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The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2012

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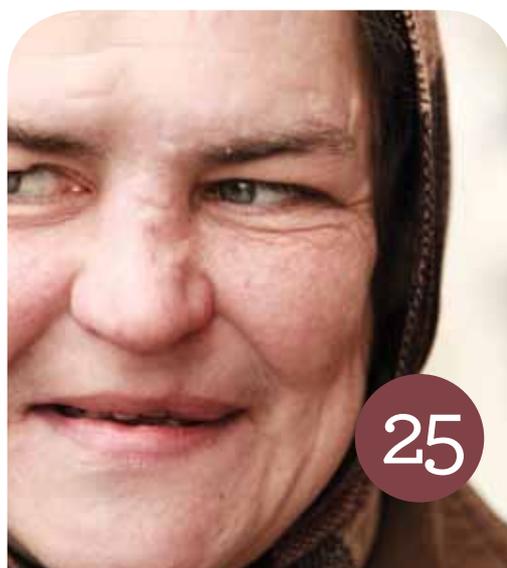
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Unexpected Treasure

Matthew 6:2-3, 19-24

ON HANDS AND KNEES, SHE FOLLOWED THE BECKONING TRAIL OF SCATTERED pennies across the hotel room floor until it disappeared under the bedskirt. Amused by her childish excitement, I quipped, “Why don’t you look under the bed. Maybe you will find a treasure.”

Imagine my surprise when my 12-year-old daughter—eyes like saucers—pulled out a bulging wallet! Stuffed with \$20s and \$50s, an old bus ticket, and no identification, the faded leather held a treasure indeed. As I thumbed through the stack of bills, I could almost see dollar signs reflected in my daughter’s sparkling blue eyes. I steeled myself for the inevitable question, “Can I keep it?”

But when the question came, it was not what I expected. “Daddy, shouldn’t we give this money to the hotel?”

I simply stared—shocked speechless. Finally, I stammered, “Wha-at?” just to be sure that I had heard her correctly.

“Don’t you think we should give this money to the hotel?”

I’m sure somebody is looking for it. Maybe they are on vacation like us, and I don’t want them to get stranded in Utah.”

It was a proud moment. At age 12, my daughter has already learned that doing the right thing is more important than money. Sadly, many adults never learn this (or have forgotten). As a result, our culture is littered with cash casualties—marriages split by arguments over money, exhausted workaholics who dedicate every waking moment to getting ahead, and

We fool ourselves to think any temporary, fleeting possession in this life will bring happiness.

countless millions obsessed by the endless search for temporary “treasures” of this world.

It’s not a new problem. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught His followers a great deal about money, sharing revolutionary principles that run counter to the he-who-dies-with-the-most-toys-wins mindset of a material-mad world.

The principles are straightforward and simple. Give to those in need faithfully and quietly, and God will reward you (verses 2-4). Make financial decisions with eternity in mind (verses 19-23). Understand that financial priorities are a spiritual matter (verse 21). Stop worrying about necessities since God has promised to take care of you, demonstrating His faithfulness time and again (verses 25-34).

In verse 24, Jesus reached the crux of the issue—the bottom line if you will. No man can serve two masters. You cannot serve God and money. While this is true of financial matters, it is also true in every other area of life. God must be the sole focus of life’s “treasure hunt.” We fool ourselves to think any temporary, fleeting possession in this life will bring happiness. Ultimate fulfillment is found only in God and full surrender to His leading.

By the way, the hotel called to let us know an elderly dairy farmer claimed the wallet. Maybe he will name a cow after my daughter. **ONE**

ERIC THOMSEN, MANAGING EDITOR

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Bring it! That is what I call “shucking corn” and getting back to the basics. People today are looking for the truth (biblical fidelity) talked about in this article (“The Ordinary Means of Growth,” October-November, page 6). I, for one, am tired of having everything sugar coated and watered down. In my heart, I know the truth. Oh yeah, and the truth shall set you free. Indeed, the delivery of the gospel has been compromised in our quest to fit in. Please! Let the world change as it needs.

As I read this article, several things kept popping into my head. Point, set, match—how difficult is this? Finally, Jesus said it, I believe it, therefore, it is so! I laughed at the delivery of the gospel changing because of the polling of the latest focus group. How we skirt around the truth.

Thanks for printing this article, and thanks to Dr. Duncan, for “getting it.”

G.Wayne Byrd (via email)

Three excellent articles stood out to me in the October-November issue. “Discipleship From the Ground Up” by Tim Osborn was exceptional, particularly the section on adversity. Knowing about Brother Osborn’s struggle with cancer, this was especially poignant. Second, “God’s White Envelopes” by Wayne Spruill was a true blessing and a great reminder of God’s provision even in the toughest of times. Third, “Thank You for Your Service” by Chaplain Trogdon nearly made me cry as he reminded us not to forget the families of our soldiers. This was a wonderful reminder, and it was appreciated.

Thank you for these three excellent articles and for helping me to grow as a Christian.

Joshua Burba, Nashville, Tennessee

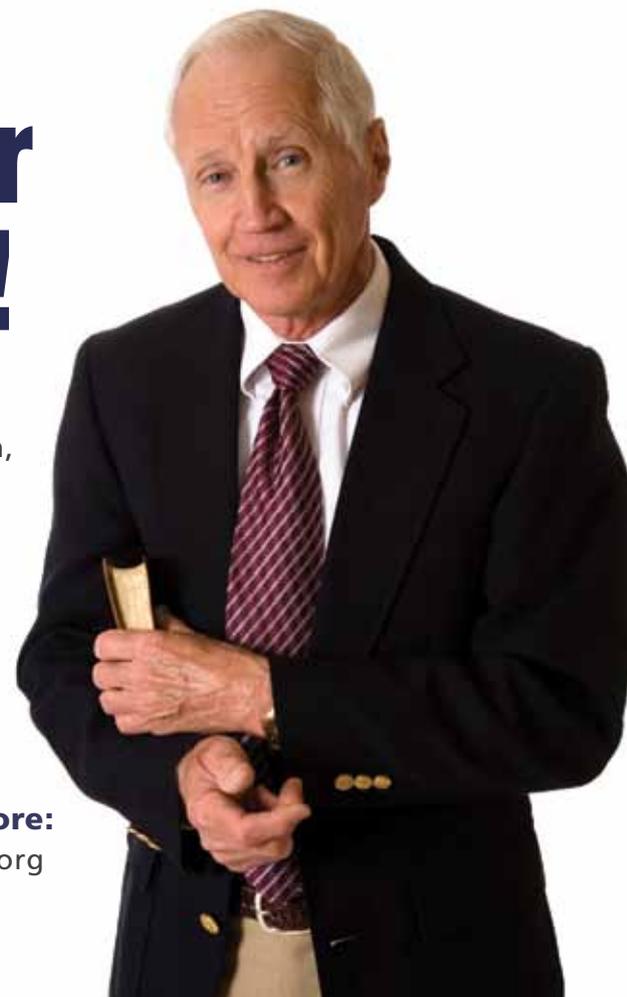
I appreciate the very informative article (“Handling the Lord’s Money,” October-November, page 36) that every church leader should read. It was something I was taught early in my ministry. My teachers at Bob Jones University would say there are two things that pastors must watch: money and relationships with the opposite sex, and so for 45 years at the same church, I have tried my best to incorporate that advice in my ministry. I was surprised at the percentage (32%) of embezzlement in fundamental churches. Thanks again for the wise warning!

Earl Hendrix, Inman, South Carolina

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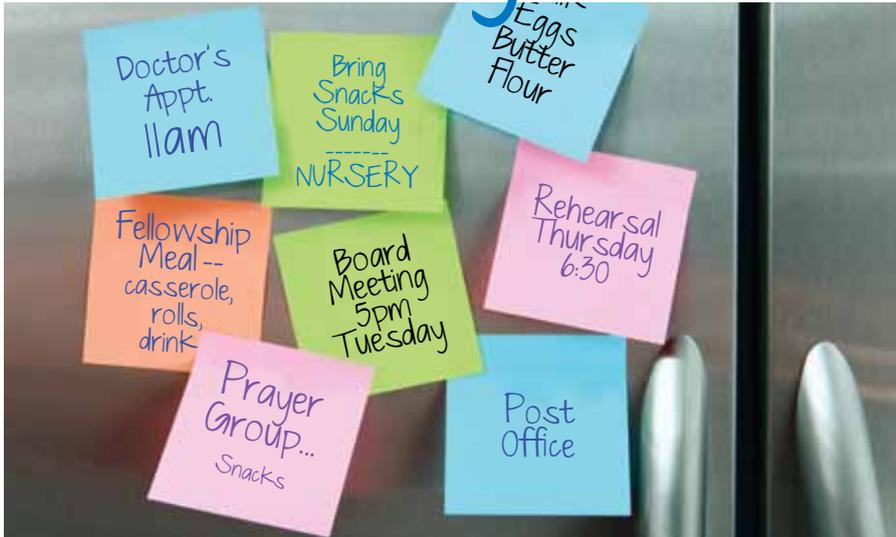


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An unusual perspective on stewardship...

Just Say No

BY AMANDA KILGORE



Just say no. Easier said than done, right? Why is it the same group of people seems to end up doing all the jobs in a church? Is it because we really want to stay that busy? Are we afraid if we don't, no one else will? Or maybe we feel guilty (false guilt, by the way) if we don't do everything someone expects of us. We feel obligated, thinking, "God surely must want us to do this particular job; why else would church leadership have asked us?"

Stop! These lines of thinking are not necessarily true or even biblical. Yes, God commands us to work in the Kingdom. He has equipped each of us with special talents and abilities for the benefit of the Body of Christ. Ephesians 6:7 tells us, "With *good will* doing service, *as to the Lord*, and *not to men*" (emphasis mine). In *The Message*, Eugene Peterson states it this way: "And work with a smile on your face, always keeping in mind that no matter who happens to be giving the orders, you're really serving God." This is our guide to Kingdom work in a nutshell. Let's break it down, ask some probing questions, and respond with honest answers.

GOOD WILL

"With good will doing service" means serving with joy and contentment. It implies serving with a willing heart and smiling face. How willingly do we approach our positions of service in the church? Do we look forward to Sunday in the nursery or dread the thought of having to change a dirty diaper? Do we prepare children's church lessons with enthusiasm, looking for creative ways to share the gospel with children, or do we just try to think of ways to keep kids occupied and under control? And what about those teenagers? Are we excited about influencing them to make a difference in the world for Christ; or does their choice of music, enthusiasm

about sports, and expressions of adolescent angst turn us off?

Maybe it isn't wrong to dread changing diapers, corralling young children, or disagreeing with a teenager's favorite things. But those feelings are indicators we are not serving with good will.

AS TO THE LORD

Everything we do should follow the example of Jesus. We strive to serve others as He would. In addition, we serve Christ in our work. Whether evangelizing the lost or edifying the body of believers, the sole reason for our labors should hinge on pleasing Him.

Yes, that dirty diaper change can be done with the mind of Christ. We serve others in imitation of His love and care for us. If we work for any other reason—to make a name for ourselves, to prove ourselves indispensable to our church, to fulfill a duty or obligation, or a host of other things—we will accomplish nothing worthwhile or lasting.

NOT TO MEN

God gives each of us a place of service; He equips us with the necessary abilities to do the job He desires. Unfortunately, we sometimes lose track of where or how we fit within the Body of Christ. Sometimes we feel pressured into a particular position—especially in smaller churches where fewer workers equals multiple responsibilities. Sometimes our egos take over, and we want to do something that puts us in the limelight. Other times, we may want to try something different or move out of our comfort zone.

Whatever we do, several basic principles should guide our service. We serve because God has called us. We do not go in our own wisdom but by His direction. We do not serve God to please men. We do not fill a capacity just because some person tells us we should. We work at God's command.

SAYING NO

So how can we find our place in His Kingdom? Complete a spiritual gifts survey. Ask others to identify talents and abilities. Above all, pray and seek God's direction before making decisions. Teaching a children's Sunday School class may seem easy enough, but students deserve our very best. If we lack devotion, they will soon tune us out, and a great opportunity to share Christ may be lost. We should not serve because someone asks us, but because we sense a calling.

WE SERVE OTHERS IN IMITATION OF HIS LOVE AND CARE FOR US.

Saying no to a ministry or church position is hard. We may feel guilty or fear that others will think less of us.

But remember, we work for God, not men. He wants to give us wonderful opportunities to grow and bless others, but we must be available. If all our time is taken up by a dozen different things in the church—none for which we've been called or equipped—we may miss those God-opportunities. Don't be afraid to pick and choose with God's direction.

When my husband underwent four surgeries, 12 rounds of chemo, and two hearts stents in less than two years, my life came to a standstill for a season. I quit all my positions in the church to care for him. As he recovered, and we have returned to involvement in ministry, I've realized I don't have to do everything. During my time away, the church functioned perfectly well, and they didn't miss a beat. Who would have believed?

Now, I am feeling my way back into

service and truly seeking God's will in determining commitments. It's a great feeling. I am finding my walk with Christ much more enjoyable.

I hope your "aha" moment is not as dramatic as mine, but if you find yourself too busy, stop and prioritize. Think about what brings you joy. Consider your God-given talents and abilities. Discover your passions. Match those things with positions in the church. Then, be ready for what God may do as you wholeheartedly serve within the Body of Christ. **ONE**

About the Writer: Amanda Kilgore is president of Tennessee Women Active for Christ. She also works as program and development director of the Hope Center, part of Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, where her husband James serves as president and CEO.



New Release

BY MARK MCPeAK

WITH EMILY WHITE YOUREE

If you could improve—even remedy—the dysfunction in your local congregation, would you?

Of course, we all strive for unity in various settings, but we often ignore direct instruction given in Scripture on how to treat one another. This is an excellent six-week small group study that will focus on the following principles:

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Do you realize that stewardship includes...

Caring for the Pastor: *a Stewardship*

BY NORMA
JACKSON GOLDMAN



I was blessed in my early Christian life to have a pastor who made eternal investments in me. He taught me the basic Christian disciplines—personal and corporate prayer, Bible study, worship, service, and stewardship. He helped me understand the concept of obedience and that a believer is privileged to obtain guidance from the Holy Spirit.

From this foundational teaching, my knowledge and experience in these areas grew and expanded with practice. In time, I learned that God designated us to be stewards over His world. Most of life relates to our faithfulness as stewards, not just of the world and its resources, but all He provides—our birth and spiritual families, work, gifts, friends, and yes, our pastors.

This responsibility to care and protect God's shepherd of the local church remains a weakness for most Christians. Scripture tells us, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace."

If you are privileged to be part of a congregation where God's Word is preached and exalted, rejoice and give thanks, for thousands of churches around the world do not have a pastor. God has entrusted the pastor to your care. But what does it mean to be a "steward" of a pastor?

Scripture is filled with examples that illustrate the "stewardship of others," such as parents who love, care, and provide for their children so they, in turn, may live godly, fruitful, and productive lives from childhood to old age. We see an example of this type of stewardship in the commitment of David to his son, Solomon.

Loving Pastors

The scriptural definition of love includes a measure of reverence and respect. You express love by seeking God's best for your pastor as he lives out his call. Perhaps in his humanity, he doesn't quite fill the bill for some idea you have about his ministry. But that does not excuse us from our responsibility to pray for him, encourage, support, and follow his leadership as God's designated under-shepherd.

To love God's anointed also means to love his family. Don't expect more of them than you expect of yourself. Recognize that, like you, they have areas of strength and weakness.

Caring for Pastors

There is no question that God requires His church to care for its leaders and to provide generously for their physical needs. Take note of the word *generously*—the very essence of God the Father. He *generously* provided redemption, not counting the cost nor sparing His only Son. He *generously* offers fellowship and favor, both now and for eternity. His generosity dictates that we do the same—not grudgingly, but cheerfully. He makes it clear He loves a cheerful giver.

It is the stewardship role of a church to consider carefully the pastor's present and future needs—providing an appropriate salary and benefits now while considering his needs in retirement. Free Will Baptist churches are blessed to have the Board

of Retirement to help with planning. Learn more about Free Will Baptist retirement options at www.boardofretirement.com

Providing for Pastors

What tools do you need in your work? Time, study materials, support staff, or volunteers? Your pastor requires similar resources to maximize his time and energy. As you pray for him daily, ask God to reveal ways you can provide for his needs and honor God and His kingdom through advances in your pastor's ministry. **ONE**

About the Writer: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman is a regular contributor to *ONE Magazine*. The award-winning columnist lives near Nashville, TN.

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TRADING ON

INSIDER INFORMATION

BY DAVID BROWN

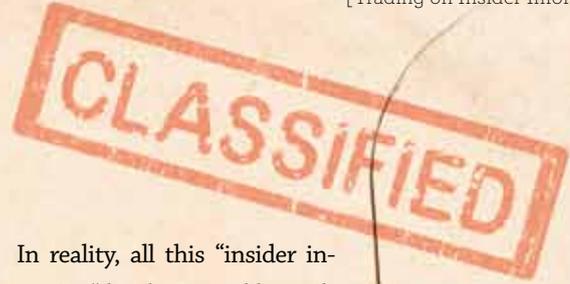
Are you looking for insider trading information so you can be assured a nice profit? In the business world, insider information is data unavailable to the general public that can be used to trade stocks or bonds at just the right time. Here is some “insider information” about the Free Will Baptist Foundation that will allow anyone to make a good deal.

Did you know that *charitable remainder unitrusts* allow you to avoid capital gains taxes? And it is perfectly legal. You can use highly appreciated assets like stocks or bonds to fund a unitrust and completely avoid accumulated capital gains. It is also possible to avoid capital gains taxes on highly depreciated assets like rental property. Depreciating rental property is a great way to reduce taxes. Unfortunately, when selling the property you have to recapture that depreciation at a tax rate of 28%. By placing rental property in a unitrust, you can avoid capital gains taxes caused by depreciation.

Consider another piece of insider information: it is possible to get tax-free income. A charitable gift annuity will allow you to receive a large portion of your income tax free. A 70-year-old couple can enjoy a guaranteed fixed rate income of 5.4%, or \$540 a year (based on a \$10,000 investment), and 78% would be tax-free. This means the couple would receive \$540 but would pay taxes only on \$115.

Of course, both examples are contingent on a planned gift that results in a partial charitable deduction. They would also have peace of mind in knowing the remainder of their planned gift will go to the ministry of their choice when they go to their reward in Heaven.

Here's another bit of insider information: you can get an interest rate better than five-year CD rates and still enjoy access to your money. Money Management Trusts (MMT) available through the Foundation offer



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an interest rate of 2.75%, and you can make deposits or withdrawals from them whenever you choose. The best five-year CD rate in the country (at least when this article was written) is 2%. You can't make additional deposits to a CD, and you can't withdraw from it until the end of the five-year period.

Another news flash of insider information: endowments managed by the Foundation contribute significant sums to Free Will Baptist ministries ev-

ery year. You no longer have to wonder if it is possible to endow your favorite Free Will Baptist ministry, because the answer is yes. You can endow *any* ministry through the Foundation.

The last tidbit of insider information is that Free Will Baptist Foundation offers free Wills Guides. Everyone should have a will, and we all need to tithe on the assets from our estates. These wills guides have been made available to many Free Will Baptist ministries as well.

In reality, all this "insider information" has been readily available from the Foundation for years. Unfortunately, we have not been able to communicate it effectively. We have been the "stealth" department, flying under most Free Will Baptists' radar. We want you to know we are here, ready to serve, through a planned gift, endowment, Wills Guide, or money management trust. Please contact our office for more information. **ONE**

About the Writer: David Brown became director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation in 2007. He is a 1979 graduate of Free Will Baptist College and received his Certification in Accounting from Tennessee State University. He is a Certified Public Accountant.

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The Road to Wealth

By John Brummitt



Maybe the road to trouble is paved with good intentions, as the old saying goes, but the road to wealth is full of potholes and detours. The road to financial stability is not an easy path to follow with today's lifestyles. But you can avoid many detours and potholes by following a few simple strategies.

Create an Expense Account

Expense accounts aren't just for businesses anymore. Most people hate to set up a budget, and they often stick to it for only a couple of months. Instead, consider creating a more flexible expense account. The process is simple. Set up a personal checking account with no monthly fee. Most free accounts have a minimum balance, so transfer the minimum balance as the account is opened to avoid charges.

The minimum balance is your cushion, and you should never spend below the minimum balance. Next comes the difficult part. Look through your

monthly bills and determine how much of your paycheck you need to cover your expenses. Direct a monthly deposit to cover that amount. Then, set up a direct deposit into savings for the balance of your paycheck.

At the end of the month, check the balance and move the excess (anything above your minimum balance) into savings. If you dip under the minimum balance, transfer necessary funds from savings. Each month, strive to move money *to* rather than *from* savings. This simple "expense account" approach to finances creates a balanced budget without tracking every expense.

Don't Miss the Benefits

Many employers offer matching funds for retirement. This means your employer will match your contribution to a retirement program. Follow these simple steps to reduce taxability and to benefit from compounding interest. Contribute 10% of your salary to maintain your current standard of living in retirement. The nice thing about putting 10% into a retirement account is that it will only decrease your take home pay by 7% because of tax benefits. In a few years, you will actually look forward to opening your retirement statement.



Buy From the Guy in a Tight Spot

In an economic downturn, it pays to be a smart shopper. Use resources like craigslist.com, ebay.com, and foreclosure sites to purchase items at huge discounts. Buy from the guy in a tight spot who needs the money. Contrary to popular opinion, you are not “taking advantage” of this guy, but rather helping him out of a bad situation. If he were not willing to sell, the item would not be listed. And by purchasing from him, you save money. Smart shopping is better for everybody in the long run.

No Loans From the Nest Egg

Borrowing from your nest egg is a bad idea for two reasons. First, you lose the compounding interest. Perhaps you’re thinking, “So, what is the big deal?” Just look at the math involved. If you are 35 years old and borrow \$50,000—the maximum allowed by the IRS—and you pay it back in four years, you potentially will lose \$325,000 from your retirement sav-

ings (based on historical returns of the market).

Second, you borrow tax-deferred money from your retirement account but pay it back with after-tax funds. In the end, you are taxed twice on the funds you borrow, making retirement fund loans much less appealing.

Don’t Panic!

Investing in the stock market has been the best way for people to grow assets for the last several decades. Most of us don’t have other options for investing our retirement or savings. Because people do not understand market cycles, they are more likely to panic when large sell-offs occur in the market, like we have seen in the third quarter of 2011.

When the market starts down, the first reaction is to jump ship. Then, when the market starts climbing, many investors want to jump back in. The problem is that by selling in the dips and buying on the climbs, they miss the gains and end up losing twice on their investments. They sell at a loss

and buy at a loss.

In a study by Morningstar, Inc., a review of a 20-year investment, 5,044 trading days, in the stock market produced an 11.82% return. Taking out the 10 best days, the return drops to 9.20%. Take out the 30 best days of trading, and the return drops to 5.37%, and if you take out the top 50 days you end up with a return of 2.33%. That means that 99.01% of the time you have money in the stock market will likely be a wash, gaining nothing. Jumping back and forth in your investment only increases your chances of missing the best days.

While the strategies in this article are not rocket science, they are extremely beneficial for the pursuit of financial stability. You don’t have to make drastic changes to your lifestyle or move huge amounts of funds over in order to reach your financial goals. Track your expenses, make best use of your benefits, shop for the best deals, protect your nest egg, and stay calm during economic downturns to achieve your goal faster and with less effort. **ONE**

About the Writer: A 2011 MBA/Finance graduate from Tennessee Technological University, John Brummitt is chief financial officer for the FWB Board of Retirement.



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Understanding YOUR Credit Score

BY D. RAY LEWIS

When my wife and I were first married, we decided to purchase a television on credit. Feeling all grown up, we went to the store, filled out the paperwork, and then had to wait a few days to see whether or not we were approved.

Today, consumers can go online and get approved for credit within 60 seconds. We can get pre-approved for a car loan without answering any questions about how much money we make. We can apply for the same loan at the same place as our neighbor, and we may get one interest rate while our neighbor gets another.

What has changed through the years? The answer is credit scoring.

The term *credit score* usually refers to a three-digit FICO score ranging from 300 to 850. The term *FICO* comes from the company that began the calculation of credit scores, the Fair Isaac Corporation. When you apply for credit, lenders want to know what risk they will take by loaning you money. They depend on your credit score to determine whether or not to give you credit, and how high your interest rate will be. The higher the number, the better you look to them.

If you have an existing credit card, the issuer is likely to look at your credit score to decide whether to increase your credit limit or whether to charge you a higher interest rate.

In general, five factors affect your score:

1 Payment history (35%).

This includes information on how you've paid credit card bills, installment loans, mortgage payments, etc. It also includes any adverse public records such as bankruptcy, liens, or collections. Paying all your bills on time is good. Paying them late on a consistent basis is bad.

2 Amount you owe (30%).

The second factor affecting your score is your outstanding debt—how much you owe. This includes the total amount of credit you have available. People with the highest scores use credit sparingly and keep their balances low.

3 Length of credit history (15%).

The longer you've had credit, particularly if it's with the same lenders, the more points you get.

4 New credit (10%).

This provides details on how many accounts you've opened recently compared with your total number of accounts. Your score can drop if it appears you are seeking several new sources of credit, a sign of financial trouble.

5 Types of credit used (10%).

The best scores will have a mix of revolving credit (credit cards), and installment credit (mortgages and car loans).

Installment debt demonstrates that you can manage a large loan. How you handle revolving debt tends to carry more weight, because it is seen as a picture of your future behavior. (You can pay off the balance each month or just the minimum; max-out your credit cards or rarely use them.)

In light of our present economy, good credit isn't just nice to have. It is essential if you want to level the playing field with lenders. At one time in the not-too-distant past, a credit score of 720 was enough to get the best loan terms. Even people with lower scores could get decent deals, and at the peak of the lending boom, it seemed that no score was too low.

Today, lenders typically demand a minimum score of 740 for the best mortgage rates. Lower scores mean

higher rates or perhaps no loans at all.

One of the major drawbacks to credit scoring is that it relies on information in your credit report, which may contain errors. That is why it is extremely important to check your credit reports annually, or at least three to six months before making a major purchase. That will give you sufficient time to correct any errors before a lender checks your score.

You cannot get your credit score without paying a fee. However, what is reported on your credit report is what determines your credit score, and you are entitled to see your credit report once a year at no cost from each of the three credit reporting agencies, Equifax, Experian, or TransUnion. To obtain a free credit report, simply go to www.annualcreditreport.com.

If you notice inaccurate information, you can submit a request for removal to one of the three agencies above. Be sure to specify which information is inaccurate and why. Include any documents to support your claim. Ask in writing that the information be corrected or removed from your report.

By law, the bureaus must investigate your complaint and give you a response in writing along with a free copy of your report if the information is changed. Your score should reflect that change shortly afterwards.

Having a good credit score is important when applying for new credit or loans. The best way to maintain good credit is to pay on time, pay more than the minimum, and monitor your credit report at regular intervals for any inaccurate details. **ONE**

About the Writer: D. Ray Lewis joined the Board of Retirement in 1983. He became director in 2005 after serving for several years as assistant director.



Free Will Baptist Bible College

Christian Community of Faith and Learning

More than 40 major areas of study include: Biblical Studies, Biology, Business, English, History, Ministry, Missions, Music, Pre-Law, Pre-Nursing, Psychology, Sports Management, Teacher Education, and many more. [View all degrees online.](#)

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Brown on **Green** >>>>

Stewardship: It's not just about the money.

Often, when we hear the word stewardship, the first thing we think about is giving money to a particular ministry. Stewardship is much more than giving money, however, although that is included. Stewardship starts by giving ourselves to Him—everything we have and everything we are.

When we consider our income, God is interested in 100%, not just the 10% He requires us to give back. God is not just interested in our tithe, but also in what we do with the rest of our income. He wants us to manage our income in a way that all of it will be pleasing to Him. The tithe may go to our church so it can minister to us and reach the lost, but we must spend wisely, save, and invest the rest if we are to be good stewards of God's blessings.

Stewardship is also about assets. Over our lifetimes we accumulate material possessions of varying value. Our estates usually consist of a home, insurance proceeds, retirement accounts, and other savings. It is very important that we remember the scriptural principal of tithing on our estates just as we do with our income.

The impact on our denomination could be huge. The illustration to the right demonstrates the potential impact. If every Free Will Baptist household (approximately 60,000) left 10% of their assets to ministries the results



would be staggering. By my calculations, we could fully fund every ministry through endowment income. Endowment income to ministries would be more than \$30 million a year if we only tithed on our estates. And most heirs will not be upset that they did not receive 100%. Leaving a bequest to ministry will be a final testimony to everyone about how much we loved the Lord.

Using a planned gift may be a good way to tithe on your estate. You can choose an asset equal to your tithe as a planned gift. In addition to ultimately benefiting the ministry, you also receive income for your lifetime.

We have a big job to do to reach the world for Christ. Income from both the living and those who have gone to be with the Lord are needed to accomplish the task. Please remember that stewardship does not end when we die. Make plans to leave a bequest or planned gift to ministry. Contact the Foundation for more information on a planned gift or a free Wills Guide. **ONE**

The Potential of Planned Giving

What if every
Free Will Baptist tithed
on their estate?

The numbers are staggering.

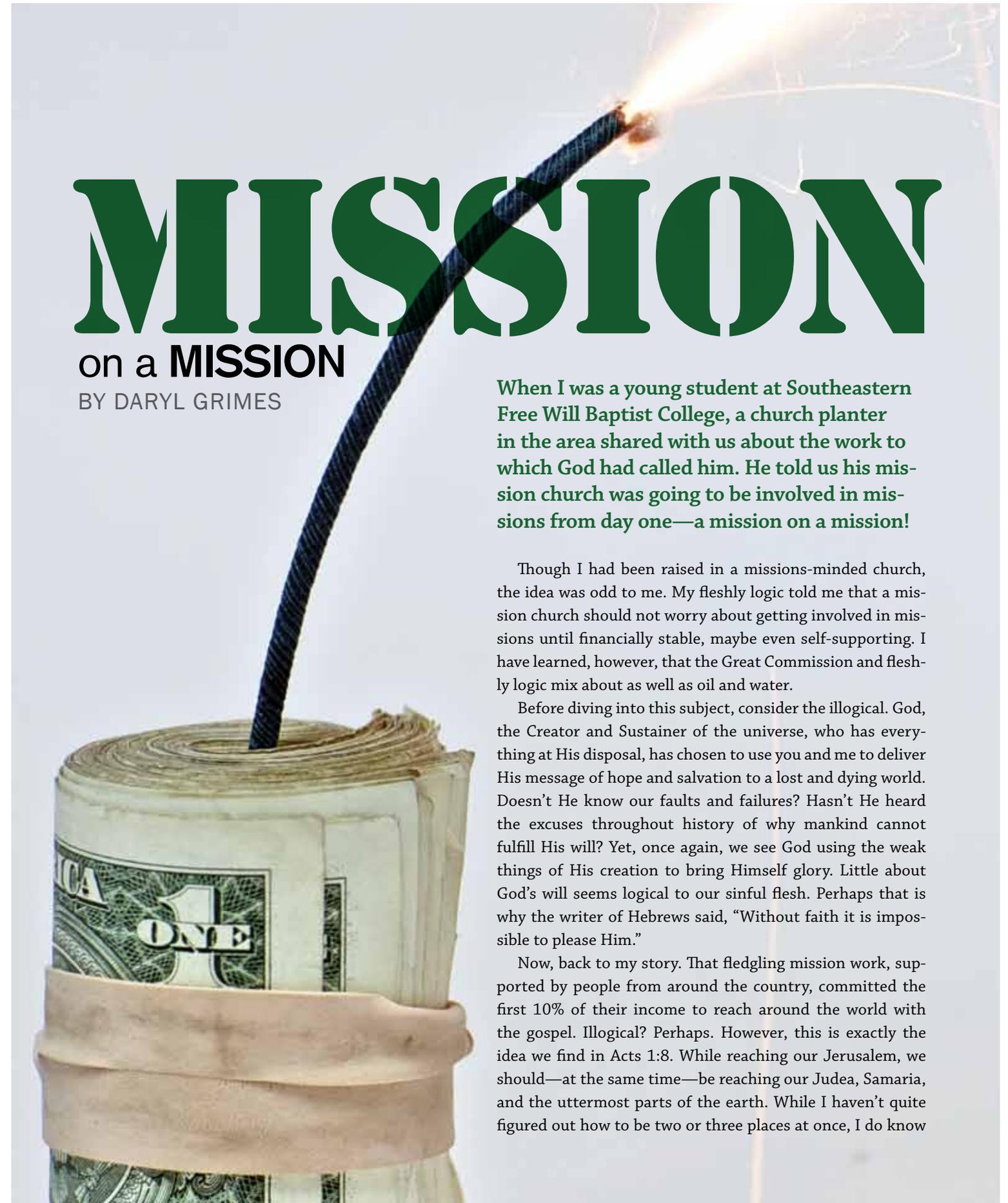
**Free Will Baptist
households:** 60,000

Average estate: \$100,000

Total value of FWB estates:
\$6,000,000,000 (\$6 billion)

Tithe (10%):
\$600,000,000 (\$600 million)

**5% perpetual
endowment income:**
\$30,000,000 (\$30 million)



MISSION

on a **MISSION**

BY DARYL GRIMES

When I was a young student at Southeastern Free Will Baptist College, a church planter in the area shared with us about the work to which God had called him. He told us his mission church was going to be involved in missions from day one—a mission on a mission!

Though I had been raised in a missions-minded church, the idea was odd to me. My fleshly logic told me that a mission church should not worry about getting involved in missions until financially stable, maybe even self-supporting. I have learned, however, that the Great Commission and fleshly logic mix about as well as oil and water.

Before diving into this subject, consider the illogical. God, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, who has everything at His disposal, has chosen to use you and me to deliver His message of hope and salvation to a lost and dying world. Doesn't He know our faults and failures? Hasn't He heard the excuses throughout history of why mankind cannot fulfill His will? Yet, once again, we see God using the weak things of His creation to bring Himself glory. Little about God's will seems logical to our sinful flesh. Perhaps that is why the writer of Hebrews said, "Without faith it is impossible to please Him."

Now, back to my story. That fledgling mission work, supported by people from around the country, committed the first 10% of their income to reach around the world with the gospel. Illogical? Perhaps. However, this is exactly the idea we find in Acts 1:8. While reaching our Jerusalem, we should—at the same time—be reaching our Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth. While I haven't quite figured out how to be two or three places at once, I do know

More and more mission churches have a burden to reach beyond their local community for Christ—to have a heart for the world!

that we will never reach the uttermost parts of the earth if we focus only on our Jerusalem. Though we may not be able to go to Judea and Samaria ourselves, we can help others go and reach the unreached.

The church I mentioned earlier didn't go bankrupt because they gave to missions from day one. Today, they have a multi-ministry church and recently started a Christian day care and school. Their influence has not only impacted the bustling city to which God called them, but has reached around the world, affecting lives all the way to India.

I believe every Christian has a responsibility to give first to their local church, but I also believe every local church has a responsibility to

collectively fulfill the Great Commission by giving so others can go to the regions beyond. More and more mission churches have a burden to reach beyond their local community for Christ—to have a heart for the world!

Christ commanded us to treat others as we want to be treated. Most home missionaries travel for more than a year, asking churches to support them, pray for them, and sacrifice financially to help them reach their field with the gospel. **As God entrusts funds to our mission, we would be doing a disservice to ourselves and to the unreached if we did not help others as we have been helped.**

I have been amazed at the support our church has received from other churches still labeled with a "mission"

status. These churches are missions on a mission. From day one, they teach new converts to look outward. I commend them and thank them for what they are doing, and by the grace of God, we will follow in their footsteps.

Just the other day, we wrote the first missions check from Flagship Free Will Baptist Church, and it felt so good. We were able to send a small amount to Free Will Baptist colleges, fellow home missionaries, and state and national ministries. I am not bragging on this decision but hope to inspire other churches. Whether your church is a mission work or not, step out in faith (not logic) and give to reach this world for Christ! **ONE**

About the Writer: Daryl Grimes is a home missionary to Erie, Pennsylvania. Read more about the church at www.flagshipchurch.org.

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It's Just GOOD BUSINESS

BY ROY HARRIS

For some, the very mention of the term *business meeting* sends a shiver up the spine, much like being reminded of an upcoming root canal. Business meetings create dread, anxiety, sometimes even fear, especially when difficult issues must be addressed. Yet business meetings, whether at the local church, district, state, or national level are necessary in the Free Will Baptist autonomous form of church government.

While you may never experience a sense of euphoria about an upcoming business meeting, you can defeat the dread and make meetings run more smoothly and successfully by considering the following suggestions:



Be punctual. Start the meeting on time. This sets the tone for the meeting and demonstrates respect for those in attendance.

Be prepared. Advance preparation helps the meeting stay focused and saves time. Good preparation includes an agenda, listing each item to be addressed. (Consider the sample agenda on the next page.)

Be productive. The following helpful hints—common sense, really—will help you get the most from your meeting.

- Ask that all discussion, comments, and questions be directed to the moderator. (This will help keep order and keep differences of opinion from getting out of hand.)
- Always get a motion and second on the floor before allowing discussion. This will help keep the discussion from wandering and wasting time.
- A motion is not a motion until the moderator recognizes it, repeats it, and asks for a second.
- After a motion and second, allow ample time for discussion but don't allow the debate to drag on indefinitely.

Know Your Motions. Three types of motions generally arise in business meetings: main motions, incidental motions, and motions to bring a question back to the assembly. The list below cites common motions that arise in business meetings:

Main Motions (Ordered by priority. Any motion below can be made, and is in order, if it appears higher on the list than the one already made below it.)

- **Motion to adjourn:** Everyone enjoys this motion as it signals an end to the meeting. However, the motion to adjourn cannot in-

terrupt a person speaking, requires a second, is not debatable, cannot be amended, and requires a majority vote.

- **Motion to table** (or lay on the table): Defers an item of business to another time. It must meet the following requirements: It cannot interrupt a person speaking, requires a second, is not debatable, cannot be amended, and requires a majority vote. *Note: Outside the United States, to table a motion means you make the item available for consideration.*
- **Motion for previous question:** Calls for an end to discussion. It cannot interrupt a person speaking, requires a second, is not debatable, cannot be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority.
- **Motion to postpone:** Delays the action as determined by the body. It cannot interrupt a person speaking, requires a second, is not debatable, cannot be amended, and requires a majority vote.
- **Motion to refer the matter to a committee:** Defers the item of business to a smaller subsection of the voting body. A committee is often used when more research is required or details need to be handled outside of a public forum. It cannot interrupt a person speaking, requires a second, is not debatable, cannot be amended, and requires a majority vote.
- **Motion to amend:** Adds to or alters an existing motion to make it more acceptable to the voting body, usually based on discussion. It cannot interrupt a person speaking, requires a second, is not debatable, cannot be amended, and requires a majority vote.
- **Motion to postpone indefinitely:** This motion effectively kills the item of business. It cannot interrupt a person speaking, requires a second, is not debatable, cannot be amended, and requires a majority vote.

Incidental Motions

(no order of priority and dealt with immediately)

- **Point of order:** Indicates a breach of protocol. Can interrupt someone speaking, does not require a second, is not debatable, cannot be amended, no vote is taken, and the moderator decides the validity of the point.
- **Appeal the decision of the chair:** Occurs when an individual does not agree with the ruling of the moderator. The motion may interrupt someone speaking, requires a second, is debatable, cannot be amended, and requires a majority vote to overrule the moderator's decision.
- **Motion to suspend the rules:** Permits the voting body to supersede the established rules. The motion cannot interrupt someone speaking, requires a second, is not debatable, cannot be amended, and requires a two-thirds vote.
- **Objection to the consideration of a question:** Prevents an embarrassing or manipulative question from public forum. The motion can interrupt a person speaking, does not need a second, is not debatable, cannot be amended, and requires a two-thirds vote.

Motions to Return a Previous Motion

- **Remove from the table:** Brings back a motion tabled earlier. The motion cannot interrupt a person speaking, requires a second, is not debatable, cannot be amended, and requires a majority vote.
- **Rescind a previous motion:** Reverses an action upon which the voting body has already agreed. It cannot interrupt a person speaking, must be made by a person who voted for the previously adopted motion, requires a second, is debatable, can be amended, and requires a majority vote providing the body has been notified ahead of time. (You may want to keep a copy of these motions with you as a reference when moderating business meetings. Download a pocket guide for business meetings at www.onemag.org.)

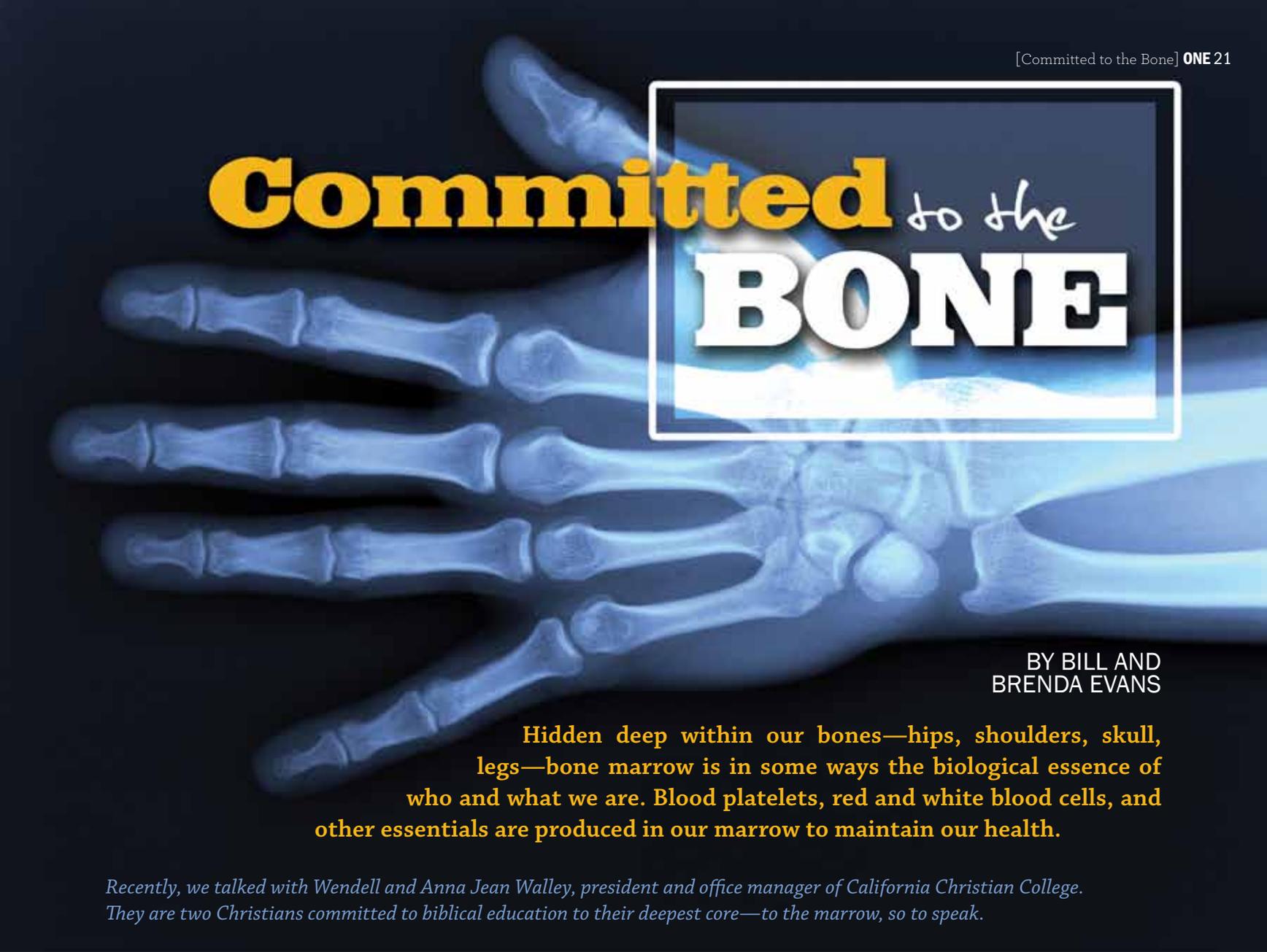
Smooth business meetings will help churches and associations accomplish their missions and set a course for future success. Following these simple suggestions should make business meetings productive and run more smoothly. They will relieve some stress, reduce anxiety, and save you money on Roloids or Maalox! **ONE**

About the Writer: Roy Harris has over 30 years ministry experience as pastor, educator, and conference speaker. He has served in leadership positions on the local, state, and national levels, and currently serves as moderator of Tennessee's Cumberland Association of Free Will Baptists.

Simple Meeting Agenda

1. Call the meeting to order.
2. Recognize and "seat" the delegates (have them stand).
 - Standing delegates
 - Church members for local church meetings.
 - Ordained ministers and deacons for local, state, and national association meetings.
 - Elected delegates
 - From local churches for district meetings.
 - From district meetings for state associations.
3. Recognize the clerk or secretary for the written record of the previous meeting's proceedings (minutes).
 - Ask for a motion* and second to receive the report.
 - Ask for questions or discussion.
 - Approve the minutes.
4. Recognize the treasurer to give the financial report.
 - Ask for a motion and second to receive the report.
 - Ask for questions or discussion.
 - Approve the minutes.
5. Introduce Board and Committee reports
 - Ask for a motion* and second to receive each report.
 - Ask for questions or discussion.
 - Approve the minutes.
6. Review any unfinished business from previous meetings (old business).
7. Ask if there is any new business to come before the body.
8. When you've covered your last item, ask for a motion to adjourn.

*If minutes and reports are printed and distributed, there may be no need to read them aloud. Ask for additions or corrections. If none are required, approve the minutes as read, no motion needed. This will save time.



Committed to the BONE

BY BILL AND
BRENDA EVANS

Hidden deep within our bones—hips, shoulders, skull, legs—bone marrow is in some ways the biological essence of who and what we are. Blood platelets, red and white blood cells, and other essentials are produced in our marrow to maintain our health.

Recently, we talked with Wendell and Anna Jean Walley, president and office manager of California Christian College. They are two Christians committed to biblical education to their deepest core—to the marrow, so to speak.

Just 12 years ago, when invited to consider the presidency, Wendell's response was "not interested." Among his reasons was that the college did not need a pastor for its president. It needed, he said, a fundraising, friend-raising visionary. Besides, God was blessing his North Carolina pastorate. He was not eager to head west for any reason, especially for a new calling.

Nor was Anna Jean—too many unknowns. "You may be Abraham, but I'm not Sarah," she said. All the while, she knew she would go wherever God sent her husband. Always had; always would. Still, college presidency was a "new country."

The invitation persisted, and Wendell could not turn away. "I was compelled," he recalls. "I felt it would be a spiritual crime not to say yes."

In August 1999, they headed west on four wheels—no camels needed. Like Abraham, Wendell walked the length and breadth of the six-acre Fresno campus, talking to the Lord and envision-

ing what could, should, and would happen there.

Fresno is at the center of the San Joaquin Valley, often called the Bread Basket of the World because of its astounding fruit, vegetable, and nut production. But from the beginning, Wendell saw the college as part of the Spiritual Bread Basket of the World.

"Ethnic and cultural diversity is a force that shapes Christian ministry in California. On this campus, we are situated at a time and place to make a unique impact for Christ," Wendell says.

"There are 35 million people in our state—1 out of 4 was born in another country; 44% speak a language other than English when they go home each evening, and 108 languages are spoken in California schools. If soul-changing revival comes to this state, it could impact the world for Christ."

Wendell wants California Christian College to be part of that. And so he reaches into the very marrow of his soul, to his will and wit, his perspective and persistence, to lead the college well.

“Twelve years ago I thought I knew what it takes to be an effective college president. Now I know that all you need is high energy and low IQ,” he laughs. Keeping perspective and a sense of humor is seeing things God’s way, according to Wendell.

“You know it’s a God-thing when your campus population rises in hard times like this, or when online classes increase. Unemployment in the Central Valley is 20%. When your faculty continues in spite of salary cuts while keeping up their morale, it’s a God-thing. Or when you trim staff salaries by half, and they still come to work. These people are unacknowledged heroes.”

Sacrifice is inherent in Christian education it seems. But sacrifice is not a word that Wendell uses often. Doing what you can, when and how you can—that is what a man or a woman of God does. Never mind the personal cost; never mind that many are unwilling.

Wendell’s welcome message on the college website makes that clear: “We truly are about developing contagious Christians committed to servant-leadership in the likeness of Christ.” Doing what you can with what God has put in your hand and heart is what it means to be serious servant leaders, serious stewards.

Beyond a Christ-driven perspective, however, is the issue of a Christ-driven persistence. Not one to whitewash the demands that fall on small-college presidents, Wendell says his quip about high energy and low intellect is not just for laughs. Presidents like Wendell often find themselves out from behind the desk or podium and into the trenches. Small-college presidency is a place where brawn is needed as much as brains.

Not every day at CCC is spent in white shirt and tie, even for the president. When the need for building repair is greater than the need for a presidential consultation, Wendell arrives on campus wearing his blue collar. He is not afraid to get his hands dirty.

Across the conference table, Wendell is a gentleman with an easy smile. He is an effective communicator with a keen intellect who does not lean on platitudes. Deep inside is a rugged will, a doggedness that will not be deterred from doing what he believes God is calling him to do: grow a collegiate community serious about biblical Christian education.

Wendell’s persistence showed up early in his presidency. After a difficult struggle with contrarian opponents, Anna Jean asked, “If you had known then, what you know now...,” Wendell interrupted. “Let’s don’t go there, but the answer is yes.”

A short time later, while painting a dismal view of the college’s financial situation, an auditor asked more than once,

“Have you considered closing the school?”

“This conversation is over,” Wendell responded. “I’m not paying anyone to discourage me.” And he walked out.

Of course, for California Christian College, as for most Christian colleges and universities, money is an ever-present issue. There is never enough. Wendell says financial instruction for our people is critical to turning around the deficits.

Doing what you can, when and how you can—that is what a man or a woman of God does.

“We need to train our people to include Christian education in their end-of-life financial planning. Our colleges must have sizable gifts to survive. Our bread and butter are faithful monthly checks from laymen and women. The people who started with the college have held on to their vision. They’ve not given up, and I’m so grateful.”

“But now we need additional ways to underwrite our colleges. For most of us, that means planning to give to Christian education through our estates. We are far behind on this method. The Free Will Baptist Foundation is strategic in this shift. They are prepared, eager to guide, and give free advice on how to do that.”

“We’ve simply got to get that new vision for how to give. Until then, what keeps me going and makes me unwilling to give up and say it can’t be done is our students.”

“Gabriel, who will graduate this year, spent time in the Bulldog Gang, then got saved in prison. He is a bear of a man. Now, he’s studying here, works at Youth for Christ, and recently received a community Volunteer of the Year award. You know what he told me? ‘You all have taught me how to be a human being.’”

“Another young man spent his first two years of college here and went on to become a constitutional lawyer. A woman who was a former drug pusher heads a ministry for women coming out of prison. Another alumna is regional director of Celebrate Recovery. The stories go on.”

Emotions glisten in his eyes. “That’s what gives you staying power—lives changed by Christ,” Wendell says in a whisper.

That—and commitment to the bone, all the way to the essence of who you are. **ONE**

Put Your

Money

Where Your

TRUST

Is By
Tom McCullough

I'm convinced the major reason God's ministries of evangelism, education, and compassion continue to be underfunded is a question of trust. I'm not talking about trust in the ministries to which we could give. I'm talking about trust in God.

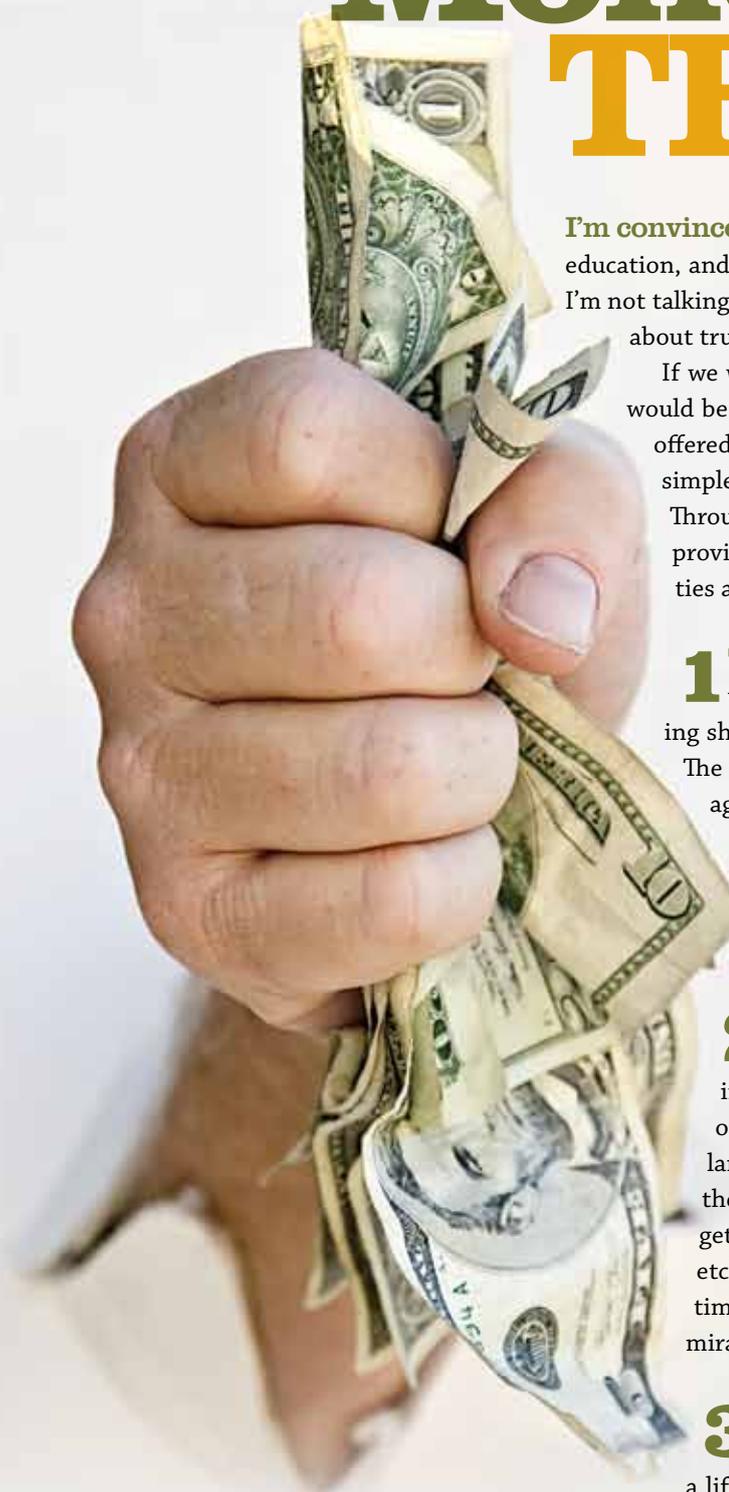
If we were really convinced we could trust God to take care of us, we would be more willing to share what we already possess. A new resource offered by Crown Financial Ministries titled, *God Provides*, teaches six simple principles that seek to rebuild that trust in our faithless hearts. Through six key episodes from Scripture, it is absolutely clear that God provides everything His children need to meet their daily responsibilities and to honor Him with their gifts.

1 The Widow's Oil: Use What You Have. Remember the widow whose creditors were knocking down her door, demanding she pay off her dead husband's debts? She begged Elisha for help. The prophet asked her what she had. She said, "Nothing." He asked again. She repeated, "Nothing...[pause]...except this oil."

He told her to use the resources she already possessed, call on God to make up the difference. She obeyed, and God did miracles. When we put to work even what may seem to us to be meager resources, God provides.

2 Jeremiah's Call: Trust God's Design. God's people were in exile because of their sins. False prophets were telling them it was God's will that they would soon cast off the yoke of their oppressors and be healthy and wealthy back in their own land. Jeremiah sent them a letter that refuted the claim; insisting they were in the predicament by God's design. The solution was to get busy doing what was in front of them (build houses, plant fields, etc). God, he insisted, would work miracles according to His own timetable. When we get busy with the work at hand, not waiting for miracles, God provides.

3 Abram's Reward: Make Life Decisions. When Abram left Haran to travel "who knew where," it was based on a life-changing decision to trust God's promises. The pattern of his life became a simple four-step procedure: follow God passionately; love others selflessly; hold onto possessions lightly; make allegiances wisely. Lot chose to



love things and use people, Abram chose to love people (and God) and use things. Look at how those two lives turned out. When we put people before things, God provides.

4 Abraham's Offering: Give Back What is His. Abraham obeyed God's request that he sacrifice his son, his only son, Isaac, the one he loved. Abraham understood that it was foolish to hold back from God what rightfully belonged to Him anyway. Sometimes, God tests our obedience to see if we are willing to return to Him the ownership of His good gifts to us. When we give back to Him what belongs to Him anyway, God provides.

5 The Rich Man's Regret: Choose Compassion Today. The story of the Rich Man and Lazarus found in Luke 16 is not primarily an exposition on the details about Hell. The context indicates that it was first and foremost an indictment of the Pharisees' unbiblical perspective on wealth. Though he possessed immense wealth, the Rich Man, once in the afterlife, had no more opportunity to right any wrongs or change the course of his misdirected life. By this, Jesus forcefully declared that compassion has an expiration date. When life is over, there is no more opportunity to spend one's resources for God's glory. It has been humorously suggested that hearses don't pull U-Hauls. We'll take nothing with us. When we share compassionately today with those in need, instead of hoarding a treasure that will never do us any good in the hereafter, God provides.

6 God's Gift: Embrace Life by Faith. Nicodemus sought Jesus by night. He had questions. Jesus had answers. In the end, Jesus suggested God's love for man was so great that He sent Jesus so we could be spiritually reborn. When we embrace by faith the greatest gift ever given, God provides.

Yes, God really provides. God provides for His own out of His great love and compassion. And the way He provides a message of love and compassion for the rest of the world is through His saints.

We are blessed in innumerable ways, yet we often hold tightly to what we have rather than honoring God and His promises by returning to Him what is already His. We need to give to missions so the rest of the world can experience God's provision of salvation through Jesus Christ. **ONE**

About the Writer: Tom McCullough pastors Central FWB Church in Royal Oak, Michigan. A former missionary to France, he is a member of the International Missions Board.

Ready to Participate in the WMO (World Missions Offering) This April?

If your church has never participated in the World Missions Offering, you might be asking, **"Where do we start?"** Follow this simple plan for a successful campaign.

Provide a scriptural context. Some members may have a limited understanding of the need to take the gospel around the world. Recognizing that every Christian has an obligation to share the truth of Jesus' grace will encourage them to talk to their neighbors as well as send others to tell the nations.

Assemble a team. Don't think one person must be responsible for everything. Engage a team to brainstorm ideas to promote the WMO in your church and to implement ideas.

Determine the scope. Will we just focus on a World Missions Offering? Will we have a month-long emphasis? Do we want to build up to emphasis month with monthly missions moments? Should we plan a missions banquet? What can we do in children's church?

Promote, promote, promote. IM offers assistance in promoting the WMO. Order coin banks, WMO videos, offering envelopes, and other supplies. Some are free; some have a small cost attached. Find resources at fwbgo.com.

Pray. Bathe your WMO in prayer. God moves in hearts as His people pray. Consider participating in the WNAC Pre-Easter Week of Prayer for International Missions.

Encourage. Recognize your congregation's efforts to promote the offering. Praise them for their participation. Celebrate together.

Evaluate. What went really well? What would we choose to do differently if we were to start over? (There's always next year.) How can we improve? Did we start planning early enough? How can we incorporate a missions emphasis throughout the year?

For more information on the 2012 WMO, visit the International Missions website: www.fwbgo.com.



Opening the Windows of Heaven:

Stories of the World Missions Offering

In 2011, nearly 500 churches gave to the annual World Missions Offering (WMO). Enjoy the following stories from a few of those churches.

**Stan
Bunch**
Good News
FWB Church
Chitré, Panama
\$200

**Missions is a
vital component
of the Panamanian
Association of Free
Will Baptist Churches.**

Each year, the national missions committee in Panama sponsors a nationwide missions conference, as well as district and local conferences. This effort has resulted in the churches in Panama being extremely missions oriented in doctrine, giving, and thinking.

Because of this emphasis on a national level, taking the Good News Free Will Baptist Church toward involvement in the World Missions Offering was a relatively simple step. Each Sunday, we have a three- to five-minute missions moment for prayer and to keep local church planting efforts before the people. Each year, we promote a faith promise commitment in the life of every church member as well as periodic special missions fundraisers.

In past years, we have used the coin banks, asking everyone to bring them on the designated Sunday. Interestingly, most members wanted to take the bank back home with them to begin saving for the next year's offering.

In Panama, we believe in supporting missions, largely because our churches and believers are the result of missions efforts. The vision statement on the front of Good News' Sunday bulletin reads, "Our vision is to be a church that starts new churches in Panama and around the world where the gospel is not being proclaimed." If we fail to keep that vision statement, we really have no right to call ourselves a church, nor do we have a means of justifying our existence. The local missions committee will continue to promote missions, annual fundraisers, faith promise commitments, and the WMO.

**Mike
Mounts**
Harrison
FWB Church
Minford, Ohio
\$4,565.26

**Through the
ministry and work
of the Holy Spirit,
the WMO really
caught fire.**

Brent Patrick
Trinity FWB Church
Bowling Green, Kentucky
\$8,193.73

After sluggish giving in 2010, with a token amount of money given to missions, the Lord impressed upon me that we were not doing enough. Without any fanfare or special marketing program, we embarked on the simple, but timeless and powerful truths of Malachi 3, challenging ourselves to tithe and to extend our missionary outreach far beyond current levels. Each church family was asked to not only tithe, but to also increase their tithe amount by 20%. In addition, our church's financial designation to missions was set at a level 3.5 times previous allocations. What happened next can only be explained as God being true to His Word (Malachi 3:10).

In the course of three months, the following financial blessings came: a \$5,000 check from a lady in the com-

We began planning the WMO in our January 2011 board meeting. I suggested we promote it the first Sunday of February through the last Sunday of April (WMO Sunday). We set a goal of \$2,000.

Since the church pitted women against men in a contest for missions in 2010, the board suggested we try it again. So, I asked a husband and wife to serve as team leaders. They are outgoing, enthusiastic, and have a heart for missions. And the excitement began.

The first Sunday, we showed a DVD clip that explains the coin banks, and we presented our goal of \$2,000. I also mentioned the contest and introduced the team captains. We made the coin banks available, actually handing them

out. Of course, extra banks were available. We provided separate containers up front in which to put coins, cash, and checks.

The team captains took alternating Sundays to motivate and encourage their team to support the World Missions Offering. Our ladies even composed and performed three WMO rap tunes that were fun and in good taste.

Although we had separate teams for the sake of competition, our captains brought us together each week, reminding us that the purpose of the WMO is to reach the world for Christ. Somehow, through the ministry and work of the Holy Spirit, the WMO really caught fire, and we exceeded our goal by \$2,500!

"You can't outgive God!" Many people proclaim this and time after time it proves true. For Trinity Church, our realization of this biblical truth started in January and culminated on Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011, in the form of the World Missions Offering for Free Will Baptist International Missions.

munity who does not attend our church. Her husband passed away before Christmas, and we gave her daughter Christmas gifts through an Angel Tree ministry.

A \$500 check from a lady who attends another church in the state and is friends with a family in the church.

A \$500 check from a family that attended Trinity a few years ago. They visited the church from out of state and wanted to help support the church's ministry.

A small cash amount from a lady who stopped by the church one day and felt impressed to give an offering.

In all this time, the church was faithful to tithe, and the budgetary shortfall from 2010 was overturned by a budgetary surplus that did not include the above gifts.

Further, as part of our increased emphasis on giving to world missions, the church budgeted \$2,500 to the World Missions Offering. In March, a church member came to me and said he had just received an unexpected bonus at work and wanted to contribute \$1,500 of that bonus money as a matching gift to the WMO. Excited about what God was doing, we set a church goal of \$5,500 for the World Missions Offering. After the church's budgeted amount was added to the church offering and the matching gift, the final numbers yielded nearly \$8,200. To say the least, it was a glorious moment.

Our motivation from January to Easter was to allow God to prove Himself as He says He will in Malachi 3:10. Let me assure you, He did, and He continues to do so.

**Jhon
Fredy
Villalba**
FWB Church
Villalba, Spain
\$1,160.86



Feeling very grateful for all the mission work done in Spain, we decided, as a church founded by the Mission, to support the work of the Mission, devoting a quarter of the offerings of our regular mission support for the **World Missions Offering of International Missions.**

It is a small contribution, but it was our church's response with eagerness and love. If it were possible, we would give more. This response shows that we believe in the work of International Missions. We ourselves are an example and fruit of your dedication to the Lord's work in world missions.

Our desire is not only to give one year; we want to do the same thing in the first quarter of 2012, and whenever else we can, we will give. It will always be an offering given with much gratitude, respect, and love.

We pray God's work will prosper wherever in the world the Mission is working. Please receive warm greetings from the Free Will Baptist Church of Collado Villalba, in Madrid, Spain.

Jerald Bass
Generations
FWB Church
Joplin, Missouri
\$1,057.50

The key to promoting the WMO in our church is creating an environment that keeps missions and a lost world a consistent part of the conversation. Each week in our service, someone gives a two- to three-minute presentation of a country from the book *Operation World*, shares prayer requests, and then leads us in prayer for that particular country.

Making missions part of our financial discussion is another way we emphasize the importance of world missions. We support denominational missions and our association mission conference in our budget. In our fundraising, 25% of all the money we raise for future capital projects is set aside for a capital project around the world. I am a firm believer that we will not be effective in local evangelism if we are not also intentional in reaching the world with the gospel.

Finally, at least a month before the WMO, we hand out Change the World coin banks to every family and begin showing a clip from the WMO promotional videos at the beginning of each service. We encourage every family not just to give, but to pray for God's direction in their giving and to lift up the names of our missionaries before Him. **ONE**

The churches above vary in size, demographic, resources, and location, but they share a common commitment to the Great Commission. Gifts to the World Missions Offering benefit all the ministries, missionaries, and international partnerships of International Missions. Share the gospel with unreached peoples. Give to the WMO this April.

News Around the World

Board Seeks to Move Forward While Halting Losses

ANTIOCH, TN—The eight members of the Board of Free Will Baptist International Missions met December 7-8, 2011, in the Mission’s office in Antioch, Tennessee. The two-day intensive session, bathed in frequent prayer, yielded encouraging reports, positive actions, and difficult decisions.

Joel and Lydie Teague were appointed as two-year, short-term interns to France. Currently, the couple lives and works in France and will travel to the States in 2012 to raise ministry awareness and funds.

“Even in the midst of continued financial challenges,” Board Chairman Danny Williams emphasized, “I am optimistic.

God is working in marvelous ways globally and I am confident people within our denomination will respond financially to ensure the gospel continues to be made known around the world.”

The board voted to approve a \$6.1 million budget for 2012, a full \$1.15 million less than the initial framework budget adopted in April 2011. The board instructed General Director Clint Morgan to develop action plans for coping with further financial deficits. He is to present these to the board for review and approval as soon as possible.

In an ongoing effort to end financial shortfalls and to rebuild cash reserves,

the board voted to postpone sending all new missionaries as well as veteran missionaries currently on stateside assignment to their fields of service until “cash reserves reach a sustainable level of 10% of the operational budget.” The board voted to implement this strategy as an ongoing standard policy.

All board members were present for the two-day session: Nelson Henderson (AR), Jeff Manning (NC), Greg McAllister (CA), Tom McCullough (MI), Rob Morgan (TN), Mark Price (OH), Danny Williams (AL), and Randy Wilson (OK).

Full release available on www.fwbgo.com. ■



Board Postpones Missionary Deployments

ANTIOCH, TN—“The hardest task I’ve had thus far as general director,” Clint Morgan stated, “was calling missionaries who expected to leave the States in January and telling them their departure is on hold.” Following the December board meeting, the general director made phone calls to several missionaries who expected to depart over the next few weeks.

“All those currently slated for stateside assignment in 2012 will still return to the States,” affirmed General Director Clint Morgan. “We need all hands on deck, sharing the marvelous work God is doing through Free Will Baptists and encouraging our people to pray and give.” Three couples are scheduled to return for stateside assignment during the first quarter of 2012.

“We are immensely grateful for those who have been staunch supporters of the Mission throughout the years and especially during the financial crisis that has plagued the global economy,” emphasized Sam McVay, missionary to Spain and interim development director. “However, we must have more churches and individuals to become sacrificially involved in taking the gospel to the ends of the earth.” Full release available on www.fwbgo.com. ■



Panama—On December 10, 2011, 31 kids crowded into Paul and Chrissy Collins' yard for the weekly Bible club they host. Three children accepted Christ that day. ■



Japan—Six young people, including Andrew (13) and Jake (10) Snow, were baptized on Christmas Day at the Miha-rashidai Chapel in Japan. Four Japanese youth, ranging in age from 16 to 20, joined the Snow boys. ■



Panama—Three adults were saved within the last two months of 2011 through the work in Chitré, Panama. The Chitré congregation recently organized and has two strong, active mission works in mountain villages. ■



France—The St. Sébastien church had two people saved during November and three people preparing for baptism. ■



Brazil—Three Campinas churches organized a 10-day mission trip to Uruguay. Twenty-one people traveled to Montevideo Friday, December 10, and then split into two teams. One team helped the churches in Rivera (on the border with Brazil) and the other team worked with the church in Melo. ■



India—More than 100 new believers were baptized in November in North India. Another 100 or so are preparing for baptism in upcoming months. ■

FWBIM No Longer Partnering With Brazil Children's Home

ANTIOCH, TN—For 20 years, Free Will Baptist International Missions and the Free Will Baptist denomination have celebrated the ministry of the Free Will Baptist children's home, Lar Nova Vida, in Araras, São Paulo, Brazil. This institution is not directly affiliated with International Missions or Brazil's Regional Association of Free Will Baptist Churches.

Because of a variety of recent changes made by the current leadership of the children's home, Free Will Baptist International Missions, following the recommendation and counsel of Latin American Regional Director Stan Bunch and the Brazil Field Manager Kenneth Eagleton, has determined to discontinue its partnership with Lar Nova Vida. As a result, International Missions will no longer channel funds or provide personnel for this ministry.

Full release available on www.fwbgo.com. ■



Bunch Accepts Missouri Executive Post

ANTIOCH, TN— On November 10, 2011, the Free Will Baptist International Mission Board voted to accept the resignations of Stan and Brenda Bunch, 28-year missionaries to Panama. The resignation is effective February 29, 2012.

Stan and Brenda will relocate to Missouri, where Stan will embrace the role of executive director of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptist Churches, effective March 1.

Full release available on www.fwbgo.com. ■

A North Carolina teen enrolled at Free Will Baptist Bible College to prepare for God's call on his life.

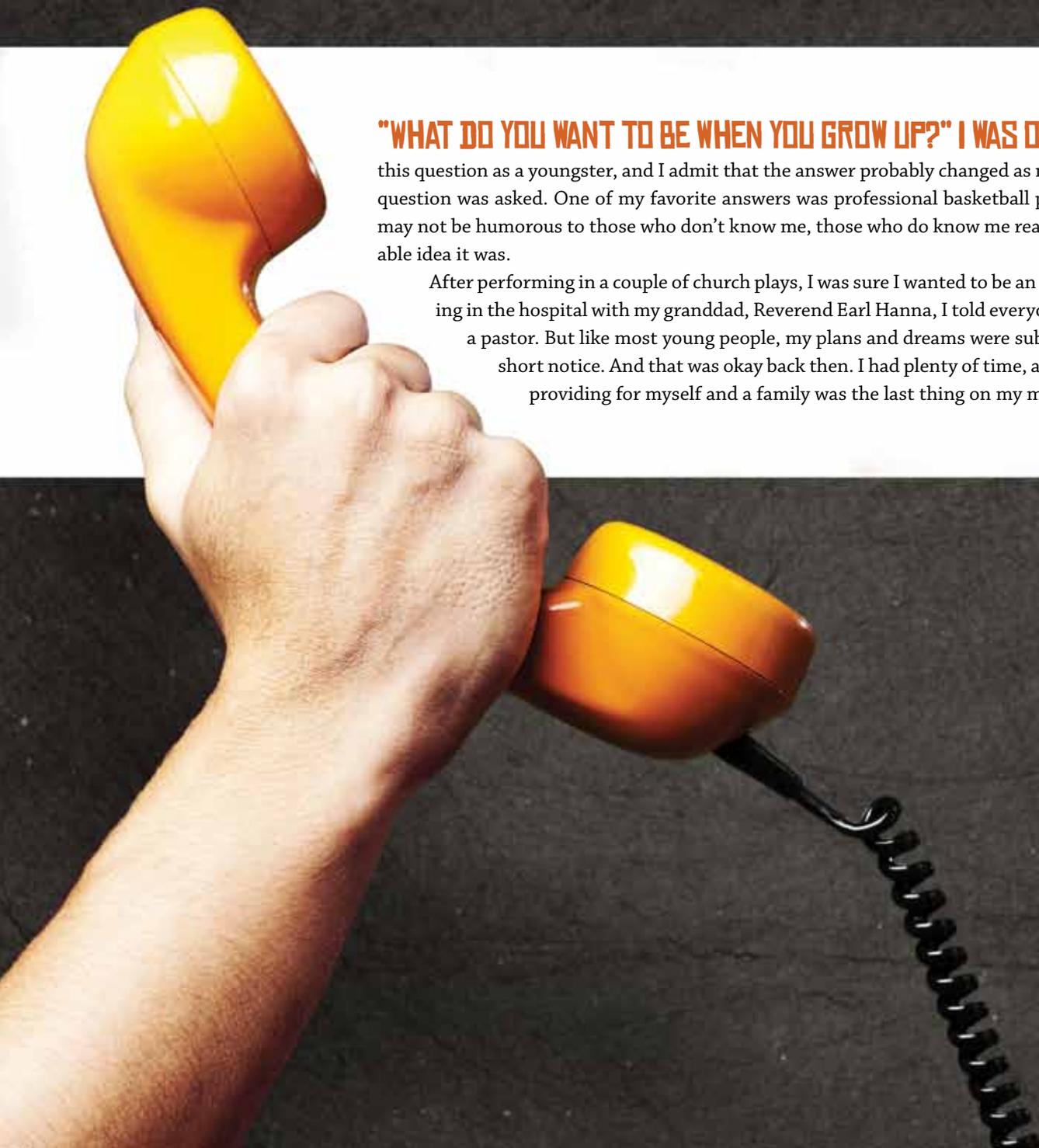
WAITING FOR THE CALL TO COME

By Stephen Nelson

"WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?" I WAS OFTEN ASKED

this question as a youngster, and I admit that the answer probably changed as many times as the question was asked. One of my favorite answers was professional basketball player. While that may not be humorous to those who don't know me, those who do know me realize what a laughable idea it was.

After performing in a couple of church plays, I was sure I wanted to be an actor. While visiting in the hospital with my granddad, Reverend Earl Hanna, I told everyone I wanted to be a pastor. But like most young people, my plans and dreams were subject to change on short notice. And that was okay back then. I had plenty of time, and the thought of providing for myself and a family was the last thing on my mind.



PRELUDE TO FWBBC

The first serious thought I gave to my occupation came when I was a high school senior. My English teacher presented the class with what should have been a simple assignment: a career project. I was instructed to select the career I planned on pursuing, familiarize myself with the education and training required, read a book about the career, and write a short paper on what I learned.

Easy enough, right? That was my thinking too. I mean, how hard could it be to pick one job out of the millions of possibilities, a job which I wanted to spend the rest of my life doing? It turned out to be more difficult than I originally estimated. This was my first serious exploration into the world of job markets.

THE FWBBC DECISION

Fast-forward a few years. I am now a senior at Free Will Baptist Bible College. I came to FWBBC as a 17-year-old with no clue what I wanted to be “when I grew up.” Ironically, it was precisely this fact that shaped my decision to attend the college. I had decided in high school that I would leave my life open for God to call me into the ministry or into whatever field He wanted me. I came to FWBBC with several ideas in mind.

First, I knew if God called me into the ministry, FWBBC would be the best possible place to prepare. I knew I would receive sound pastoral training under some of the great pastors and leaders in our denomination.

Second, after visiting the campus several times, I knew if I did not feel called into the ministry, I would receive a Christ-centered education from their professional and knowledgeable faculty in whatever field I chose to study.

Finally, I knew if God called me somewhere else or to higher education in the future, the classes I took would be fully accredited and transferable.

LIFE AT FWBBC

After arriving on campus, I found myself surrounded by peers and professors from many backgrounds and with various interests. It was amazing to me that students from all over the country with all kinds of plans and dreams converge at this unique place to prepare for their futures and to grow in Christ.

My freshman year was full of uncertainty. I felt that FWBBC was where I was supposed to be, but beyond that I had no idea what to expect. My favorite subject in high school was English. It was the class I enjoyed most and had to study the least to do

well. I loved reading classical literature and began developing an interest in writing. After some time at FWBBC, it became apparent to me that journalism was an area I could pursue and develop further. So, at the beginning of my second semester, I declared English as my major.

I am now just a few months away from graduating with a BA degree in English. I have learned much in my time at FWBBC that will stay with me throughout the rest of my life. I have learned the importance of God’s Word and how it affects every aspect of my life. I have learned the importance of hard work and the rewards that come as a result of doing everything “to the glory of God.” And while I knew these things before coming to FWBBC, the atmosphere and overall spirit of the college provided an environment conducive to growing academically, socially, and spiritually.

THE WISH LIST

If I could go back and relive the last four years of my life, I’m sure there would be things I would change. I wish I had been less introverted and had gotten closer to more people. I wish I had spent more time with my professors, gleaning more practical wisdom from them. I wish I had studied harder and not procrastinated so much.

But the one thing I would never change was my decision to attend FWBBC. I can honestly say that Free Will Baptist Bible College was the right place for me. If I left right now and never received an official degree, my time here would have been worthwhile. I have experienced more growth here than would have been possible anywhere else. I am so thankful for the sacrificial support of my parents to provide me with this opportunity, as well as those who have had a part in my experiences here.

FWBBC AND YOU

I hope my story can encourage those who find themselves in the same place I was four years ago. The thought that helped me most throughout that time of uncertainty was from Proverbs 3: 5-6: “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

I don’t claim to have everything figured out. I am quickly approaching another major area of uncertainty in my life as I prepare to enter the “real world.” But if I have learned anything in my time at FWBBC, it is this—you can trust God to lead from day to day, and He has promised to direct our lives and be with us every step of the way. 

News at FWBBC

Missions Conference Challenges Students

Numerous students stepped forward during the 2011 World Missions Conference in response to cutting-edge messages that dared them to make a difference in a post-Christian culture, shake off spiritual apathy, and commit their lives to Christian service. The October 2-4 event included seven general worship sessions and nine educational seminars.

President Matt Pinson said, "There's always something powerful and compelling about missions conferences at FWBBC. God's presence seems to wrap around us as we worship and pray and sing together.

His cleansing power reminds us again of our primary mission—to win the lost, to tell the Good News, to build His Church."

Clint Morgan, general director of International Missions, and Larry Powell, general director of the Home Missions Department, confronted students with the practical claims of Christ on their lives. Scott Warren, home missionary to Utah, said he only had one point to make in his message: "You have one life. Don't waste it." Missionaries Sam McVay (Spain) and Steve Lytle (Panama), along with Hanna Project personnel David and

Angie Outlaw, sounded the same clear note, challenging students to embrace the task of evangelism.

Workshop participants included Rachel Atwood (Campus Crusade for Christ), Ed and Linda Speyers (Wycliffe Bible Translators), Andrea Lowe (English Language Institute), and others.

Ron Callaway, missions program coordinator, said, "The conference was everything we hoped it would be. God spoke to us all, and some of us will never be the same again." ■

Mahler Promoted to Chief Financial Officer



Reverend Craig Mahler,

comptroller at Free Will Baptist Bible College since 2006, has been named vice president for financial affairs, ac-

ording to President Matt Pinson. He succeeds Tom Sass who recently transitioned to a part-time role as vice president and senior financial counsel. Both changes took effect January 1.

President Pinson said, "Craig Mahler is resilient, has great financial insight and wisdom, as well as a quiet strength that's wrapped in a humble spirit. We have been delighted with his professional work in

the Business Office and his technological skills. He has a broad understanding of both personnel and financial matters. We have found Mr. Mahler equal to whatever task comes his way."

An ordained Free Will Baptist minister, Mahler is youth minister at Carthage FWB Church. The 2004 honors graduate at Tennessee Technological University (B.S. degree in Business Administration) brings a variety of experiences to the position, including several years in TTU's Internal Audit Division and specialized management training at DeKalb Community Bank in Smithville.

"When FWBBC invited me to join the staff, I thought it would be a great place to serve for the rest of my life in ministry.

I still do," Mr. Mahler said. "I believe this is what God wants for me. This broader responsibility will demand my best effort. I look forward to the challenge and the blessing."

As comptroller, Mahler was overseer for cashier and data processing, general ledger entry and financial statement preparation, student account maintenance and billing, monthly payroll for college employees, special projects, and other budget matters.

Tom Sass said, "I believe that Craig Mahler is the best man for this job, and he has my total support and endorsement. The Lord has been preparing Craig and FWBBC for this transition." ■

Carol Reid Elected to ACL Foundation Board



Mrs. Carol Reid, librarian at Free Will Baptist Bible College, was elected to the Board of Directors for the Foundation for the Advancement of

Christian Libraries during their 2011 annual conference, according to Foundation executive director Janelle Mazelin. The organization, also known as the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL), elected Reid for a three-year term, 2011-2014.

Mrs. Reid previously served as both director-at-large and treasurer of the ACL

Board. She is a frequent presenter at professional educational gatherings and has been published in *The Christian Librarian*, journal of the Association of Christian Librarians.

"I have been involved with the Association of Christian Librarians for many years," Mrs. Reid said, "and I have profited greatly from the professional development and friendships the Association provides. I am happy for this opportunity to serve on the Board. It will be a lot of work, but it is also profitable to me personally and to our library and college as well."

Her broader ministry includes a recent

term as secretary on the Commission on Accreditation for the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), the accrediting association for Bible colleges in the United States and Canada.

A 1977 FWBBC graduate with an M.L.S. degree from Vanderbilt University, Mrs. Reid has been librarian at Free Will Baptist Bible College since 1988.

"Mrs. Reid is a credit to FWBBC," said Provost Greg Ketteman. "Our faculty, students, and many others in the greater Nashville community benefit from her work. Her knowledge, professional skills, and dedication have earned her an excellent reputation among her peers." ■

Tom Sass Transitions to VP Role as Senior Financial Counsel



After 26 years as chief financial officer at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Tom Sass shifted to a part-time role as vice president and senior financial

counsel effective January 1, according to President Matt Pinson. He will continue as a member of the President's Leadership Team while he hands over vice president for financial affairs duties to his successor, Reverend Craig Mahler.

"Tom Sass is a trusted friend whose life is marked by godly character and a hunger for righteousness," President Pinson said. "For almost three decades, no one has better understood the financial picture at FWBBC. He has provided financial advice and counsel for three college presidents. I have the highest respect for him, and I'm so pleased that he will continue to serve

as a presidential advisor."

Mr. Sass's main focus in the newly created position of vice president and senior financial counsel will be analyzing financial data, budgeting, and mentoring. Other duties will include assisting with accounts payable and serving as liaison with Plant Operations.

A 1972 FWBBC graduate (business certificate), Mr. Sass earned the B.B.A. degree in Business Administration at Belmont University, graduating with honors. He also pursued graduate studies at Tennessee State University.

The Illinois native is highly regarded for his outreach in the broader Christian community, first as a deacon at Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church where he chaired the deacon board. Other ministry service includes the Nashville Rescue Mission where he chaired the board three times, current chairman of the board with Tennessee Child Evangelism, past presi-

dent of the Nashville Gideons chapter, and a 12-time evaluator with the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE), one of the college's accrediting bodies.

Sass began working in the FWBBC Business Office in 1972 after serving two years with the U.S. Navy's legal division. When long-time FWBBC treasurer E.B. McDonald retired in 1986, Mr. Sass was tapped to succeed his mentor. Tom, his wife Sheila, and their three children all attended FWBBC.

"This has been a great ride and a fulfilling ministry with FWBBC, but I'm looking forward to transitioning from full time to fewer hours," Mr. Sass said. "I know the college's financial concerns are in the best of hands with my good friend Craig Mahler. I plan to enjoy more time with Sheila, volunteer at the Nashville Rescue Mission, and I hope to visit the Pearl Harbor Memorial in Hawaii." ■

College Named One of the “Best Christian Workplaces”

Free Will Baptist Bible College received notification that it has been certified as a 2012 Best Christian Workplace in the United States, according to President Matt Pinson. The college participates in the international survey biennially. The BCW survey, conducted by the Best Christian Workplaces Institute, has surveyed over 100,000 anonymous employees to date.

President Pinson said, “This is a first for us. What great news for the college family that even though we’ve been grappling with a down economy, our employees recognize FWBBC as a place where God is honored and workers are respected, and they rate the college as an exceptional place to work.”

To be certified as a Best Christian Workplace, organizations must complete an employee engagement survey and meet predetermined standards of excellence. The survey covers such issues as: job satisfaction, organizational commitment, Christian witness, supervisory effectiveness, work satisfaction, personal growth and development, management effectiveness, supporter

satisfaction, teamwork, communications, and pay and benefits.

BCWI is a research and human resources consulting firm based on Mercer Island, Washington. Its purpose is to serve faith-based organizations by creating processes of discovery, facilitating organizational effectiveness, and encouraging practices that build healthy workplaces.

“Providing quality Christian collegiate education has always been challenging,” Provost Greg Ketteman said, “and this is especially true today. FWBBC employees carry the well-known rigors of their jobs in addition to the effects of a difficult economy and heightened demands for clear, accurate, Bible-based teaching. All this is encountered in a culture increasingly hostile to the Christian worldview. Being included in the Best Christian Workplaces in America demonstrates how FWBBC employees are facing the difficult challenges of our world. They have consistently responded with courage, integrity, and dedication to God.” ■

Hester to Direct Institutional Planning



Dr. Kevin Hester has been appointed director of institutional planning and assessment, according to Provost Greg Ketteman. He will continue as chairman of the Department of Theological Studies and the Accreditation Compliance Committee.

Ketteman said, “Dr. Hester is an exceptional, multi-talented individual. Following his outstanding service as chairman of both the SACS and ABHE Compliance Committees, he is well prepared to step into this role. He will assume some responsibilities previously managed by Dr. Milton Fields, former vice president for institutional planning who retired in May 2011.”

The job description has been carefully tailored to allow Dr. Hester space to give appropriate attention to this area while maintaining his teaching and departmental roles. In addition to the modified job description, Dr. Hester will have a reduced teaching load and will increase summer responsibilities.

Dr. Hester said, “This new position allows me to take much that I have learned over the past several years as chairman of the Compliance Committee and apply it to the broader educational enterprise at FWBBC. Thanks to Dr. Fields’ visionary leadership in institutional effectiveness, I will inherit a top-notch program of assessment. I’m also delighted to be working with Mr. Wayne Spruill whose professionalism and tireless devotion have always been an inspiration to me.”

Due in large measure to Dr. Hester’s leadership skills as chairman of the college’s Accreditation Compliance Committee, FWBBC received its 10-year accreditation reaffirmation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in 2011.

A member of the college faculty since 2003, Dr. Hester is frequently published in professional journals and denominational publications.

Hester is a 1993 FWBBC graduate. He completed the M.Div. degree at Covenant Theological Seminary in 1997 and his Ph.D. at Saint Louis University in 2002. ■

+Intersect >>>>

A Parent's **10 MOST IMPORTANT WORDS**

Fathering a child is a simple matter of biology.

Being a dad to a child is a lot more complicated. I watch young fathers at ball games shout instructions to their kids: “Keep your eye on the ball!” “Run fast!” “Swing hard!” These dads turn into surrogate coaches on Saturday, not quite convinced that Junior’s real Little League skipper can do the job as well as they can. And believe me, I understand. Been there, done that—both the coaching part and the dad part.

As I watch these bleacher field-general parents, I find myself thinking, “I hope you are as worked up about Junior learning to be an honest person as you are about his catching that fly ball. And, do you teach your little shortstop to respect his mother? While you’re taking them to extra batting practice at the indoor range, be sure to take them to church. They need to see that we dads love God and the gospel more than we love the World Series or March Madness.”

We teach our kids how to ride bicycles, play ball, drive a car, and dozens of other useful life skills. Why don’t we do a better job teaching them about God?



Our kids will still have problems; that’s not the promise, though. Instead God assures them of His presence in the midst of the trouble. That’s where faith is at its best.

The “My Son” Curriculum

The curriculum is ready-made. It’s found in the first eight chapters of Proverbs. Yet, the setting is not a classroom or lecture hall, and a teacher isn’t lecturing to students or a boss training employees. Instead, a dad and mom are instructing their child. In Proverbs 1:8, note that both parents are engaged in the teaching process. Here is a united front with mother and father taking seriously their God-mandated task as wisdom instructors to their sons and daughters.

Parents and youth pastors should live in these 10 words from parents to children—the “My Son” sayings. The phrase occurs in 1:10; 2:1; 3:1; 3:21; 4:1 (plural); 4:10; 4:20; 5:1 (see also the plural in 5:7); 6:1; 6:20 (with 7:1); and the plural conclusion (“O sons”) in 8:32. These words to children (sons) offer valuable skills regarding how to live as a believer in the fear of God (Proverbs 1:7). Each of the 10 words includes both a command and the consequence it brings.

The First Word: **No (1:10-33)**

Command (1:10): Teach your child to say “no” to people who will take him down.

Consequence (1:16, 18-19a): These people endanger your child’s life.

It’s even tougher to help them think about the influence of their friends when they are older, so start when they are young. Encourage and commend friendships that build them.

The Second Word: **Go (2:1-22)**

Command (2:4, as a condition): Challenge your son to go for a life of integ-

riety with everything he can give.

Consequence (2:5, 9, 20): He will discover that living for God is not only right, but good as well.

The young person who is really into godly living will learn how good it is to be close to God. Living for Him is not only the right thing to do, it’s the best thing.

The Third Word: **Trust (3:1-12)**

Command (3:5): Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

Consequence (3:6, 8, 10): God will not let you down.

The Fourth Word: **Plan (3:13-25)**

Command (3:21): Keep sound wisdom and discretion.

Consequence (3:22-24): You’ll enjoy real life and avoid many needless worries.

“Discretion” suggests the plans in your heart. Help your children to be resourceful, to think clearly about a wise course of action.

The Fifth Word: **Hang (4:1-9)**

Command (4:1): Be attentive to a father’s instruction.

Consequence (4:8, 9): You will find honor.

Pray that your boy will hang on to the godly lessons you have taught him.

The Sixth Word: **Wrong (4:10-19)**

Command (4:14): Do not enter the path of the wicked.

Consequence (4:19): The darkness brings them down, and they’ll take you with them.

Help your kids think critically about their lifestyle choices. There is a wrong way to live, regardless of what our culture says.

The Seventh Word: Heart (4:20-27)

Command (4:23): Above everything else, guard your heart with all your energy.

Consequence (4:23): Everything about you grows out of what's in your heart.

Work to channel the passions of your child's heart to embrace the passions of God's heart.

The Eighth Word: Sex (5:1-23)

Command (5:8): Do not go near the house of the immoral person.

Consequence (5:9-14): The results of sexual sin are disastrous.

The father's words to his son here aim to provide incentive for a faithful marriage. Dads, teach your children the biblical view of sexuality. If you don't, the culture will teach them its view.

The Ninth Word: Money (6:1-19)

Command (6:5): Save yourself from the dangers that go with loving money.

Consequence (6:5): Money will lay a trap for you.

Loving money may get young people into credit trouble,

prevent them from tithing, and keep them from following God's direction in ministry.

The Tenth Word: Sex (Again) (6:20-25; 7:1-27)

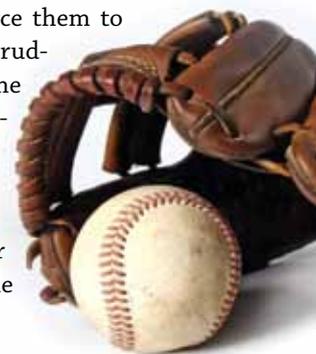
Command (6:20): Keep your father's commandment, and don't forsake your mother's teaching.

Consequence (6:22): They will lead you, watch over you, and talk with you as you encounter sexual temptation.

While Proverbs 5 offers incentive for a faithful marriage, chapters 6 and 7 caution against unfaithfulness by husband and wife. Your best option to communicate this lesson is to model faithfulness in your marriage, parents.

Take Action

You can't make choices for your kids or force them to choose what you want, but you can give them a rudder, a guidance system to help them steer in the right direction. Be intentional! As the Lord commands in Deuteronomy 6, teach truth to them consistently—when you get up, when you walk in the way, and when you lie down. Model faithfulness for them. Make every minute of your time with your children count, because your time with them is in limited supply. **ONE**



Intersect: where the Bible meets life is a regular column written by Dr. Garnett Reid, a member of the Bible faculty at Free Will Baptist Bible College.

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INTENTIONAL INTEGRITY:

An Interview With Dr. Garnett Reid

Garnett Reid, professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College, is author of *Intentional Integrity: Ten Life Strategies for Wholeness From the Book of Job*. The book takes an in-depth look at Job 31 and notes 10 promises of integrity Job made. In a recent interview, Dr. Reid shared his feelings about the book.



Q: What's the premise of the book?

A: God presents Job as a model of integrity. That is, his life is a whole; Job has a center, an axis holding everything together. God is that focus, and everything Job is and does reflects his loyalty to God.

Q: The title is *Intentional Integrity*. How do you define integrity?

A: The Hebrew word translated *integrity* in the book of Job speaks of that which is complete, undivided, all of one piece. Anything with integrity lacks no essential quality. For us, integrity is living a life consistent with the principles of God's character. It prevents us from falling into the trap of compartmentalizing life so we are one thing in some settings and something else in others. Integrity is a product of fearing God. It's what a relationship with God looks like to those watching us.

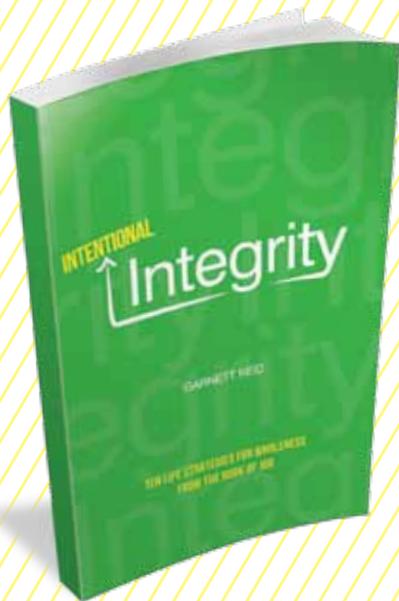
Q: In the introduction you state, "Consistency alone, then, is not enough to produce a life of Christian integrity." Explain that for us.

A: While integrity does involve consistency, there's much more to the mix than just that. We can be consistent and faithful, but if the theological and moral foundation upon which we build is faulty or false, our consistency will not produce a true life—a godly life. When we bond our lives with believing commitment to God and His truth, the result is integrity. Integrity equals commitment plus truth.

Q: Why do you think this book is pertinent for people today? Why should people read it?

A: Most every prevalent trend in our culture works to dismantle integrity. If all truth is relative, what works for you may not work for me; this may be right for you but not for me, and so on. It is a pattern our culture bullies us into thinking. Any allegiance to an unchanging source of truth is labeled quaint and out of touch, or worse, intolerant and extremist.

As David Wells says, “we no longer think in *truth* terms.” To paraphrase Emerson, in popular culture, nothing is sacred today except the self. Integrity is seen as being true to yourself; thus, the “faces” you put on change depending on the setting and the image you want to convey. We have seen in our society, though, how a lack of integrity decimates relationships, undermines families, and ruins lives. Unfortunately we see it all too often in the church as well.



To order, go to:
RandallHouse.com/books

Q: The book focuses on 10 commitments Job made in Job 31. Which of these commitments do you find most difficult personally?

A: I struggle with all of them from time to time because I love myself too much. At the heart of all of these promises is the ultimate need of loving God more than anything else and loving others because I love Him. I identify well with Paul in Romans 7 by doing things I don't want to do and not doing things I should do. If I had to single out one ongoing battle, I suppose it would be the honesty promise. It's just so easy to cut corners with truth telling.

Q: Where does the Holy Spirit's empowerment come into play with these commitments? Can we have true integrity without Him?

A: That's an interesting point, and an important factor to consider. I am afraid some people will read the book and think that Job mustered up his integrity by his own determination and the sheer force of his will. In the final chapter, I try to make it clear that all of these traits of loyalty grew out of his fear of the Lord. That is, he knew God and as a result, his life took on the characteristics of Shaddai, the almighty God Job loved. Therefore, all that the Holy Spirit does in convicting, renewing, and saving us is a part of Job's experience of integrity. It is all of God. Job simply responded by trusting God, and that relationship produced the fruit of integrity in his life.

Any allegiance to an unchanging source of truth is labeled quaint and out of touch, or worse, intolerant and extremist.

Q: Who do you think should read the book?

A: I think *Intentional Integrity* would benefit any Christian who struggles with living a consistent Christian life. That probably covers most of us. I believe, though, that Christian men and men's groups, small Bible study groups, and Sunday School classes would especially benefit from reading the book. It would be an excellent source for personal Bible studies as well.

Q: What have you learned from writing this book?

A: Three things, at least: (1) The Bible is always relevant. (2) At the core, human needs and the struggles we face in life never change. (3) God's truth is sufficient alone to build a life of integrity. **ONE**

Garnett Reid is professor of Old Testament at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Find his regular column “Intersect” in each issue of *ONE*. Read his blog at GarnettReid.com.

LeaderProfile >>>

Leadership comes in all forms and sizes, but the results are the same. Leaders influence behavior and make a difference in people's lives. Profiling leaders shows a diverse combination of traits, but impacting lives is always a common theme. by Ron Hunter Jr.



>>> Chad Donoho

“Pretender” describes Chad’s life growing up—Chad’s word not mine. He describes this as common among ministry kids who know how to say the right thing, express the right emotions, and perform the right behaviors. But at age 22, after growing up in a pastor’s home and after four years at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Chad gave his heart to the Lord. He became serious about his Christian walk and helping others who struggle in similar ways. Chad is minister of music and teen pastor at First Free Will Baptist Church in Northport, Alabama.

Yet God prepared Chad even before he was a believer. His parents cultivated a solid foundation by creating an environment of biblical teaching and godly music. This foundation led to a passion for music that would eventually shape Chad’s ministry career. In college, Chad taught himself to play the piano and now leads worship from the keyboard. Chad desires that every Christian would grasp and practice consistently true worship in church but especially in daily life.

Chad’s passion, genuineness, and sincerity connect with the teens and parents to whom he ministers. They trust him, knowing he has their best interests at heart. In his quiet time Chad reads a book and Scripture, usually during time carved out in the morning before his day begins. He just finished *Regaining Balance* and started *Quiet Moments for Worship Leaders*.

Chad and his wife Jennifer work as a team to create a beneficial home environment. Chad describes his wife as “an amazing mom who juggles many areas, yet still takes time to surprise him regularly with unexpected affectionate text messages.”

Chad, you are a great leader! ONE

Why Free Will Baptist? “Because our doctrine matters, and I am a firm believer.”

Describe an ideal date for you and Jennifer. “With no restrictions on time or money, we would be seated in left field at Wrigley Stadium eating a bloomin’ onion followed by some Cold Stone Creamery ice cream and drinking a Mountain Dew, and oh yes—the Cubs are winning.”

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

Fresh Wind and Fresh Fire
by Jim Cimbala
Flying Closer to the Flame
by Chuck Swindoll
The Sackett Series
by Louis L’Amour

What’s your biggest failure?

“Getting started late with my serious walk with God at age 22.”

What is your one indulgence?

“One? I have the Cubs, Illinois basketball, Peanut Butter M&M’s, and Mountain Dew.”

Kid’s names, ages, and one-word descriptions:

Anna Grace (age 5): Diva
Luke (age 3): All-boy
Emma Faith (11 months): Fireball

Paper or Plastic Questions

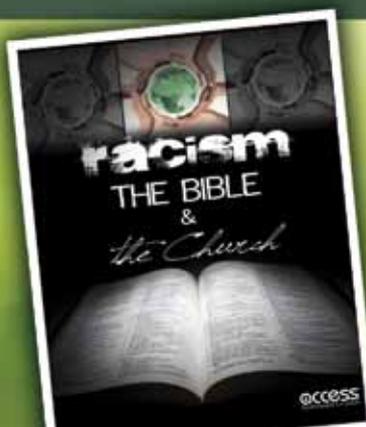
>> *Mountains or Ocean?* Ocean
>> *Music or Talk Radio?* Music
>> *Coke or Pepsi?* Mountain Dew
>> *Email or Texting?* Texting
>> *Mac or PC?* PC

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Especially

BY RICHARD ATWOOD



Why do people keep coming to a church?

Recently, a man in a church told me his story. He had prayed to come back to God after straying from his childhood decision. Sitting at a stoplight, he asked God to help him find a church to attend. He looked to his left and saw a church with several cars in the parking lot. He went in, but nobody was in the auditorium. As he turned to leave, the pastor walked up to him and explained that they were having a special Thanksgiving dinner in the fellowship hall.

“Oh, well, I’ll come back another time,” he said. “I don’t want to bother you.”

The pastor grabbed his elbow and said, “Get in here! We have plenty to eat, and we want you to eat with us!”

Tears came to his eyes as he explained, “That’s why I’m in this church. These people accepted me, befriended me, and cared for me. They made me part of their family.”

Galatians 6:10 says: “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, *especially* unto them who are of the household of faith.”

We should do good to everyone but *especially* to those who are Christians. Doing good and loving others says our faith is genuine, that we really are disciples of Jesus. Jesus even said that people would recognize His disciples by the way they love one another (John 13:34, 35). When we become Christians, we become part of God’s family. A family is there for each other and loves one another through the good *and* bad. Non-Christians need this and want to be part of something where people love and accept one another. Who could resist a place where you see such love demonstrated? Consider two thoughts:

People want to go to a church where they have friends who care for them.

I think most people are asking themselves the question, “Does the pastor love me? Do other people in the church care for me?” Maybe that is one of the problems in churches that aren’t growing or are declining. People may not feel cared for. People want to go to a church where they have friends who care for them. We like someone to look at pictures of our grandchildren. We want someone to listen to stories about our vacation without yawning. We need a place

where we can be honest about our struggles and problems. If it isn't church, where is it?

Pastors, do your people know you love them? Church leaders, are you helping people make friends in the church? Christians, are we taking time to listen?

Non-Christians can be drawn to God when we care for others.

When non-Christians see real fellowship, caring, and unity, they are attracted. It is a great draw for them to become a Christian. When they see disunity, disrespect, and lack of love, they are turned off. When Christians feel unity and caring, they are more likely to stay in that church. The end result is that our churches are more likely to grow.

In one Home Missions church, a Christian lady was hospitalized. The pastor visited, and the church people brought food and helped out in other ways when she came home. It made such an impression on her unbelieving husband that he started attending church and soon became a Christian.

It made a difference in my own life when my home church extended this type of care to my family and me. My mother, two

brothers, and I arrived in town with nothing and no money. The church told us the good news about Jesus. They accepted us, laughed at our jokes, invited us over, cared for us, and accepted us in their family.

One Sunday morning, my dad came to church drunk. He kept yelling out to the preacher during the service. My mom leaned over to us and said, "Let's go." We left the service, and on the way home, Mom said, "Boys, we'll have to find another church. I'm too embarrassed to go back there."

We were all ashamed of my dad's actions. We would have left that church, except for what happened that afternoon. One after another called and said, "We don't care what he does; we want you to come back." The pastor said, "I don't care if he comes every week. We will deal with it somehow."

They assured us that they wanted us back. I still get tears thinking about it. We were more important to them than an orderly and quiet service. (It didn't happen again.) Those people acted like Christians ought to act, and it made a lasting difference in my life.

How can we keep people coming to our churches? Be good to everybody, but *especially* to Christians. **ONE**

About the Writer: Richard Atwood is director of missionary assistance for Home Missions. To learn more about Free Will Baptist church planting efforts, visit www.homemissions.net.



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Ring the **RUSTY BELL** of Hope

BY DAVID
CROWE

This past year while preaching in Southern Ohio, something happened that I had never seen in a revival service. During the Sunday morning invitation, a young lady came to the altar and accepted Christ as her personal Lord and Savior. While I have seen this happen many times, it was what happened next that was a first for me. One of the men of the church shouted, “Someone ring the bell! This lady just got saved!”

A young man ran into the vestibule of the church, grabbed a rope, and started ringing the church bells with all of his might. I’ve been in church all my life, and I had never seen that done. In the days and weeks that followed, I couldn’t get that shout out of my head, “Someone ring the bell! This lady just got saved!”

God started to bring things to my heart and mind about ringing the bells. I recalled the story of Tom Dooley, medical missionary to the people of Indochina, who died of cancer at a very young age. He wrote about a discouraging time in his life and ministry when he said, “Money wasn’t coming in; supplies were too few; work was hard and tedious.” But he went on to say, “Every time I get discouraged and down in the dumps, someone comes along and rings the rusty bells of hope, and I have encouragement to get back at it again.”

I began to realize what an important role bells have played in history and society. We speak and sing about Christmas bells and wedding bells. Throughout United States history, bells like the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia have had an important place, symbolizing hope and freedom. Thousands of church bells ring across this country each week, letting the world know that the church is still open for business, and there is help and hope to be found in Christ, no matter how bad things may be.

As I pondered this subject, I decided to see what I could find in the Bible about bells. I was surprised to discover that bells are only mentioned in three passages, all in the Old Testament. One is Zechariah 14:20a, where it says, “In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, *holiness unto the Lord* . . .”

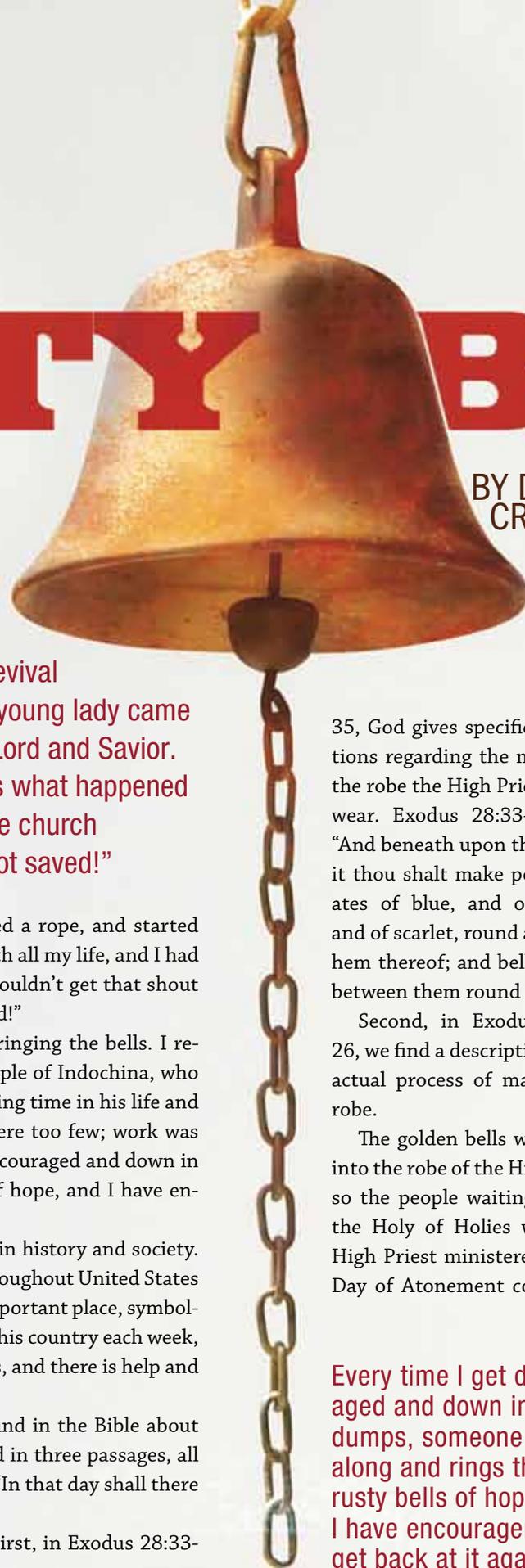
The other two passages are found in the book of Exodus. First, in Exodus 28:33-

35, God gives specific instructions regarding the making of the robe the High Priest would wear. Exodus 28:33-35 says, “And beneath upon the hem of it thou shalt make pomegranates of blue, and of purple, and of scarlet, round about the hem thereof; and bells of gold between them round about.”

Second, in Exodus 39:24-26, we find a description of the actual process of making the robe.

The golden bells were sewn into the robe of the High Priest so the people waiting outside the Holy of Holies while the High Priest ministered on the Day of Atonement could hear

Every time I get discouraged and down in the dumps, someone comes along and rings the rusty bells of hope, and I have encouragement to get back at it again.



BELLS

the ringing of the bells. When they heard them, they knew he was still alive, the sacrifices had been accepted by God for another year, and there was still hope.

We live in world today filled with people who feel helpless and hopeless. As believers, we are part of a royal priesthood under the great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ. As priests, the world needs to hear our “sound” as we ring the rusty bells of hope with our lips, our love, our labors, and our lives.

What are you ringing with your life?

May the world hear my life loud and clear, as bells of hope ring out from my life. I’ll never hear bells ring again without being reminded, “Someone ring the bell! This lady just got saved!” ONE

About the Writer: David Crowe is director of development for Free Will Baptist Home Missions. Learn more about the ministry of Home Missions at www.homemissions.net.

2012 Deep South Golf Tournament

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A retired couple sets off on a retirement adventure.

Trip of a

LIFETIME

BY TOMMY GOODFELLOW

For several years, my wife and I felt the Lord wanted us to do more in our retirement years than rest. We have spent most of our 41 years of married life working in various ministries in our local church. There have been Sunday School classes, teen ministries, boards and committees for me, and ladies ministries for her. Even though we continue to work in our local church, we felt the Lord leading us to help some Free Will Baptist home missionaries. So, after retiring, we decided it was time to make ourselves available.

The Adventure Begins

In the fall of 2010 we made contact with Bill Reynolds in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, and Allen Hall in York, Pennsylvania, to see if we could be of any help in their ministries. Our plan was to sweep floors, knock doors, or whatever they needed at the time. Both the Reynolds and the Halls said to come, that they would put us to work. On May 1, 2011, we headed out on a two-month mission trip.

When we arrived in Rhode Island, we set up our motorhome in Bill and Christie Reynolds' driveway. Bill had planned to make May *Family Month* and have us do some teaching about the home during Sunday School and Wednesday night Bible study. My wife, who has a heart for teaching younger women, would teach the ladies on Sunday mornings from Titus 2. I was to teach the men lessons on being a godly man, husband, father, and leader

in the church. I was also to teach on Wednesday nights, focusing on training children to become godly, morally responsible adults.

We also joined the church in praying for things to start moving on the building program. The Lord answered prayer, and things that had been stalled for months were opened up so the building process could get into full swing.

It was an exciting and encouraging time for us as we got to know the folks at Beacon Free Will Baptist Church. While there, we not only spent time teaching, but also in fellowship and counseling. We found the church members hungry for any information that would aid them in their spiritual growth. They are a wonderful group of believers, and we look forward to hearing great things from their ministry as the church begins a building program and continues to grow.

We developed a deep friendship with the Reynolds family during our month together. My wife worked with the children on a sewing project, and I took their son Billy to baseball practice and watched him play a few games. We saw their heartbeat for the people of Rhode Island and their desire to build a strong church for the glory of God.

Stage Two

On Wednesday, June 1, we headed out for York, and the ministry of Allen and Jenny Hall at Good News Free Will Baptist Church. We taught the same lessons in Sunday School and spent time during the week working on their newly acquired building. The experience provided a good lesson on the needs of our mission works at various stages in their development.

In December 2010, the Good News FWB Church purchased an existing church building that had been constructed in 1968. They are in the pro-

cess of bringing it up to date. Pastor Hall said progress on the upgrades had slowed down, and it would be a big help if we could get some physical things done while there. Jobs on the list included painting, cleaning, clearing out an old storage room to get it ready for transformation into a new bathroom,

er to pray, the Lord answered and made it possible for us to see these things accomplished, and He continues to honor the prayers of these faithful servants.

A short article doesn't provide enough space to fully describe the work done in our own hearts as we attempted to minister to the people in

and contentment to your own heart.

The Reynolds, the Halls, and many other Free Will Baptist servants have responded to the call of God to reach the lost. I encourage every Christian to make a special effort to go on a mission trip at home or abroad. It will bless you as you minister to others and give you a new appreciation for those who answer the call to leave family and friends for the cause of Christ.

We thank the Lord for calling us to help and believe He wants us to keep going and helping. As He continues to provide, we will continue to go. How about you? **ONE**

About the Writer: Tommy Goodfellow retired in 2004, after 25 years of service with the Virginia Beach Police Department. He stepped down from a position as Dean of Students at Gateway Christian College in 2010. Pray for the Goodfellows as they continue to encourage and help missionaries.

It is amazing how listening and responding to the Lord's leading to help others often results in a blessing for you.

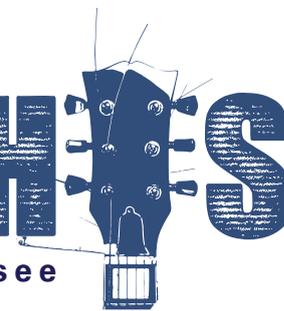
organizing, hanging pictures and mirrors, and decorating. In other words, we stayed busy.

Pastor Hall and his people had been waiting for weeks for new doors to be installed, new blinds to be hung, a new sign, and parking lot lights. All these items—except the sign—have been completed and other bigger projects are in the works. As we banded togeth-

York and North Kingstown. Our hope was to be a blessing to them, but these congregations were more of a blessing to us. They were so appreciative that someone came to help their young churches. It is amazing how listening and responding to the Lord's leading to help others often results in a blessing for you. It proves without doubt that trying to serve others brings peace, joy,

IMPACT MEMPHIS

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News From WNAC

Over 1,000 Women Attend Fall Events

Across the nation, over a thousand Women Active for Christ gathered in churches, camps, conference centers, hotels, and ranch resorts this past fall for time away and time together with the Lord and His people.



Alabama

Three generations of speakers shared the platform at the 7th annual Southern Ladies Retreat, September 9-10. Shady Grove Free Will Baptist Church, Adamsville, Alabama, hosted the event. Susan Forlines, Amy Bee, and gospel ventriloquist Geraldine and Ricky ministered to 140 attendees with the theme, "Beautiful in His Eyes," based on Proverbs 31:30.

Ladies of the church decorated with a bridal theme, adorning the walls with antique and modern bridal dresses representing women in the church. Friday evening's meal included wedding and groom's cake for dessert. Women of Mt. Zion Free Will Baptist, Pell City, Alabama, will host next year's event.

Arizona

Arizona District Women Active for Christ met for their annual retreat October 14-15, at the Francisco Grande Hotel and Resort in Casa Grande, Arizona. Forty women attended the event, including five women from the New Mexico district.

Khristi Shores, home missionary to Albuquerque, New Mexico, spoke on "Body Builders," encouraging women to utilize individual spiritual gifts as members of the Body of Christ. Women auctioned baskets and participated in a used book sale

to support Arizona ministries and WAC projects.

Arkansas

Ninety Women Active for Christ met August 8, at Camp Beaverfork in Conway, Arkansas, for their annual meeting. Speaker Angie Outlaw explored the theme, "In His Image" (Ephesians 5:1-2). Change characterized the day. Instead of a traditional banquet, women feasted at a midday brunch. Due to changes in the state school calendar, women agreed to move the meeting from August to March. The 2012 meeting will convene at Camp Beaverfork March 10. Women will also meet at the camp September 21-22, 2012, for a retreat.

Michigan

Nearly 150 Michigan Women Active for Christ met September 23-24, at the Holiday Inn in Perrysburg, Ohio, for their 40th annual retreat. Missionary speaker Kristi Johnson and music leader Rebekah Seymour rallied women with chants of "Victory, Victory is our Cry," the 2011 retreat theme.

Ten prayer rooms, three seminars, and a banquet also filled the schedule. A used-book sale netted nearly \$900 for the 2015 convention fund. Women also gave over

\$600 in a love offering to defray truck repair expenses incurred by Field Worker Katy Taylor during Michigan's annual Provision Closet delivery.

Missouri

Author Debra White Smith challenged each of the 144 attendees at the Missouri Women Active for Christ retreat to be "A Woman of Godly Influence." The retreat, September 22-23, at the Holiday Inn North in Springfield, Missouri, included times of fun, fellowship, sharing, and spoiling. State president Lee Ann Wilfong described the meeting as "one of the best retreats ever."

A two-part retreat project, "Women of Influence Influencing Other Women" involved raising funds for the 2016 national convention and collecting toiletries for women's domestic shelters across the state. The group far exceeded expectations, giving approximately \$1,600 toward convention expenses and contributing enough toiletries to supply seven different shelters with three of four large boxes of various items.

North Carolina

"The Woman's Journey" led North Carolina Women Active for Christ to the Caraway Conference Center in the Uwhar-

rie Mountains for two days of worship and retreat. WNAC Executive Director Elizabeth Hodges guided women in worship at the feet of “He.” Two women, Dana Brown and Selena Barrow shared powerful testimonies about the ways He has guided their lives. Several women’s groups set up vendor booths and sold goods to help fund various ministry projects. NCWAC sponsors the retreat every other year in October.

Ohio

“Are You Full?” Ohio Women Active for Christ considered this question and a corresponding theme verse, Ephesians 3:19, at their annual retreat. Eighty-seven women met October 14-15 at Heartland Retreat and Conference Center in Merengo.

Angie Outlaw spoke at the event, which also included a devotion by Jenna Altom, special music by Undivided, and a fun time filled with skits and a “Ms. OWAC” pageant. Women collected blankets for My Very Own Blanket (an organization supplying blankets for foster children) and school supplies for The Hanna Project distribution in Cote d’Ivoire.

Oklahoma

Almost 100 Oklahoma Women Active

for Christ met at Rejoice Church in Owasso, Oklahoma, for their annual meeting, October 10. The day featured music from the Foundation Blue Grass Band of the Grove FWB Mission, a work currently supported by Oklahoma Women Active for Christ. Speaker Dana Brown of Bixby, Oklahoma, expounded on the theme, “Body Builders.”

Women awarded an OWAC scholarship to Caitlin Honeycutt. Brienne Rierson and Christian Sloan also received partial scholarships. Over the past year, Oklahoma women have contributed more than \$11,799 to missions, Christian education endeavors and women’s ministry projects.

Tennessee

Tennessee Women Active for Christ converged in Pigeon Forge, September 29-October 1, to hear Wendy Pope of Proverbs 31 Ministries. Leaders rejoiced as 137 women registered—almost double the attendance at previous retreats. In the midst of this shopping paradise, women gave a missions offering of \$904 and a \$720 offering for WNAC. State president Amanda Kilgore commented, “We laughed, we cried...we listened and learned from God’s Word. What a wonderful time.”

Texas

Sky Ranch in Van welcomed 36 Women Active for Christ, September 23-24, for the annual Texas WAC retreat. Speakers Judy Smith and Jane Galvan shared Scriptures and thoughts related to the theme, “Come Before Winter.” Attendees participated in a Meal With a Message (object lesson about the availability of the Gospel in countries around the world), and took home copies of the lesson script to share in their churches. Women brought toys, underclothing and toiletries as Christmas gifts for children in Mexico.

West Virginia

Approximately 125 West Virginia women met September 9-10, at Central FWB Church in Huntington for a fall retreat featuring the Beech Grove Singers (ladies trio) and award winning songwriter Kyla Rowand. Friday evening’s service also included communion and washing of the saints’ feet. Jonathan and Amy Postlewaite, recent International Missions appointees to Bulgaria, shared about their ministry. Women gave \$1,100 for Berea Ministries in Mexico as well as a love gift to the Postlewaites. ■

HOME MISSIONS UPDATES

JEFF CATES—Canyon Country Free Will Baptist Church

God is truly working in Canyon Country. The church is growing steadily, and we really need our new children’s addition fast. We are in the process of finalizing plumbing so we can pour the floor for the new kid’s wing of the church. We are excited to see all the new children the Lord is bringing to our church. God is so good, and we praise Him for all He is doing here.

TIM RIGGS—Mobile, Alabama

We had one salvation decision and six baptisms in recent weeks. Those who have been saved and baptized range in age from eight to 39 and come from various backgrounds. We thank God for each of them and ask that you pray for them and their spiritual growth. The Lord continues to bring visitors our way.

ALLEN HALL—York, Pennsylvania

We are enjoying the completion of several building projects, the addition of three new families, and a successful “Day in the Park” outreach event. Our Lord is faithful. He is there to rejoice with us, and He is there to wrap His arms around us. He always knows what we need. Thank you for your prayers on our behalf.

MARC NEPLL—Suffolk, Virginia

We celebrated our third anniversary on September 18 with over 40 first-time visitors, all invited by our people. The attendance was 150 for worship. In the weeks since, we’ve enjoyed many visitors and have spent much time following up with these prospects. Our church also hosted a booth at the annual Peanut Festival, distributing 2,000 cups of peanuts and approximately 800 cups of water with our church information.

News From MM

Master's Men Expands Sports Ministry

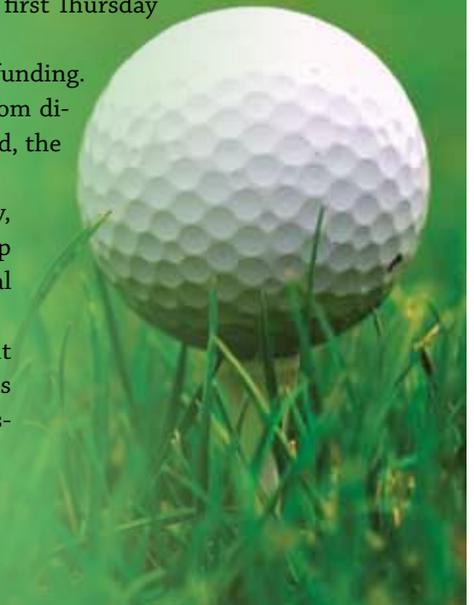
ANTIOCH, TN—For several years, Master's Men has used sports ministry for a two-fold purpose—fellowship and fundraising. Fellowship is one of the five basic purposes of Master's Men, and sporting events provide time to bond with and fellowship with other men. This is especially true of the National Golf Tournament held each year during the first Thursday of August and the National Softball Tournament played the first weekend in August.

Sports ministry is far more than fellowship, however. It provides an important source of funding. The income from these events enables Master's Men to carry out many other ministries, from disaster relief and work projects to Bible study resources and training events. With this in mind, the department is gradually expanding sports ministry.

The three-day Deep South Golf Tournament will be held at Stonebridge Golf Club in Albany, Georgia, March 28-30. The beautiful course was recognized by Golf Digest as one of the top 10 new courses to play when it opened in 1997. Designed by Robert C. Walker in a traditional style, golfers will encounter unique challenges on every hole.

The department is also exploring the possibility of adding a national volleyball tournament in the coming year. If your church or organization would be interested in participating in this tournament, or if you have experience with volleyball tournaments, please contact the Master's Men office.

For more details on all sports ministry events, visit the Master's Men website:
www.fwbmastersmen.org. ■



CMI Conferences Continue to Grow

ANTIOCH, TN—After years of men's retreats and rallies, Master's Men decided to take the next step in providing training for Free Will Baptist men. The result was the development of CMI (Count Me In) Conferences. The goal of each conference is to train and motivate men to become more involved in kingdom work—at home, at church, across the nation, and around the world. To date, the department has hosted conference in five states including California.

Each meeting consists of seven sessions with a two-fold purpose: to emphasize men mentoring other men and to equip men for successful Christian living. Some sessions teach men to be leaders and how to encourage other men. Other sessions deal with issues men face in life. Every attendee receives a notebook with lesson handouts and a commemorative gift.

Two conferences are scheduled for 2012. Both in March, the conferences will take place in South Carolina and Arkansas. Every man from every church in these states would benefit from attending one of the conferences. For updated information, visit www.fwbmastersmen.org. ■

:NYC News

for there
is
no other
name
under heaven
by which we
MUST BE
SAVED
acts
4:12

No Other Name, taken from Acts 4:12, is the theme for the 2012 National Youth Conference that will meet in Memphis, Tennessee, July 15-18. Over 4,000 children, teens, young adults, youth workers, and parents are expected to participate in the conference this year.

(Go to www.fwbny.com for more information.)

The conference will include a full slate of seminars for youth, young adults, and youth workers addressing a variety of topics. Community service projects will be available through Reach That Guy. Students in grades 1-12 will demonstrate Bible knowledge and talents through competitive activities. Attendees of all ages will enjoy inspiring worship services designed just for them.

A special 25-year celebration of the Youth Evangelistic Team will include a YET reunion for all former YET members and staff, plus a special YET Choir. For more information go to the YET Reunion page on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/YET25> or email YET@randallhouse.com.

The competition event schedule will be posted at fwbny.com by June 1, and a complete competition directory will be online by July 1. Check fwbny.com for updates. To help make this information available as soon as possible, we request all state competition results and individual entries be submitted to Randall House as soon as possible.

One change to note, the adult conference fee will be \$15. This fee is essential to help cover the expenses for audio and video needed for larger audiences and offset increasing convention expenses.

Buck-A-Week You can make a difference in someone's life in Buffalo, New York, and Nantes, France. These are the projects for the 2012 Buck-A-Week offering. Contact Randall House to get a free Buck-a-Week bank, email youth@randallhouse.com or call 800-877-7030.

What are you doing to reach your world?



:Randall House News

Hunter Elected Vice-President of PCPA

NASHVILLE, TN—Randall House Executive Director and CEO Ron Hunter was elected as vice-president, a voluntary position, of the Protestant Church-owned Publishers Association (PCPA), according to Gary Mulder, PCPA executive director. Mulder stated, "We have found that Ron's contributions at PCPA meetings have been consistently thoughtful and insightful, and that he shows an ability to contribute to Christian publishing in very helpful and insightful ways."

PCPA is an association of denominationally-owned publishing houses (such as Lifeway, Nazarene Publishing House, Wesleyan Publishing House, and Randall House) that meets twice a year to share trends, solutions, and research. As an officer of PCPA, Hunter will devote a handful of hours each year with the Executive Committee planning the agenda, discussing budgets, and planning for the business sessions.

Thirty-five publishers comprise the

membership of PCPA. The CEOs of the denominational publishing houses elected Hunter for a two-year term. Ron reflects, "Randall House and Free Will Baptists receive tremendous benefits and insights from other denominational publishers in biannual PCPA meetings. To be elected by veteran leaders is truly an honor. I look forward to representing Free Will Baptists in this voluntary capacity, knowing how much it also helps my role as executive director of Randall House."



Professional basketball player Wilt Chamberlain once said, “They say that nobody is perfect. Then, they tell you practice makes perfect. I wish they’d make up their minds.”

For many years, the convention has worked hard to perfect the process of pre-registering, reserving hotel rooms, and making the convention experience as smooth as possible. As you prepare to visit Memphis in July, a few simple suggestions will make each part of the process a little less stressful.

1. Pre-Register

Save time. **Pre-Registration for the 2012 convention will open Monday, April 2.** Those who pre-register can skip long registration lines at the convention. The pre-registration form is printed in this magazine or can be completed online at www.nafwb.org when registration opens.

Assign a point person to take care of registering the people in your church or youth group. Allowing multiple individuals to register themselves can result in duplicates and confusion.

Last year, nearly 65% of convention attendees pre-registered. Of those, 75% registered online, avoiding postage and writer’s cramp. Convention staffers processed nearly 4,000 registrations in six weeks. Due to the short turnaround time, we are extending the pre-registration period this year.

Save Money. National Youth Conference participants in grades 1-12 save \$10 by pre-registering. Adults who attend any NYC competition or event must register as an NYC attendee and pay the \$15 fee. Doing this during pre-registration will save effort onsite. Find more information about NYC at www.fwbny.com.

2. Make Reservations

While the reservation process is far from perfect, it is better than the alternatives. Do you remember the days of listing your top choices of hotels and then being placed in a hotel of someone else’s choosing?

The internet has made planning the hotel stay a much simpler process. You can check out the hotels online and determine which one is closest to the convention center. On the day that housing opens, links to make reservations online at convention hotels will be available at www.nafwb.org. Booking rooms online guarantees you won’t be placed on hold.

The opening date for housing was changed last year to alleviate the problems many groups had booking rooms before their state youth competition.

Now, most competitions are completed prior to opening day. This eliminates the guesswork of booking rooms without knowing the actual number of people attending the convention.

This year’s convention housing block will open Monday, May 7, 2012, at 9:00 a.m. CST.

3. Do Your Homework

Many resources can help you familiarize yourself with the city of Memphis. Visit www.memphisconvention.com for great tips and recommendations for things to do in the city. Order a Memphis tourist guide, investigate local dining options, find parking close to the convention center, and even download the Memphis travel app for iPhone or Android. You’ll also want to see the layout of the Memphis Cook Convention Center and map out the downtown trolley line.

Whether you are a wily veteran or a first-time attendee, the convention process can still be a bit daunting. I hope these tips will make your experience as enjoyable and trouble-free as possible.

Pre-Registration

National Association of Free Will Baptists

WNAC | NYC | Memphis, Tennessee | July 15-18, 2012

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

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

National Association

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

Voting Delegates:

- National Board/Commission Member
- Ordained Minister
- Ordained Deacon
- State Delegate (Authorization Required)
- Local Church Delegate (Delegate Card Required) **\$150**

Non-Voting:

- Licensed Minister
- Attendee (includes infants and toddlers)

Tickets:

Friends of Hillsdale Reception.....Qty _____ x \$15 = _____
Tuesday, July 17, 8:30 pm
FWBBC Alumni and Friends Luncheon ...Qty _____ x \$25 = _____
Wednesday, July 18, 12:00 noon

National Association Information: www.nafwb.org

National Youth Conference

Preschool:

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

Students: \$25

Any student attending any NYC competition or event MUST pay \$25 (\$35 on-site).

- Grades 1-3
- Grades 4-6
- Grades 7-12

College Age / Adults: \$15

Adults attending any NYC competition or event MUST pay \$15.

- Adult Attendee (No students or children)

Tickets:

NYC Concert.....Qty _____ x \$10 = _____
Tuesday, July 17, 9:00 pm

NYC Information: 800-877-7030 | www.fwbny.com

Women Nationally Active for Christ

Voting Delegates:

- National Executive Committee
- State President
- State Field Worker
- State Delegate (Authorization Required)
- Local WNAC Delegate **\$10**

Non-Voting:

- Missionary
- Attendee

Tickets:

WNAC Luncheon.....Qty _____ x \$25 = _____
Tuesday, July 17, 12:00 noon

WNAC Information: 877-767-7662 | www.wnac.org

Register April 2–June 15, 2012 (postmarked) No Refunds After June 15

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

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

Card # _____

Card Holder _____ Exp ____/____

RETURN TO:

Convention Registration

PO Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011 / FAX: 615-731-0771

Questions: 877-767-7659 / convention@nafwb.org

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

News About the Denomination

Leadership Conference Confronts Cultural Challenges

Nashville, TN—Leaders from 21 states and two Canadian provinces gathered at Nashville Airport Marriott Hotel December 5-6 for the 2011 Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference. The annual event, which provides a meeting venue for denominational boards and agencies, is open to every Free Will Baptist minister and leader.

The two-day meeting features nightly worship services and practical instruction along with time for conversation and networking. “I get so much from Leadership Conference every year,” said Ohio Pastor Mark Price. “Not only do I enjoy the fellowship and encouragement, but the information I take away has a profound impact on my ministry. It’s especially beneficial for someone with Dr. Wells’ experience to help pastors balance the relationship between culture and ministry.”

The 2011 conference theme, “Confronting the Culture Crisis,” brought attendees face-to-face with the challenges facing today’s church as it interacts with the world around it. Keynote speaker, Dr. David F. Wells spoke four times, urging attendees to avoid the trap of allowing 21st century culture—that is, the assumptions people make about the deep questions of life—to shape church and ministry. He encouraged listeners to strive instead to let the truth of the gospel communicate clearly, without apology.

Executive Secretary Keith Burden reflected on the impact of his messages. “Free Will Baptists took a significant step forward this week in confronting the cultural crisis in our churches. Dr. Wells helped us contextualize many of the issues we are facing, addressing them from a biblical perspective. May God give us



**Dr. David F. Wells,
Conference Keynote Speaker**



Matt and Oral Macafee



The Free Will Baptist Bible College Choir



The 2011 conference theme, “**Confronting the Culture Crisis,**” brought attendees face-to-face with the challenges facing today’s church as it interacts with the world around it.

courage and wisdom as we continue this important task.”

The author of the book, *Courage to Be Protestant*, Dr. Wells is distinguished senior research professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He received a B.D. from the University of London; Th.M. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; Ph.D. from Manchester University (Eng-

land); and was a post-doctoral Research Fellow at Yale Divinity School. He is a council member of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals. The Cambridge Declaration came about in 1996 as a result of his book *No Place for Truth, or Whatever Happened to Evangelical Theology?*

Nightly services featured music provided by Free Will Baptist Bible College,



including performances by the College Choir and Rejoice quartet, both under the direction of Dr. James Stevens.

In addition to plenary sessions and worship services, denominational officers and board members handled a lengthy slate of business. The Nominating Committee of the National Association of Free Will Baptists met to make recommendations for board and commission vacancies to be filled at the 2012 convention in Memphis, Tennessee. Tim Campbell (AR) chairs the seven-person committee.

Other national boards and committees met in conjunction with the conference, including the Executive Committee, Board of Retirement, Home Missions Board, International Missions Board, Free Will Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees, Board of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, Randall House Publications Board, and the Master’s Men Board.

The 2012 Leadership Conference will meet December 3-4, at the Nashville Marriott Airport Hotel. ■

Integrity Theological Journals Available for Purchase

Antioch, TN—The Commission for Theological Integrity has back issues of the *Integrity Theological Journal* (volumes 2 through 5) and would like to make these available to pastors for \$6 each (including postage). If you would like to purchase the journals, please send a check payable to the Commission and indicate which volume(s) you want.

Mail payment to:

National Association of Free Will Baptists
5233 Mt. View Road
Antioch, TN 37013-2306
Attention: Melody Hood. ■



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

One to ONE >>>>

Talking to the Lord

Last November, I attended the Tennessee State Meeting in Pigeon Forge. After we adjourned for lunch, I decided to take a leisurely break and enjoy a meal at a local restaurant since nothing more was scheduled until the evening service

After being seated and exchanging pleasantries with the waitress, I placed my order. In a few minutes, she returned with the meal. She made sure I had everything I needed before stepping away with a promise to check on me later. As she walked away, I did something I had done countless times before. I bowed my head, thanked the Lord for the food, and asked Him to bless it to the nourishment of my body.

As I recall, the dining room was crowded that day. Yet, I sat in my own little world, oblivious to what was going on around me. I did not listen in on the conversations taking place at other tables. Nothing about the other patrons made a specific impression upon me. I ate my lunch in relative solitude in spite of the hustle and bustle around me.

As I was finishing my meal, an elderly couple rose from a neighboring table and made their way to the cashier. As they passed, I gave them a polite smile and friendly nod. Unexpectedly, the old gentleman stopped, placed his hand on my shoulder, and with a gentle, sincere voice said, “I appreciate you talking to the Lord in public.”

I thanked him for the comment as my mind raced to think of an appropriate response. I came up blank. He quietly walked away, and I sat there speechless. In all my years as a follower of Christ, no one had ever thanked me for “talking to the Lord in public.”

Later, as I sat in my car in the restaurant parking lot, the full impact of what I had experienced began to settle in. I realized the routine things we do each day (like praying before a meal) are not routine. It occurred to me that this might be what Jesus had in mind when He said in Matthew 5:16, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

I was reminded that others really are watching us. We do not live in a vacuum. Even the smallest of actions have an impact; therefore, as a believer, I must constantly keep my guard up. Never underestimate the power of example.

So, the next time you pause to return thanks before a meal, remember—God is listening, and someone else may be watching you talk to the Lord. **ONE**



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www.fwbgo.com • 877-767-7736

PHASE ONE: 1,000 PLEDGES

**INDIVIDUALS
CHURCHES
WNAC CHAPTERS
MASTER'S MEN CHAPTERS
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
AND OTHERS**

Labor of Love Campaign was launched with the long range goal of providing supplemental retirement benefits to retired Free Will Baptist ministers and lay employees who need assistance in meeting daily needs.