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# ONE magazine

## ON ASSIGNMENT

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....

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New Song*

**Milestones**

....

*Excuses, Excuses*

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# Contents

DECEMBER 2019 - JANUARY 2020 | VOLUME 17 | ISSUE 1

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



06



12



30

## ARTICLES

06 **Milestones**

10 **Samburu Sunrise**

12 **Excuses, Excuses**

14 **A Day on  
Happy Ridge**

18 **Coaching the  
Big Game**

24 **New Programs  
Initiatives**

26 **Carry the Torch**

28 **A God Moment**

30 **Aka's Story**

34 **Spotlight on  
D6 Curriculum**

36 **Raising Financially-  
Minded Children**

38 **Important  
Conversations**

41 **Tribute to a  
First Lady**

42 **Are You Tired  
of Talking  
About Church  
Revitalization?**

44 **Officially Official**

46 **Welcome to the New  
WNAC.org**

50 **"I Showed Up!"**

52 **Sing a New Song**

## COLUMNS

04 **First Glimpse:**  
"What Time  
I Am Afraid..."

20 **Intersect:** Donald  
McGavran and the  
Church Growth  
Movement, Part 1

40 **Brown on Green:**  
Double Gift;  
Double Impact

48 **Leadership**

### **Whiteboard:**

Multi-Tasking & Time  
Management, Part 1

54 **One to One:**  
Using Technology  
to Disciple

## NEWS

21 **At Welch College**

32 **Around the World**

51 **About the  
Denomination**

# “What Time I Am Afraid...”

BY ERIC K. THOMSEN

**What do you fear?** One beautiful, sunny Saturday found me driving to a nearby city to judge CTS competition. Along the way, I whipped into a fast food restaurant to grab a bite to go. I ordered a breakfast bowl—sausage smothered by scrambled eggs and cheese. In retrospect, it wasn't so smart to order something that required a fork while driving.

As I tooted along the highway enjoying sausage and sunshine I felt a strange, tickling sensation. Looking down, to my utter horror, I saw a large, hairy spider just disappearing into my shirt. The next thing I remember is standing on the side of the four-lane highway with shirt off and pants around my ankles. I may have traumatized some other drivers, but I got rid of the spider!

After putting myself back together, I opened the car door to find

eggs, sausage, and melted cheese smeared from one end of the car to the other. Gross.

By now, I'm sure you've guessed that I am terrified of spiders.

Everyone fears something. What do you fear? When you are alone in your car? Or when you lie awake at night? When nobody is around to disturb your thoughts—what makes you afraid? Webster defines *fear* as the “unpleasant, often strong emotion caused by awareness of danger.” Perhaps you know fear as a hard knot in the pit of your stomach followed by dry mouth, trembling hands, and sweaty palms. You know fear.

But God urges us not to be driven by our fears (2 Timothy 1:7; Proverbs 29:25; Matthew 10:28). It's simple, really. The moment we stop living by faith, we allow fear to rule our lives. And when fear rules, God cannot.

I always chuckle over the story of the angel of the Lord calling Gideon to lead Israel. Where does he find him? Hiding in a winepress. I can almost see him peeking from behind the stones, trying to decide whether to run. You can't tell me God doesn't have a sense of humor when the Angel of the Lord describes Gideon as a “mighty man of valor.”

But Gideon serves as a good reminder that God does not see what we are. He sees what we can be.

He uses fearful, imperfect people to carry out His perfect will. Gideon, the cowering, questioning farmer led an “army” of only 300. Yet, with God's help, they faced and defeated a Midianite army described as “the sands of the sea.” The Bible is filled with fearful yet faithful followers who overcame weakness through God's strength.

I don't remember much about my Grandfather Hansley, since I wasn't very old when he died. But one moment is fixed into my memory. While staying at their Florida home, a heavy thunderstorm blew in during the night. The flashing lightning and crashing thunder woke me, and I began to cry. I remember the silhouette of my grandfather sitting on the edge of the bed, repeating two verses: “What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee” (Psalm 56:3) and “I will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on me” (Isaiah 26:3). It was only as an adult that I learned he repeated those verses every night while going to sleep. It was his way of overcoming fear.

**Are you afraid?** Let me encourage you today: God is bigger than anything you face. **ONE**

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

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Hello! My name is Melinda. I'm a member of a Free Will Baptist church in Oklahoma. I just read your story about prayer (The Power of Prayer, August-September 2019) and I just wanted to say thank you.

I'm not the best member our church has, especially lately. Anyway, I am having a rough time mentally, and I live with my mom who is one of the oldest members of our church. She had found this article and said, "Read this." I know what prayers can do. I'm a stage 4 metastatic breast cancer survivor. I truly believe in praying. I just needed reminding that God is always with me, and I wanted to thank you for the article.

—Melinda (via email)

First, let me say that I love the church. But, there is one issue that troubles me, and from my experience, seems to be more of an issue among Free Will Baptists than other denominations. It has to do with politics in the pulpit. I firmly believe politics has no place in the church, period. I find no precedent for it in the Bible. And let me be clear, I'm speaking of political candidates,

political parties, political affiliations, political issues, and for that matter political elections and politics in general. The church should be void of it all, and many churches are. But sadly, it's been my experience that Free Will Baptists aren't. Has *ONE Magazine* ever published an article regarding this subject? And with the current climate of division in our country, and the current decline of congregants in our pews, don't you think it should?

—Cole Satterfield (via email)

**From the Editor:** Cole, thank you for your inquiry regarding political articles in *ONE Magazine*. While the magazine does not endorse political candidates, promote a particular party, or attempt to influence readers how to vote, we do publish articles regarding biblical citizenship, citing passages including Romans 13, 1 Peter 2, and 1 Timothy 2, among others. These articles usually appear during election years, when awareness and interest is high. Two articles are planned for the August-September 2020 issue, just prior to the presidential election.

At *ONE Magazine*, we believe the Christian faith is pervasive, embracing

all of life, including citizenship. The same congregant who worships on Sunday votes on Thursday, and in some cases, holds political office or serves in the government throughout the week. This should not create a dichotomy. All a believer's actions, including those within the political arena, should be guided by eternal principles of Scripture. And, just as I would never expect a politician to leave his or her faith behind when entering the public square, I do not expect pastors to avoid preaching on passages that speak directly to Christian citizenship.

—Eric K. Thomsen, Managing Editor



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

Your feedback, comments, and suggestions are appreciated.

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A photograph of a Welch College campus. In the foreground, a brick building with white columns and arches is visible on the left. In the background, a large brick building with a central dome and columns is visible, labeled 'COFFMAN HALL'. The sky is clear blue.

# Milestones

BY MATT PINSON

It is an exciting time for Welch College as we celebrate our highest enrollment in 36 years. We're making great strides as we ratchet up our excellence in fulfilling our Christ-centered mission while continuing to grow in terms of enrollment and financial stability.

Welch College remains centered on the mission to which God called us 77 years ago. Our Kingdom-purpose drives our faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees as we craft a Christian community of faith and learning built on the Word of God and the tradition we have received. This community is moving boldly into the future, into the greatest era of mission fulfillment in our history. Our mission is *to educate leaders to serve Christ, His church, and His world through biblical thought and life*, with a strong commitment to preparing ministers and missionaries who highly value Free Will Baptist faith and practice. God is sending us more students whose vision for His mission in the world is being transformed by what they receive at Welch.

This is exemplified by the testimony one of our graduating seniors gave at commencement earlier this year. Her name is Keren Delgado, and she was born in Cuba. Her parents were converted under the ministry of pioneer missionaries Pop and Mom Willey. She received generous scholarships from WNAC and the Do Unto Others Trust founded by Justino Celorio and his wife Alicia, who were disciples by the Willeys. Keren will take what she learned at Welch to the Free Will Baptist mission field, spending her life spreading the good news of Christ. Keren said:

*Thank you, God. And thank you, Welch faculty and staff, for being obedient to God's mission for your lives. Thank you to all the people who faithfully give to Welch. Thank you to the ladies of WNAC. Thank you to Alicia Celorio and the Do Unto Others Trust. Thank you to the churches that gave so that I could not just get a degree, but receive eternal treasures such as sound doctrine, spiritual growth, and a loving community at Welch College. Thank you to the student body for being the community God provided these four years for me. . . . I learned at Welch that God is faithful, and He will continue, now that I am graduating and going to serve as a missionary to Bulgaria, to provide my needs—healing, endurance and peace, a community, and living water. I encourage you to see God's faithfulness everywhere around you, constantly counseling your heart with God's Word that 'He is faithful to all generations.'*

Keren's words get to the heart of why Welch College exists.

### **Increasing Enrollment**

This fall we celebrated our highest fall enrollment in 36 years. Our enrollment has grown by 30% over the past four years. This is a result of the combination of three things: 1) our new brand that includes a new name and new campus; 2) the atmosphere of spiritual formation on campus; and 3) continuous improvement in excellence.

These three things make us more competitive with other higher education institutions as evidenced by the college's strong ranking in *U.S. News and World Report's Best Colleges*. Welch ranked 16th in the Regional Colleges—South category (colleges that award fewer than 50 master's degrees annually). This is big for Welch.

Our first ranking came in 2010, when we ranked 54th. In nine years, we've gone from 54th to 16th. To put this

in perspective, the next ten colleges Welch outranked had an average enrollment more than five times our enrollment and an average endowment almost nine times our endowment.

This increasingly higher ranking in *U.S. News* results from increased measures of excellence: freshman-to-sophomore retention rate, the rate of freshmen who go on to graduate (especially the graduation rate of Pell Grant recipients, i.e., students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds), percentage of faculty doctorates, class size, student-faculty ratio, alumni support, and peer assessment, among other factors.

Better ranking doesn't matter so much to us because we want to keep up with bigger schools. It's important because it speaks volumes about our quality to high-achieving Free Will Baptist students and their parents, who are being courted by schools beyond the denomination. It indicates in a tangible way that Welch provides a competitive program that stacks up well against other colleges and universities. And, since all the Best Colleges in *U.S. News* require regional accreditation, it distinguishes us from all the other regionally-accredited colleges as an excellent educational institution.

From what I hear, our Free Will Baptist people want this. They love that we are "holding the line" on spiritual formation and conservative Free Will Baptist theology, on high standards of student life and conduct, and with an emphasis on every student's role in local church ministry and the Great Commission. These are at the heart of our calling and mission. Yet, Free Will Baptists don't think there has to be a dichotomy between high spiritual standards and high academic excellence.

Alumni are paying attention. That's why such a high percentage of our alumni give financially to the college (we ranked tenth in this measure out of 123 other colleges in our category). It's also why we have an unusually high percentage of "legacy students" (children of alumni) at Welch. A Christian higher education consultant recently told me our 30%-plus rate of legacy students is astounding compared to the 12% average at Christian colleges in general.

We are excited about the strides we're making in fulfilling our Christian mission, increasing enrollment, and meeting objective excellence as an institution of higher learning.

## Making Financial Progress

Welch College also is making tremendous progress financially—much more than expected. This past year, we more than balanced our budget by being in the black by \$174,000. Thanks be to God! He’s working in the hearts of His people, whose giving makes it possible for us to pay bills and pay down debt. It’s exciting to see liabilities going down on our balance sheet. At the end of November, we had successfully paid the first 14 months of full principal and interest payments on our long-term loan with Free Will Baptist Foundation.

An amazing year in fundraising made it possible for us to be in the black. This past year, we received more gifts than in any year of the college’s history except 2016, when we received more than \$6 million in relocation gifts. It’s an exciting time to be at Welch College, because we’re poised for enrollment and philanthropic growth in the near future that will continue to strengthen us and give us greater growth than any other time in our 77-year history.

## Focusing on Excellence in Academics

Consider the strides Welch is making academically. The greatest symbol of our academic excellence is a stellar faculty. Nearly 70% of our faculty has earned doctorates. This is unheard of for small denominational schools. Our faculty’s commitment and quality are revealed in student evaluations of classroom teaching. This year, we instituted a new faculty ranking system, ranking faculty as instructors, assistant professors, associate professors, and professors.

But it’s not just scholarship and quality teaching that distinguishes our faculty. What sets Welch faculty apart is the mentoring and spiritual formation they offer students. This is extolled by our student body. Personal involvement in the lives of students helps fulfill our goal of shaping both the intellect and spiritual lives of our students. It helps students return and stay until graduation.

Studies reveal faculty performance is the most direct indicator of student retention. This is great news, since our freshman-to-sophomore retention rate has reached 77%, averaging 76% over the past three years. This is significant for a school of our size and resources. To grasp its significance, we’ve got to understand that, while we rank

16th among southern Regional Colleges in *U.S. News Best Colleges*, we rank 5th out of 123 schools in our category in freshman-to-sophomore retention. This is especially significant when you understand that academically non-selective private colleges tend to have retention rates hovering around 50%.

We’re also ramping up the number of degree programs we offer. Special education and math education have joined recent additions like pre-nursing and the Master’s in Theology and Ministry.

Most notably, in January we started the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree, which we believe will be one of our most popular degree programs, even surpassing our M.A. in Theology and Ministry, which has met with great success.

Quality extracurricular activities also enhance the academic and community life at Welch. So we work to foster extracurricular programs that will do just that.

The majority of our students participate in music, drama, and intramural and intercollegiate athletics. This past year we added men and women’s intercollegiate soccer, which has met with great enthusiasm within the student body. During the next year, we hope to finish a new soccer field named “Foundation Field” in honor of the Free Will Baptist Foundation and its faithful support of Welch College.

## Planning for the Future

God is doing something wonderful at Welch. We project enrollment will continue to increase, and I believe we’ll exceed the record enrollment of 648 students. Our growth and new campus have drawn new donors and potential donors to Welch, and the Lord is burdening their hearts to support the godly, Free Will Baptist education they see at the heart of this institution.

I believe God is working through His people to bring about the greatest era of enrollment and philanthropic growth in the history of Welch College. I believe gifts to the Building on the Legacy capital campaign will enable us to pay off debt very soon. This will allow us to move to

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GOD IS DOING  
SOMETHING  
WONDERFUL  
AT WELCH.

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phase two of our building program. In the next five years, I believe we'll witness the construction of new campus housing to make room for a growing student body, a student services center, and a thousand-plus-seat chapel/auditorium (a tremendous need), which will have additional office and classroom space.

I believe in the next five-to-seven years, we'll start new bachelor's degree programs in culture-impacting areas such as politics, Christianity and culture, and journalism. I also believe we will be able to launch new joint degree programs like the one we have in nursing, where students with high GPAs are guaranteed admission into highly competitive fields. One of our dreams, which I believe will become reality, is a residential seminary or divinity school offering an on-campus Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree that offers substantial scholarship aid to attract students to a traditional on-campus master's program.

### Conclusion

We will never be able to fulfill these objectives, or make these dreams reality, without God working through you, our Free Will Baptist people. I'm counting on you to pray the Lord will provide our needs and add to our growth and Kingdom impact. I'm counting on you to give more sacrificially than you've ever given to support the greatest building and growth program in our denomination's history. And I'm counting on you to continue pointing students to our Christian community of faith and learning.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you do for Welch. I commit to you that Welch will continue to be your trusted source for quality Free Will Baptist higher education. **ONE**

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**About the Writer:** J. Matthew Pinson has been the fifth president of Welch College since 2002.

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# Samburu Sunrise

BY CURT HOLLAND

I love sunrises and sunsets. I am a morning person, but many times I am not outside when the sun rises. Like many of us, I am more likely to be outside when the sun goes down and have witnessed more sunsets.

I experienced sunset first when I arrived in Kenya, in the area the Samburu people call home. Since the Samburu are nomadic, “home” is hard to pinpoint, but they live about one degree north of the equator. The next morning, to capture some great pictures of the sunrise, I set my alarm. (Even that seems ironic, since the Samburu have no watches or clocks.)

As the sun rose over the mountain peaks with its bright orange glow, I knew the day would be hot once again. It would not be the Missouri, Nashville, or Ecuador heat with which I am familiar but Kazakhstan hot, with a high sun and low humidity. The lack of humidity made sleeping in the hammock at night somewhat cool. Waking up curled in a blanket each morning seemed strange considering how hot the previous day had been.

The beautiful Samburu sunrise reminds the Samburu team another day of ministry calls to them. Located more than 200 miles northeast of Nairobi, this arid place called Sesia is surrounded by high hills and mountain peaks. The hills seem to form a natural boundary around the land of the Samburu and their wandering herds of goats and camels.

Recent rains had kept the acacia trees and scrub brush abnormally green during June and July. The shepherd boys, always in search of food and water for their herds,

didn't have to wander as far for their flocks. However, the harsh climate and scorching sun lead to many of the medical needs attended to each morning in the clinic. “Clinic” may be a bit misleading. A few chairs for the nurse, translator, and the patient under a tarp. This tarp—tied to two poles on the edge of the porch and to the building that serves as kitchen, dispensary, and storage—serves as a sun-guard.

Roaming children follow and “herd” their livestock all day long. Encountering snakes, stones, and harsh desert conditions, they garner a variety of injuries and wounds. Many “mommas,” as childbearing women are called, face miscarriages because they are also the “burden bearers.” Not only do they carry water to their homes each morning, they also build their dwellings. Men cut down the thorny acacia trees and bushes to form a “living” fence around their communal homes. These circular fences, seen clearly from the air, prevent hyenas and other predators, like leopards, from reaching their livestock and children.

The medical needs met each morning have built trust and respect among the Samburu for our team of missionaries. The miraculous healings and God encounters through prayer have gained the ear and touched the hearts of the Samburu. Each new incident paves the way for the gospel to be shared and accepted by patients and their families.

Community Health Evangelism (CHE) teaching has begun because of the respect given to God's faithful servants. Many afternoons, the "mommas" who have completed their morning water chores sit beneath a shade tree to learn about better hygiene and nutritional sources for their families. CHE lessons also have opened doors for a new gathering of believers on Sunday mornings.

Another CHE lesson is given to the children at a local school. This prompted the team to show the *Jesus Film* to children as part of the Christian Resource Education that takes place in all Kenyan schools. After the movie, a new group of "mommas" asked if CHE outreach could begin in their community.

On any given Sunday, the sun will rise and a group of believers will gather under a tree for fellowship, songs, and Bible storytelling. The Samburu are oral in learning and communication. The Sunday afternoon group, also under a tree, hears a different story from a different Kenyan leader because they are more advanced in the stories of Scripture. At a different tree, on another day during the week, a third group will gather in the shade to repeat the same scene. These Kenyan leaders, believers, and missionaries see people accept the truth of the gospel almost daily.



The sun is only rising on the ministry to the Samburu. Eddy and Amanda Simmons and Victoria Little have been in Sesia just under three years. The water wells dug by the team (with others still to be dug) are making an impact in



this dry and thirsty land. Food distribution during a time of drought gained favor with the local chief, whose house can be seen from the front porch of the "clinic." Community Health Evangelism impacts lives for the long term. However, it is the rising of the Son of God and His gospel, which encompasses everything happening among the Samburu. This is the greatest Son rise in all the land of the Samburu. **ONE**

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**About the Writer:** Curt Holland, a former missionary to Brazil, serves as IM's director of field ministry personnel. He and his wife Mary have three daughters and an adopted son, three sons-in-law, and three grandchildren.

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# Excuses, Excuses

BY RACHEL BRYANT



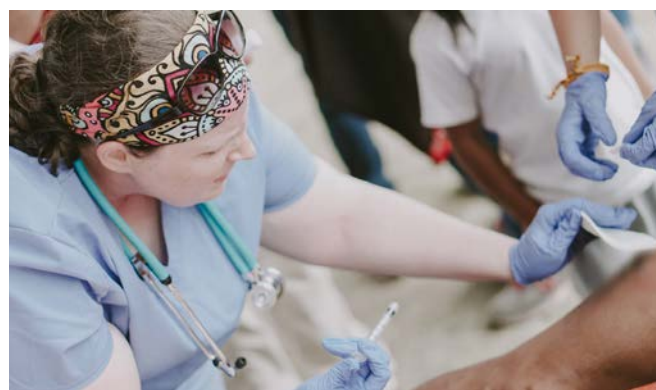
I've decided I have been too hard on Moses.

When we read about God calling Moses to lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt, a nervous Moses stammers out all kinds of excuses. “How could you doubt?” I've always thought. “How could you say no?” After I felt the Lord calling me to go on a medical mission trip with The Hanna Project, I found myself having a similar conversation with the Lord.

Although I didn't have a speech problem like Moses, my first “excuse” was that I felt like I was not the best for the job. I have been an OB/GYN nurse my entire nursing career. When I considered going on a medical mission trip, I questioned my education, skills, and abilities to provide healthcare for people in other aspects of medicine outside my normal day-to-day. I worried I would do more harm than good for the team. But God continued to lead, so I swallowed my fear and applied to join a THP team in Ecuador.

Once I pushed past my nerves and finally arrived in Ecuador, it was all smooth sailing! *Yeah, right.* It was not smooth sailing for Moses, and it certainly wasn't for me, either. I'll admit I do not do well with a lot of “unknowns” flying at me. I like to have a plan and prepare for it mentally. But that is not usually how the Lord works.

The trip consisted of adventurous new things for me like taking a bus down a mountain, then going back up the mountain to return. That might not sound adventurous to you, but I'm from Florida—mountains are not my comfort zone. We crossed a skinny, bamboo bridge on




foot to get to the people we were caring for one day. That bridge was not sturdy. Another day, we took a canoe through choppy waters on the Napo River to reach our destination. I held tight to my life jacket. We also did some construction work, which I can assure you is not my spiritual gift. These adventures were new to me and a little uncomfortable, but I am so thankful for them because they helped me grow in the Lord and taught me about Him.

How do we so easily forget God has prepared us for what He asks of us? He also has prepared the teams



with whom we work and the people we serve. The fear telling me not to go on a medical mission trip was not from the Lord. While I was in Ecuador my general nursing training came rushing back to mind. I was able to use my nursing education and skills to provide the healthcare needed. And I loved it!

During our medical clinics, we not only gave the people of Ecuador's jungles the medical care they needed, we also told them where to find "Living Water." I'm so thankful God calls us to things outside our comfort zone. I look forward to the next adventure. (But maybe I shouldn't say that out loud!) 




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**About the Writer:** Rachel Bryant, a registered nurse in a busy OBGYN practice in Memphis, Tennessee, works with teen girls at Cross Creek FWB Church in Southaven, Mississippi, emphasizing God's design for relationships in their lives. This article was initially used in *IMages*, a digital publication by IM, Inc. If you'd like to subscribe to *IMages*, visit [iminc.org](http://iminc.org).

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# Because **you** invested...



When you invest in an MMT through Free Will Baptist Foundation, you **give your money a mission**. This year, thanks to a grant made possible through your investments, Free Will Baptist missionaries to Kenya dug much-needed deep water wells, shared the gospel with the Samburu people using MP3 players, and, most importantly, translated the Word of God into a language the Samburu can understand. An MMT gives you competitive interest rates, accessibility to money without penalties, and the satisfaction of **knowing your money is working for the Lord**. Consider an MMT for individual, church, or ministry savings; building funds and emergency funds; long-term projects or reserve funds.

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# A Day on Happy Ridge

BY BILL AND BRENDA EVANS

Late June brought unusual rain—heavy, soaking, unrelenting. But the Wednesday we went to Happy Ridge dawned sunny, though humid and hot. We breathed steam, it seemed, but at least no water pelted us from the sky. It was a good day.

Iron ore was once dug from Happy Ridge. Farther west surface coal was extracted bucket-by-bucket and natural gas wells bored here and there in yards and fields to heat homes. Long-abandoned iron furnaces, coal-black cavities in hillsides, and depleted gas wells still dot the landscape as reminders of that past. Northeast Kentucky has long been known for its rich underground.

But we didn't go to Happy Ridge to scour the underground. We went to find remnants of a one-room school that once stood on the crest of the ridge alongside a family cemetery. Our friend Frances Mae Wilson Rayburn, ruler-straight and pencil-thin, walked ahead of us, carrying us into the past. She had gone to Happy Ridge School as a child, and at age 19, she taught there. All eight grades, ages six to 16, in a single room with a warped front door, six tall windows, a cluster of students' desks, red-hot pot-belly stove, and blackboard.

We didn't find the stove or grayed oak floors. No foundation stones. No bare ground where children dug out grass to mark bases for their ballgames. No girls' and boys' toilets or piles of black coal out back.

After 62 years, all that was left of Happy Ridge School was a slight curvature in the soil, a wide grassy dimple of sorts. A faint dip in the landscape said Happy Ridge School once stood there and was the place where six-year-old Frances recited her ABCs and, later, as a 19-year-old, taught those ABCs, along with reading, math, health, and science to 15 or so children in that one-room school on a grassy ridge in Greenup County, Kentucky.

We walked in her tracks as she looked out over the ridge, and we knew she was looking back, too, to recall how it once was on Happy Ridge. She pointed left, toward the cemetery fence. "In warm weather, we played ball on Friday afternoons," she said. "If the ball went across the fence, one of the big boys would go after it. In cold weather, we had spelling bees inside, or math contests at the blackboard to see who could solve problems the fastest."

A pot-belly stove sat in the middle of the room on Happy Ridge. Its pipe ran straight up through the ceiling. "In winter, we pulled our desks into a circle around the pot-belly to keep warm," Frances said. "I went early to start the fire with kindling the children gathered from

the woods and stacked in the corner to keep dry.” She added coal from the scuttle as the fire caught.

If a windstorm blew up, Frances dismissed school, as the superintendent ordered, because Happy Ridge School was unstable. “The walls swayed in and out when the wind blew hard. The floor would buck up so much we couldn’t open the door. So, I’d send the children home before it got bad, like the superintendent told me.”

Each fall at Happy Ridge, the school district furnished bare necessities: two new erasers, a box of chalk, a load of coal, a water bucket, and dipper. Usually, children brought their own fruit jars filled with water, but Frances could send two boys to a neighbor’s well for a bucketful when needed.

Discipline was limited and simple. “If you fought on the playground, you’d get one lick with a small paddle. That was all,” Frances said. “But I expelled two big boys for three days one time. They were about 16 years old and fighting. I wasn’t but 19 myself. Their parents said I had done the right thing and to do it again if I needed to. I had no more trouble with them.”

After high school, Frances went right to summer school at the community college in Ashland, Kentucky. One day at the college, she overheard a superintendent’s wife talking about emergency teaching jobs in nearby Greenup County. “Daddy took me to the superintendent’s office and said, ‘Now go in there and tell him you want a job.’ So I did.”

The superintendent hired Frances on an emergency basis for a one-room school. If she stuck it out at the commu-

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SHE HAD GONE TO HAPPY RIDGE SCHOOL AS A CHILD, AND AT AGE 19, SHE TAUGHT THERE. ALL EIGHT GRADES, AGES SIX TO 16, IN A SINGLE ROOM WITH A WARPED FRONT DOOR, SIX TALL WINDOWS, A CLUSTER OF STUDENTS’ DESKS, RED-HOT POT-BELLY STOVE, AND BLACKBOARD.

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nity college, he said, then went on to Morehead State University and got her degree, he would keep her on in the district. That first year, at age 18, Frances was assigned to Oldfield, a one-room elementary school several miles from Happy Ridge. Her salary was \$129 a month after taxes, \$30 of which went for room and board with an older couple who lived less than a mile from Oldfield School. She and a neighbor boy walked to school together.

The old man of the house turned out to be a matchmaker as well. “He told me he had someone he wanted me to meet. It was Ray Rayburn, just back from Korea and about to re-enlist. Ray was friendly, good-looking, and never met a stranger—probably was a lady’s man, too,” she laughed. “He’s the first and only one I dated.” Ray and Frances married a year later and eventually raised two daughters while Frances continued to teach, finished a bachelor’s degree, then went straight into a master’s program. For her second year in the Greenup County School District, she was transferred to Happy Ridge.

“So much has changed,” Frances said, looking out over the ridge. “My father owned 60 acres here. All those trees and bushes have grown up into what was our land. He kept it cleared and mowed. Our house was down there.” She pointed to the east, down a path-like road through the woods. “It was a log house built by ore diggers working these hills way back. Two rooms, and Daddy added on. It’s hidden now, but I think it’s still there. We can’t go look. The owner has it posted.”

Frances taught at Happy Ridge two years, then Greenup County closed all one-room schools, and Happy Ridge School went up for auction. “Daddy bid on it, but when it went up to \$75 dollars, he backed away. The buyer tore it down, and I went on to teach in the consolidated elementary school at Danleyton.”

In the new school, Frances left behind black snakes that climbed up window facings, old Ben and Alice Readers from American Book Company, the annual two-erasers-and-a-load-of-coal allotments, and fox hunters that came into Happy Ridge School on cold nights. “Those fox hunters made fires in our pot belly stove with kindling the school children had gathered from the woods and

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“EVERY MORNING, WE SAID THE PLEDGE, READ A BIBLE VERSE, AND SANG A CHURCH SONG. A CHILD LED THE LORD’S PRAYER BEFORE LUNCH... LATER, ALL THAT CHANGED.”

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stacked in the corner for me. They never bothered anything except my kindling, but I was done with that,” she laughed.

The consolidated elementary school gave Frances larger class sizes, but also more resources: wall maps and globes; long, green ABC lettering guides on the wall; the Ten Commandments and Preamble

posters; mimeographed coloring sheets; an American flag. At times, Frances served as a reading specialist and librarian as well.

Frances’ parents were Christians. “Daddy put benches in the back of his pickup truck and took us and our neighbors to church and lots of revivals.” She and Ray

were Christians, too, and she was free to express her faith in the classroom. “Every morning, we said the pledge, read a Bible verse, and sang a church song. A child led the Lord’s Prayer before lunch. A local Christian woman came and did skits and taught Bible stories with flannel-graph illustrations. Later, all that changed.” In all, Frances taught 33 years in Greenup County. After retirement, she subbed another 12 years in Greenup and three other districts.

“From those first days here on Happy Ridge, teaching was all I ever wanted to do,” Frances said, as she looked out over the grassy ridge one last time. **ONE**

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**About the Writer:** Bill and Brenda Evans live in Ashland, Kentucky. Frances Rayburn is their friend and sister in Christ at Second Free Will Baptist Church. Contact them at [beejayevans@windstream.net](mailto:beejayevans@windstream.net).

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Photo: Wikipedia Commons, BrokenSphere

## While we have your attention...

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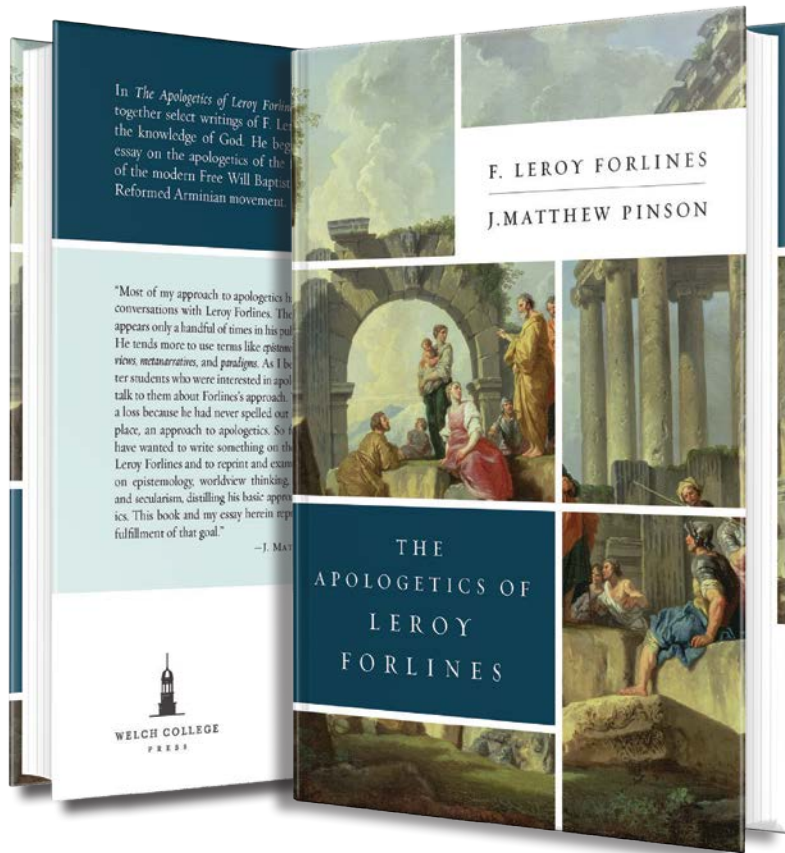
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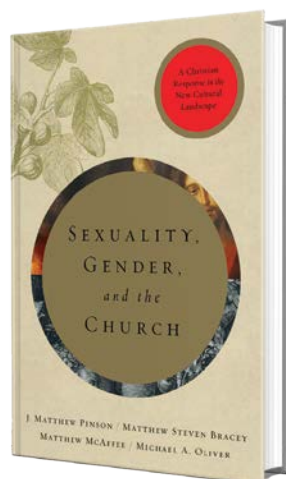


In *The Apologetics of Leroy Forlines*, J. Matthew Pinson collates select writings of F. Leroy Forlines on apologetics, epistemology, and the knowledge of God. He begins the volume with a lengthy essay on the apologetics of Forlines, the foremost systematic theologian of the modern Free Will Baptist Church and the contemporary Reformed Arminian movement.

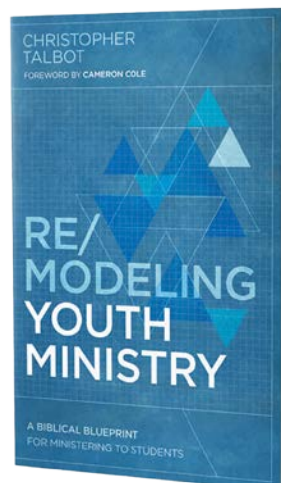
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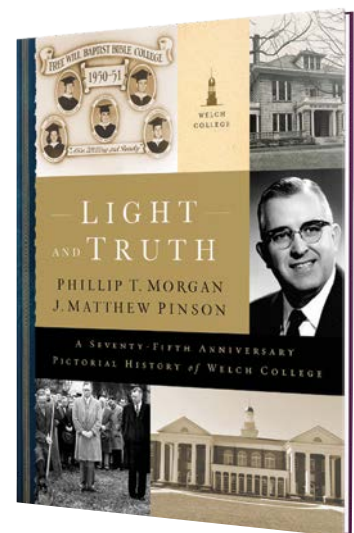
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# COACHING THE BIG GAME

BY GREG FAWBUSH

In 24 years of coaching, God has allowed me to coach many big games. The ten minutes before the game are always my favorite time. The adrenaline starts flowing, and the game plan is reviewed. It is also the time I always consider one big question: *Did I do enough to prepare my players?*

I ask myself this question more often these days. I believe I am coaching a much bigger game now, a game with much bigger rewards and consequences than those on a scoreboard. This game is “the game of life.” God has given me the opportunity to be part of the lives of 80-plus student athletes at Welch College. These athletes will enter many different occupations after leaving Welch, but they all will have one thing in common—life. Therefore, the question must be asked, “Am I preparing them for the game of life?”

Life has many of the same characteristics as a traditional ballgame. It has a beginning and an end. Sometimes, my students will win and other times they will lose. They will enjoy success and endure failure, all in a matter of minutes. As their mentor, it is my job to prepare them for

all of these events. The same principles used to prepare for a big ballgame can be used to prepare young people for life.

## **1. The gameplan must be implemented before the game starts.**

As a coach, I learned the hard way it is too late to prepare *after* the game has started. Success is found in thorough advance preparation. This is why coaches stress details in daily practice. As a mentor, this same principle must be followed. Developing a pattern of daily biblical devotion, a strong meaningful prayer life, commitment to the local church, and partnership with other like-minded believers will aid students in their preparation for anything the future holds. As a mentor, it is crucial to prepare myself before I try to help prepare others for their future.

## **2. Determine the non-negotiables before the game starts.**

Adjustments must be made during any game. However, some non-negotiables should be established before the

game starts. These non-negotiables identify our values—what has the highest importance. We must not compromise on certain values. As I work with the student-athletes, I have identified these non-negotiables in my life. These values must be demonstrated in my daily walk with Christ so my student-athletes can observe them.

### 3. Trust your preparation.

Many hours of preparation go into getting ready for big games—game film study, conversations with other coaches, and time spent alone thinking through the process. However, I have learned over the years the best preparation for big games is experience. Experience includes both failures and successes. It is important to identify the teachable moments God allows into our lives. If we let God teach us, we can use every part of our history, good and bad, to prepare others for life. We can trust the preparation God has brought into our lives.

I have won some big games, and I certainly have lost some big games. Thankfully, my joy and my job security do not depend upon the outcome of ballgames. Coaching student-athletes for life has far greater implications than any score in the record books. The game of life is one they cannot afford to lose. **ONE**

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**About the Writer:** Greg Fawbush is athletic director and men's basketball coach at Welch College. He also pastors Cane Ridge FWB Church in Nolensville, Tennessee. Learn more about athletics at Welch College: [www.welch.edu/athletics](http://www.welch.edu/athletics).

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# Donald McGavran and the Church Growth Movement, Part 1

BY MATTHEW MCAFFEE AND BARRY RAPER

A major development in the church of the 20th century has been the rise of the modern church growth movement. The key figure of this movement was founding father Donald McGavran. The beginning of this movement has been tied directly to McGavran's seminal work, *The Bridges of God* (1955)<sup>1</sup>. The book came out of his experiences on the mission field of India, which raised questions about what he perceived to be a lack of growth among its churches. Nearly two decades of mission work led him to research these questions more intently and publish his results in this book that became the seedbed for the church growth movement to follow.<sup>2</sup>

The church growth movement is a multifaceted phenomenon. Later generations of church growth practitioners sought to bring these principles to bear in the American church and evangelical global missions. The explosive growth of suburban mega-churches in the 1980s and '90s is another offshoot of its effect. In short, the persistence of McGavran's influence throughout the second half of the 20th century ministry is remarkable.

Below, and in the next issue of *ONE*, we will highlight three principles central to McGavran and his followers and consider their theological fidelity.

## Numerical Accountability

McGavran emphasized numerical growth as a key principle. Thom Rainer describes McGavran's concern

to take Jesus' command to make disciples seriously, stating, "It was not enough to sow seed and wait for God to produce results."<sup>3</sup> McGavran's "numerical accountability" indeed provided tangible means for evaluating whether a particular church was "growing," but it also sowed the seeds of unhealthy pragmatism. McGavran asserted the primary task of church growth is ascertaining which methods God has blessed, and those He has not. He determined this by methods yielding numerical growth and those that do not. He urged readers to discard ineffective methodologies, affirming, "As to methods, we are fiercely pragmatic."<sup>4</sup> C. Peter Wagner describes this as "consecrated pragmatism" obedient to the gospel mandate to win people to Christ.

McGavran promised, "If any church will study church growth, read about it, talk about it, and pray about it, that church will grow."<sup>5</sup> On the negative side, he cautions, "Without clear-cut, aggressive plans for the growth of the church, there will be no growth. The church doesn't grow by carrying on good youth meetings, a good Sunday School, good preaching, or a good choir unless these are inspired by a desire to see persons become disciples of Jesus Christ and responsible members of His church."<sup>6</sup>

While we likewise affirm that disciple making is central to Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:19), we are not willing to suggest faithfulness in this area will always yield numerical

increase. Scripture clearly demonstrates a nuanced picture of church ministry, sometimes resulting in more disciples (Acts 2:41; 47), and sometimes not (John 6:66). It is easy to lose sight of the fact that disciple making is a spiritual work that defies measurability. This is one of the major problems with McGavran's "method." It reduces disciple making to a "formula" in the toolbox of the church growth practitioner. **ONE**

[1] C. Peter Wagner, *Church Growth and the Whole Gospel: A Biblical Mandate*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1981, x-xii.

[2] Thom S. Rainer, *The Book of Church Growth: History, Theology, and Principles*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1993, 33-34.

[3] Wagner, "The Church Growth Movement after Thirty Years," in *Church Growth: State of the Art*, ed. Wagner. Tyndale House, 1986, 35.

[4] Wagner, *Church Growth*, 72, citing McGavran's unpublished address, "For Such a Time as This," delivered at Fuller Seminary School of World Mission, 1970.

[5] McGavran with Win Arn, *How to Grow a Church: Conversations about Church Growth*. Glendale, CA: G/L Publications, 1973, 15.

[6] *Ibid*, 169-70.

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**About the Columnists:** Dr. Matthew McAfee serves as provost and professor at Welch College. He has ministered in Free Will Baptist churches in Virginia, Tennessee, Illinois, and Canada.

Barry Raper serves as program coordinator for Ministry Studies at Welch College. He pastors Bethel FWB in Ashland City, Tennessee.

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# Welch College Named 16th Best Regional College in the South

Welch College ranks 16th among “Regional Colleges South” in *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2020 edition of America’s Best Colleges rankings, according to Welch president Matt Pinson.

The “Best Regional Colleges” category where Welch is ranked includes 273 institutions that focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs in traditional liberal arts as well as in professional fields such as business, nursing, and education. Colleges in this category are ranked within four geographic regions: North, South, Midwest, and West.

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

“We are delighted about this high ranking in *U.S. News and World Report’s Best Colleges*,” Pinson said. “It shows our quality to prospective students and their parents, as well as to alumni and supporters. It shows academic excellence can coexist with a strong commitment to Christian faith and life as the center of the Welch College experience.”

“The first time we were ranked in this publication, back in 2010, we

ranked 54th,” Pinson observed. “And even that was in the top half of all the Southern schools ranked in the Best Regional Colleges category. So in ten years we’ve gone from 54th to our ranking of 16th for 2020. To put this in perspective, the next ten colleges in the list that Welch out-ranked had an average enrollment more than five times our enrollment and an average endowment almost nine times our endowment.”

Welch received especially high marks in five strategic areas. Compared to the other 123 institutions in the Regional Colleges South category, Welch ranked:

- #1** in faculty-student ratio
- #3** in the percentage of classes under 20 students
- #4** in students who were in the top 25% of their high school

graduating class

**#5** in first-year student retention rate

**#10** in alumni giving rate

Welch Provost Matthew McAfee said, “We are grateful to have this evaluative benchmark for our institution. It provides us with an external measurement that helps us evaluate our quality as an institution of higher learning. Our faculty and staff are to be commended for their effort in helping us attain this level of excellence.”

More information is available about the rankings and methodology in the annual *America’s Best Colleges* guidebook at: [www.usnews.com/collegemeth](http://www.usnews.com/collegemeth). For more information about Welch, email [welch@welch.edu](mailto:welch@welch.edu) or visit [www.welch.edu](http://www.welch.edu). **ONE**

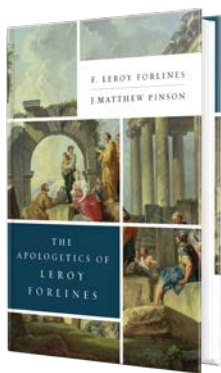
## Welch College Press Publishes *The Apologetics of Leroy Forlines*

Welch College Press released a new publication this summer, *The Apologetics of Leroy Forlines*, by F. Leroy Forlines and J. Matthew Pinson, according to managing editor Matthew Bracey.

“The book debuted at the national

convention with much enthusiasm and praise,” Bracey said. “We’re proud of this book and believe it honors the legacy Mr. Forlines has left to us on the topics of apologetics and worldview thinking.”

*(continued on next page)*



As detailed on the book's dust jacket, "In *The Apologetics of Leroy Forlines*, J. Matthew Pinson brings together select writings of F.

Leroy Forlines on apologetics and the knowledge of God. He begins the volume with a lengthy essay on the apologetics of the foremost systematic theologian

of the modern Free Will Baptist Church and the contemporary Reformed Arminian movement."


"The ideas in this book are timely," Forlines said. "My prayer is that God will add His blessing to this book, using it to extend His Kingdom and give Him the glory that is due His name alone."

*Apologetics* is the fourth publication from Welch College Press. Previous publications include:

- J. Matthew Pinson, Matthew Steven Bracey, Matthew McAfee,

and Michael Oliver, *Sexuality, Gender, and the Church: A Christian Response to the New Cultural Landscape*

- Christopher Talbot, *Remodeling Youth Ministry: A Biblical Blueprint for Ministering to Students*
- Phillip T. Morgan and J. Matthew Pinson, *Light and Truth: A Seventy-fifth Anniversary Pictorial History of Welch College*

To purchase any of these titles, visit <https://welch.edu/welchpress>. 

## Leadership Transition Announced in Education Department

Welch College has initiated a leadership transition in the Department of Teacher Education, according to Provost Dr. Matthew McAfee. Stephen Beck has been named associate undergraduate dean and will assume more responsibility in overseeing students in teacher education, effective immediately.

In this role, Mr. Beck will work alongside Undergraduate Dean Dr. Etta Patterson. He will be responsible for mentoring secondary and middle school teacher candidates, managing student teacher placements, and overseeing student admissions into the program. Dr. Patterson will continue to work with education faculty and staff and provide overall leadership for the department during a year-long transition period, after which Mr. Beck


will become undergraduate dean.

"We are excited to have Mr. Beck take on a more prominent role in leading teacher education at Welch College," said Matthew McAfee. "His experience as principal in a cross-cultural setting uniquely qualifies him for the task. Our intent when we hired him was for him to assume the position of undergraduate dean when he completed his Ed.D. Now that he is nearing the completion of that degree, the time is right for Mr. Beck to assume greater responsibility in departmental leadership."

Mr. Beck recently earned an Ed.S. from Union University and is set to complete the Ed.D. at Union in the spring of 2020. Mr. Beck came to Welch in 2016 after serving nine years as principal of Free Will Baptist

Christian School in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Since coming to Welch, Mr. Beck has been teaching both education and math courses and has led the department in gaining state approval for a new bachelor's degree in mathematics education.

"As enrollment in the Teacher Education Department increases, we must adapt to the needs of teacher candidates and respond to Tennessee Department of Education mandates," says Dr. Patterson. "I welcome Mr. Stephen Beck to this role. He has continued to grow as an educational leader and will assume additional departmental and administrative duties."

For more information about teacher education at Welch, please contact Etta Patterson at 615-675-5310 or [epatterson@welch.edu](mailto:epatterson@welch.edu). 

# HISTORY WORTH REMEMBERING

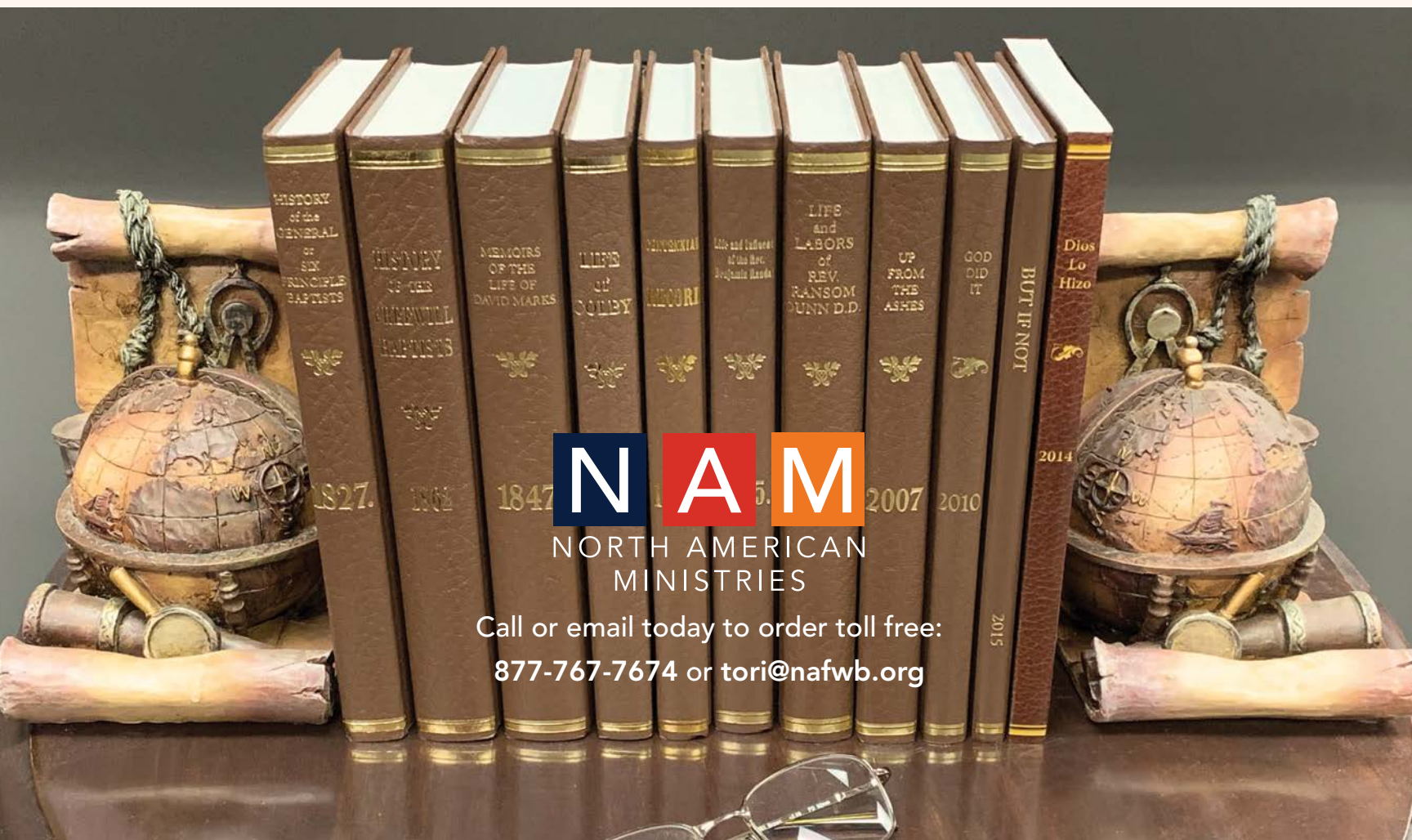
**Free Will Baptists have a long and influential history.** Starting with Paul Palmer in the South and Benjamin Randall in the North, Free Will Baptists over the centuries have had a profound impact on American history. Rediscover the denomination's history through a collection of historical Free Will Baptist books reprinted by North American Ministries. Each book contains biographies or records dating back to 1780, written by great men of God like Benjamin Randall, John Colby, and David Marks. Explore the records from the first hundred years of the Randall movement. Purchase these valuable resources for **only \$10 each** or **all seven for \$50** plus shipping.

Also available are Trymon Messer's *God Did It*, Randy Wright's *But If Not*, and Steve Hasty's *Up From the Ashes*, based on the story of how Free Will Baptists survived the 1911 merger. These books are also \$10 each, or all three for \$25.

## North American Ministries Historical Collection

*The Centennial Record of Freewill Baptists, 1780-1880*  
*The Life Experience and Travels of John Colby, Preacher of the Gospel, 1854*  
*A Sketch of the Life and Labors of Rev. Ransom Dunn, D.D., 1818-1900*  
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*Life and Influence of the Rev. Benjamin Randall, 1915*  
*Memoirs of the Life of David Marks, Minister of the Gospel, 1847*

*Up From the Ashes* by Steve Hasty  
*God Did It* by Trymon Messer (English and Spanish)  
*But If Not* by Randy Wright



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# New Programs & Initiatives

BY MATTHEW MCAFFEE AND MATTHEW STEVEN BRACEY,  
PROVOST AND VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION, WELCH COLLEGE

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During the last three years, Welch College has experienced growth in programs and course offerings. We would like to highlight a few of these new programs and initiatives. We have also included contact information for each new initiative should you be interested in more specific information.



## 2 + 2 Nursing with Union University

In December 2017, Welch College president Dr. Matt Pinson and Union University president Dr. Dub Oliver signed an agreement creating a new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (B.S.N.) degree. In the arrangement with Union, Welch freshmen pursue an associate's (A.S.) degree with a biology major at Welch. Students can take advantage of Tennessee Promise funding, as well as other federal and Welch-based financial aid. These students begin volunteering in a healthcare setting, primarily within the HighPoint Health System.

Upon completing the Welch A.S. degree, graduates transfer into the B.S.N. program at Union, living on the Welch campus and taking nursing courses at Union's nearby Hendersonville campus. When appropriate, nursing students participate in clinical education settings in nearby Gallatin and throughout Sumner County. Welch students also are mentored and advised throughout the four-year academic process. The first cohort of nine students began their first year at Union University in fall 2019. Go to [welch.edu/nursing](http://welch.edu/nursing) for more information or contact Dr. Ian Hawkins at [ihawkins@welch.edu](mailto:ihawkins@welch.edu).



## Emphasis in Pre-counseling

Welch students interested in psychology and counseling can participate in the pre-counseling emphasis to the psycholo-

gy program. This emphasis is designed for students preparing to pursue counseling studies at the graduate level and to meet professional organizational standards. For more information, contact program coordinator Sarah J. Bracey at [sbracey@welch.edu](mailto:sbracey@welch.edu).



## Endorsement in Mathematics Education

During summer 2019, Welch College received approval for a secondary mathematics education endorsement from the Tennessee Department of Educator Licensing and Preparation. The program will enable middle and high school teachers to receive a licensed endorsement in mathematics education.

Welch College offers multiple pathways for mathematics secondary education endorsement. Pathways for teaching licensure include undergraduate and post-baccalaureate student teaching clinical practice, as well as post-baccalaureate job-embedded clinical practice programs. For inquiries about enrollment, contact Stephen Beck at [sbeck@welch.edu](mailto:sbeck@welch.edu).



## Humanities and Arts Degree

The faculty recently voted to approve a humanities and arts program offered as an interdisciplinary approach to education that encourages students to integrate Christian truth with a variety of humanities and arts disciplines.



Students choose three areas of emphasis from the fields of English, history, music, and psychology. Humanities and Arts degrees provide a solid foundation for graduate study in English, history, and psychology, as well as entry into such fields as counseling, law, journalism, and ministry, among others. For more information, contact the program coordinator for humanities and arts Phillip Morgan at [pmorgan@welch.edu](mailto:pmorgan@welch.edu).



### Emphasis in Political and Legal Foundations

Students can attach this emphasis to either English or history degrees. Students will receive an introduction to political philosophy, with courses in the conservative intellectual tradition, foundations of law, the United States founding era, as well as constitutional law, history, and interpretation. Students interested in law and politics will find this emphasis helpful. For more information, contact program coordinator for English, Frank Thornsbury, at [frank.thornsbury@welch.edu](mailto:frank.thornsbury@welch.edu), or the program coordinator for history Phillip Morgan at [pmorgan@welch.edu](mailto:pmorgan@welch.edu).



### Master of Arts in Teaching

In December 2018, Welch College became the first Free Will Baptist college to offer a second regionally-accredited credential on the graduate level. The thirty-three hour Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) features ten-week courses that meet once each week. Courses meet in the evenings from 6:00–9:30 p.m. CST and are available on the Gallatin campus as well as online via Zoom. The design of the M.A.T. program allows students wishing to complete the program in 18 months to do so by taking two courses at a time, although students may complete the degree based on the pace that best fits their schedule. Institutionally-funded scholarships and federally-guaranteed loans are available.

Information about the M.A.T. may be found at [welch.edu/ma-teaching](http://welch.edu/ma-teaching) and online applications are at [welch.edu/admissions/apply/ma-teaching-apply/](http://welch.edu/admissions/apply/ma-teaching-apply/). For questions or enrollment information, email Dr. Greg Ketteman: [gketteman@welch.edu](mailto:gketteman@welch.edu).



### Endorsement in Special Education

The Tennessee Department of Education's Office of Educator Licensing and Preparation has approved Welch's Special Education licensure program for pre-K through 5th grade and as an additional endorsement for licensed teachers.

Welch now offers special education degrees qualifying graduates to be licensed special education teachers. The licensure program is available to both undergraduate teacher education students and graduate students in the M.A.T. program. The Special Education track joins accredited M.A.T. tracks in Teaching and in Higher Education Pedagogy as a part of the 33-hour master's program. Welch teacher education faculty are already seeking approval for newly developed M.A.T. tracks in English as a Second Language (ESL) and Instructional Leadership (IL) that will lead to licensure for classroom teachers and school leaders respectively. Enrollment in the M.A. (EL) track opened in the fall 2019 term and will be followed by M.A. (IL) track enrollment soon thereafter. For more information contact Dr. Greg Ketteman at [gketteman@welch.edu](mailto:gketteman@welch.edu) or Dr. Etta Patterson at [epatterson@welch.edu](mailto:epatterson@welch.edu).



### Computer Science Courses

Welch began offering select courses in computer science as part of its current business program. During the fall 2019 semester, Welch is offering CPS 1123 Introduction to Computer Science. This course takes students with little or no programming background and introduces them to the world of computers and the fundamentals of programming languages. A follow-up course, Computer Science I, will provide detailed exposure to the rapidly growing field of technology and topics such as structured problem solving, program design, 4th generation languages, debugging, and testing. To spearhead this initiative, Welch has secured the expertise of Dr. David Sayre, who will serve as computer science program liaison. For more information contact Stephen Beck at [sbeck@welch.edu](mailto:sbeck@welch.edu). 





# Carry the Torch

## WHY GIVE TO WELCH COLLEGE?

BY MIKE EDWARDS, DIRECTOR, THE WELCH FUND

My name is Mike Edwards, and I am an alumnus of Welch College. For more than 22 years, it was my honor to pastor Free Will Baptist churches in Georgia, Indiana, and South Carolina. God blessed my wife Karen and me with three lovely children. They are all alumni of Welch College. Our family has always loved our college!

In 2011, God called us from pastoral ministry to return to Welch College and serve as director of the Welch Fund. I am often asked, “What do you do at Welch College?” To the older generation, I describe my role as being a modern-day Paul Ketteman. For those too young

to have known this denominational icon, I describe my responsibilities as

fundraising and public relations. (Brother Ketteman considered himself as a “friend-raiser,” because he “raised up” friends to support the college.)

Before long, I realized most students

attending Welch College relied on scholarships and other financial aid to stay in school. It became obvious I needed to “raise up” many more friends to keep these students on campus. Then I learned another startling lesson: many students are unable to attend Welch College for lack of funds. Everyone knows higher education is expensive, and Christian higher education is even more expensive. The pressure just got worse.

Since being founded in 1942, the college has depended on gifts from Free Will Baptist churches, alumni, and friends to carry out its mission *to educate leaders to serve Christ, His church, and His world through biblical thought and life*. We remain faithful to our mission, which makes hearing that a student cannot attend Welch College because of finances some of the saddest news I hear.

This is why our team spends many days on the road and nights away from home visiting churches and individuals, asking for old and new friends to step up and support the



college. It is all about the students...*educating leaders to serve Christ.*

Did you know 90% of students at Welch College receive financial aid and/or have jobs to finance their education? Did you know Welch's tuition, room, and board costs rank in the lowest 25% of accredited colleges in Tennessee? In fact, *US News and World Report* ranks Welch the fifth best college value in the entire southern region (2018).

### Why give to Welch College?

I like to think of giving to Welch College as a partnership. You partner with Welch to fulfill its mission. You assist students in their educational pursuit. You make a difference in a student's life and meet a need with eternal significance. Here are a few specific reasons for giving to Welch College:

- Your gift helps fulfill our mission.
- Your gift provides a *Christ-centered* educational environment for future leaders in our churches and denomination.
- Your gift is an investment in the lives of students who are developing a *Christ-centered* worldview.
- Your gift enables students to become *Great Commission* disciples.
- Your gift makes Christian higher education more affordable.
- Your gift reduces student costs and prevents student debt accumulation.

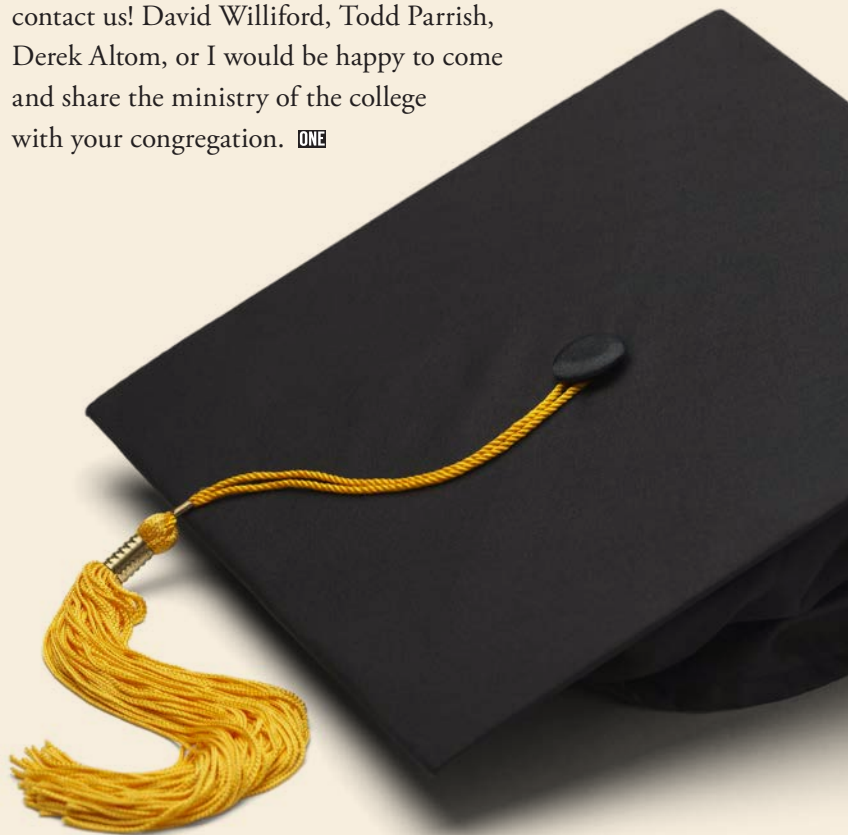
### How can I partner with Welch College?

The simplest way for an individual to partner with the college is to become a Torchbearer Club member. Torchbearers are individuals or families who commit to become monthly donors via bank draft or an automated credit card gift of at least \$25 per month to the Welch Fund. Torchbearer Club members light the way for the next generation! Torchbearer Club members are honored

by receiving a Welch College tee shirt, free admission to Flames athletic events, a special reception at the annual Bible Conference/Forum event, and an e-newsletter keeping them up to date with what is happening in the college community. To date, we have 260 Torchbearer Club members. This partnership currently raises \$7,575 per month in gifts to the Welch Fund. Our first Torchbearer Club gift goal is \$10,000 per month. Would you consider becoming a Torchbearer? Sign up today at [www.torchbearerclub.com](http://www.torchbearerclub.com). You can also give a one-time gift at [welch.edu/give](http://welch.edu/give).

In addition, every Free Will Baptist church should consider including Welch College in its budget. Since Welch College is owned and operated by the National Association of Free Will Baptists and accountable to the denomination, every church should support the college through prayer, encouraging your students to attend the college, and with financial support.

If you would like to host a Welch College Day, contact us! David Williford, Todd Parrish, Derek Altom, or I would be happy to come and share the ministry of the college with your congregation. **ONE**





# A God Moment

## BEYOND COMFORTABLE CHRISTIANITY

BY BARRY KELLY

Recently, I had the opportunity to go on my first mission trip to the island of Puerto Rico. I had never been there and never had the desire to go. To be honest, I am not certain I even knew we had a Free Will Baptist church planter there, before hearing a revival message preached by Rick Bowling, cross-cultural officer for North American Ministries. He referenced the work of José and Suhey Correa. He encouraged the church I was pastoring to send me to Puerto Rico, so I could catch a small glimpse of God’s bigger mission around the world. Otherwise, I would more than likely still be searching for understanding.

On May 30, 2014, I boarded a plane in Nashville headed to Puerto Rico. I had never met (or even talked to) José or Suhey. A quick Google search allowed me to read their bio on the NAM website. I was about to land on an island where I had never been to work with church planters I had never met in an effort to discover how God was working there and how I could help. José picked up Allen (the balloon guy) and me at the airport. He did not speak English very well, and I can assure you his English was better than my Spanish. However, this was a God moment. The two of us felt an instant connection, and I am certain it is because our hearts are knit together with a common thread. That thread is the life Jesus Christ sacrificed so José and I could know we are His children.

After arriving at Pastor Correa’s home and church, it quickly became evident our cultures were different. The comfortable Christianity to which I had become ac-

customed was not available in the mountains of Puerto Rico. I was determined I would not let Satan use that to deter my quest to see God’s mission in action. As the days progressed, it was clear I had no clue what “laboring for Christ” really looked like. This church, under the leadership of Pastor Correa, was the truest example of “the hands and feet of Jesus” I had seen in real life. They worked tirelessly to build His church and further His Kingdom. On the first day alone, I saw a teen service, marriage conference, and a wedding—all in the same church building. I watched people tear down and set up for each new event, usually within hours of each other. Then we spent all night on the streets of Old San Juan evangelizing and inviting folks to church.

During this trip, God allowed a lifelong friendship to grow between “brothers from other mothers.” The friendship I have with José transcends cultural divides, formed



by the common bond that seeks to accomplish the same goal—sharing the gospel of Christ.

Over the next three years, I watched the Correa family continue to work tirelessly. The church grew explosively, and the congregation made plans to launch a school at the church called Genesis Academy. Everything was ready to take the next step.

Then, in September 2017, a cruel lady named Maria changed everything. Hurricane Maria wreaked havoc across the island, including the work the Correas spent five years building. Everything they worked so hard to build was reduced to a single pile of jagged, twisted rubble.

I found myself in utter disbelief. I immediately thought, “What will happen to this work?” “How will this family ever have the strength to carry on?” I watched as Puerto Rico fell into complete disarray—no fuel, electricity out for nearly seven months, scarce and expensive food. People fled the ravaged island. Soon only a remnant of God’s people remained.

I wondered, “Now what?” As I watched and prayed, my heart was once again challenged by the Correas’ faithfulness to serve Christ through adversity and unfavorable circumstances. I watched this dedicated couple continue to carry out God’s call to share the gospel of Christ. They continued laboring faithfully, reminding Puerto Ricans the God of the universe after Maria was the same God as before Maria. My heart has been forever changed by their faithful example, and it has affected the way I go about ministry in my own backyard.

Fast forward to 2019—two long years after Maria’s destructive journey—and God is rewarding their faithfulness. I have watched God’s people from all over our denomination pitch in and assist their congregation, bringing back some normalcy to their lives. The church building has been restored, and the church is growing

once again. In August, the congregation had four baptisms.

Once a mission church, grown and led to self-supporting status, this work was destroyed in a matter of hours. Now, thanks to the grace of God and the generosity of His people, this congregation is back once again as a mission church. They continue to put it all back together, meeting the needs of the people in their community and taking every opportunity to share Christ.

Three things about this couple have remained constant over the past five years: sacrificial love for God, unwavering faith in God’s calling, and unfailing desire for the people of Puerto Rico to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. In my quest to understand the mission of God for His church, it did not take me long to discover that the mission was not the invention, responsibility, or program of the church. Instead, it is revealed through the character and purposes of a missionary God. He has a mission to set things right in a broken world, to redeem and restore it to what it was created to be. Today, I recognize God’s mission in the world and the church as the tool He has chosen to carry out His redemptive mission. José and Suhey are my example of what this looks like “in the flesh.”

José and Suhey have returned to full-time church planter status under North American Ministries. I want to encourage you to pray for their work and their efforts. Also, please ask God to guide you about supporting this work financially. **ONE**

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**About the Writer:** Barry Kelly pastors Belk FWB Church in Belk, Alabama. To learn more about the Free Will Baptist work in Puerto Rico, visit [www.FWBNAM.com](http://www.FWBNAM.com). Send financial support to NAM, designated to: José and Suhey Correa, Puerto Rico.

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# Aka's Story

BY KENNETH EAGLETON, M.D.

During a recent visit to Tiassalé, Côte d'Ivoire, I had an opportunity to eat lunch with Mr. Aka, one of the local churchmen. Along with one of the pastors accompanying me, we asked Mr. Aka questions about his spiritual journey. Prior to becoming a Christian, he was a follower of Mahikari, a Japanese religious sect. His mother, a follower of that religion, influenced her children to become involved as well. About 20 years ago, he began living with a woman with an evangelical background. She, too, became involved in Mahikari.

Ten years ago, the couple moved to Tiassalé, where Mahikari doesn't have a following. So, they quit attending any type of religious service. Eventually, feeling the need to reconnect with God, Mr. Aka's companion decided to return to an evangelical church. She started attending the Free Will Baptist church. Liking what she heard, she invited her husband to attend with her. He had many questions about Jesus and spent long periods of time talking to Pastor Emmanuel of the Free Will Baptist church. Mr. Aka became convinced of the truth about Jesus and salvation found only in Him.



The problem was, he was scared. Three family members left Mahikari at different times; each one met with unfortunate situations. One family member even died a sudden death. Mr. Aka was afraid of what might happen to him. However, his conviction about needing Christ continued to grow. It became so strong that he stepped out in faith and became a Christ-follower. Contrary to



we help support in Ivory Coast trains pastors like Emmanuel, who was able to answer Aka's many questions. The Tiassalé FWB church is in a building project. The walls are up, but they don't have money to finish the roof. The Ivory Coast partnership is providing the funds so they will have a place to worship. (They are currently worshipping under a makeshift shelter.)

The Association of Free Will Baptist Churches now has 134 churches and more than 10,300 people in attendance. Our continued partnership allows them to do more and do it more quickly. **ONE**

what happened to his other family members, he received immediate peace and happiness. He married his companion of nearly 20 years, and both were baptized.

IM's partnership with the Association of Free Will Baptist churches in Ivory Coast allows us to plant churches like this one that are reaching the lost. The Bible Institute

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**About the Writer:** As director of field partnerships for IM, Kenneth Eagleton works directly with leaders in partner countries. He and his wife Rejane have served with IM as missionaries since 1984, first in Côte d'Ivoire and currently in Brazil.

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# Snapshots Around the World

**Uruguay:** Twelve students began a three-year program of Bible institute classes on July 15 in Rivera, Uruguay. Pastor Yosvanys Quiñones is teaching the first class, Old Testament Survey.

This partnership between the FWB Institute in Cuba and the Uruguayan National Association will be headquartered in Rivera with hopeful extensions to the cities of Melo and Montevideo.

**India:** Prior to leaving India on August 28, Carlisle Hanna ordained another ten men to pastoral ministry in India.

**Samburu:** The Samburu in Kenya have another fresh water well. A drill team arrived in September, and the first bore hole they dug produced an abundant water supply, freeing the team to make repairs to other pumps.



**Cuba:** Dr. J, a young Free Will Baptist Cuban doctor, recently committed to work in a risky area of the Middle East with a Christian organization. She will use her medical skills to provide openings for sharing the gospel.

**Bulgaria:** The congregation in Shumen, Bulgaria, celebrated communion August 11. A young man Josh and Lydia Provow had befriended, Sevdi, accepted Christ as Savior during the service. He was baptized in September.

**Brazil:** Pastor Fred Moreira baptized 11 people at the Carandai church in Minas Gerais, Brazil, on September 1.

**Samburu:** September 24, in the crocodile infested waters of the Ewaso Nyiro River, Eddy Simmons baptized nine people. Some walked as far as six miles to be immersed.

**Bulgaria:** During the September retreat for Free Will Baptists in Bulgaria, five people were baptized and at least one woman accepted Christ as Savior.

**United States:** Dr. Ruby Griffin, who served in Côte d'Ivoire 1965-1968, entered Heaven August 16. Her funeral was held in Baldwyn, Mississippi, August 18.



**Côte d'Ivoire:** Approximately 400 people attended the annual convention of Ivorian Free Will Baptists, August 26-30, in Gouméré, Côte d'Ivoire. A Bible conference in the mornings was followed by business in the afternoons and evenings. Delegates ordained two pastors who joined 38 pastors and two cross-cultural missionaries in representing the association.





# Missionaries for Christ

**Côte d'Ivoire**—A group of church members in Abidjan formed an action group, Missionaries for Christ, to support evangelistic efforts and help Free Will Baptist churches within Ivory Coast. One of their efforts, a fundraising banquet, raised money to begin a building for the church at Tiassalé in the north of the country.

The Tiassalé church was begun by a Free Will Baptist nurse who worked for the government and was assigned to the area. Through witnessing and Bible studies in his home, a church was born. The group outgrew his home and eventually bought property. They erected a

shelter but had been unable to build.

After completing a pastoral internship with the fledgling congregation, Emmanuel Tamignon became pastor following his graduation from the Bible institute in Bouna. When Kenneth Eagleton, director of field partnerships, visited the congregation in August, he discovered only two out of approximately 30 adults present have known Christ as Savior more than five years.

“Missionaries for Christ” helped erect the walls of the church. IM’s partnership with Ivory Coast will provide the funds for the roof and finish construction. **ONE**



## Missionary Balances

**Antioch, TN**—As of September 30, 2019, only one missionary account remained in the red. However, this deficit decreased by around \$9,000. “We appreciate the faithfulness of those who donate to this important ministry,” stated General Director Clint Morgan. “Pastors are being trained and churches planted in India because of these gifts.”

**India Ministry/Carlisle Hanna**  
-\$154,820.49

One newly-appointed intern and one veteran couple populate the dangerously low list:

**Brenton & Debbie Driscoll**  
\$1,505.92

**Ken & Judy Bailey**  
\$11,883.27

CFO Rob Conley said, “Thank you to all who have consistently given over this year to keep the majority of our missionaries out of the red and able to focus on ministry. Your faithfulness results in lives forever changed by the gospel.”

Donations may be made via mail (IM, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002) or online ([iminc.org/give](http://iminc.org/give)). **ONE**

## “Howdy” Filkins with the Lord

**Antioch, TN**—Howard “Howdy” Filkins entered His Savior’s presence on August 31, 2019. The 86-year-old experienced complications following an angioplasty.

Howard and Joan “Jody” (Barnett) married December 25, 1955. They had three sons, two of whom were teenagers, when they answered the call to missionary service.

Howard and Jody served in Côte d’Ivoire ten years, from 1972-1982. During that time, they made an undeniable contribution to the physical and spiritual lives of dozens of missionary kids at the boarding school in Bouaké. Howard was also instrumental in the construction of



some of the buildings in Doropo.

General Director Clint

Morgan said, “Howdy was a faithful friend, missionary colleague, and the man who made life easier for some rookie missionaries in Africa with his many skills. His character shown like a bright light for he was humble, kind, thoughtful, encouraging, hard-working, and most of all, in love with God, His Word, and His work.”

Services were at CrossPointe Church in Norman, Oklahoma. Mr. Filkins was buried near Kirksville, Missouri, Monday, September 9.

# Spotlight on D6 CURRICULUM

BY JON FORREST

Imagine a young man meets the girl of his dreams. They fall in love, and he proposes marriage. She's great. He is thrilled to have her in his life. The wedding day finally arrives. When things slow down at the reception, the father-in-law pulls the new groom aside and says, "Welcome to the family, son. Now that it's official, I guess you'll be spending lots of time at the family lake house." The boy is overwhelmed. He was already sold on this girl, and now he finds out about a LAKE HOUSE! His new father-in-law says, "Yes, we bought it with the profits from one of our many Chick-fil-A franchises."

Okay, maybe I worked one of my own personal fantasies in there at the end, but I just wanted to prepare your mind to embrace a similar scenario I encountered with D6 curriculum. I've used and loved D6 curriculum for years. I've taught the high school students at my church using some incarnation of D6 Curriculum for so long, some of my original high school students are now parents of some of my current high school students. I believe in this product. But on a recent tour through the Randall House warehouse I was introduced to a "lake house" of D6 curriculum golden nuggets of which I was totally unaware. I figured if I didn't know about these ten things, you might not either.

**1. D6 HAS A NURSERY RESOURCE.** *First Steps Nursery Program* is an all-inclusive guide for maintaining a **teaching** nursery ministry that also provides tools for parents to use in the home. I know! Teaching in the nursery! When I was a baby, the goal was just to keep me from chewing the legs off the furniture. Now, not only is it never too early to start instilling

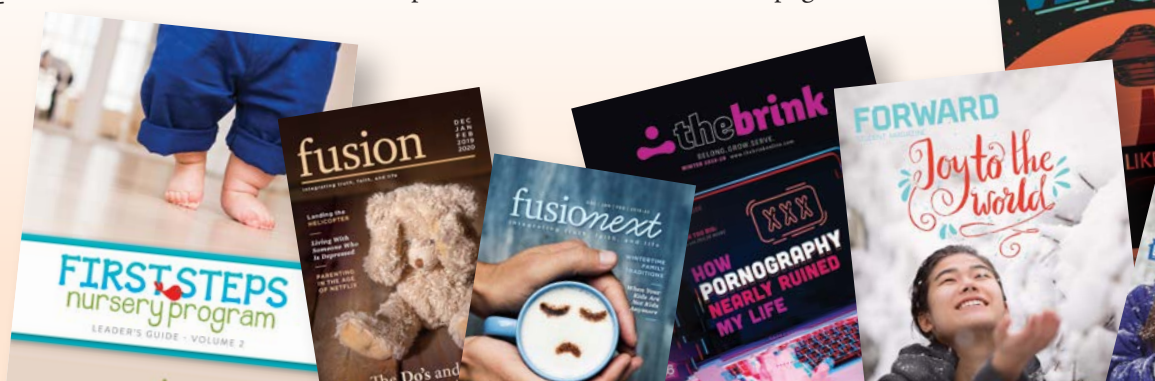
truths to children, but this also sets a wonderful example and pace for family ministry in your church.

**2. CUDDLE TIME BIBLE STORYBOOK IS AN INCREDIBLE GIFT FOR YOUNG PARENTS.** Every family loves storybooks. Why not bless them with one with more value than a story about a whiny llama. *Cuddle Time* is great! (I'm talking about the resource here.) It not only has creative questions for parents to ask, but also a "find the item" game woven into it. So fun!

**3. D6 HAS CURRICULUM FOR 11 AGE GROUPS!** I didn't even know there *were* 11 age groups. Obviously, the most wonderful thing about the D6 curriculum is the fact everyone from elementary students to seniors (octogenarians, not the twelfth grade kind) is studying the same theme. Kindergartners and great-grandparents are all literally on the same theme each week.

**3A.** By the way, being on the same page doesn't mean anything if the curriculum is lousy, but D6 is top-notch even without the "same theme" feature. I catch myself editing out really good material provided every week because there's simply not time for it. Believe me. You want this problem when it comes to your curriculum.

**4. THE "HOME CONNECTION" NOT ONLY FACILITATES FAMILY WORSHIP, IT ALSO MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE A SUPERSTAR!** Just for the record, I'm way more interested in facilitating family worship than making myself look like a superstar. The Home Connection page has



a short, fun, family-together idea with a quick discussion starter relevant to every person in the house because, remember, we are all on the same page. It contains a weekly Bible passage, suggestions for prayer, and suggestions for putting what you've learned into practice. To top it all off, you can personalize it with your logo and send it in an email to make sure it doesn't get left in the chair beside the water fountain—Superstar.

**5. THERE IS FAMILY ALIGNMENT IN THE DEVOTIONAL STUDIES.** There are incredible devotionals available for every age. The devotional books for students of all ages are absolutely stunning and contain not only great content, but also fun as well. Can you imagine families keeping one another accountable in their devotional lives and also being on the same page? It gives you tools to obey the command of Deuteronomy 6.

**6. D6 HANDLES SCOPE AND SEQUENCE SO I DON'T HAVE TO.** If I came up with every lesson every week, I would say the feeding of the 5,000 would come up about every five-to-seven weeks. It's so good! "There's a boy here with five loaves and two fish, but what are they among so many?" Maybe I'll teach it this week. No! D6 has a knack of moving from Old Testament to New and then to special topics right on time. They have a huge scope and sequence poster available that explains it all and also gives me a headache when I think of how difficult it must have been to organize.

**7. D6 DOORPOSTS ARE UNAPOLOGETIC IN THEIR APOLOGETICS.** Sorry for the terrible word play, but if we are not equipping our people to own and defend their beliefs we are failing. Apologetics and biblical worldview are highlighted in each lesson. One unit each year is devoted entirely to apologetics.

**8. YOUR CHILDREN'S WORKERS WILL LOVE YOU FOR ELEMENTS KID'S WORSHIP.** To be fair, this is not something I learned in the warehouse. I've used Elements for years. I use it with our children's church (4-8 year olds) and our youth service (9-13 year olds) during our worship time. It complements what they just learned in their small group or Sunday School time. Anyone can teach using this great resource.

**9. EVERY D6 LESSON FOLLOWS THE CLEAR LEARNING SYSTEM.** (Connect. Learn. Explore. Apply. Respond.)

If you teach good lessons, you probably already follow this model without even knowing it. I love the connect time with my students. I can enjoy a rousing discussion question or game for a whole class time if I'm not careful. CLEAR helps keep me focused enough to make it, at least, to the application portion of the lesson.

**10. THERE IS A SUPER-HELPFUL GAME BOOK TITLED, HELP! MY GAMES STINK, AVAILABLE AT D6FAMILY.COM.** I feel I should probably let you know I wrote it. I also feel I should probably tell you I use the adverb "super" very freely. But to be fair, there were tons of copies of it in the warehouse.

**THE REAL #10.** (I won't count the ad for my book.) The teaching guide is available as a PDF file for viewing on your computer or tablet. This was my favorite discovery in the warehouse that day. By the end of the quarter, my teacher's book looks like a nervous cheerleader's pom-pom after a championship season. I've complained for years about them not having this! And they've had it for years. Little did I know they hid it in the front of the packet. Who would ever think to look there?

I could talk about D6 curriculum all day, but you really need to see it. My friends at D6 would love to get samples of this in your hands. Every generation in your church will thank you. Also, seriously, don't forget that game book I mentioned in the D6 store. They make great gifts. Buy six for a whole set of coasters. Or with a well-positioned piece of duct tape, you can turn a copy into a great chew toy for dogs. I'm not particular at all. **ONE**

**About the Writer:** Jon Forrest is youth pastor at Bethel FWB Church near Ashland City, Tennessee. A 1995 graduate of Welch College, Jon is a frequently requested speaker at youth events and conferences, and preaches regularly at Pleasant View Christian School, where he is also a school board member. Jon has authored two books available from Randall House: *Help! My Games Stink* and the recently published *Fight!* Jon and his wife Carrie have one daughter, Ellie.



# Raising Financially-Minded Children

BY JOHN BRUMMITT



A few months ago, my wife and I were blessed with our first child. With a career in finance helping people prepare for the future, I began considering the best ways to help my child avoid the common pitfalls for Americans first starting out on their own. Granted, I have several years before my son will be on his own, but the earlier you start, the less work and worry you have along the way. My wife and I have been talking about helping him develop a strong work ethic so he not only knows how to work but also understands the satisfaction of finishing a job and completing a project.

Development of these characteristics starts at a young age. By starting the conversation early, children develop these important habits internally and become self-motivated rather than needing a constant push or reward. It is important to help them understand how to be financially stable, so that no matter what happens in life, especially after parents are gone, they know the right paths to follow. It's not simply giving them financial stability, but giving them the knowledge of *how* to be financially stable.

Teaching your children to handle money properly and to make money efficiently will do much more for them than leaving them a large inheritance. People who have money problems because of poor choices will always have money problems, whether they make \$30,000 per year or \$100,000. The majority of American parents do not pass on financial knowledge to their children simply because

they don't feel qualified. They surmise that since their own financial situation isn't good, sharing what they have learned with their children won't help. Instead of talking through mistakes and teaching basic financial skills, the tendency is to complain about their woeful financial picture.

Children pick up on this. They began to think money is a problem and therefore develop fear or anxiety regarding money. This was part of the problem parents have with money themselves. For generations, money was a taboo conversation topic, even among immediate family members. Do you remember hearing your mother and father discussing money or finances when it wasn't a negative situation? The simple act of including your children in financial discussions at a young age goes a long way toward helping them be comfortable and confident about financ-

es in the future. Some people worry that talking about money with their kids at a young age may cause them to say something or ask something embarrassing around

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IT'S NOT SIMPLY GIVING THEM FINANCIAL STABILITY, BUT GIVING THEM THE KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO BE FINANCIALLY STABLE.

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others, but isn't a little embarrassment worth a lifetime of financial security and reduced stress for your children?

Financial stress is one of the leading causes of divorce and anxiety. If the simple act of discussing financial matters with your kids will give them a solid understanding of how finances work and reduce their stress throughout their lives, is it not worth the awkwardness

or embarrassment you experience in the short-term?

The best time to start conversations with your children about finances is now. Not only will those conversations

benefit them and their future financial journey, it will benefit you as well. One positive bi-product of being intentional about financial discussions with your children is the opportunity to think through your own finances and see them in a more positive light. The more you talk with your children about money matters, the more likely you will follow the same advice you are giving your children. Just as "practice makes perfect," you will see a change in the way you handle your own finances and, in turn, you will become a better example for your children. **ONE**

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**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](http://www.BoardofRetirement.com).

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## Curriculum Discipleship Plan 2020 Scope and Sequence

### January 2020

#### New Testament: 1 Timothy *Modeling Genuine Faith*

Week 1 - Sincere Faith

Week 2 - Modeling Faith

Week 3 - Family of Faith

Week 4 - The Good Fight of Faith

### February 2020

#### Special Topic *Stewardship of the Mind*

Week 1 - God's Design of the Mind

Week 2 - Guard Your Mind

Week 3 - The Transformed Mind

Week 4 - God's Plan for Our Minds



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# Important Conversations

## FOUR TOPICS OF CONVERSATION ADULT CHILDREN NEED TO HAVE WITH AGING PARENTS

BY CHRIS COMPTON

I am so thankful I enjoy a great relationship with my parents. Even though I moved away from my hometown 19 years ago, I still get to spend time with them several times each year (but not as much as I would like). I call them often throughout the week to see how they are doing and to keep them updated on our lives and their grandkids. And sometimes I just call to talk with them. These moments are important to me, because I understand the brevity of life. We never know when the next conversation with our parents may be our last.

Most of the conversations we have with our parents are easy ones. They usually center around upcoming holidays, grandchildren, things going on in our lives, and so on. It's the conversations about the future and the tough decisions facing aging parents that are difficult. In fact, many adult children and aging parents do not have these conversations at all.

I get it. It is not easy to have conversations with your parents about finances, long-term health care, or their last wishes. I have had and will continue to have those conversations with my parents. Yes, they are uncomfortable topics to discuss, but they have helped me understand their wishes and desires.

It is important for adult children to have

these tough talks with their parents. Think about what happens when you *don't* have these conversations. It leaves the door open for confusion over expectations and roles. It puts major stress on children to make decisions during times of crisis and loss. It even can create unexpected financial liability for healthcare costs.

You don't have to wait for a crisis to get things in order. Planning ahead with parents and discussing their wishes and plans can ease the burden in the future. Now is the time to start communicating with your aging parents about what they want for their lives and future care. Here are four important topics of conversation you need to have with them:

### Finances

Many adult children simply do not know the financial well-being of their parents. More and more senior adults are entering retirement financially unprepared. Having an open conversation about their finances and needs can help you understand what may be needed of you. It also can help you and your parents prepare for future expenses and avoid conflict down the road.

### Future Housing Wishes

Your parents have thoughts about their future housing needs and where they would want to go if they no longer

could care for themselves. You need to know their expectations, and they need to know your fiscal and physical capabilities. As much as you would like to honor your parents by caring for them in your home, you simply may not be able to do so. You may think a nursing home is a viable option, but they may be completely opposed to the idea. Working through these challenges can help mitigate stress and alleviate guilt and anger in the future.

### End of Life Instructions

A conversation with your parents about their last wishes is by no means easy. Yet it is necessary. You need to know their plans for burial and their funerals, and whether they have any life insurance policies. Talk with them about living wills and their wishes for life-extending treatments. This will help you honor their wishes and release you from having to make difficult decisions during a very emotional time.

### Legal Documents

Do your parents have a will? A trust? Power of attorney? Who is the executor? Where are their bank accounts located? Are there any investment or retirement accounts?

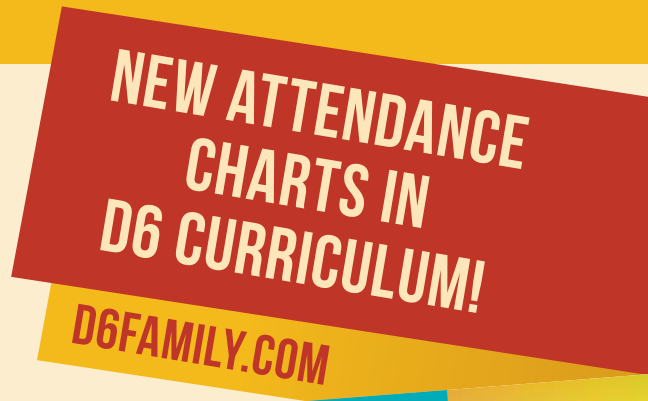
Do they have a safety deposit box? Where are life insurance policies kept? You need to know the answers to these questions and where important documents are kept. Having legal documents in order and knowing how to handle your parents' state of affairs can help ensure you meet their wishes and make life easier for you during difficult times.

None of us are ready for life without our parents. But having these important conversations ahead of time can ease the stress and burden when that time comes. Don't wait until faced with a crisis. Talk with your parents sooner rather than later. By doing so, you will protect them from physical and financial woes and honor their wishes. **ONE**

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**About the Writer:** Chris Compton is communications officer for the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement. He graduated in 2007 with a M.A. in Bible exposition from Columbia International University. He has over 13 years of administrative/financial experience in varied fields as well as seven years of pastoral ministry experience. For more retirement and planning resources, visit [www.boardofretirement.com](http://www.boardofretirement.com).

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Discipleship isn't merely showing up for Sunday School or small group meetings. It's part of everyday life! The new D6 attendance charts give students of all ages a visual way to track their progress—a weekly encouragement to continue seeking and following Christ!

A legend box with a teal background and white text. It includes three items: 'D6 FAITH TALK—I talked to family members or friends about my D6 devotions, lesson, or other faith conversation.' with a purple speech bubble icon; 'ATTENDANCE—I was at church.' with a person icon; and 'DEVOTIONS—I did my D6 devotions.' with a purple circle icon containing a white 'W'.

**D6 FAITH TALK**—I talked to family members or friends about my D6 devotions, lesson, or other faith conversation.

**ATTENDANCE**—I was at church.

**DEVOTIONS**—I did my D6 devotions.

Two overlapping attendance charts are shown. The top one is pink and the bottom one is teal. Both charts have columns for 'NAME' and days of the week (1-7). The teal chart has a circular callout showing a grid of icons: a purple circle with 'FT', a person icon, and a purple circle with 'W'. The charts are filled with various icons representing faith talk, attendance, and devotions.

# Double Gift...Double Impact

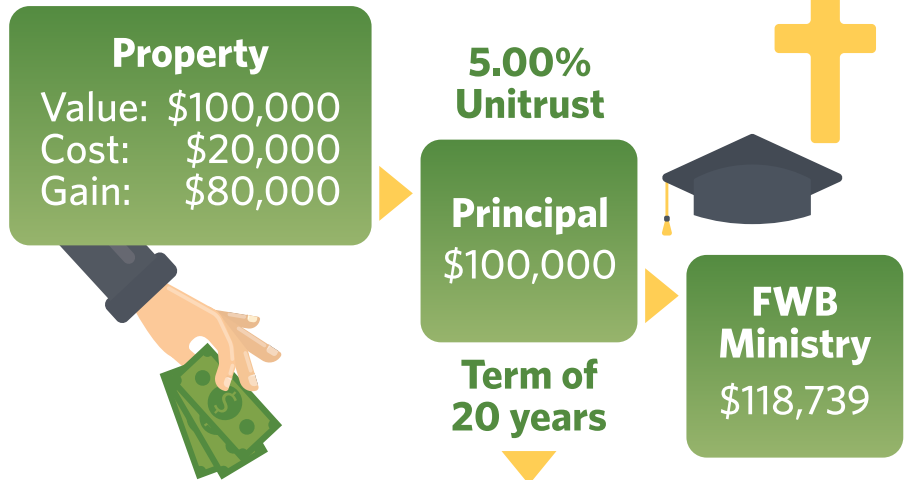
BY DAVID BROWN, CPA

The older we get, the more we desire to see the ministries we love make a big impact for the Kingdom. Many older Americans have accumulated assets and realize they have the capacity to make a large gift to help ministries accomplish their goals. However, older adults also want to be a big help to their grandchildren, helping them pay for college so they can avoid the excessive college loans that can hinder their future. Is it possible to accomplish both goals? Yes, it is. A planned giving opportunity called the *Education Unitrust* can accomplish both goals.

This is done by setting aside a large (\$100,000 or more) asset that can pay an earnings rate to a grandchild or a series of grandchildren over a defined period of 20 years or less. When the defined period expires, the asset goes to any Free Will Baptist ministry you choose. Over a 20-year period, a \$100,000 gift will provide approximately \$100,000 to your grandchildren while still providing \$100,000 to ministry.

This method allows older adults to accomplish both goals of benefiting their grandchildren and making a large gift to ministry that can have eternal effects in spreading the gospel. The great news is that in addition to accomplishing your goals, the donor also receives a partial tax deduction. Another advantage is

## Education Unitrust



1. Gift asset, sell tax-free. Bypass up to \$80,000 gain: May save \$15,040 in taxes. Tax deduction of \$36,295 may save \$11,977.

2. Unitrust income up to 5% to students for 20 years. Total estimated income to students is \$100,000.

3. Trust earns 5.071% and pays 5%. After term of 20 years, trust principal paid to ministry, \$118,739.

This educational illustration is not professional tax or legal advice. Consult a tax advisor about your specific situation.

that by choosing a highly appreciated asset to fund the gift, all capital gains taxes can be avoided as well. The income that is paid out annually will be taxable to the recipients (grandchildren in this case) and not to yourself. Generally speaking, college-age individuals do not have a heavy tax burden, so the funds will have little impact on their taxes.

If your grandchildren attend Welch or another Free Will Baptist college, it will create the double impact of

helping your grandchildren prepare for ministry while leaving the remainder to the college as well. Contact Free Will Baptist Foundation to learn more about how this planned gift could work for you. **ONE**

**About the Columnist:** David Brown is director of Free Will Baptist Foundation. To learn more about the grants program, visit [www.fwbgifts.org](http://www.fwbgifts.org).



# Tribute to a First Lady

BY KERRY AND BRENDA STEEDLEY

At the National Association of Free Will Baptists in Cincinnati, Ohio, this past July, the life and ministry of army chaplain Gerald Mangham was remembered and celebrated. He served as the first Free Will Baptist military chaplain, and for several years, as the only Free Will Baptist chaplain. Dr. David Crowe, CEO of North American Ministries, led these moments of remembrance just before Chaplain (COL) Terry Austin, U.S. Army Retired, preached the evening service.

Dr. Crowe additionally honored Bertie Mangham, the wife of Chaplain Mangham, and a Free Will Baptist missionary to the military community in her own right. Daughters Marci Emery and Traci Starnes and grandson Cassidy Emery and his wife Brittany were present for this special recognition.

North Carolina girl Bertie (Clark) and Gerald Mangham, an Oklahoma native, met at Welch College as students. Both graduated in 1959. They were married 47 years before Gerald passed away in 2005. Together, they served soldiers, family members, and Department of Defense civilian employees for 30 years, from 1967 to 1997, when Gerald retired from active duty as a colonel. Their pastoral ministry began at Bethlehem FWB Church in Ashland City, Tennessee, and continued with numerous military assignments stateside and overseas, including Vietnam, Korea, and Germany.

In the process of retiring and reflecting on God's grace and goodness, Chaplain Mangham wanted to recognize and honor his partner in marriage and ministry. He shared the following appreciation for his wife: "The chaplaincy is truly a team ministry, and one can never say enough about a dedicated wife through whom God provides inspiration. My wife Bertie has been that and much more. Our life verses have been Philippians 4:19 and Psalm 37:4. We have found God's blessings to be overflowing, even in war, separations, and the trials of a ministry that is sometimes little understood. Our ministry has been an extension of North American Ministries

and Free Will Baptists as a whole. We trust we have been a good team for you."

The Mangham's pioneer ministry continued after Gerald retired from the army when he served as the first civilian chaplain at Ronald Reagan International Airport in Washington, D.C. Again, Bertie served by his side, even as she continued her career as a federal government civilian employee. Her current ministry is family-focused as a mother and grandmother for three children and four grandchildren.

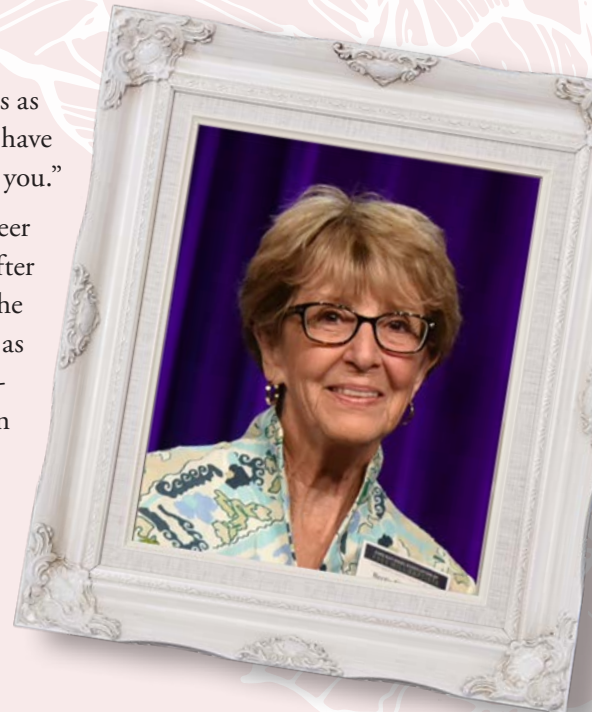
As a young chaplain's wife, Bertie was uncertain of her duties. She says: "I decided to do what I knew was right and what needed to be done. I especially wanted to listen carefully to that still, small voice of the Holy Spirit for guidance." She obviously did well, served as a stellar example, and leaves a wonderful legacy for current and future military chaplain wives.

The Free Will Baptist denomination is grateful to the Mangham family for their faithful service and sacrifice. Dr. Crowe, himself a veteran, reminded Bertie she had the toughest job in the army—an army wife. North American Ministries considers Bertie Mangham to be the "First Lady of Free Will Baptist Chaplain Ministry." **ONE**

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**About the Writer:** Kerry and Brenda Steedley serve in chaplain support ministry for North American Ministries. Learn more about the chaplaincy: [www.fwbnam.com](http://www.fwbnam.com).

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# Are You Tired of Talking About Church Revitalization?

BY BRAD RANSOM



During a recent meeting, I heard Dr. Danny Dwyer say, “When it comes to church revitalization the need is greater than our interest, and our interest is greater than our commitment.” That was probably the most honest and profound thing I’ve heard in a long time. Think about that statement for a minute. Read it again.

“The need is greater than our interest and our interest is greater than our commitment.”

Another great quip is, “If church revitalization was easy, everyone would be doing it.” The fact is, few are doing it effectively. The need is great. The interest is growing, but there is the unknown variable of the commitment.

Everyone is talking about church revitalization. I believe most pastors and church leaders would agree there is a great need within (but not limited to) Free Will Baptists. One problem has been the lack of succinct, practical resources. Most pastors don’t have time or resources to go back to school or attend conferences and seminars—even if they would help. Often, seminars don’t help because they are theoretical rather than practical.

Statistics from many denominations and research groups indicate the church in America is in trouble. The American church is declining, and few seem to be doing much about it other than admitting the problem. Maybe it’s back to Dr. Dwyer’s statement: “The need is greater than our interest, and our interest is greater than our commitment.”

Pastors and church leaders, would you agree revitalization is needed in your church? Perhaps your church isn’t in sharp decline or on life-support, but how is your momentum? Are you growing or just breaking even? According to Gary McIntosh and Charles Arn in their book *What Every Pastor Should Know* they suggest a church needs

the same number of annual guests as their weekly average attendance just to remain level. For example, a church of 100 needs 100 first-time guests each year. A church of 50 needs 50 guests. Due to the simple fact that people die, move away, leave the church, and so on, a church needs steady first-time guests just to stay even. To grow, they need more. A lot more. For a church to grow, it is necessary for a church to double their number of first-time guests, because not every first-time guest will return. I think you see the point.

Pastor, let me ask you a few questions: What is the purpose of your church? Why does it exist? I’m sure you have some ideas or even an answer, but would your congregation be able to answer that question? Decades ago, Win Arn (father of Charles Arn mentioned above) surveyed members of nearly a thousand churches to ask the question: Why does the church exist? Of the church members surveyed, 89% indicated the church’s purpose is to take care of personal and family needs.

I hope you understand, that is not the correct answer. According to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), the purpose of the church is to make disciples. Many church folks don’t realize this important truth, which muddies the waters of mission and vision.

Every church needs to identify core values and develop a clear, written mission and vision statement to help the congregation know why their church exists. Values and mission are like a funnel through which everything flows. Wouldn't it be great if every person—especially leaders in our churches—understood how that worked? If our church activities aren't helping us make disciples, we may be doing the wrong things. Our main priority shouldn't be caring for our members but winning the lost.

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I know I'm stepping over hard lines and raising eyebrows, but I believe I am speaking biblical truth. Obviously, caring for members, exhorting, encouraging, and empowering our people is an important part of the local church—not to mention the pastor's preaching—but the *main* thing is still the *main thing*, and that is the Great Commission. The church is called to make disciples, winning the lost as well as developing mature believers.

After your church identifies core values and writes its mission and vision statements, then what? Many churches have asked that question. I worked with a church several years ago that followed their pastor's lead after he read a book on values, mission, and vision. They developed their core values, wrote a mission and vision statement, had it printed, framed and hung on the foyer wall. It became a beautiful decoration, a piece of art, but nothing in the church changed. So, what do you do after you develop these important things? Where does a church go from there?

These are only two of many important questions that need to be asked and answered. That's where many pastors go off track. Answers are hard to find. I have been a student of church growth principles and ideas for decades. I have read hundreds of books on church planting, revitalization, health, growth, discipleship, coaching, counseling, and on and on. The answers to the questions are out there. Some churches and leaders have discovered the answers, but I've

always wished there could be something more succinct, straightforward and easy to implement.

North American Ministries (NAM) now offers a resource that can help: *Fresh Wind Resources: A Guide for Churches*. I have compiled and written a manual developed through many years of experience in the local church along with consulting with hundreds of churches and pastors both healthy and unhealthy, growing, plateaued and declining. This manual is a FREE resource that includes a 69-page manual and links to 13 online training videos containing practical training and resources to help churches at every stage of congregational life.

*Fresh Wind* is not just a resource for struggling churches. It is a resource to help all churches. It has been written, compiled, developed, and recorded from my laptop computer. It is not flashy, professionally produced, or containing the latest in technology. But it contains practical, tested and tried principles and methods that have helped many churches over the years. All of this is provided by NAM to help pastors and churches. It is a part of our continued efforts to bless churches by providing training and resources at no cost.

*Fresh Wind Resources: A Guide for Churches* will be sent to you free of charge by simply calling the NAM office at 615-760-6137 or by emailing [tori@nafwb.org](mailto:tori@nafwb.org). Once you receive the manual (available only in digital format) you will automatically receive links to the videos and passwords to access them online.

It is time our commitment matches our interest because we know the need is great! Working through any problem or situation requires commitment. And if anything deserves it, it is the church. Nothing worth doing is easy, including church revitalization. But if we are successful, it will impact countless lives for the Kingdom. That is worth everything. **ONE**

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**About the Writer:** Dr. Brad Ransom is director of church planting and training for North American Ministries. Learn more about Fresh Wind resources: [www.FWBNAM.com](http://www.FWBNAM.com).

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# Officially Official

BY JENNY HALL

*September 8th, 2019—one of those days I want to relive over and over again. No words are adequate to describe all the different emotions experienced that day. I was reminded that God is, always has been, and always will be faithful. Through good and bad times, He was there every step of the way showing His goodness and mercy. I'm so grateful God gave me parents who are running so hard after the Lord they didn't give up even when it would've been so easy to do so. I'm thankful my parents made the decision to follow God's will no matter what, because out of that decision came so many answered prayers—too many to count. So, here we are. By only the grace of God I am no longer a missionary's kid, and I no longer attend a missionary church. Good News Free Will Baptist Church is officially official.*


As I read these words posted on social media by our oldest daughter Allison, who was also our first convert here, there was no way to hold back the flood of tears. You see, I am not only the wife of a church planter, I am also a church planter's daughter. My parents, Jim and Jan Summerson, took two churches to self-supporting status in the late '70s and early '80s. I remember a little about those days as a home missionary kiddo, but Allison remembers much more than I do.

She remembers long days and seemingly endless nights as we knocked doors in the community, renovated meeting space, disciplined converts, and mentored growing leaders. She endured times when she had no friends and later enjoyed God's blessing of new, beautiful friendships. She remembers times when she prayed every night for God to give her a little brother or sister, and she remembers when

God blessed her with one of each. She prayed for God to provide Good News with a church building, and He did that very thing. Allison's faith was strengthened over and over. And, in those moments when her parents' faith wavered, God entrusted her with the important task of encouraging us to continue His calling on our lives.

During this journey, we have come to realize that God calls everyone in the family to the field. By everyone, I mean not only the immediate and extended family, but *everyone* in the Body of Christ. Many of you who supported us prayerfully and financially have a huge part in the success of this church plant. Thank you for sticking with us to the end. Others encouraged us in the faith and always seemed to do so at just the right time. We are so thankful you listened to the quiet prodding of the Holy Spirit. Many times, we knew someone was praying because of the way the Lord worked.

God has blessed us with an amazing group of people who committed themselves to the work God is doing here in York. Please do not stop praying for Good News Church! Every time you see a York™ Peppermint Patty, would you please pray for God to continue pouring out His blessings on the work here in York, Pennsylvania? So many hurting, unsaved, unchurched, and unloving people still need the free gift of salvation by grace through faith that Jesus offers.

Yes! We have reached the milestone of being *officially official*, but this really is just the beginning of all God has planned for Good News FWB Church! 

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**About the Writer:** Jenny Hall and her husband Allen are former North American Ministries church planters. Before their work in York, Allen helped church planter Cliff Donoho start a church in Davenport, Iowa. To learn more about Free Will Baptist church planting efforts, visit [www.FWBNAM.com](http://www.FWBNAM.com).

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## Her quiet legacy...

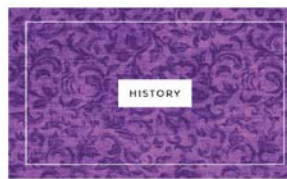
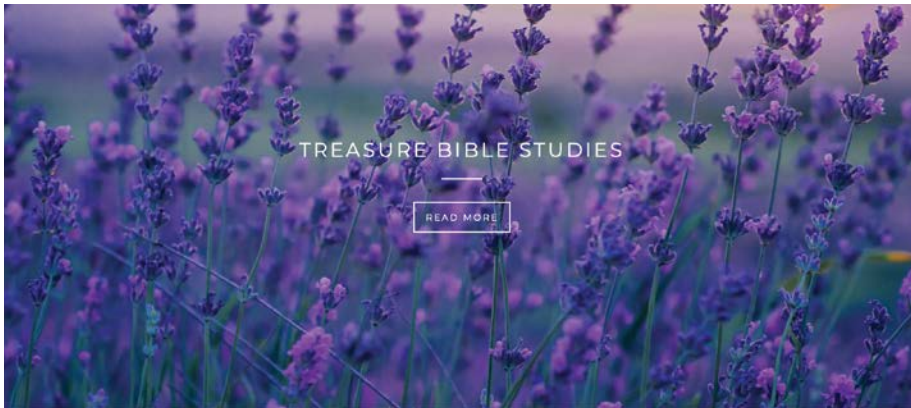
**“I request that the women of this body be excused to go to another room and organize a national body.”** Fannie Polston of Nashville, TN, made this appeal to delegates to the 1935 business meeting of the Eastern General Conference of Free Will Baptists at Black Jack Church in Pitt County, NC. Fannie had emerged as the face of Free Will Baptist women's work, along with her friend, Alice E. Lupton. As Free Will Baptists pushed slowly toward a unified denomination, the two women worked feverishly to establish a corresponding women's organization. The National Woman's Auxiliary Convention (today WNAC) formed June 1935, six months before the National Association came into being. Alice was elected the organization's first president. She soon became known for her passion to root young people in Scripture and was instrumental in founding the FWB League.

Help Welch College continue rooting young Free Will Baptists in Scripture by establishing your own legacy through **an endowment with FWB Foundation.**



FREE WILL BAPTIST FOUNDATION  
877-336-7575 | [www.fwbgifts.org](http://www.fwbgifts.org)

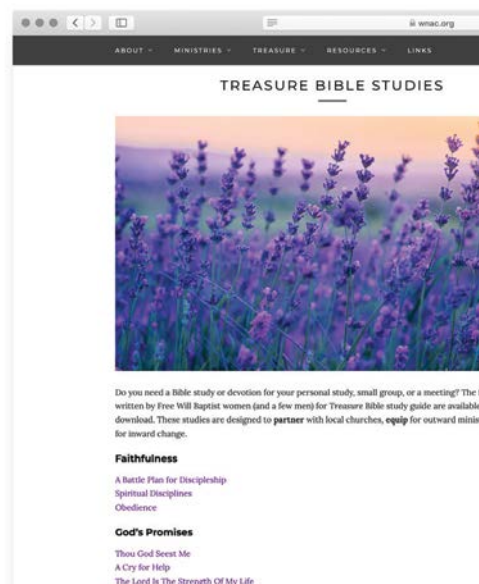
# Welcome to the New WNAC.org



In recent months, as WNAC has broadened its footprint in the denomination, the department's website has been updated. The new WNAC.org has been streamlined for ease of use, and a number of new resources have been added.

## **Treasure Bible studies (right)**

are perhaps the most significant addition. Now available as a free, on-line resource, women will be able to find the studies they need quickly, along with program and planning helps.



If we can be of service to you, contact us at [elizabeth@nafwb.org](mailto:elizabeth@nafwb.org), [wnac.org](http://wnac.org), or 877-767-7662. —**Elizabeth Hodges, director**

## New Resources on the Site

- 30 studies for young women (YWAC)
- 60 *Treasure* Bible studies can be downloaded and printed, along with program and planning helps
- Logos, graphics, screen-savers, and other promotional materials
- 46 women's ministries articles published in *ONE Magazine*
- Information on three scholarships, including recipients and how to get involved
- Up-to-date information for *Shine!* conferences and *Flourish!* events
- Updated Provision Closet needs & a brief history of the ministry
- State leaders contact info under the Leadership tab

"Few websites have as much valuable content as WNAC.org. I encourage both women and men to take advantage of this valuable resource."

—**Eric Thomsen, Editor,**  
*ONE Magazine*

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MILEY INTERNATIONAL STUDENT  
SCHOLARSHIP

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Due to the advance in technology and ease of travel, more international students are coming to the States for their education. This scholarship was named in honor of the LaVergne Miley family's service of 70 plus years to international missions. A Free Will Baptist international missionary recommends students for consideration of this scholarship. Three \$1,000 scholarships are available per year.

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At the new [WNAC.org](http://WNAC.org), find information on many ministries in which Free Will Baptist women are involved, including three scholarships, including the Miley International Student Scholarship. This scholarship helps make it possible for students like Bulgarian missionary kid Deborah (Trifonova) Driscoll (above) to receive an education in the U.S. Debbie and her husband Brenton have been accepted as two-year interns and will soon return to Bulgaria.

Learn more about conferences, the Provision Closet, and other ways you can make a difference.

## THE WNAC MISSION

WNAC EXISTS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EACH WOMAN TO FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Flourish!  
SAVE THE DATE

A CONFERENCE FOR  
FREE WILL BAPTIST  
WOMEN

MARCH 28, 2020

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LEARN MORE  
[WNAC.ORG](http://WNAC.ORG)

A close-up image of a dandelion seed head, with the seeds blowing away, set against a light blue background.

# Multi-Tasking & Time Management, Part 1

BY RON HUNTER JR., PH.D.

A letter from William Carey (missionary to India) to Ryland on June 12, 1806, talking about his daily schedule:

*“I rose this day at a quarter before six, read a chapter in the Hebrew Bible, and spent the time till seven in private addresses to God and then attended family prayer with the servants in Bengalee. While tea was pouring out, I read a little in Persian with a Moonshi who was waiting when I left my bedroom. Read also before breakfast a portion of the Scriptures in Hindoosthancee. The moment breakfast was over I sat down to the translation of the Ramayana from Sanskrit, with a pundit. Continued this translation until ten o’clock, at which time I went to the College, and attended the duties there til between one and two o’clock. When I returned home, I examined a proof sheet of the Bengali translation of Jeremiah, which took till dinnertime. After dinner translated with the assistant of the chief pundit of the college, greatest part of the eighth chapter of Matthew, into Sanskrit. This employed me till six... After this I concluded the evening by reading a chapter in the Greek testament, and commending myself to God. I have never more time in a day than this, though the exercises vary.”*

That phrase, “I have never more time in a day than this” means Carey wished he had more time to do more. Most people who read what Carey accomplished in an average day find themselves exhausted. I consider myself a fairly high capacity multi-tasker but compared to Carey, I feel inferior. Thankfully, the

goal of this column is not to be like Carey but to learn the principles of multi-tasking and time management from leaders like Carey.

Value can be found in multi-tasking versus a single-project-focused approach. Let’s clarify two definitions, a task and a project. A *project* is a big endeavor that cannot be completed in one sitting. A task can be completed in a single sitting or a day. You should complete all tasks once you start them. Completing tasks moves you closer to completion of projects, but these multiple task sessions provide intermittent reflection. The in-between analysis offers alterna-

tive ways to solve the problem or to gain insight.

Start a project, work on it by completing a task that advances the project, and then set the project aside. Your mind continues to analyze that project in the background while you move on to other tasks. When you return to the project, you may be surprised by a new perspective that enhances the outcome. Try this approach in sermon building, project planning, or planning a date with your spouse.

Like Carey’s concurrent multiple projects, you can accomplish tasks that lead to project completion while swapping between major projects. The advantage comes from thinking and planning *between* tasks, which helps reduce total time on the project and enhances the overall quality. It’s like the clarity from rereading an article or project from three days earlier. Here is the key: break big projects down into many smaller tasks and dedicate time to the tasks daily; within days, you will accomplish several big projects. Adjust your deadlines to stretch out the projects. It is surprising how well this process works to increase your capacity to handle many major projects with the same ease that most people handle one or two. (In the next edition, we will examine principles for time management to keep you on task.) **ONE**

## LEADERSHIP QUOTE

*“The key is not to prioritize what’s on your schedule, but to schedule your priorities.”*

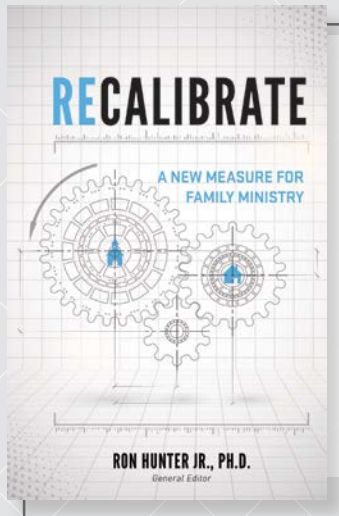
—Steven Covey

**About the Columnist:** Ron Hunter Jr., Ph.D., is CEO of Randall House Publications.





from  randall house



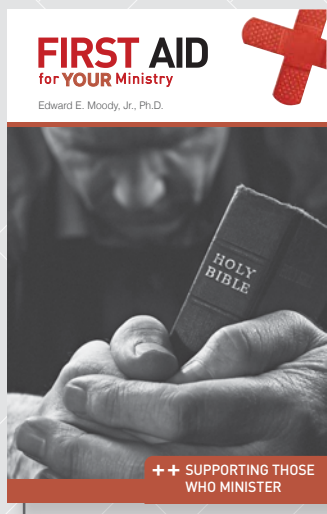
## Recalibrate

A NEW MEASURE FOR FAMILY MINISTRY

EDITED BY RON HUNTER JR., PH.D.

PRICE: \$19.99 13-ISBN: 9781614841067

Are you seeking clarity in your vision for family ministry? *Recalibrate* brings together the experience and wisdom of 15 ministry experts to help you get a clear vision for your ministry's future. Each chapter addresses a distinct area of church ministry, reveals current unhealthy norms, offers new norms, and provides ways to measure each area. Contributors include Tammy G. Daughtry, MA; Brian Haynes, D.Min.; Ron Hunter Jr., Ph.D.; Timothy Paul Jones, Ph.D.; Scott Kedersha; Joanne Miller, RN, BSN; Jimmy Myers, Ph.D.; Philip Nation, D.Min.; Jim Putman; Lydia Randall; Richard Ross, Ph.D.; Jay Strother; Scott Turansky, D.Min.; Jim Wideman; and Christopher Yuan, D.Min.



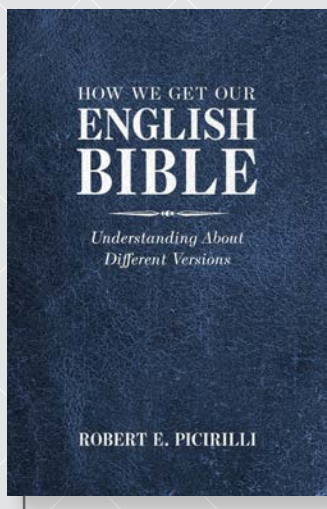
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BY EDWARD E. MOODY, JR., PH.D.

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Ministry is hard everywhere and in every context. Dr. Moody understands the challenges faced by ministry leaders. He identifies the major threats and addresses concerns related to the important work done by those serving in ministry. Dr. Moody gives outstanding advice laced with biblical truth to help ministers persevere and not lose heart, reminding us how rewarding ministry can be. You may feel all alone in the struggles of ministry, but there is a way to be effective and fulfilled through service.



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BY ROBERT E. PICIRILLI

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On May 21, I gave my last message at the Arkansas state association meeting after 14 years as moderator. The following is an excerpt from my encouragement to those present.

I want to end my last moderator's message with a challenge to you, specifically younger ministers. Many of you know I was raised in the United Baptist Association in northwest Arkansas. When I came back to Arkansas after graduating from Randall University, I was relatively new in so many ways—a new area of the state, Pocahontas, in northeast Arkansas and new to Arkansas Free Will Baptists.

Thirty years later, God has blessed me in so many ways. I have been privileged to serve the state in many capacities:

youth board, CE Board, the A.C.T.S. 1:8 Task Force, and moderator. At the national level, God gave me the privilege



to serve on the IM Board 12 years. I have traveled to Panama, Haiti, China, and Bulgaria on mission trips. God also allowed me to preach the missions service at the National Convention in 2007, when it was held in Little Rock.

For a little redneck country boy from the Ozark Mountains, who grew up in small, rural country churches, it

has been an amazing journey beyond my wildest imagination. As a young man, if someone told me I would have the privilege of doing all these things in my lifetime of ministry, I would have laughed in his face and called him crazy.

Please don't misunderstand. I do not share these things to brag or boast. I share them to challenge and encourage you. If God can give someone like me opportunities, then He can also do the same and more for you. These opportunities did not come my way because I'm smart or talented. They came to me from God, and on a more practical level, these opportunities came because *I showed up!*

*I showed up* for youth camp, bringing kids from my church for several years. I think my chronic back pain may have come from sleeping on those very uncomfortable bunks. I did not go to camp so I could serve on the state youth board, but I never would have had that privilege if I had not participated in youth camps.

*I showed up* at the Arkansas State Minister's Retreat. I think I have only missed one or two retreats in 30 years of pastoring in Arkansas. Not only have these retreats encouraged and shaped my ministry, they opened the door for me to serve on the state Christian Education Board.

*I showed up* at state meetings (and even came back for



afternoon business sessions). This opened the door for me to become moderator. *I showed up* to support missions and missionaries. They have stayed in my home and sat around my table. They became personal friends. I guided my church to become a mission-minded church. Again, I did not do this hoping to be elected to the IM Board, but I'm convinced this opened the door for the opportunity.

My challenge to all the ministers, young and old, is to *just show up*.

To my younger friends in ministry, whether full time or bi-vocational, your state work needs you—your wisdom, enthusiasm, insight, and gifting. But for you to be able to share these, you *must show up*. I know some of you are bi-vocational. I understand this is a greater challenge, but we need your insight into how we can best serve you. We need all of you: pastors, lay-people, men and women, young people. The Arkansas State Association and the denomination cannot exist without you. We need each of you *to show up*. **ONE**

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**About the Writer:** Nelson Henderson is pastor of First FWB Church, Pocahontas, Arkansas.

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## ABOUT THE DENOMINATION

# Thompson Elected Tenth President of Randall University

**Moore, OK**—October 8, 2019, the Randall University Board of Trustees unanimously elected Robert G. (Bob) Thompson as the next President of Randall University. Thompson, who has served as Randall's vice president for institutional advancement for 18 years, will begin his term January 1, 2020. Bob succeeds Dr. Timothy W. Eaton, who has agreed to serve as Chancellor of Randall University.

A third-generation Free Will Baptist, Bob is the son of Bailey and Barbara Thompson. He has been married to Carol Christian Thompson for 47 years. The Thompsons have three children: Christina, Cory, and Craig, as well as six grandchildren.

Bob has pastored churches in Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. Before joining the administration of Randall University, he served as director of the Arkansas State Youth Camp.

He has served in numerous Free Will Baptist leadership positions at the district, state, and national levels, and currently is a member of the board of Free Will Baptist Foundation. **ONE**



# Music Commission to Launch Website

**Antioch, TN**—The Free Will Baptist Music Commission will launch a new website, FWBWorship.com, in early 2020, according to chairman Doug Little. He noted, "We hope the site will prove useful for musicians and worship leaders in Free Will Baptist churches, particularly for volunteer and part-time music leaders."

FWBWorship.com will provide a wide variety of music and worship resources along with a forum for hymn writers to introduce and promote new music. Like the Music Commission Facebook page (@fwbmusiccommission) to receive updates before and after the launch of the site. Visitors can already visit FWBWorship.com to create an account and download resources. **ONE**



# Sing a New Song

BY DOUG LITTLE

“Have you written any new songs?” Folks ask me that question frequently. My reply is usually somewhat vague, because while I do continue to write, my platform for sharing new music has been limited for many years. The music publishing industry and church music styles have changed significantly from the days I had opportunities to see my songs or arrangements distributed for choirs or congregational use. And with various new roles in ministry outside of music, songwriting hasn’t been my primary focus.

But I’ve never stopped writing. A phrase, an idea, a Scripture—something will inspire a thought that turns into more. And among the stacks of unfinished lyrics or tunes, occasionally a song is born. And, sometimes from the stack of finished songs, one will prove worth sharing.

When I was given the opportunity to share some of my congregational-friendly songs in upcoming issues of *ONE Magazine*, I was first deeply humbled. Then I began dusting off and rescoring songs I deemed worth the consideration for most Free Will Baptist churches. Some were written many years ago, but I also was spurred to write new songs almost any church could use for congregational or choir singing.

Permission is granted for local churches to make whatever copies (or projections) needed to use in their services. No royalties are required. No reporting to a Performance Rights Organization. Rights to recording or print arrangements are reserved, but for a local church in its own

ministry, I bless and encourage wide distribution.

Free Will Baptists are a singing people. New songs are waiting to be written and shared. I’m excited about the potential the soon-to-be released Music Commission website will offer Free Will Baptist songwriters to share new material with our denomination. I want to encourage the writing of new hymns. I hope this series of previously unpublished songs of mine—one in each issue of *ONE Magazine* during 2020—will help blaze a trail for new songs of various styles to be created by Free Will Baptists with a heart for worship in the local church.

**Let’s sing a new song!** **ONE**

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**About the Writer:** Doug Little is chairman of the Free Will Baptist Music Commission: [doug@nafwb.org](mailto:doug@nafwb.org).

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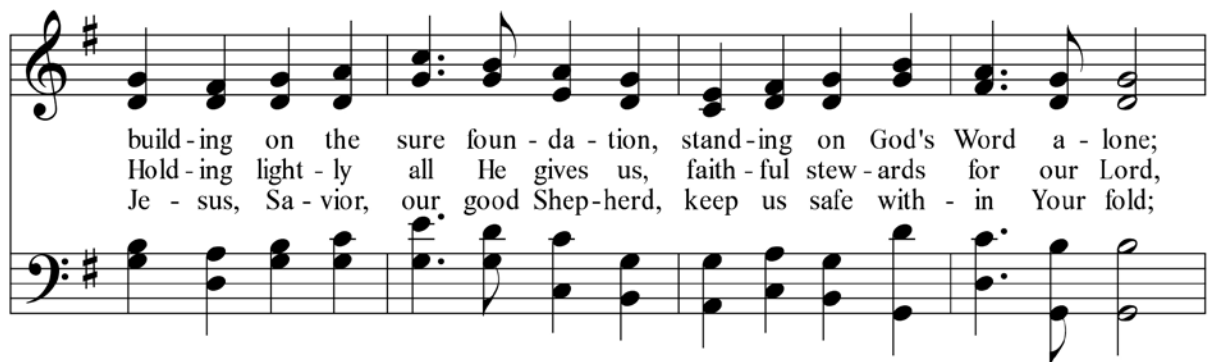
# Prayer for Families

R. Douglas Little

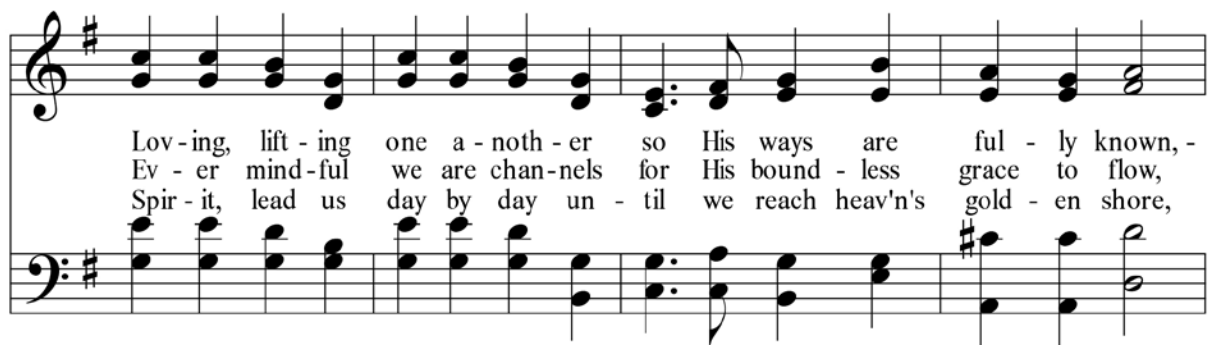
R. Douglas Little



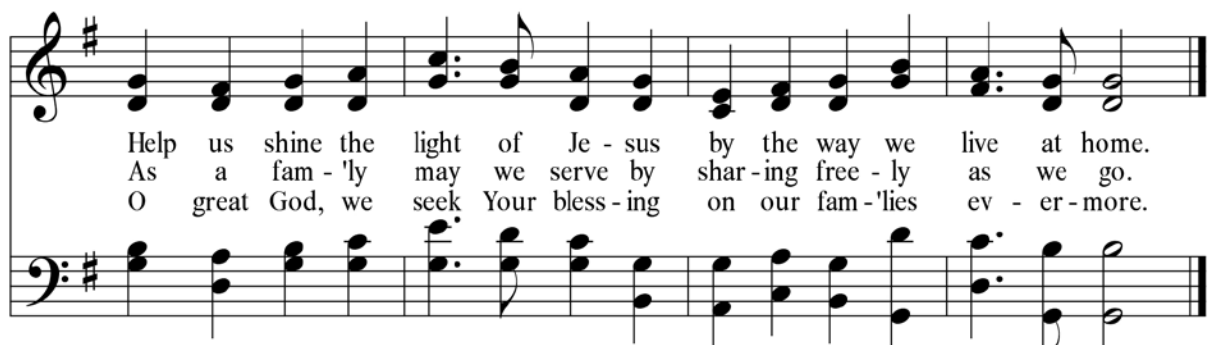
1. May our fam - 'lies be a bless - ing to all those we call our own;  
2. May our fam - 'lies spread God's bless - ing to our neigh - bors near and far,  
3. Fath - er, please pro - tect our fam - 'lies, shel - ter us, both young and old;



build - ing on the sure foun - da - tion, stand - ing on God's Word a - lone;  
Hold - ing light - ly all He gives us, faith - ful stew - ards for our Lord,  
Je - sus, Sa - vior, our good Shep - herd, keep us safe with - in Your fold;



Lov - ing, lift - ing one a - noth - er so His ways are ful - ly known,  
Ev - er mind - ful we are chan - nels for His bound - less grace to flow,  
Spir - it, lead us day by day un - til we reach heav'n's gold - en shore,



Help us shine the light of Je - sus by the way we live at home.  
As a fam - 'ly may we serve by shar - ing free - ly as we go.  
O great God, we seek Your bless - ing on our fam - 'lies ev - er - more.

# Using Technology to Disciple

BY EDDIE MOODY

By 2015, 72% of U.S. adults reported owning a smartphone, and more than 90% of U.S. children had a digital presence before their second birthday.\* Love technology and social media or hate it, we cannot escape it. The question is: can we use this technology to disciple others?

## Model

The Apostle Paul frequently taught it was important to live wisely in the world (Ephesians 5:15). We can model this wisdom through careful posting and texting. Conversely, if we don't post and text well, we reduce our ability to disciple others. Paul instructed us to be careful lest our behavior become a "stumbling block" (1 Corinthians 8:9). Our posts and tweets are observed by a diverse group of people with all kinds of strongly held views and opinions. We must be careful when posting about anything political or controversial that can alienate others from the gospel. Most of us do not start the day thinking, "How can I turn people away from the gospel on Facebook today?" But it is easy to err, and often we fail to think through how a post or tweet might be perceived.

First Corinthians 9 provides a helpful guide to follow. Paul instructed us to put ourselves in the shoes of a variety of people so we might by all means save some (1 Corinthians 9:19-22). As we post and text, we must ask "What kind of impact might this have?"

Another area we can become a stumbling block is through expressions of anger. Often, people on social media operate without a filter. This leads to harsh comments and stinging arguments. Sometimes, we need to enact Proverbs 26:5 and provide an answer to others. Usually, it is more useful to employ Proverbs 26:4 and say nothing to avoid looking foolish or needless online arguments.

Too often, our social media activity embraces the *eye-for-an-eye* approach when we would do better to *turn the other cheek* (Matthew 5:39), ignoring perceived insults or slights. We must discipline ourselves (1 Corinthians 9:27) to keep our digital behavior from becoming a stumbling block. Self-control will give us opportunities to disciple and be salt and light (Matthew 5:39-40).

When texting, we must watch our tone (Proverbs 15:1) and know when it is best to talk to someone in person. Be thoughtful and polite. Negative dialogue, even when well-meaning and constructive is difficult when you are not face-to-face.

## Monitor

People who have grown up with social media don't think twice about disclosing personal information. Therefore, social media can inform us

about what people are thinking, and how they are impacted by the culture. Research indicates some of the highest consumers of social media often struggle with depression and eating disorders. If you want to know the struggles of your congregation or those to whom you minister, just look at their Facebook page or Twitter feed. It will help you pray for them and gather information to help them.

## Encourage

We are called to encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11). This is certainly possible through technology. While most discipleship occurs face to face, a brief text provides a quick touch, a simple reminder we are thinking of and praying for someone. We can positively impact people just by liking their status or new profile picture or commenting on their post. However, be careful to private message anything of a sensitive nature, such as a condolence to a grieving widow.

The key is to use technology as a discipleship tool rather than allowing it to use us. Let us do all things well (1 Corinthians 10:31) and let our speech (posts and texts) be seasoned with grace (Colossians 4:5-6) as another discipleship tool. [ONE](#)

\*Find links to the studies and resources in this editorial: [www.onemag.org/one\\_one89.htm](http://www.onemag.org/one_one89.htm)

## Eddie Moody

Executive Secretary,  
National Association  
of Free Will Baptists



ANNOUNCING THE THEME FOR THE 2020 V3 CONFERENCE:

# RESOLVED

VIII CONFERENCE  
JULY 19-22, 2020

DANIEL 1:8 STATES "BUT DANIEL **RESOLVED** THAT HE WOULD NOT DEFILE HIMSELF..."

**JOIN US** IN OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA AS WE EXPLORE WAYS TO STAY **RESOLVED**.



## Special Needs Events

Vertical Three and CTS are excited to bring a new offering to the CTS slate: **Special Needs events!** Special Needs is a new exhibition level category where any student with special needs can participate in a separate, safe environment. Special needs students will not compete against one another but will receive CTS Expo score sheets from judges who will encourage them to use their talents for the Kingdom. Visit [www.verticalthree.com](http://www.verticalthree.com) for more updates!

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