; <http://www.sbts.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2014/03/SBJT-17.3-Fall-2013-Joslin.pdf>; accessed on July 28, 2016; Internet.

to do this singing to God with hearts full of gratitude.”²

As we evaluate this verse, we should note Paul used this same concept earlier in his epistle apart from music: “We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ” (Colossians 1:28). Teaching and admonishing is essential for the church—so essential that our music must align with this purpose.

To be clear, based on Paul’s teachings in these passages, I am suggesting music has the same purpose in the church as preaching and teaching: to proclaim the gospel of Christ and to clarify biblical truths. Since this approach is different than what we usually hear, there may be fear this philosophy may detract from the verbalization of God’s truth through preaching and teaching. However, this approach gives direction and purpose to our singing and unifies the goals of preaching, teaching, and singing.

As we unify these goals, we cease to have a “song service” followed by a “preaching service.” Instead we have a unified worship service that proclaims the gospel and imparts truth to worshipers (although these worship services will be different in form from church to church and culture to culture).

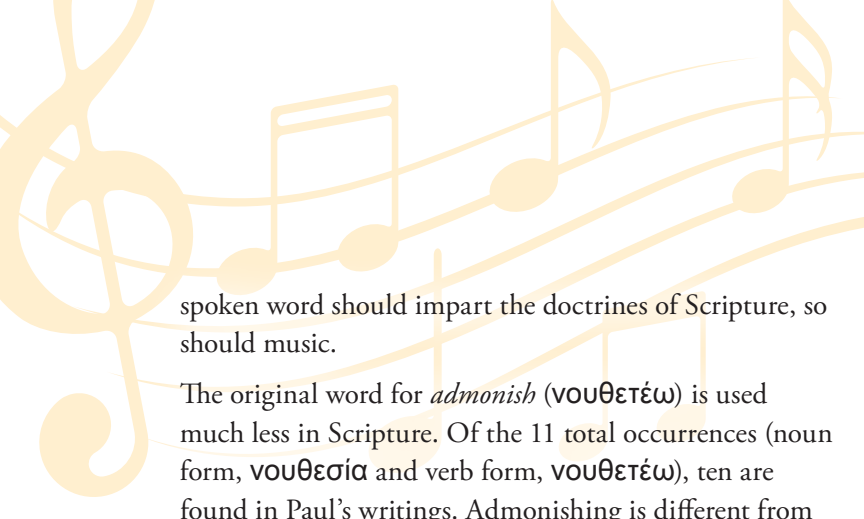
TEACHING (ΔΙΔΑΣΚΩ) AND ADMONISHING (ΝΟΥΘΕΤΕΩ)

What exactly does it mean to teach and admonish?

The concept of teaching is pretty straightforward. Paul uses the verb form of *teach* (ΔΙΔΑΣΚΩ) nearly 20 times in his epistles. This word is closely linked to the words typically used for *teacher* (ΔΙΔΑΣΚΑΛΟΣ) and *doctrine* (ΔΙΔΑΣΚΑΛΙΑ). Based on the various contexts, I broadly define *teaching* as the explanation of Scripture (and *preaching* as the proclamation of the gospel).

Paul uses ΔΙΔΑΣΚΩ three times in Colossians (1:28; 2:7; 3:16). Teaching, or explaining the Scriptures, is vital to the growth of both new and seasoned believers (1:28; 2:7). The church must devote itself to teaching so “no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit . . . and not according to Christ” (Colossians 2:8). Just as the

2 Douglas J. Moo, *The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008), 286



spoken word should impart the doctrines of Scripture, so should music.

The original word for *admonish* (ΒΟΥΘΕΤΕΩ) is used much less in Scripture. Of the 11 total occurrences (noun form, ΒΟΥΘΕΣΙΑ and verb form, ΒΟΥΘΕΤΕΩ), ten are found in Paul's writings. Admonishing is different from teaching, coming in the form of a warning to those in error. Paul told the Thessalonians to patiently "admonish the idle" (1 Thessalonians 5:14-15). He also indicates admonishment is advisable for the one who "stirs up division" (Titus 3:10). Paul's admonition to the Corinthians was so straightforward, he feared it would be misunderstood and said, "I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children" (1 Corinthians 4:14).

UNBELIEVERS AND THE WORSHIP OF THE CHURCH

Music has not been prescribed as just a tool to "prepare the heart for preaching." It should do this and more! Music, like preaching and teaching, should impart the Word to the listener/singer.

Neither should the primary goal of music be to "draw sinners to God," but rather to warn and admonish both sinner and saint. This is not to say worship won't sometimes be appealing to unbelievers, nor should we go out of our way to see that it is unexciting and dreary. One author scoffed by observing that "the chief contribution of Protestantism to human thought is its massive proof that God is a bore."³ This must not be the case. Nonbelievers must desire the joy we have. "The letters of Paul, which exude such joy in the direst circumstances, make clear that Christian faith rouses the deepest joy; and Christians need to express this joy in their worship of God."⁴

We must be mindful of onlookers, like the Philippian jailer, who desire to know what they must do to be saved (Acts 16:25-30) and conduct ourselves in a way the lost will not be turned away (1 Peter 2:12; Matthew 5:16;

3 H. L. Mencken, *Minority Report* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1956), 214.


4 David E. Garland, *Colossians and Philemon*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998), 239.

John 15:8; 2 Corinthians 8:21; Philippians 2:15). But if our music is truly admonishing (warning) and teaching believers, it stands to reason nonbelievers may find it uninteresting as they are blinded by their sin. But take heart! The Spirit is working, and a day will come when your faithfulness to God's commands will reap fruit.

CONCLUSION

Joslin provides conclusions that aid in this task (which I have revised below).⁵ Teaching and admonishing by means of music means:

- Whenever we sing, we are teaching something. Therefore, some songs we will do, and others we can't do.
- Many churches and pastors need to give thought to how this portion of the gathered worship aligns with the preached Word, so both aspects of the service accomplish the same goal.
- Content is primary. There will and should be a variety of music with no particular style mandated. Our primary criterion for song selection is not what meets our taste, but what best imparts the Scriptures.
- If Christ-centered worship teaches and admonishes us to love and live out the Word of Christ that richly dwells within us, then Christ-less worship also abets drifting away from the gospel.

I greatly desire to see the Word dwelling richly in God's people! Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness. 

About the Writer: Daniel Webster is director of enrollment and adjunct instructor at Welch College. He also serves as moderator of the Northern Quarterly of the Cumberland Association and as music director at Immanuel FWB Church in Gallatin, Tennessee. Daniel and his wife Kimberly have three children. You can read more from Daniel at his blog: AThingWorthDoing.com.

5 Joslin.

AT WELCH COLLEGE

STUDENTS *are* THE MISSION

Educating leaders to serve Christ,
His Church, and His world
through biblical thought and life



SUPPORT STUDENTS BY GIVING TO THE WELCH FUND
WELCH.EDU/GIVE

YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR
FREE WILL BAPTIST
HIGHER EDUCATION SINCE 1942



WELCH
— COLLEGE —

What You Told Us (About *ONE Magazine*)

THE RESULTS OF THE 2020 READER SURVEY

BY ERIC K. THOMSEN, MANAGING EDITOR

In fall 2020, *ONE Magazine* conducted a nationwide survey of readers and received an excellent number of responses. The survey explored reader demographics, reader interaction with the magazine, reader preferred content, and solicited suggestions for improvement.

What did the survey tell us about you, our *ONE Magazine* readers? The vast majority (96.46%) of readers are adults above the age of 30. Male readers (66.77%) outnumber ladies (33.23%) by a two-to-one margin.

ONE subscribers enjoy magazines! Over 75% of readers receive two or more magazines to their homes each month, in addition to *ONE Magazine*. Nine in ten readers (86.86%) indicate they prefer the print version of the magazine. While the survey indicates readers participate widely in social media (primarily Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube), only 7% prefer an online or digital copy of *ONE*.

For the most part, subscribers thoroughly engage with the magazine when reading, with 71.8% indicating they read *all* or *most* of the magazine. And 87.5% of readers keep each issue of the magazine a month or longer.

What do readers think about the magazine? An overwhelming majority are pleased with the quality, indicating *excellent* or *good* in the following areas: content (94.21%), design (94.23%), ease of reading (94.89%), writing (90.39%), and stories of interest (84.62%).

While *ONE* readers express broad interest in the magazine's content, they are most interested in news, with 95.48% reading the news and 96.46% describing the news as beneficial and informative. Articles and columns are also widely read. Topics of most interest include biblical/doctrinal content, missions, real life experiences, devotional articles, and pieces dealing with current events and issues. Readers expressed the least interest in financial information and denominational updates.

The concluding questions of the survey offered readers the opportunity to provide subjective responses indicating what they like/don't like about *ONE Magazine* and to offer suggestions. As might be expected, these responses are as unique as the readers themselves, but they fall into eight general "categories" of observations and suggestions (in no particular order).



1. Don't stop producing a print magazine.
2. Move from bimonthly to monthly.
3. Use a more diverse writer base, with fewer repeating authors.
4. Avoid long, hard-to-understand articles.
5. Columns are well-read and loved.
6. Produce less departmental and financial information.
7. Provide more real life and real ministry accounts of Free Will Baptists.
8. And, finally, no surprise: readers simply do not like advertising, even in a *free* magazine.

The Takeaways. As the managing editor of the magazine, after closely considering the results of the survey, I have reached eight simple observations:

1. Overall, the results of the survey were encouraging, as they were overwhelmingly positive. Free Will Baptists both enjoy and appreciate *ONE Magazine*. As managing editor, I was especially pleased to see high marks for design, writing, and ease-of-reading, and I applaud the editors, designers, and printers who work so hard to make the magazine excellent. And thank *you*, both for reading *ONE* and for your kind comments.
2. As a magazine staff, we need to do a better job of communicating that *ONE Magazine* is for women, too. Obviously, we are not reaching our ladies. We will do this through promotion, more content written by and for women, and by partnering with WNAC to change this perception. We truly value the women of our denomination.
3. Although *ONE Magazine* news always feels somewhat outdated to the editorial staff, due to the infrequency of the magazine, it is not only relevant to readers but obviously important. With this in mind, we have already placed a renewed emphasis on news stories and articles.
4. While columns and news are popular, good articles—specifically real-life accounts and quality biblical/doctrinal pieces—are what keep readers coming back. We will continue to strive to produce

high-quality, engaging articles. The survey makes it clear stories of interest could be better.

5. While readers prefer the magazine in print, they are also heavily engaged in social media. This is an untapped resource for the magazine, and steps have already been taken to reach a new—and perhaps younger—audience with content unique to the web and social media, including video content and training.
6. I'm burdened by the lack of younger readers but not surprised. A magazine can only reach a limited demographic. *ONE Magazine* targets readers ages 35-plus and is effectively reaching that audience. As mentioned previously, however, we will work to find other avenues to engage younger readers and communicate to them in an appealing way.
7. Print is still the overwhelming preference of our readers. While making use of the latest technology, we need to focus great effort into producing a top-quality *print* magazine in every aspect.
8. I agree with readers 100% when it comes to a monthly magazine. Nothing would make this editor happier than to produce 12 issues a year. However, after careful financial analysis, it is clear, for now, a monthly issue is cost prohibitive. To offset this need for additional magazines, we will work to produce bonus issues of *PULPIT* magazine each year, as finances allow, and partner with the Executive Office to provide other top-quality training, theological, and devotional books and content.

Thank you to everyone who took time to complete the reader survey. Your feedback will guide us into the future as we continue to do our best to make *ONE Magazine* all it can be. **ONE**

About the Writer: Eric K. Thomsen has been managing editor of *ONE Magazine* since the publication began in 2005. The former art and marketing director for Randall House Publications, he has served as president of the Evangelical Press Association and is a member of the Free Will Baptist Historical Commission. Eric and his wife Jennifer attend Bethel Free Will Baptist Church near Ashland City, Tennessee, where he serves as music director.

Remembering F. Leroy Forlines

BY J. MATTHEW PINSON, PRESIDENT, WELCH COLLEGE

F. Leroy Forlines, ordained minister and Welch College Professor Emeritus of Theology, died December 15, 2020, at age 94. He was the greatest Free Will Baptist systematic theologian, and his mark on Free Will Baptist life and thought is inestimable.

Born to John and Leta Forlines in 1926 and raised on a tobacco farm in eastern North Carolina, Forlines was converted in 1944, six weeks before his 18th birthday, during a revival meeting at Winterville FWB Church conducted by R.N. Hinnant.

In fall 1946, Forlines answered the call to the ministry while serving as an auto mechanic. Two years later, he entered Welch College, graduating in 1952 with the bachelor of arts degree. Forlines later said, "That experience changed my life forever. The most important thing that happened to me during those years was my decision I would believe what the Bible says, regardless of what I thought, or what others might say."

Beginning with a course taught by Welch founding president L. C. Johnson, Forlines began to develop his singular theology, his greatest legacy to Free Will Baptists and the larger Evangelical community. He clarified and fleshed out a theology stemming from 17th century English General Baptists. Forlines melded the theology of Jacobus Arminius with that of American Reformed thinkers such as William G.T. Shedd and Charles Hodge. His work forged a unique synthesis, restating the Reformed-Arminian thought of English forebears such as Thomas Helwys and Thomas Grantham.

After a year pastoring in Newport News, Virginia, Forlines began his



academic career at Welch College, where he taught, chaired the Bible and Theology Department, and served as dean of men and dean of students. He retired from full-time teaching in 1992 but continued to teach part-time while engaging in research and writing. Forlines preached and lectured widely, including a four-month tour in the former Soviet Union in 1996. He served on the Commission for Theological Integrity for 50 years, most as its chairman.

Forlines met his wife, Carolyn LeFay Gilbert of Cordova, Alabama, while they both were teaching at Welch, he in theology and she in English. They married August 4, 1956, and were blessed with two sons, Jonathan (Jon) and James, who both have distinguished themselves in Christian ministry. Dr. Fay Forlines lovingly and unflinchingly supported her husband's ministry, enabling him to fulfill his calling at Welch and also to earn three advanced degrees: the M.A. from Winona Lake School of Theology, the B.D. (M.Div.) from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, and the Th.M. from Chicago Graduate School of Theology. At these schools he studied under theological luminaries such as H.D. McDonald, Carl F.H. Henry, Warren C. Young, and Kenneth Kantzer.

Forlines' family life and career exemplified his emphasis on the "total personality," that human beings most deeply

express their design as image-bearers of God when they give place to all three facets of their personalities: intellect, will, and emotions. This is seen in Forlines' love for the life of the mind, the Christian worldview and its transformative implications for human culture. It is also seen in his love for his family and his investment in countless individuals. Finally, it is reflected in his commitment to holy living as the Christian world and life view takes on flesh in everyday decisions.

One finds these three facets of total human personality in his teaching and writings, from articles and pamphlets to his eight books. In *Systematics*, *The Quest for Truth*, his commentary on *Romans*, *Classical Arminianism*, and *The Apologetics of Leroy Forlines*, one finds biblical truth molded into a holistic Christian worldview—the intellect. In the forthcoming volume *Understanding Yourself and Others*, one sees his desire for that worldview to affect four basic relationships with God, others, ourselves, and the created order—the emotions. In *Biblical Ethics and Secularism and the American Republic* (slated for publication by Welch College Press later this year), he fleshed out implications of the Christian worldview for how believers live the gospel of the Kingdom in private (individual and family) and public (church and the wider culture) spheres—the will.

Forlines' legacy will endure in the lives and ministries of thousands he has taught and mentored as well as countless individuals who read his works. It truly can be said that F. Leroy Forlines lived the epitaph he wanted: "A man of God and of integrity walked among us." **ONE**

Pre-Registration

2021 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

NAFWB | V3 | MEMPHIS, TN | JULY 18-21

One Form Per Person | Register Online: www.nafwb.org | Name Badges Required for All Convention Events

First Name _____ Last Name _____
Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Country (if outside USA) _____ Email _____
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Church You Attend _____ Church City _____ State _____

National Association (All voting delegates must be members in good standing of a FWB church.)

Voting Delegates

- National Board/Commission Member
- Ordained Minister
- Ordained Deacon
- State Delegate (Authorization Required)
- Local Church Delegate (Delegate Card Required)

Non-Voting

- Attendee (All Ages, Including Infants and Toddlers)

Tickets (more information available at a later date)

WNAC Laughter and Latté

Tuesday, July 20, 8:30 p.m.

Welch Alumni & Friends Luncheon

Wednesday, July 21, noon

National Association Info: 877-767-7659 | www.nafwb.org

Vertical Three Conference

Preschool

- Ages 3-5, Attending Preschool Worship - \$25 (\$35 onsite)
- Ages 0-5, Not Attending Preschool Worship - NO FEE

Students: \$25

Any student or competitor* attending any CTS competition or event MUST pay \$25 V3 conference fee (\$35 onsite).

- Grades K-3
- Grades 4-6
- Grades 7-12

*Competitors must pay this V3 conference fee **in addition to** CTS competition fees already paid.

College Age | Adults: \$20

Adults attending any competition or event MUST pay \$20.

- Adult Attendee

Tickets (more information available at a later date)

V3 Event

Tuesday, July 20, 9:00 pm

V3 Information: 800-877-7030 | www.verticalthree.com

NAFWB Questions: 877-767-7659 | convention@nafwb.org

Register April 1 - June 18 | No Refunds After June 18

Payment Options:

- + Check (Payable to FWB Convention)
- + Visa, Discover, or MasterCard only (both debit and credit cards accepted)

Card # _____

Card Holder _____ Exp ____/____

Signature _____

Return to:

Convention Registration

PO Box 5002

Antioch, TN 37011 / FAX: 615-731-0771



Office Use Only: Date _____ CK# _____ Amt \$ _____ From _____

2020 Leadership Conference Focused on “Refreshing” Struggling Churches

Antioch, TN—The 2020 Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference returned to Nashville Airport Marriott December 7-8 for an in-person meeting, carefully socially distanced according to local COVID requirements. Pastors, church leaders, and denominational leaders from 22 states gathered to explore the important theme “Refresh,” with a strong emphasis on church health and renewal.

Monday and Tuesday evening sessions were highlighted by encouraging messages from Dr. Thom Rainer, founder and CEO of ChurchAnswers.com, an online community and forum for church leaders. During the two sessions, the prolific author and former CEO of LifeWay shared strategies for reviving the church in a COVID and post-COVID culture.

Rainer challenged churches to create a new “scorecard” for church health centered around conversion, small group attendance, and congregational ministry involvement. “COVID is not just a crisis but an opportunity to reset, to rethink, to reimagine,” Rainer told listeners. “Following COVID, we’re all church planters, and we have an opportunity to make the necessary positive changes to move our churches forward.”

On Tuesday, 16 speakers presented a full day of training seminars and workshops on a broad range of topics essential to building and



maintaining a healthy church. Topics ranged from “Creating a Strong Social Media Strategy” and “Best Practices for Better Boards” to “Faith and Science” and “Recruiting Volunteers.” Recordings will be released in the coming weeks on the Better Together Podcast.

The two-day conference provided more than training, however. Attendees also renewed friendships during banquet-styled meals. Tables limited to four people allowed for deeper-than-usual interaction, and often conversations continued long after the meal concluded. Louisville (KY) church planter Rodney Brazil expressed his thankfulness for the meeting: “This was a most encouraging conference for these very discouraging days of COVID.”

A number of national boards and committees also met in conjunction with the conference, including Board

of Retirement; the Executive Committee; Free Will Baptist Foundation; IM, Inc; and North American Ministries. Other boards met online, including Welch College and the 2020-21 Nominating Committee.

Reflecting on the meeting, Executive Secretary Eddie Moody noted, “It was a great conference! We were so glad to welcome Thom Rainer. He is one of the leading voices regarding church health, and we encourage all Free Will Baptists, especially those unable to attend this year’s meeting, to make plans to attend the conference December 5-6, 2021, when Dr. Rainer will return as keynote speaker. We look forward to an event where registration won’t be limited by social distancing.”

Coming information regarding the 2021 conference can be found at nafwb.org/leadershipconference.



Commission for Theological Integrity Hosts Virtual Symposium

Antioch, TN—The Theological Symposium usually meets at either Welch College or Randall University. However, with the challenges associated with traveling and gathering amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission hosted a virtual event. Rather than presenting before an in-person audience, presenters spoke before a virtual audience and fielded questions from online participants. Hundreds of viewers participated in the event.


Although the 2020 symposium did not focus on a particular theme, a majority of the presentations engaged Reformed Arminian and General Baptist historical, systematic, spiritual, and ethical theology. Commission Secretary Kevin Hester remarked, "It was encouraging to see so many Free Will Baptists ener-

gized and engaged in investigating important theological questions from our past and present as we seek to build God's Kingdom moving into the future."

Presentations included:

- Ben Campbell, "The Role of Spirituality in Sermon Preparation and Delivery"
- Matthew Steven Bracey, "Exploring the Influence of Helwys's Religious Liberty Ethic on the English Toleration Act and First Amendment"
- Jeffrey Cockrell, "Paul's Telos in Romans 10:4: Understanding the Unity of Jews and Gentiles"



- J. Matthew Pinson, "Jacobus Arminius and the Diversity of Reformed Theology Prior to the Synod of Dort"
- Matthew Honeycutt, "Does Arminianism Lead to Legalism?"
- Jesse F. Owens, "Matthew Caffyn, Thomas Monck, and English General Baptist Creedalism"
- Christopher Talbot, "A Free Will (Baptist) Defense: Reformed." 


Foundation Grants Program Update

Antioch, TN—Free Will Baptist Foundation will continue offering grants in 2021, according to Director David Brown, although it will be a unique year for the program. "Due to the emergency grants awarded during the COVID-19 shutdown, we were unable to make grants to many of the ministries and churches that applied in 2020," Brown noted.

"With this in mind, we will not accept *new* grant requests for 2021 but will consider those who already submitted grant requests in 2020."

The Foundation will continue to provide updates concerning future grants as the economy continues to recover from COVID-19. Information regarding grant applications can be



obtained by visiting fwbgifts.org, contacting the Foundation office at 877-336-7575, or by emailing: foundation@nafwb.org. 

They Need You!

BY EDDIE MOODY

The people we care about most (children, parents, spouse, friends, co-workers, church) desperately need us to be the people God has called us to be. Jesus called us (John 17:18) to be His ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:18-20) to those who do not know Him and burden-bearers (Galatians 6:2) to those who do. But what do they need from you?

Be You. God specially made you (Job 10:8a; Psalm 139:14-16) to fulfill the various tasks He has given you. We can be tempted to complain about our limitations, but God has provided us with what we need to fulfill His purpose (Matthew 25:24-27; Romans 9:20-21). So, rather than envying others, let's explore our uniqueness and prepare for ministry.

Preparation. Paul compared the Christian life to the runner who disciplines himself for a race. The runner builds up stamina and is careful about the food he eats, so he will not be disqualified (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). What kind of preparation do we need?

We must build our spiritual stamina. Daniel was able to withstand the crowd and keep from defiling himself (Daniel 1:8), likely because he had studied passages like Leviticus 11. He knew about and prepared to avoid that which would result in defilement. Early in life, Moses decided to identify with God

and His people rather than enjoy the pleasures of Egypt (Hebrews 11:25). If we are not prepared spiritually, we too will succumb to the culture around us and be unable to help others.


Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were "skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science" (Daniel 1:4) when they found themselves in Babylon. Similarly, Moses was prepared as a child to deliver his people from oppression (Acts 7:22). What are the unique opportunities and learning experiences for you? In His sovereignty, God is preparing you to minister.

Utilization. Every Christian has been given at least one spiritual gift (1 Corinthians 7:7; 1 Peter 4:10). Have you identified yours? How are you using your gifts and developing them? The writer of Hebrews warned his readers it was time for them to begin using what God had given them (Hebrews 5:12-13). One of the reasons the American church is so weak today is because of underutilization of spiritual gifts. When we fail to use our gifts, the whole body suffers, like a body with only one ear, one eye, or one foot (1 Corinthians 12:14-17). Let us identify and use our gifts.

Also, realize there are a variety of gifts. God has prepared people for diverse activities and ministries for the profit of all (1 Corinthians

12:4-7). Have you noticed an area in your church or community that needs to be addressed? Chances are you have been gifted in that area. Study passages like Romans 12:1-8 and 1 Corinthians 12 and to learn all you can about the gifts God has given you (1 Corinthians 12:1). Whatever we do, we want to do it well (Colossians 3:23-24).

The Right Attitude. We can do a great deal, but without love as the motivation, it is for nothing (1 Corinthians 13:2). Becoming territorial, with a "my way or the highway" attitude, or "I am the only one who can do this" robs us of using everyone's gifts. We want to continuously undergo the 1 Corinthians 13 test, asking if love is the foundation of what we do.

We have a tall task before us. We will be held accountable for the way we use our gifts (Romans 14:12). The way we use or don't use those gifts impacts those around us (1 Corinthians 12:7). So, please, if you are a church leader, prepare those in your care to be the people God intended (Ephesians 4:11-14). Let each one of us faithfully be the person God intended. Others need you to be you and not someone else (Ephesians 2:10). 

Eddie Moody

Executive Secretary,
National Association of
Free Will Baptists





40+ PROGRAMS
OF STUDY

at the associate's, bachelor's, and master's levels



**YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR
FREE WILL BAPTIST
HIGHER EDUCATION SINCE 1942**



RANKED 18TH
BEST REGIONAL COLLEGE IN THE SOUTH

**U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT
2021 RANKINGS**



welch.edu

@WelchCollege    #GoToWelch

Why would you wait?

Many people have committed to tithing to ministry from their estate. However, they want to wait until after death to make that gift. **Why not tithe now?** With planned giving from **Free Will Baptist Foundation**, you can have an income stream for life along with the privilege of helping fund a ministry long after you have gone to your eternal reward. Reduce your taxes and increase income while providing perpetual support for ministry.

- + Create lifetime income.
- + Enjoy favorably-taxed income.
- + Provide meaningful support for ministry!



Contact Free Will Baptist Foundation to learn more:
foundation@nafwb.org | 877-767-7575 | www.fwbgifts.org

We make the whole team better!



Offensive linemen don't get a lot of credit for a touchdown. But without them, the stars wouldn't stand a chance. **The line is the foundation of the team.** The same is true of **Free Will Baptist Foundation.** No, we don't travel the world as pioneer missionaries, start churches, or teach future pastors. But, like those football linemen, **we are working hard to make your ministry possible.**

GRANTS | PLANNED GIVING | ENDOWMENTS
ESTATE GIFTS | MONEY MANAGEMENT

FREE WILL BAPTIST
FOUNDATION 

foundation@nafwb.org | www.fwbgifts.org | 877-336-7575