

THE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

# ONE

MAGAZINE

Magazine for Free Will Baptists

APRIL/MAY 2005

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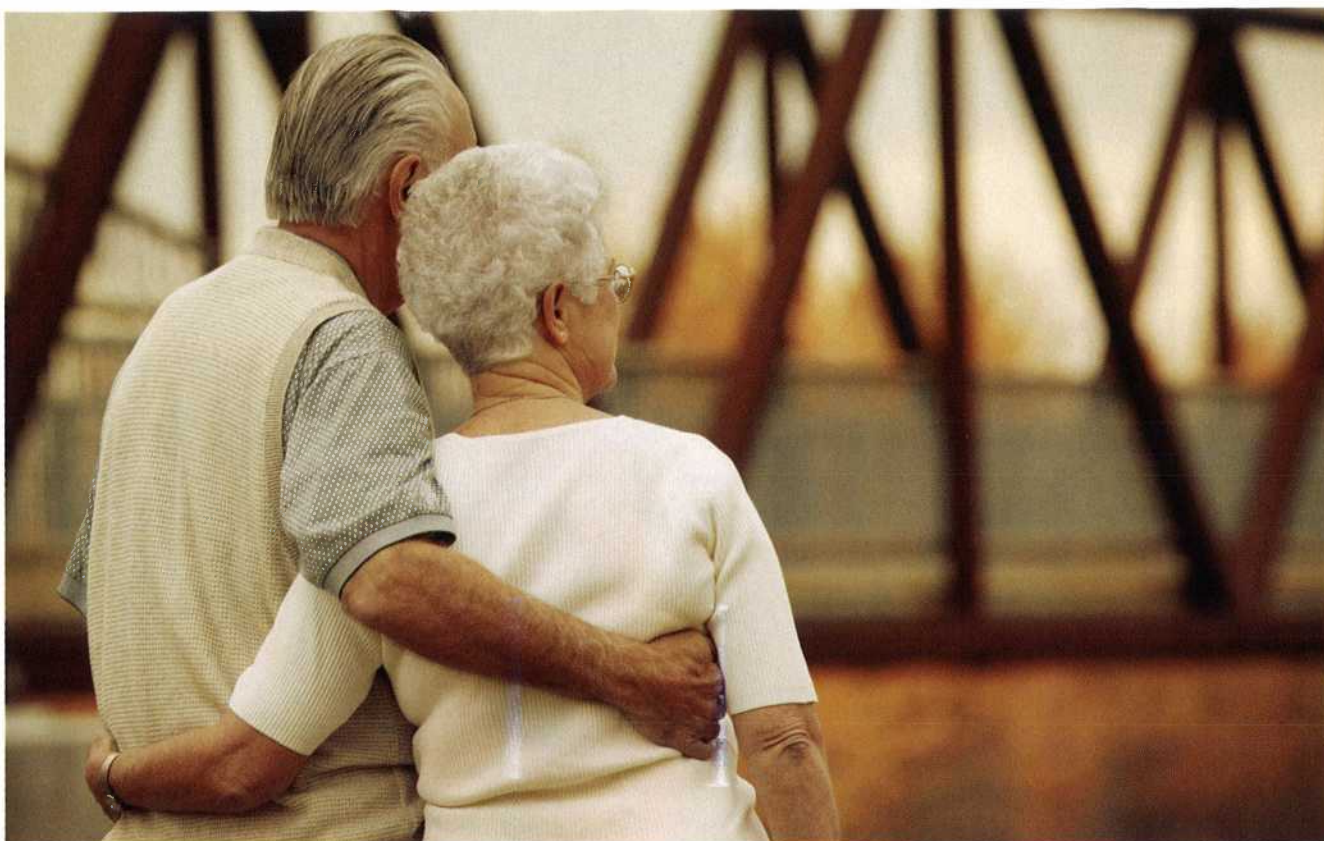
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# ONE MAGAZINE

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

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:** Keith Burden **EDITOR:** Eric Thomsen **LAYOUT & DESIGN:** Randall House Publications **DESIGN MANAGER:** Matt Markins **DESIGNERS:** Angelia Duke, Suzanne Franks, Andrea Brown, Keith Johnson, Jim Cowart, Linda Cantrell **PRINTING:** Randall House Publications **ASSOCIATE EDITORS:** Ken Akers, Bill Evans, Ida Lewis, Matt Markins, Deborah St. Lawrence, Bert Tippet, Ray Lewis; **ONE MAGAZINE** Vol. 1, Issue 1 (ISSN 1554-3323) is published bi-monthly by the National Association of Free Will Baptists, 5233 Mt. View Road, Antioch, TN 37013-2306. While *ONE Magazine* is provided to the reader free of charge, tax-deductible donations are both accepted and appreciated. To make a donation, simply send check or money order to *ONE Magazine*, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002. Periodicals postage pending at Antioch, TN and additional offices. Copyright privileges, reserved ©2005. **POSTMASTER, SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:** ONE Magazine, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.



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## ARMS AROUND THE WORLD

BY ERIC THOMSEN, MANAGING EDITOR



"What are we going to call it?"

The question drops like a bomb into the tense editorial meeting.

Silence. Heads shake. Fingertips drum. Eyes roll. More silence.

I glance around the conference table at my associate editors and see the questions written across their faces:

"What do you name a magazine that speaks to the heart and soul of hundreds of thousands around the globe?"

"What happens if nobody likes it?"

"What if we mess this up?"

"What am I doing here?"

Then the suggestions come in a flood, washing away the questions with an endless stream of possibilities . . .

We begin the search for ONE answer.

Two months, countless meetings, hundreds of suggestions, and dozens of emails later, *ONE Magazine* is the official publication that pools the resources of seven Free Will Baptist national agencies. I can see the looks on some faces.

"Why would anybody name a magazine ONE?"

The answer is simple.

**We serve ONE Lord.** Free Will Baptists are a diverse group, but we all agree on one thing. Our Lord. In Him we find unity and identity.

**We share ONE Voice.** Imagine the rolling thunder when the voices of Free Will Baptists unite to proclaim His truth.

**We embrace ONE Vision.** We must know where we are going if we are to arrive anywhere. In time, a common vision becomes reality.

**We read ONE Magazine.** You hold a tool that God can use to shape this denomination. The first issue looks closely at the long arms of Free Will Baptists—arms that reach from the rolling fields of the French countryside to the mountains of Tajikistan and across the salty desert of Utah. Hear a missionary recount his ministry to the war-torn nation of Côte d'Ivoire, travel with college students to Cuba, and listen as Doctor LaVerne Miley softly shares the gospel with a native-American patient. Study the blueprint for developing churches in the Northeast, and celebrate as other denominations make plans to use Randall House curriculum.

Go ahead. Travel to the outer limits of FWB ministry, but don't get so caught up in the journey that you forget to look for your place to get involved. Join Free Will Baptists as they wrap their *Arms Around the World!*

### SUBSCRIBE TO ONE

An important part of developing *ONE Magazine* was creating a new mailing list based on the subscribers of the six pre-existing publications. Once combined, the list had almost 100,000 names. We soon discovered, however, that most Free Will Baptists received more than one magazine, and many names and addresses on the list were duplicated three to four times.

Stewardship demanded that we remove duplicate addresses, reducing the numbers and

cutting the cost of distributing the magazine. During this process, it is possible that valid names and addresses were removed from the mailing list. If you or someone you know would like to receive *ONE Magazine*, you may add your name to the list in two ways. Call (615) 731-6812 and ask for your FREE subscription to *ONE Magazine* or visit our website: [www.onemag.org](http://www.onemag.org).

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

In future issues of the magazine, this section will contain letters to the editor. Your comments, questions, or suggestions are appreciated. Please email [onemag@nafwb.org](mailto:onemag@nafwb.org) or send correspondence to:

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ONE Magazine reserves the right to edit letters for length. Anonymous letters will not be published.



## WAR, FRIENDSHIP, AND FAITH

### BY MIKE COUSINEAU

**NOVEMBER 4, 2004, 7:15 AM**  
**—BOUAKÉ UNDER ATTACK**

Rockets rained down and 1,000-pound bombs exploded, shaking the entire city. Rebels and civilians died as government fighter planes hit strategic locations throughout the area. The tenuous cease-fire ended abruptly. We watched uncertainly as Ivorian fighter planes flew close to our campus heading for nearby rebel military installations.

My wife, Deleen, and I had returned to the International Christian Academy (ICA) campus on the outskirts of Bouaké less than three months before the attack. Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire's second largest city, had served as rebel headquarters since the civil war began on September 19, 2002. We had returned somewhat apprehensive about being behind rebel lines, yet confident this was where God wanted us.

ICA had become a strategic installation for the French military, and we were given a unique opportunity to live on the same site as the soldiers. ICA staff and French officials negotiated a "common life agreement" to make sharing the campus work. God placed approximately 150 French soldiers on our doorstep. We prayed for opportunities to build relationships and friendships.

Security concerns had been minimal since ICA reopened. The bombing required us to act quickly to insure the safety of our staff and students. We increased security significantly, and French military representatives briefed us several times daily.

In an effort to handicap rebel forces, the Ivorian government cut all electricity, water, and communications to the northern half of the country. Thankfully, we had plenty of food and water on hand.

However, I had the only contact with the outside world through a satellite phone.

As the bombing continued, our on-campus crisis management team began making plans to evacuate the staff and students. We could not travel south since the capital city was in flames. Throughout the country a massive evacuation of westerners was underway.

A French military camp about a mile from our campus was bombed, killing several soldiers and wounding many more. A week later Mr. Koné, a rebel leader I had befriended a year earlier, gave us an influential escort for our caravan. We had eight vehicles loaded with 53 people. Mr. Koné's presence made the passage uneventful as the group journeyed through a dozen rebel checkpoints to the northern border.

As the staff and students left campus, I stood at the school entrance and watched



them drive out of sight. Tears streamed down my cheeks as I realized most of them would never set foot on campus again.

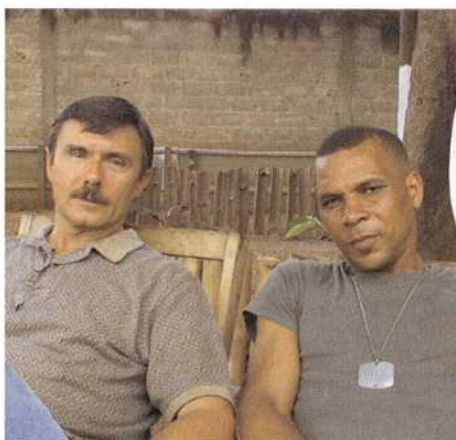
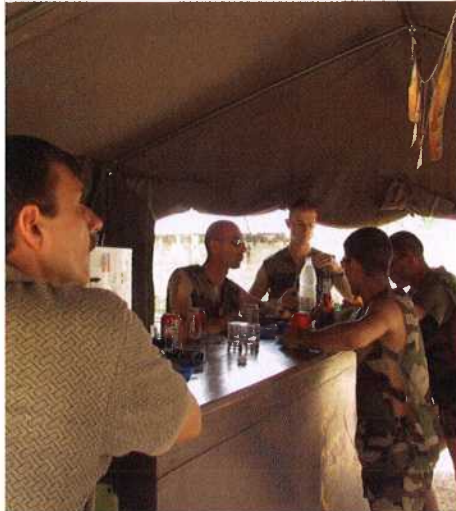
I stood at the gate mourning the death of a 44-year ministry. François Noël, the commander of the 28th Geographic Battalion, approached and invited me and the other staff person who stayed behind to eat our meals with his unit. He stated it would not be good for us to eat alone. We accepted and were warmly received by his unit.

One evening I felt impressed to take coffee to the soldiers on guard duty at the front of the campus. During our conversation Thomas inquired, "Michel, I know why we are here. We are military and are ordered to be here. Why in the world are you still here?" That night I told him and his buddies on duty about the love God gave me for the Ivorian people. I spoke of my love for Christ, and what He has done for me and for all peoples of the world. Thomas told me that he wanted to discuss these things further.

When hostilities first heightened, Cedrick, a French soldier with a three-year-old son and a pregnant wife, begged me to allow him to call his wife and let her know he was okay. He knew she would hear about the bombing of the location where he was stationed. I felt impressed to meet Cedrick's need and dialed the number of his residence in France. When his wife was on the line, I handed the phone to him. The biggest smile I had seen since the bombing began illuminated his face. This began a friendship I'm sure will last a lifetime.

My relationship with some of the soldiers grew stronger as the weeks passed. Cedrick and several of his friends came to my house almost nightly for coffee and cake. We discussed military logistics and personal struggles, and opened our lives to one another. I even had the opportunity to talk to Cedrick and Cyrille about the Christian philosophy of marriage and child rearing.

One afternoon I presented a Bible to Cedrick. He held it with both hands as if it



were the greatest treasure he had ever received. Tears filled his eyes as he said to me, "Michel, I have never had a Bible. Thank you so much."

When Cedrick's wife had complications with her pregnancy, we prayed together. I assured him I would continue to pray for her and for him. He responded, "This makes me very happy."

One evening about a week before my return to the United States I was visiting with Cyrille, a six foot, five inch, blonde-headed soldier. With all his military gear

and sunglasses, he was quite impressive. But underneath the protective gear the young man was hurting. This particular evening, he began to share some of the difficulty in his life. I was exhausted, so around 11 p.m. I quietly asked God to send him on his way. Instead, God infused me with energy until Cyrille left at 1:45 a.m. I told Cyrille I would be praying for him and his pain. His face lit up and he thanked me.

## DECEMBER 2, 2004, 6:00 AM —DEPARTURE DAY

Several men came to my house at 6 a.m. to tell me goodbye. Among them were Cedrick and Cyrille. Cyrille told me he had something very special to give me. He removed the gold chain from around his neck and placed it around mine. I looked up and saw big tears in his eyes. This chain serves as a constant reminder to pray for the men of the 28th Geographic Battalion. Not a day has gone by that I have not prayed for them.

The civil war has been devastating for Côte d'Ivoire. It has caused the country to regress in almost every way imaginable. However, I can honestly say the Ivorian Christians have grown spiritually.

Even as bombs fell from the sky and tanks fired missiles in our direction, God gave us golden moments to share boldly the reason for being in Bouaké, Côte d'Ivoire. Without the civil war, I would not have been given the opportunity to share my faith with French soldiers. New friendships were made that will not be broken. God provided many opportunities to pray with my new friends. I look forward to the moment when I can take these friends to the cross of Jesus.

*Mike and Deleen Cousineau have ministered in Côte d'Ivoire since 1978. Mike is currently making trips to Bouaké to minister to both French military and Ivorians. His dream is to see the church-planting effort in Bouaké restarted. Presently, Deleen remains stateside until the country's situation stabilizes.*





How can we reach the unreached peoples of the world? Through planting churches! The fastest way to reach lost people is to start new churches where people are. This is true in the United States and abroad.

Church planting has always been the focus of Free Will Baptist International Missions. Your international missionaries serve as church planters or in roles that contribute to the process of planting churches.

Lost people must be won to Christ and converts gathered into groups of believers who will become self-supporting, self-governing, and self-propagating churches. As these churches multiply they become church-planting movements extending the gospel to their own people group and beyond.

Every church in every culture has a role to play in God's global harvest. Free Will Baptist churches overseas are sending workers into their own "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" in greater numbers than ever before. This is as it should be. As church-planting efforts abound, so will the influence of the gospel!

Some parts of the world are open and responsive to church planting efforts. Missionaries are welcomed, and the people groups are receptive to the message they declare. The greatest advance in planting churches is in areas where numbers of

national believers have responded to the call of God to become lay or ordained preachers. Under the faithful tutelage of your missionaries, national Christians are leading church-planting efforts in fulfillment of the Great Commission. This often occurs in spite of intense persecution from their families and countrymen.

In other parts of the world church planting is slow and difficult. Although borders are open to missionary workers, the people are often resistant to the presence of American missionaries and the message of the gospel which conflicts with their worldview. In these areas, the response of national believers to God's call to plant and lead churches has been slow. Many who respond face spiritual and cultural opposition, often to the point of defeat. Your missionaries serving in these areas continue to labor faithfully, praying the Lord of the harvest will send forth laborers from the churches they establish.

Most unreached peoples of the world live in areas where open evangelism and church-planting efforts are severely limited

or even prohibited by their governments. Generally, these countries will not receive Christians who come as missionaries but welcome Christians to assist in the development of their communities and families. Free Will Baptists can meet peoples' individual needs as Christ did and, through the rela-

tionships established, share the message of hope and forgiveness found in the gospel.

Underground churches are thriving in many parts of the world. Creative access to unreached peoples also provides for winning and training core groups of believers. They will be ready to step into leadership roles when God opens doors for public churches to be established in their countries. Free Will Baptists are moving to take advantage of these opportunities. Personnel assigned to these regions may not always be identified publicly as missionaries but will represent Christ to their hosts and share the message of love as people inquire.

Church planting is how the apostles spread the gospel in the first century. Church planting is how Free Will Baptists are spreading the gospel 21 centuries later. Every Christian needs to find his or her role in taking the gospel to the ends of the earth. Together we can make a significant impact as we all use our God-given gifts, talents and abilities to extend His Kingdom to every people group on earth.

## ARMS AROUND THE WORLD





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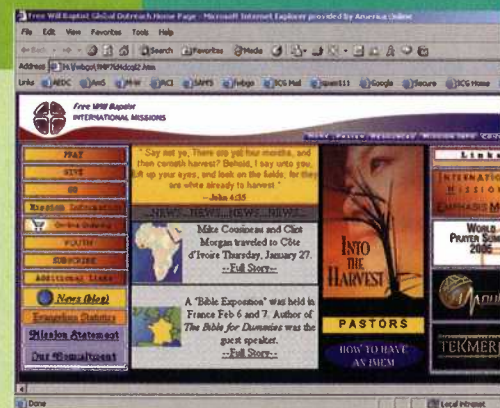
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## DELAYED REACTION FROM CUBA

BY RON CALLAWAY

Students are  
seeing for  
themselves  
what the Lord  
of Harvest  
is reaping  
among the cities  
and villages  
of the "Pearl  
of the Antilles."

It is June 2000, and missionary Kenneth Eagleton is celebrating his 70th birthday in Cuba. He is leading the first TEAM (teens equipped and active in missions) trip to Cuba. While the high school team members and their Cuban brothers and sisters celebrate his birthday, he reminds them that just 50 years earlier he was a student missionary spending a summer working with Thomas and Mabel Willey. He was not the only Free Will Baptist student who served in Cuba. Students like Chuck Snow, Mark Vandivort, and Dave Franks served with and learned from the Willey families, the Phenicies, Lucy Wisehart, and others. However, from the Cuban revolution in 1959 until the summer

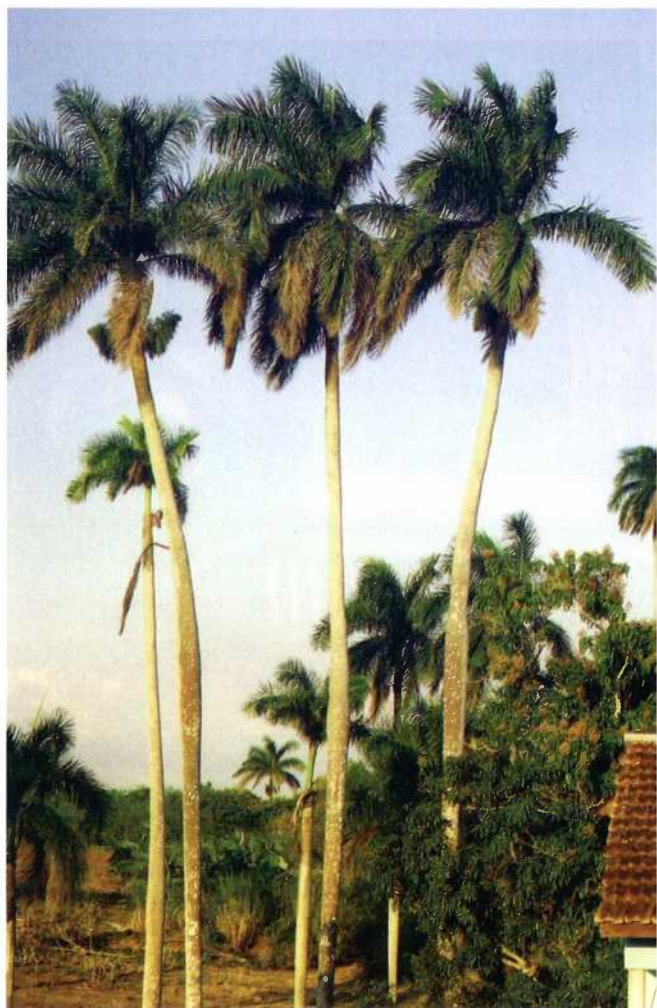
of 2000, no other Free Will Baptist students had been able to serve with the Cuban Free Will Baptist Convention.

Envision now March 2005 and 10 Free Will Baptist Bible College students traveling to Cuba to revive a working tradition that will continue in the coming years. In the group are pastoral, mission, business, Christian education, and teacher education students.

The students have raised support from their churches and friends and, as Spring Break begins, the group flies to Miami and then to Havana.

The flight takes about an hour. From Havana the group travels west by bus to Pinar del Río. They have only eight days on





*Ron Callaway joined the Free Will Baptist Bible College faculty in 2003 after more than 20 years as a missionary to Spain, Cuba, and Panama. He currently directs the college's missions training program and leads teams of students on mission internships. He is completing his doctorate in Missions at Mid America Baptist Theological Seminary.*

the island, and the Cuban Free Will Baptist Convention has planned an itinerary that will give the group maximum exposure to the two main provinces of La Habana and Pinar del Río where the majority of the Free Will Baptist churches are located. Several of the Cuban pastors are becoming proficient in English and serve as translators for the group as they sing, witness, teach Sunday School, and preach. However, the students are primarily visiting the Cuban Convention to learn from brothers and sisters who have been faithful to Christ and have seen their denomination more than double during the past 10 years.

Students are seeing for themselves what the Lord of Harvest is reaping among the cities and villages of the "Pearl of the Antilles." Close, personal contact with Cuban brothers and sisters provides the students with an opportunity to begin to understand how the Gospel affects people in another culture. The joy of the Cuban Christians is infectious, and laughter is never far away from the group as it moves, via bus and truck, across the two western provinces of Cuba.

On the western end of the island, the group is shown some of the hurricane damage (2004) done to the churches of La Fe and Las Martinas, but already repairs are being made. These two congregations continue to meet and reach into their communities. On Monday night,

an important chapel service is held on the campus of the Free Will Baptist seminary as a group of Cuban students and those from FWBBC share testimonies of what the Lord Jesus has done and is doing for and in each one.

The second half of the week—one that has gone by all too fast—is spent in the La Habana province with the Jaruco and Jibacoa churches. The last full day is spent visiting the Free Will Baptist church of Matanzas and the surrounding area.

With songs sung, sermons preached, and children taught, the group says its good-byes to new friends at the José Martí Airport. The 10 students now wait for the short flight back to Miami. What is in their minds, their hearts? Are they just thinking how glad they are to be finished with meals of rice and beans, and how they can't wait for a hamburger at Miami International? Or perhaps their thoughts are with the Cuban brothers and sisters with whom they just spent the last 192 hours? Are they ready to leave, or do they want to stay?

I am writing this article in January, almost 45 days before the trip just described. The places mentioned are the ones we will visit. But am I guilty of falsifying the story? Why don't you contact me at [rcally@fwbbc.edu](mailto:rcally@fwbbc.edu) to find out? Maybe I'll have been mistaken. Maybe, but I don't think so. I believe that without exception every student in the group will tell you that being among the Christians of Cuba is a life-changing experience. These 10 students are part of a FWBBC student body of whom more than 50 percent have been involved in mission trips—trips that are not a "spring break or summer thing," but represent a genuine desire to know God's will and to serve Him wherever He may lead them.





## CENTRAL WALKS THE SILK ROAD

BY TIFFANY HALEY

Our family attended a viewing of the film *Bloodstain on the Silk Road* at our church on November 14, 2004. The film was shown during the Sunday evening service, capping off a day of special emphasis as we participated in the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church.

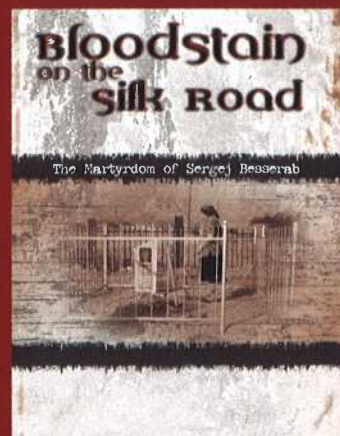
As expected, our five-year-old son Ryan napped during the film. But our 10-year-old daughter Erin watched attentively as the story of Sergej Bessarab's life, conversion, and martyrdom unfolded. We were all moved by the radical transformation of his life after coming to know Jesus and his commitment to preach the gospel even in the face of personal danger.

My husband Mike and I discussed the film as we drove home. Erin piped in from the back seat. After seeing what Sergej had done, she felt she needed to do something to help people learn more about God. Erin began brainstorming. By the time we pulled into the driveway she had decided to host an after-school Bible study for some of her friends every Tuesday.

We expected her youthful enthusiasm to die out before Tuesday came around. However, when I walked in the door from work the following Tuesday I found four children at the kitchen table. They were reading from the book of Genesis and completing a crossword puzzle from a coloring book purchased months before. They decided to continue meeting every week, reading the Bible and completing puzzles and activities from the various materials around the house. They have since read about Samson and King Solomon and have studied the Ten Commandments.

It has been a couple of months since that first night around the table. Although we had a short reprieve due to the Christmas holidays, the children still gather to study the Bible. Response from the kids has been positive. One boy asked if he could bring a friend with him. My husband and I responded with a resounding "Yes!" We hope that soon we will have "standing room only" in our kitchen.

*The Haley family attends Central Free Will Baptist Church in Royal Oak, MI, where Tom McCullough pastors.*



During the reign of communism in the former Soviet Union, thousands of Christians were exiled to the southernmost part of the Soviet Union. This region, known as Central Asia, encompasses Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Christians in Central Asia aggressively evangelize under the most difficult of circumstances. In the entire history of Isfara, Tajikistan, no church of any kind has existed. Sergej and Tamara Bessarab went to Isfara to plant a church and saw results, especially among the young people. In order to silence him, Sergej was shot and killed in his home during his personal devotional time.

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## NEHEMIAH PROJECT AWAITS CITY APPROVAL

VILLALBA, SPAIN—Architect's plans for construction of a church building in Villalba, Spain, have been submitted to city officials. The city has a two-month window to review and approve the current plans. City officials have until the end of February to respond. Meanwhile, the church is seeking a construction loan from local banks. Historically, banks in Spain have not been favorably disposed to issue loans to evangelical organizations.

The Nehemiah Project, as the enterprise has been dubbed, has been in progress for over 10 years. Land for a permanent church building was purchased years ago, however the city previously blocked construction plans.

## TSUNAMI RELIEF DONATIONS ACCEPTED

ANTIOCH, TN—The earthquake and tsunamis that struck Asia on December 26, 2004, did not directly impact International Missions works. However, the horrific loss of life and devastating damage certainly demand Christian participation in relief efforts.

General Director James Forlines released the following statement: "International Missions will gladly accept donations for disaster relief. We will forward 100% of these donations to a reputable evangelical relief organization with established ties to that area of the world."

To donate on-line using a credit card, go to [www.fwbgo.com/storedonate.htm](http://www.fwbgo.com/storedonate.htm) and designate your gift to "Humanitarian Assistance Fund." For other methods of giving visit our website: [www.fwbgo.com/donation.htm](http://www.fwbgo.com/donation.htm).

## BIBLE EXPOSITION GENERATES HUNGER FOR WORD

ST. NAZAIRE, FRANCE—The St. Nazaire Free Will Baptist Church sponsored and hosted a two-day Bible Exposition February 5 and 6. Eric Denimal, author of the French edition of *The Bible for Dummies*, spoke four times during the expo.

Robert Bryan noted that although attendance was less than hoped for (approximately 50 visitors), those who came were positively impacted. A 17-year-old boy, who attends church only because his parents require him to, was "rapt with attention" according to Bryan. One lady exclaimed, "It made me want to read the Bible!"

"In Europe," wrote Bryan, "we have to count victories in small increments. Our church people, having seen some of the richness of the Word, want to read it."

## COMPLETE RECOVERY EXPECTED FOR DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

ANTIOCH, TN—Director of Financial Operations Rob Conley was hospitalized December 3 with a life-threatening toxic strep infection in his left leg. He was released from the hospital on December 15, only to return to the emergency room during the night. Conley was released December 23. A successful skin graft was performed on January 10. Mr. Conley returned to work on a part-time basis at the end of January.



## ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS, CHALLENGES STAFF

ANTIOCH, TN—A diverse group gathered January 14-15 in the Free Will Baptist National Offices to advise, encourage, and challenge the Mission staff. The Advisory Council is currently composed of 17 specialized laymen and women from around the country.

General Director James Forlines began the session with an overview of the Mission's strategy and goals. After small groups met to discuss specific topics, everyone reconvened to process the information gathered. Attendees offered encouragement and suggestions to enhance the Mission's ability to perform its tasks more creatively and efficiently.

The Advisory Council will gather annually. However, their ongoing availability to give advice for specific needs renders their volunteer service invaluable.





## NEW CONVERTS IN JAPAN

**HOKKAIDO, JAPAN**—Missionary Joni Thomas recently praised the Lord for two more converts in the Miharashidai FWB Church. Keiko, a young lady who faithfully attended the church and youth meetings for about 18 months, became a believer while studying in England for a semester. She shared her decision with missionaries upon her return in January.

Mrs. Oui, who has been attending services for a few months, thanked the Lord for her newfound faith on Sunday, January 16.

Joni urges, "Please hold fast in prayer . . . as Satan would love to discourage and deceive" both these ladies and others who have recently accepted Jesus as Christ.



## MISSIONARY UPDATES

**SPAIN**—Anthony and Lea Edgmon are scheduled to begin a short stateside assignment February 24. The family will be based in Nashville, TN, during their six-month stay.

**BRAZIL**—Tom Hughes, missionary in Uberlândia, Brazil, indicated Odevan Calvario accepted Christ on December 12. The man had been attending church services for about six months. Odevan is married and has two daughters.

## BELO HORIZONTE CHURCH ORGANIZES

**BELO HORIZONTE, BRAZIL**—According to Dr. Kenneth Eagleton, missionary to Belo Horizonte, the Belo church organized on November 20 with 17 charter members. Representatives from six other Brazil Free Will Baptist churches were present to celebrate the historic step. "Our people are excited about the opportunities for ministry in our area," writes Kenneth.

## BASQUE TERRORISTS CONTINUE VIOLENCE

**MADRID, SPAIN**—The Basque terrorist group ETA set off a car bomb in Madrid, Spain, February 9. The explosion, in front of a six-story office building near the airport, shattered windows and injured 43 people.

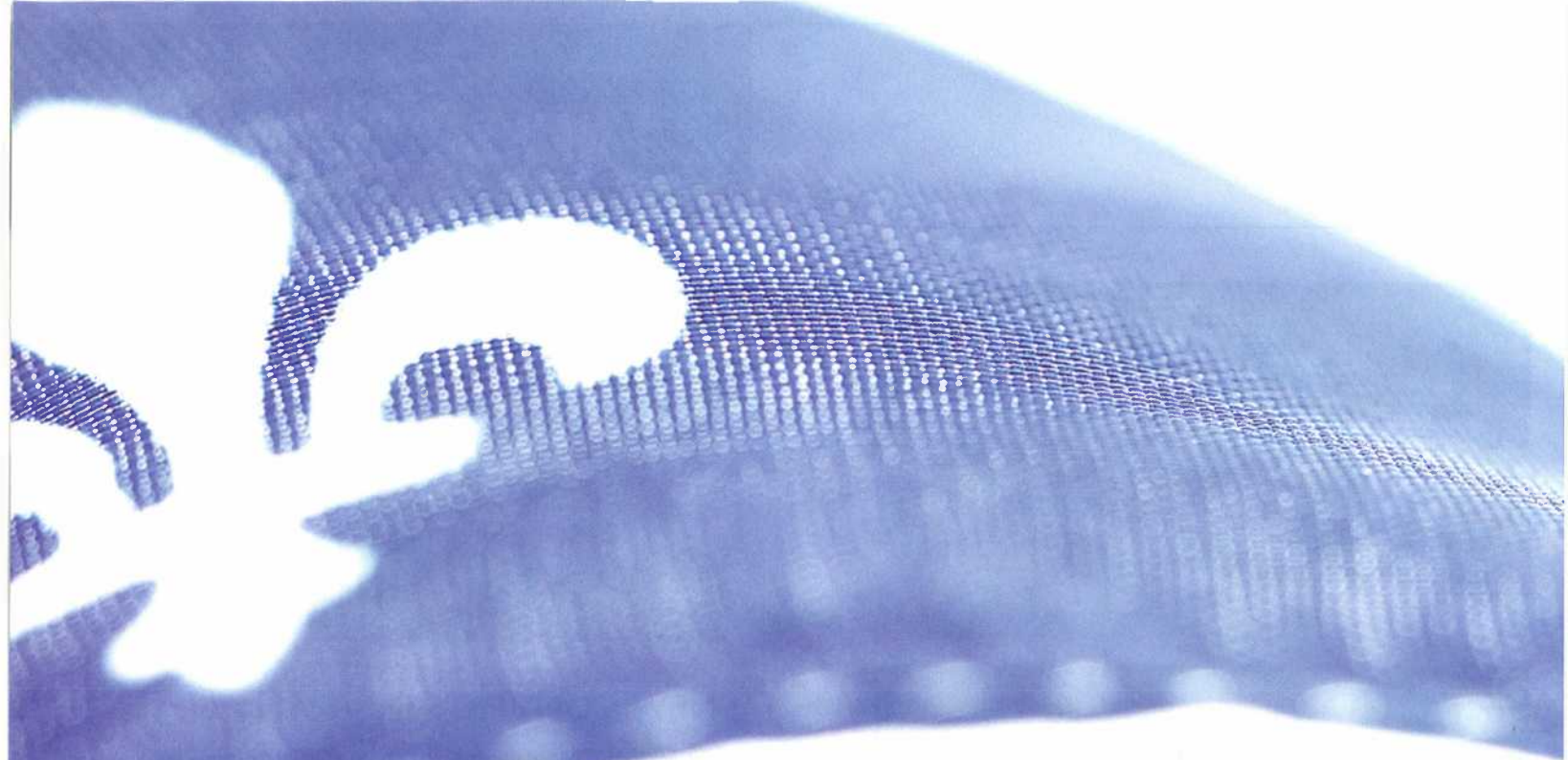
Thus far, no one affiliated with Free Will Baptists has suffered injury from the terrorist activities. However, ETA has been blamed for more than 800 deaths since the late 1960s.

Anthony Edgmon urges Christians to pray for the people of Spain.

## TRAINING SESSIONS SUCCESSFUL IN GOMÉRE

**GOMÉRE, COTE D'IVOIRE**—Missionaries Verlin Anderson and Alice Smith held another Community Health Evangelism training session in Gouméré, January 21-23. The three days were packed with seminars designed to train Ivorian Christians how to reach into surrounding villages with health services and evangelistic efforts.





## A HIGHER COMMISSION

BY YANNICK KERMOVAN

Some quickly judge the success or failure of a ministry by the number of converts...God does not use the same accounting system we use. Had I been the only person needing forgiveness, Jesus would have gone to the cross just for me.

"Lord, I have left my country. I've struggled with the French language. I've gone to the markets to sell Christian books. People are wary of me and accuse me of being in a cult. I'm tired. I'm not going to try any more. I'm fed up. Nothing is working. I'm staying home. Do Your job. Send me a sign!"

So prayed a lonely, frustrated, and discouraged missionary to France. He had done everything he knew to do. In desperation, Don Sexton prayed with his wife Billie that God would make something happen. As he concluded his prayer a knock sounded at the door. When they opened the door a man said, "I am the salesman who's come to sell you the Renault 5 for Charolette Tallent...."

This is that salesman's story.

I am Yannick. I was born in 1956 into a family of five children. Our family was Catholic by tradition, but we were non-practicing.

From a very young age I searched for God. As a 13-year-old I envisioned becoming a Catholic priest. However, my parents didn't encourage me, and later I hoped to marry.

On January 22, 1977, I met Dominique, and she became my wife on April 28, 1978. We have three children. Samuel, 25 years old, is a fireman in Paris. Vincent, 20, is a

student and wants to join his brother. Agnes, age 18, is also a student but, thankfully, does not want to be a fireman!

My story begins in 1978, the year Dominique and I married. I was a car salesman for Renault. One day a colleague told me a pastor wanted to buy a car. My colleague was "allergic" to priests, pastors, and anyone who resembled them. Rather than meeting this pastor himself, he asked me to go. So I went to see this man with the dreadful accent. If he would buy a car from me I was willing to listen to it.

Our interview was cordial. His wife made good coffee and gave us little cakes. He had an attractive personality. He gave me his business card on which was written: "Don Sexton, Free Will Baptist Pastor."

I asked him, "Are you like the Mormons or the Jehovah's Witnesses?"

He replied that his ministry was to bring the Word of God. He said the "Free Will Baptist" label was undoubtedly difficult for me to understand, but he would explain if I would grant him a little more time.

On my second visit I had only one goal: to conclude the transaction and leave these good folks to their spirituality. Once the business was completed, Don smiled at me



and said, "May I ask you two questions?"  
 "Yes. Please do."

"Do you believe the Bible is the Word of God?"

As a good Catholic, even if I had never read the Bible, I did not want to pass for an imbecile. So I answered in the affirmative.

"If I show you a passage in the Bible that is not subject to a Baptist interpretation, are you ready to obey the Word of God?"

And there I was trapped!

I told him I would agree on one condition: he must read the passage in the Jerusalem Bible translation (the official translation of the Catholic Church). Not a problem! He picked up that translation and read the passage that changed my life forever.

"It is by grace that you are saved by means of faith and that not of yourselves. It is a gift of God, it is not by works, so that no one may glorify himself" (Ephesians 2:8,9).

For a Catholic to hear this message of salvation by grace was revolutionary. I had always been taught that if I wanted to be saved by God, it would be by works. I went home troubled. I couldn't sleep. Something in me was not the same. For the first time in my life the Bible made sense. I understood! So every day I went to visit this pastor who explained to me the Word of God. And every night I shared his comments with my wife.

He invited us to a worship service in the rented dining hall of a school on the east side of Nantes. I heard people praying and sharing what God had done in their lives. I saw what they lived daily. We were even more troubled. So we gave our lives to the Lord in 1979.

We had struggles. Our families closed



Yannick shares his testimony with American pastors.



Steve Riggs (right) interprets for Yannick.

their doors to us. They felt we had betrayed them. The day we were baptized by immersion, no one from our families came to the service. It was hard.

Although both Dominique and I had very good professional situations, we took three-month-old Samuel and went for a year of biblical studies at Emmaüs Bible Institute in Switzerland. Upon returning to Nantes we continued our spiritual walk with the Murray family. They strengthened our training in the service of the church. The church of Nantes, with pastors John Murray and Steve Riggs, and the church of St Nazaire, with pastors Jerry Gibbs and Tom McCullough, prayed for us.

Today I am 48 years old. Every time I enter my church, which sits 100 meters from where I knocked on Don Sexton's door, I thank the Lord I met Don and his wife.

Recently I was unemployed for 15 months. During those 15 months, I was able to be more available for the church. Steve Riggs gave me the responsibility for the

Wednesday night prayer service. I was able to visit those in difficulty. Seeing the problems of other people allowed me to forget my own troubles.

I was happy in spite of the negative responses to my job search. Though it weighed on my morale, I had to be patient. Each month we had to take from our savings to live. Our unemployment allowances were not enough to pay our bills. But God did not allow us to be tempted beyond our strength.

Now I face a choice. The harvest is ripe, and there are few workers. What is my place? I wait today for God to confirm His call by opening the door for full-time service. I also wait for brothers and sisters of our church to recognize this call on my life.

My meeting with Don was not by chance. It is also not by chance that the church you allowed us to buy sits only 100 meters from the place Don Sexton lived! I see the hand of God who has a plan for it all.

Some quickly judge the success or failure of a ministry by the number of converts. Take care, dear brothers and sisters. God does not use the same accounting system we use. Had I been the only person needing forgiveness, Jesus would have gone to the cross just for me. I've wondered, "Did God send Don and Billie Sexton to France just for me?"

Pray for us, that we may have joy and know His will for our lives. Remind yourselves that it is not in vain that you support missionaries financially and in prayer.

My testimony is proof of that, and to Him be the glory! May the Lord bless you.

*Yannick Kermovan is a member of the Nantes FWB Church in France. He is currently employed as sales manager for an Opel dealership.*





## MISSIONS: WHAT'S IT TO YOU?

Is there a role for you to play in spreading the gospel to the ends of the earth? Absolutely!

The Great Commission was given to the Church—the assembly of which every believer is a member. Therefore, every Christian has an obligation to find his or her place of personal involvement in reaching the lost around the world. Our Lord Jesus said in John 4:35, “Look on the fields...they are white already to harvest.” Record numbers of Free Will Baptists are responding by moving out of the pews into the global harvest.

### YOU CAN SERVE!

Opportunities abound for missionary service through Free Will Baptist International Missions. Our current missionaries are crying out for more workers to join their ranks around the world. In the past three years, 44 new missionaries have been appointed for service. Yet the need for more workers is great.

In addition to the demand for full-time career missionaries, a variety of needs for temporary workers exists on all our fields. This summer 87 high school students and adult sponsors will form seven E-TEAMS for two weeks of ministry in Cuba, Brazil, Japan, Russia, Uruguay, Panama, and France. Our College Ministry Program will send seven college students to serve with the E-TEAMS, seven as a team to Kazakhstan, and five as apprentices in France, Kazakhstan, and Uruguay.

Adults from a growing number of churches are personally participating in mission trips and projects that take two weeks or less. Free Will Baptists are learning to use their professional training and vocational skills for volunteer service to help our field ministries and stateside mobilization efforts.

For information on opportunities and requirements for service contact Judy Lytle ([judy@fwbgo.com](mailto:judy@fwbgo.com)).

### YOU CAN ENCOURAGE!

Missionaries need encouragement from those of us in the States. Contact from home strengthens them through times

of loneliness, discouragement, and difficulty on the field. Missionaries also enjoy sharing their victories with folks at home.

God has given our generation unprecedented tools for communication. You can use those tools to make a difference for missionaries and their families, as well as national pastors and Christians. The internet has opened the door for email, web cameras, instant messaging, and even web phones. You can send encouragement, share news from home, and update prayer requests. You will never know how much your encouragement means! Handwritten letters are a special treasure.

You can find email addresses for all Free Will Baptist missionaries at [www.fwbgo.com](http://www.fwbgo.com). Both email and mailing addresses are located in the missionary directory available from our office.

### YOU CAN PRAY!

The most powerful impact you can have on missionary work is through prayer. Prayer allows you to intercede for a missionary's personal welfare and his or her ministry. You can partner in soul-winning efforts worldwide by praying specifically for the people missionaries are attempting to reach. Through prayer you can engage directly in spiritual warfare against which all our missionaries struggle.

“Hotline,” a weekly list of prayer requests, is posted on our website and International Missions will send it free of charge to anyone who requests it. Sign up today ([april@fwbgo.com](mailto:april@fwbgo.com), (877) 767-7736, or [www.fwbgo.com](http://www.fwbgo.com)) for weekly updates.

### YOU CAN INVEST!

The cost of reaching the world for Christ is high. The work of global evangelism—deploying missionaries, building church buildings, training national leadership, and operating the home office to serve missionaries overseas and the denomination stateside—is expensive. With inflation and expansion of our missionary force, expenses will continue to rise. It will never become cheaper for Free Will Baptists to obey the Great Commission.

You can participate in God's global harvest by giving per-





BY DOUG LITTLE

sonally to help plant churches overseas through Free Will Baptist International Missions. While many people choose to give through their local church, growing numbers are taking advantage of new on-line options for personal giving directly to the Mission ([www.fwbgo.com](http://www.fwbgo.com)). You can give a one-time gift or authorize automated monthly bank drafts.

Your gifts to International Missions can help change the world! All undesignated contributions help advance the total program of Free Will Baptist International Missions. In addition to cash gifts, individuals may give stock, real estate, equipment, or services as in-kind contributions. Gifts to Free Will Baptist International Missions are tax deductible. Please contact me for more information ([doug@fwbgo.com](mailto:doug@fwbgo.com)).

I've met people who regret that they did not invest in Wal-Mart when they had the chance years ago. Today they realize the financial return they missed by choosing to spend on themselves what they might have invested. The day will come when many Christians will regret their failure to invest more in the work of global evangelism. In heaven they will realize the reward they missed when they chose to spend on themselves what they might have invested in eternity. Giving today can help you stand before our Lord at judgment with no regrets.

## WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Free Will Baptists began sending missionaries overseas nearly 200 years ago. The challenges and opportunities we have today are beyond anything our forefathers could have dreamed. You can be personally involved in the harvest in ways previous generations never imagined.

With these opportunities comes responsibility. Jesus said the harvest is ripe, but laborers are few.

## WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT IT?

*Doug Little is the director of stateside development for Free Will Baptist International Missions.*



Foundation

## WHY YOU NEED A WILL

A recent survey indicated that 60% of all adult Americans have never made a will. That figure is all the more surprising when you consider the consequences:

- Without a will, the state may distribute much of your property for you—according to its own inflexible laws and in ways that may violate your every wish.
- Without a will, you disinherit the worthwhile organizations you have assisted all your life. A well-planned will can continue your support for Free Will Baptist Home Missions with tax savings that make the cost of such a bequest surprisingly modest. Executing a will is neither difficult nor expensive...particularly when you consider how much your thoughtful will can add to the security and well-being of your family and reflect your own life values.

The Free Will Baptist Foundation is serving Home Missions by providing a comprehensive booklet on the subject of wills that you can receive simply by clipping and sending back the coupon below, or by calling our toll-free number. We look forward to hearing from you!

**Please send me your free booklet on will planning.**

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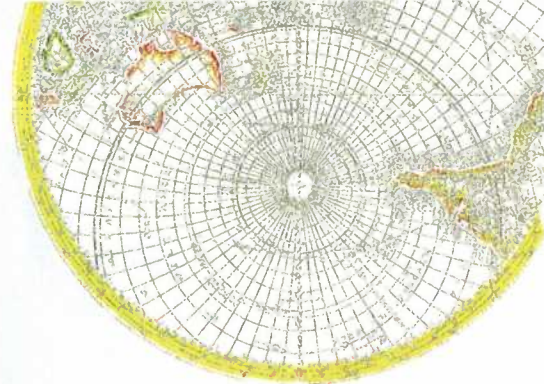
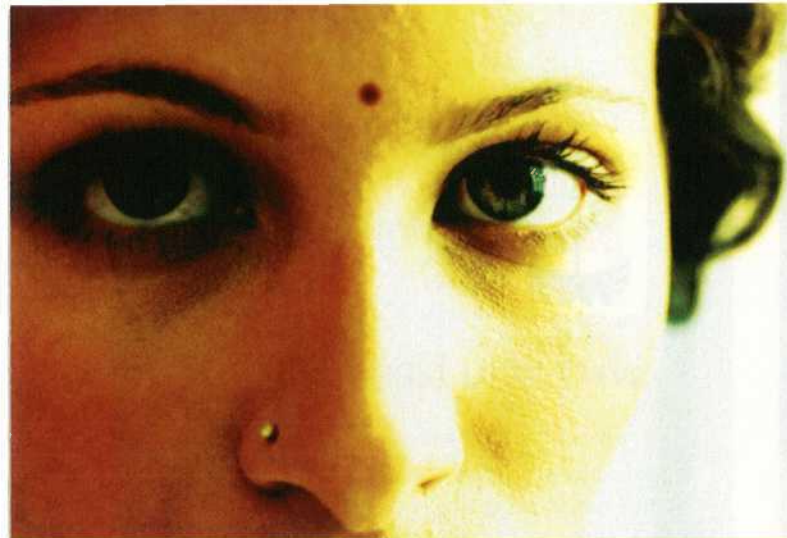
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Free Will Baptist Foundation





## DESTINATION WORLD

BY MATT PINSON, PRESIDENT  
FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

The college's missions-as-lifestyle approach is probably the main reason that more than 88 percent of all Free Will Baptist international missionaries have attended Free Will Baptist Bible College.

I remember attending a National Association seminar about ten years ago. The discussion revolved around the large numbers of missionaries retiring over the next several years. This was compared to the dwindling numbers of students answering the call to cross-cultural missionary service. I would never have dreamed a decade ago that Free Will Baptist Bible College would experience such a boom in the numbers of students answering our Lord's call to service as career missionaries, tentmakers, and short-term missionaries.

FWBBC is abuzz with missions. Our student-led Global Missions Fellowship (GMF) stimulates interest in missions and builds awareness of people across the globe who need the gospel. GMF accomplishes this through daily student-led prayer services for missions, fundraising for mission projects, and student mission trips. GMF also sponsors "Missions Moments," once a week in chapel.

GMF is symbolic of FWBBC's 62-year long drive to fill its role in the Great Commission—and to equip our students to do the same. It is our intention to make global missions not only a career but also a lifestyle. We want FWBBC to produce graduates who are Great Commission Christians.

We believe that every student can play a special role in this mandate. Some students are called to career mission service and are being educated for that role at FWBBC. Our excellent B.A. degree program in Missions takes missions education seriously, for majors and non-majors alike.

Headed by veteran missionary-teacher Ron Callaway, missions majors combine heart, head, and hands to master cross-cultural ministry.

The missions program sponsors trips, internships, conferences, and a host of other activities and events to make missions a central part of campus life.

Students who are called to local church ministry—pastors, Christian education ministers, children's and youth ministers, music ministers, and others—will have the opportunity to stimulate a vision for missions in the ministry of a local church.

Other students major in business, teaching, counseling, or some other "secular" field. Many of them will be career tentmakers in restricted access countries. Others will be called to surrender a specific time in their lives—a week, a month, a year—in short-term missionary service. They will use their vocational skills to help reach the lost in another culture. All of our students will be involved in praying, giving, and sending.

FWBBC's missions program works hand-in-hand with Free Will Baptist International Missions to educate Free Will Baptist missionaries who are thoroughly prepared for cross-cultural ministry. Leaders from Free Will Baptist International Missions and Home Missions have a presence on campus, and we are training students to support denominational mission efforts.

The college's missions-as-lifestyle approach is probably the main reason that more than 88 percent of all Free Will Baptist international missionaries have attended Free Will Baptist Bible College. We are boldly continuing our commitment to global missions—to being a Great Commission college for the glory of God in the 21st century.



# DESTINATION NORTH AMERICA

BY LARRY POWELL, GENERAL DIRECTOR, HOME MISSIONS

With prayerful hearts and a great desire for soul winning and church planting, we set our eyes on fields that are white with harvest. The Home Missions Department endeavors to reach the lost across the nation with a special focus on the Mid-Atlantic and Rocky Mountain regions.

## MID-ATLANTIC MISSION

Forty-six million people, one out of every six Americans, live in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware. Thirty-nine cities across this region have more than 50,000 in population. The Mid-Atlantic area has grown by one million people in four years and is expected to increase by more than a million within the next four years.

Former home missionaries, Tommy and Pam Jones, established a thriving work in Pittsburgh. That's a beginning. We are praying that God will raise up teams to go into cities like Greensburg, Williamsport, and Scranton, Pennsylvania. Our research confirms that counties in outlying areas around Baltimore, Hagerstown, Frederick, and Annapolis, Maryland, are growing faster than the cities themselves. The population is shifting to the outer edges of Wilmington, Dover, and Georgetown, Delaware. The need is tremendous. The call is clear. Will you go?

## ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

During the last few years, Colorado, Utah, and Idaho ranked as the third, fourth, and fifth fastest growing states in the nation. They will gain another 665,000 residents in four years. Several million people live in the area from Colorado Springs north along Interstate 25, through Denver into Ft. Collins (135 miles). Castle Rock, Brighton, Longmont, and Wellington, Colorado are experiencing tremendous growth. The front-range is becoming home to 177 new people each day. Currently, we have a

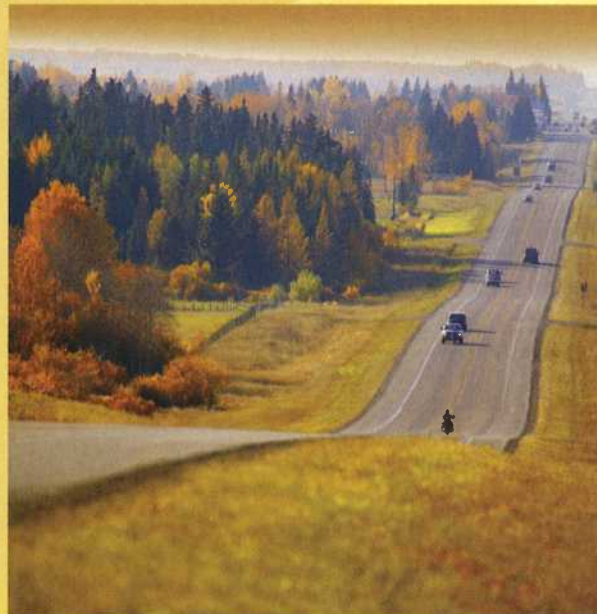
foothold in Colorado with four mission churches and one established church. Colorado has 26 cities with more than 50,000 people in them. Now is the time to plant churches in this quickly expanding Rocky Mountain region.

A great salt lake soon comes into view when traveling west from Ft. Collins, Colorado, across the Rocky Mountains. Multitudes are held in spiritual darkness in the desert of Utah, especially the area surrounding Greater Salt Lake City. Free Will Baptists have a base there in the "mouth of the lion." Bill and Kay Phillips planted our first Free Will Baptist church in Salt Lake City. Tim and Jessica Lewis are digging out a work in nearby Ogden. Randy and LeAnn Ledbetter and Scott and Staci Warren are preparing to launch a new mission in northern Salt Lake City. Numerous cities have little or no gospel outreach from West Jordan north through Salt Lake City and up to Logan.

Further west across the Rockies is Idaho. Free Will Baptists have six churches in Idaho where a great surge in growth is expected within the next few years. The Macedonian call is clear. "Come over and help us!"

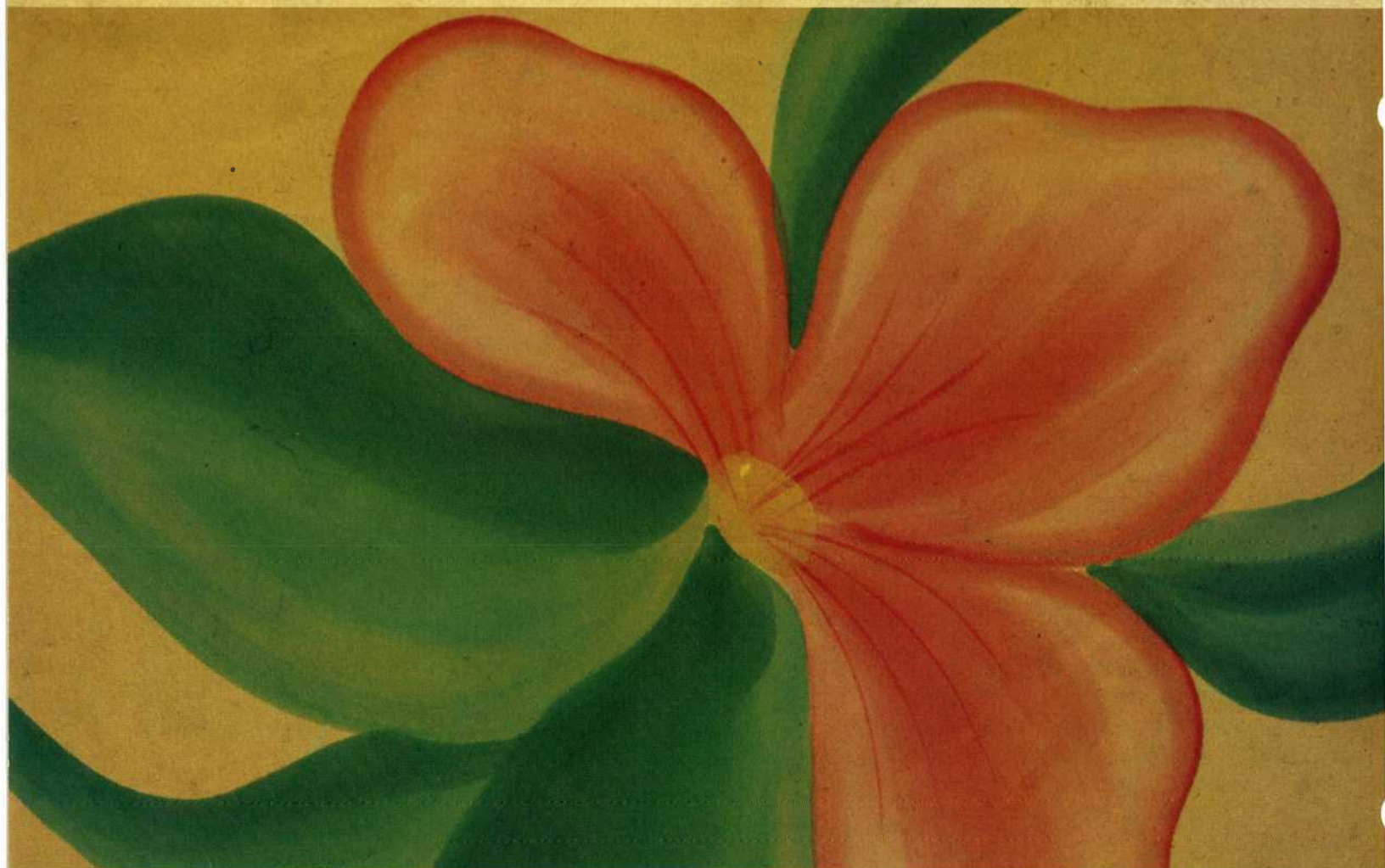
If our Lord Jesus impresses your heart to go to a Mid-Atlantic mission or the Rocky Mountain region, please call today. Leave the Bible belt and head for one of more than 100 cities with no Free Will Baptist church. For the exciting, cutting edge experience of your life, plant a new church in North America.

*For current information on prayer requests, praise items, and opportunities for service, please visit the Home Missions Department at [www.HomeMissions.net](http://www.HomeMissions.net).*



Leave the Bible belt and head for one of more than 100 cities with no Free Will Baptist church. For the exciting, cutting edge experience of your life, plant a new church in North America.





## ROAD TO MINISTRY: THE STORY OF A HISPANIC STUDENT

BY DAVID NEWTON

In December of 1998, a young man, his wife, and their three children arrived in Colorado Springs, Colorado, from Quito, Ecuador. They left behind all they had known for the young man to follow the call he felt as a newborn Christian—a call to go and preach the gospel to men and women in need of a Savior.

Diego Cueva and his wife Maria longed to find a place where they could train and prepare to serve God. Opportunities were very limited in Ecuador. Once in the United States, Diego began a search for the right place to prepare for ministry. The institutes he found were for English-speaking students only. Places became available for Spanish-speaking students, but financial and time requirements were too much for the family to bear. The call remained, but it was in God's hands to train His servant.

The Cueva family began attending a church in Colorado Springs and became actively involved in its ministries. God began to use real-life experiences to shape and mold this willing servant. Diego went to work as a salesman in Denver (a one-hour commute each way). As he submitted himself to God's will, doors for ministry training began to open.

In the early days of 2004, Diego picked up a Christian magazine, and his eyes were drawn to an advertisement for the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute. Immediately, he felt as though God had opened the door for his ministry training. He and his wife began praying earnestly for God to guide them. After discussions with their pastor and weeks of prayer, Diego, Maria, and their

children prepared to leave for the institute in South Carolina.

Diego, Maria, and their oldest daughter Sarah, enrolled for the second term of 2004 in this new institute. During five months of concentrated study, they also were involved in practical ministry at the Hispanic Free Will Baptist Church in Una, South Carolina, where Home Missionary Rev. Gerardo Rodriguez pastors. As they studied, God worked in their lives and opened doors for a church to be planted in northern Virginia. Diego again trusted God's guidance and decided that he and his family would move to Woodbridge, Virginia, to begin a Spanish-speaking Free Will Baptist church.

From Quito, Ecuador, to Woodbridge, Virginia, God has led this willing servant. The road has not been easy but well worth the journey.



# BEYOND BRICKS AND MORTAR

## BUILDING HISPANIC MINISTRY

BY DAVID NEWTON



In America today, more than ever before, the field of Hispanic ministry is ready for harvest. More than thirty million Spanish-speaking people work and reside in America today. The command to take the gospel to every creature still rings true.

The Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute, located in Inman, South Carolina, began one year ago with the mission of training men and women to go into American cities and plant Bible-preaching Hispanic churches that would become centers for evangelism and worship for Hispanic communities. Many answer the call to go and serve. Some are single, young men willing to serve God. In other cases, entire families sell everything or just give it away to come, train, and serve God wherever He leads. All have the same desire at heart—to take the gospel to a lost Hispanic culture and share with them life in Christ.

On Saturday, December 17, 2004, the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute held commencement exercises for the second graduating class. Fourteen new students began the next term in January. Each of

these men and women will participate in five months (over 700 hours) of intensive, college-level Bible classes and classroom instruction, approximately 200 hours of practical ministry experience and numerous opportunities to serve and minister in local Free Will Baptist churches. All alumni currently serve in some capacity in Free Will Baptist churches across the nation. The future holds exciting days for students, professors, and supporters of the institute as God works through students to touch the lives of the Hispanic population in America.

The recent Hispanic migration into America provides an incredible opportunity. God has opened a great door of ministry. Many grope in darkness and confusion, awaiting the message of salvation.

For information on services, enrollment, or ways you can help the institute, please call (864) 472-2863. Students would enjoy visiting your church and sharing their vision with you. Join us as we reach the Hispanic community for Christ! The harvest will not wait forever. Get involved today!

In America today, more than ever before, the field of Hispanic ministry is ready for harvest.

## Free Will Baptist International Missions Prayer Hotline

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISE ITEMS.

Receive yours by fax, email, or visit our website at [www.fwbgo.com](http://www.fwbgo.com).

Email [april@fwbgo.com](mailto:april@fwbgo.com) or call (877) 767-7736 (April Bybee) for more information.



# Benjamin RANDALL OFFERING

## HOME MISSIONS ANNOUNCES RECORD OFFERING

The 2004 Benjamin Randall Offering resulted in a record \$359,000! This is the largest Benjamin Randall Offering ever received! With your help we can continue planting new churches across North America.

We desperately need to strengthen our home base and plant more churches. If we don't do this, we soon will not have anyone to fill our pulpits or to serve overseas and carry out the Great Commission.

Our top ten donors have earned an unforgettable *Christian Heritage Tour of Europe* hosted by Richard Adams and Larry Powell. In addition, sixteen pastors and their wives will enjoy *The Free Will Baptist Heritage Tour* through Benjamin Randall country hosted by Richard Adams. Twelve pastors and their wives will tour Nashville and enjoy two nights at the Opryland Hotel.

These trips instill a sense of pride in our pastors for our Free Will Baptist heritage. Our forefathers paid a great price to bring this country into being, giving us the religious freedom our denomination enjoys today.

November 20, 2005 marks the date of the next Benjamin Randall Offering. Begin now to plan, pray, and prepare for a great offering! For free materials and promotional ideas, contact the National Home Missions Department, P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002 or call toll free: (877) 767-7674.

*Richard Adams is the Director of Development  
for the Home Missions Department.*



## TOP TEN DONORS BENJAMIN RANDALL OFFERING



Rev. Jason Myers  
Victory  
Free Will Baptist Church  
Hanover, PA  
\$21,884.21



Rev. Herman Hyman  
Immanuel  
Free Will Baptist Church  
Santee, SC  
\$16,349.57



Rev. Lee Neill  
Macedonia  
Free Will Baptist Church  
Purdy, MO  
\$16,000.00



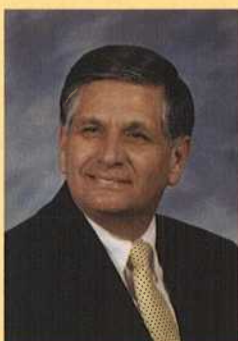
Rev. Randy Sawyer  
First  
Free Will Baptist Church  
Gastonia, NC  
\$11,000.00



Rev. Daniel Voss  
West Tulsa  
Free Will Baptist Church  
Tulsa, OK  
\$10,890.00



Rev. Roger Tolliver  
Cornerstone  
Free Will Baptist Church  
Crab Orchard, WV  
\$10,000.00



Rev. Archie Ratliff  
Bethel  
Free Will Baptist Church  
Kinston, NC  
\$8,000.00



Rev. Danny Dwyer  
Cramerton  
Free Will Baptist Church  
Cramerton, NC  
\$8,000.00



Rev. Barry Raper  
Red Bay  
Free Will Baptist Church,  
Red Bay, AL  
\$7,461.85



Rev. Jay Baines  
Townsend  
Free Will Baptist Church  
Townsend, DE  
\$6,321.89

## TOP GIVING CHURCHES

CHURCH	PASTOR	AMOUNT	CHURCH	PASTOR	AMOUNT
Woodbine FWB Church, Nashville, TN	Roy Harris	\$6,153.17	North Valley FWB Church, Phoenix, AZ	George Harvey	\$2,525.00
Cornerstone FWB Church, Nashville, TN	Cliff Donoho	\$6,141.00	Piney Grove FWB Church, Guin, AL	Randy Wright	\$2,500.00
Free Will Baptist Church, St. Croix, VI	Ken Dodson	\$5,431.00	Mount Calvary FWB Church, Hookerton, NC	Fred Carraway	\$2,480.00
Faith FWB Church, Lavalette, WV	Ray Williamson	\$5,276.00	Center Point FWB Church, Birmingham, AL	Glenn Hood	\$2,400.00
New Oak Grove FWB Church, Nauvoo, AL	Mickey Crane	\$5,051.90	First FWB Church, Russellville, AR	Kevin Riggs	\$2,363.42
Limestone FWB Church, Limestone, TN	Ronnie Mitchell	\$5,000.00	Forest Valley FWB Church, Springfield, OH	Herb Davis	\$2,362.03
First FWB Church, Checotah, OK	Van Washington	\$4,274.42	Westfield FWB Church, Katy, TX	David Ferguson	\$2,325.73
First FWB Church, Washington, NC	Mike Gladson	\$4,000.00	Rocky Pass FWB Church, Nebo, NC	Billy Jones	\$2,200.00
Bible Truth Chapel, Spartanburg, SC	Larry Buchanan	\$3,449.50	First FWB Church, Desoto, MO	Bob Thebeau	\$2,130.00
First FWB Church, Stanley, NC	Anthony Perkins	\$3,228.38	First FWB Church, Fayette, AL	Mark McCraney	\$2,074.00
Canaan FWB Church, Creston, OH	Jim McComas	\$2,920.00	Harvest FWB Church, Fort Wayne, IN	Jeff Sloan	\$2,068.24
Landmark FWB Church, Colliston, LA	Rue Dell Smith	\$2,753.70	Virginia Beach FWB Church, Virginia Beach, VA	J. D. Norris	\$2,010.00
Heritage FWB Church, Columbus, OH	Tim Stout	\$2,664.05	Peace FWB Church, Wilson, NC	Gordon Sebastian	\$2,000.04
Harriett Memorial FWB Church, Caroleen, NC	Robert Harris	\$2,662.49	Louisa FWB Church, Louisa, KY	Vennie Vanhoose	\$2,000.00
Victory FWB Church, Goldsboro, NC	Rick Cason	\$2,543.08	Oak Grove FWB Church, Durham, NC	Eddie Dollar	\$2,000.00





## HOME MISSIONARIES REACH THE SELF-SUPPORTING MILESTONE

**NASHVILLE, TN**—National Home Missionaries Cliff and Kathy Donoho have successfully planted a Free Will Baptist church in Nashville, Tennessee. The Cornerstone Free Will Baptist Church reached self-supporting status within a four-year period. Four acres of prime land situated in a busy and growing area of Nashville have been purchased with plans for a new church building. This is the 20th year the Donohos have been employed by the Home Missions Department. The couple has successfully planted Free Will Baptist churches in Salem, Illinois, and Davenport, Iowa. They are excited by the challenge of leading this new church and winning the lost to Christ. Ask God to bless this family as they continue to move forward in this endeavor for the Lord. The Home Missions Department congratulates Cliff and Kathy on a job well done.

**QUEEN CREEK, AZ**—National Home Missionaries Rick and Stephanie Morris recently completed their goal of bringing the Mountain View Free Will Baptist Church, Queen Creek, Arizona, to self-supporting status. Much has taken place within the church since their arrival in 2001. Attendance has grown steadily, and they average 250 in services. More than 25 ministry leaders and 100 volunteer workers, along with Assistant Pastor Joey Bilbrey, are consistently involved in this fast-paced work. Future plans include finishing the new church building located on a six and one half acre campus. Pray for Rick, Stephanie, and their children Christian, Lacey, and Aubrey Ann as they continue in this Arizona ministry.

**SACRAMENTO, CA**—The Home Missions Department congratulates Vladimir Lopuga in leading the Sacramento Free Will Baptist Mission Church to self-supporting status. Brother Lopuga was one of the very first representatives of the cross-cultural ministry established in 1999 by the Home Missions Department. Vladimir is originally from Kazakhstan. He, his wife Anna, and their family have worked tirelessly in their ministry to the Slavic people in the Sacramento, California, area. Much has been accomplished including a recently acquired church building. Ask God to bless the Lopugas as they continue to minister in Sacramento.



## INTRODUCING NEW MISSIONARIES

**OGEMA, MN**—George Lemelin and his wife, Kathy, are ministering as Associate Missionaries to the Native American Ojibwa people (sometimes known as Chippewa) in Ogema, Minnesota. Kathy is a Native American of the Ojibwa tribe. Of the total population on the White Earth Reservation, forty-four percent, (4,016 people) are "self-classified" as Native American, according to a recent

U.S. census. In 2000, 9,192 people lived on the reservation. The tribe currently has more than 20,000 enrolled members. Historically, traditional Indian religion dominates the tribe. Witchcraft is also prominent on the reservation. Please ask God to open the door to the gospel and protect the workers. George and Kathy have three children, Josiah, Marie, and Isaac.





## ROY THOMAS MEMORIAL FUND BUILD MY CHURCH 2005 UPDATE

Through the Build My Church Trust, the Home Missions Department has helped 12 mission churches buy property or build buildings! This ministry has been made possible by the first million dollars that you, the supporters, contributed to the initial Build My Church campaign.

At this time, \$726,000 has been given toward the second one million dollar trust. If 274 more churches or individuals will give \$1,000, the goal will be reached. This is God's work, and your help is needed.

Many of you send offerings on a monthly basis. You have played a significant role in this effort. Please continue your pledge until this goal is met.

Thank you for what you have done already. If you take that one small thank you and multiply it by one thousand, you will understand a small measure of our gratitude for your willingness to give sacrificially to this ongoing endeavor.

Dr. Richard Adams

Director of Development



## BUILDING DEDICATION IN CABOT, ARKANSAS

CABOT, AR—On January 16, 2005, more than 200 people across the state of Arkansas came to Cabot to join the mission church as they dedicated their new building. Arkansas State Home Missions Board Chairman Dwayne Roper preached the dedication message. Brother Roper was joined by many other state leaders in this celebration. This mission church is a joint project between Arkansas Free Will Baptists and the National Home Missions Department.

The Arkansas Association purchased twenty-four acres of land. With the assistance of additional money from the association's APPLE Fund, the mission was able to get off to a quick start. With 9,600 square feet, the multi-purpose building will seat at least 350 people for worship services. Home Missionary Jim Fairchild says, "We are thankful for all those who have given and helped to bring our church to this point—especially Arkansas Free Will Baptists."



## TRIP OF A LIFETIME

ANTIOCH, TN—Make plans now to travel with Rev. Larry A. Powell, Dr. Richard Adams, and 40 others on the Christian Heritage Tour of Europe. If you would like to be a part of this special adventure (scheduled for August 1-12, 2005), please contact the Home Missions Department as soon as possible.

The trip itinerary includes a stop in London to visit Spurgeon's Tabernacle, John Wesley's house and museum, and other famous historical sites. Travel from London to Paris, France, via the EuroStar high-speed train. After touring Paris, a motor coach will take you through the beautiful French countryside to Geneva, Switzerland. In Switzerland, visit the Wall of Reformation and John Calvin's church as you enjoy the beauty of the majestic Alps and pass through the cities of Interlaken, Lucerne, and Zurich.

From Switzerland, travel through Austria to Germany where you will visit several cities and cruise through the German countryside on the Rhine River. Your final stop will be the splendid Luther Memorial and Worms, the City of the 1521 Edict.

Space for this tour is limited to 40 people. For more information and free brochure, please call toll-free (877) 767-7674 or (615) 519-9298 and ask for Dr. Richard Adams. We hope you will join us for this trip of a lifetime!



SALT LAKE CITY, UT—Scott and Staci Warren and Randy and LeAnn Ledbetter are teaming up to plant a Free Will Baptist church in northern Salt Lake City. This area has great spiritual needs. Less than five percent of the population claims affiliation with an evangelical church. Pray for these families as they plant this church and share the truth of the gospel in Salt Lake City. The team is an answer to prayer, and their ministry is vital in the state of Utah.





Over the last 30 years I have watched our denomination fluctuate between 2,600 and 2,700 churches. It seems that for each new church planted, another church closes or changes affiliation. Somehow we must break this cycle. I believe this is possible if we accomplish two goals.

## WE ARE NOT GETTING THE JOB DONE



### START MORE NEW CHURCHES

To grow numerically and financially support missions, Christian education, benevolent organizations, national departments, and lay organizations within our denominational structure, we must start new churches at every level. At the national level we must develop new areas and regions for Free Will Baptist expansion. We must partner with state associations, district associations, and local established churches to plant churches in their states, cities, and communities. The only way to insure growth is to start new and exciting, soul-winning, Great Commission churches.

### STRENGTHEN OUR ESTABLISHED CHURCHES

Our denomination will not grow by starting new churches alone. We must strengthen and encourage pastors and congregations. We must provide resources for struggling churches and give encouragement and counseling to discouraged Christian workers. We must do a better job of providing programs of restoration for fallen Christian workers. Millions of dollars in property and facilities have been lost as we have watched one church after another close its doors.

Cooperation is vital. When we learn to work together for growth in our denomination, unconcerned with who gets the credit, then I believe we can begin to grow. Credit and honor go to God and not to us! When we learn we are building for the Kingdom, we will have more students than our colleges can hold, more people who want to serve as missionaries than we can train, and more money for ministry than we can possibly spend. Let us work together to get the job done for God and His glory.

*Contact the Home Missionary of your choice and participate in Operation Saturation on September 24, 2005.*

### BY DAVID CROWE

*David Crowe has been the Director of Church Growth for the Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department for nine years.*



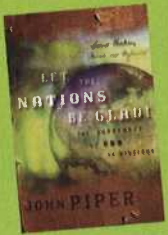
# in REVIEW

## GRACE, FAITH, FREE WILL



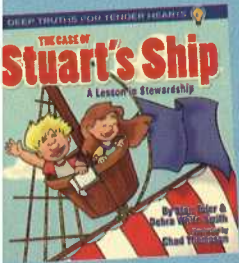
By Dr. Robert E. Picirilli—Professor of Greek and New Testament at Free Will Baptist Bible College for more than 40 years, Dr. Robert E. Picirilli has the rare gift of making difficult subjects understandable and interesting. His latest book, *Grace, Faith, Free Will*, examines the issues that have divided Calvinists and Arminians since the Reformation. He also explains his position which he terms "Reformation Arminianism." The book presents each topic from the Calvinistic view and the Arminian view with biblical theology studies that support the Arminian view. *Grace, Faith, Free Will* (paperback, \$19.99) is published by Randall House Publications.

## LET THE NATIONS BE GLAD



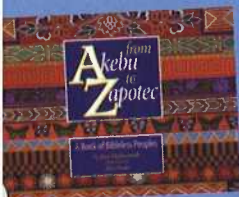
By John Piper—"Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man." John Piper's opening sentence introduces a paradigm shift in the church's traditional view of missions. Piper contends that the "chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever." Everything that we do, especially worship and missions, must stem from God and His supremacy in life. *Let the Nations Be Glad* offers readers a practical, in-your-face worldview realignment that makes God the central focus in worship, prayer, missions, and in all of life. *Let the Nations Be Glad* (paperback, \$14.99) is published by Baker Academic.

## THE CASE OF STUART'S SHIP: A LESSON IN STEWARDSHIP



By Stan Toler and Debra White Smith and Illustrated by Chad Thompson—The newest release from Randall House Publications is sure to be a favorite among teachers, parents, and children alike. *The Case of Stuart's Ship* is designed to help children of all ages understand the principles of stewardship in a fun and interesting way. As the main characters, Stuart and Sam, set off to win a fun poster contest, they uncover what it means to be true stewards of God's gifts. Through good detective work and vivid imaginations, they overcome their confusion and realize how to put stewardship into practice. This book is excellent for parents to read and discuss with their children. Children will love the illustrations, and parents will appreciate the principles behind the storyline. The authors provide questions and fun ideas to help children follow Stuart and Sam's example and make stewardship part of everyday life. *The Case of Stuart's Ship* is the first book in the series from Randall House: Deep Truths for Tender Hearts—books explaining deep concepts of Christianity in an age appropriate manner. *The Case of Stuart's Ship* is a must have for any family, Christian school, and church library! *The Case of Stuart's Ship* (hardback, \$14.99) is published by Randall House Publications.

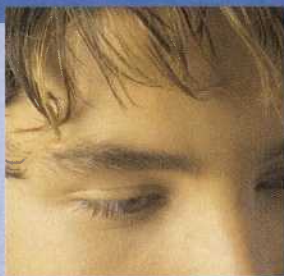
## FROM AKEBU TO ZAPOTEC, A BOOK OF BIBLELESS PEOPLES



By June Hathersmith and Illustrated by Alice Roder—Imagine taking an exciting adventure to visit 26 different places around the world. This book encourages a heart for missions by introducing children, one letter of the alphabet at a time, to a people group who doesn't have the Bible in its own language. The unique stories and illustrations in this book will give children a desire to know more about other cultures and lands. It will inspire them to pray for the people they meet in the book and will illustrate how God can even use children to spread His Word. Even before they learn to read, children can learn the value of God's Word and the power of prayer. In fact, this is the second book of its kind by Wycliffe Bible Translators. The first one is no longer needed because every one of the 26 groups now has a Bible in its own language. Prayer makes a difference! *From Akebu to Zapotec* (paperback, \$8.99) is published by Wycliffe Bible Translators.

All products reviewed above can be purchased from Randall House. Call (800) 877-7030 or visit [RandallHouse.com](http://RandallHouse.com).





## BOY ON THE BUNK

BY BERT TIPPETT

It was my freshman year at Bible College, and I was out on my weekly Christian service assignment. He sat on a bunk directly across from me, flanked by two other boys in their mid-teens. They were part of a congregation of reform school boys to whom our Christian Service team had just presented the gospel. So many responded to the invitation that each member of our group had to deal with two or three.

The other two boys were in tears, clearly moved by the message, repentant. But the center boy, respectful and attentive, showed no emotion that I could detect. All three prayed the sinner's prayer; all three told me that God had come into their hearts, two with tears, but the other with a solemn face.

In the van on the way back to our Nashville campus, I reported just two conversions. "The third boy just didn't seem to be responding," I explained.

A week later, I missed the weekly service at the reform school, but when the group returned to campus, they converged on my room. "Remember the boy you said didn't respond? Well, he won two others to the Lord...in reform school...his first week as a Christian!"

I learned it isn't what's on the face, but what's in the heart that makes the difference.

*Bert Tippet is the Public Relations Director, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, TN.*

# INTERSECT

WHERE THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

## IF YOU ONLY KNEW

Squash. I couldn't stand to look at it, much less eat it when I was a kid. "If you only knew what you're missing," my mother would tell me, shaking her head as she savored each bite of the nasty stuff.

When Jesus made a point to seek a woman by Jacob's well in Samaria (John 4), he told her something similar. "If you only knew who I am and what I'm offering you," he assured her, "you would have asked me first thing for the amazing gift I can give you" (verse 10).

My thoughts run along the same lines today when people I try to reach with the gospel turn down Jesus' offer. "If you only knew what you could have if you'd just believe," I think to myself.

Consider the implications of what the Lord was saying to this woman.

*If you only knew . . . that none of us differs in our need.*

"We shouldn't be having this conversation," she told Jesus. After all, Samaritans and Jews didn't get along. Yet what was true then holds today. Though our world divides itself into every possible faction, ultimately we all belong to one group. "All have sinned," the Scripture asserts; "there is no difference."

*If you only knew . . . that your life could be so much better.*

Like so many people today, this Samaritan had suffered because of a string of bad choices and bad relationships. Yet the Lord offers healing and wholeness to all those buried under the rubble of collapsed hopes.

*If you only knew . . . that I am who I claim to be.*

She knew about the Messiah. Evidently she had told herself there would be answers when he came—and suddenly, she met Him face to face! If Jesus is the Christ, why aren't we telling that to the people we meet?

*If you only knew...that I could give you everything you've ever really wanted.*

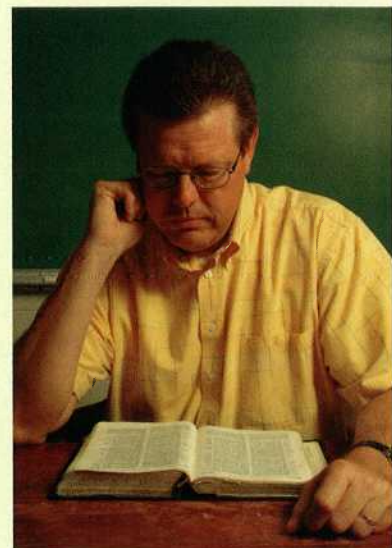
"Living water," Jesus calls it—total satisfaction. As people around us spend their lives barely treading water in the face of overwhelming tides that will eventually wear them down, only a relationship with Him will keep us above the surf and give purpose to living.

*If you only knew...that God is looking for you.*

"The Lord is looking for people like you," Jesus told her. If He is looking, we should be, too. Start with just one person, that special person close by, that friend you've known all these years who needs the Lord. Be like this woman who, once she knew Jesus, told her friends, "Come and meet this man!"

You know, I love squash now—any way you prepare it. So do my kids after we told them over and over, "If you only knew..."

*Dr. Garnett Reid is a member of the Bible Faculty at Free Will Baptist Bible College.*







## **RYAN LEWIS NAMED FWBBC RECRUITMENT DIRECTOR**

NASHVILLE, TN—Senior exercise science major Ryan Lewis has been selected as Free Will Baptist Bible College's Director of Recruitment, according to Jeff Caudill.

Mr. Caudill, Director of Enrollment Services, says, "Ryan has been and will continue to be a tremendous asset to FWBBC. I look forward to working together with him as we continue to enroll more and more students. It is such a blessing to work with people of Ryan's caliber."

Ryan, a native of Cisne, Illinois, worked last year with the college's recruitment phone bank. In August, he joined the enrollment management team full time. He has traveled with the New Mercy and Rejoice ministry teams and has played baseball and basketball with the FWBBC Flames. He finished his class work in December and will graduate in May with the class of 2005.

He says, "FWBBC has made a tremendous impact on my life. As I see the direction it is headed, I am excited and want to be a part of its continuing ministry in advancing the kingdom."

## **FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE PLANS SUMMER CAMP**

NASHVILLE, TN—Summer Camp 2005 will be held at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee, June 19-24.

The camp encompasses five areas: Preaching, Music, Drama, Basketball, and Leadership. Campers may choose the emphasis that best fits their needs.

Cost is \$195. Applications received by June 13 will earn a \$10 discount.

For an informative brochure, call (800) 76.FWBBC or email [recruit@fwbbc.edu](mailto:recruit@fwbbc.edu).



## **COMMENCEMENT PLANS ANNOUNCED**

NASHVILLE, TN—Rev. Edwin Hayes and Rev. Keith Burden are scheduled to bring challenges to Free Will Baptist Bible College's 2005 graduating class in May. Rev. Hayes, Executive Director of Ohio Free Will Baptists, will bring the baccalaureate message on Thursday evening, May 5. Rev. Burden, Executive Secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, will bring the final charge to graduates at commencement exercises on Friday morning, May 6.

## **STUDENTS RAISE \$10,000 FOR MISSION CHURCH**

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College students set out to raise \$10,000 over the course of a year to help build a church in Tajikistan—but reached their goal in four months!

The college's Global Missions Fellowship (GMF) adopted the project in October of 2004 under the direction of John Murray, Christian Service Director.

The money, to be matched by Russia's Central Baptist Union, will help to build a church in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Tajikistan is the poorest of the former Russian republics. Bordering on Afghanistan, it is nearly 90 percent Muslim with a population of about 7 million.

James Forlines, General Director of International Missions, says, "It is incredible for Bible College students to have raised this much money in such a short time. Years after their college days are over, there will be a church in Tajikistan making an impact for the Kingdom." He added, "This truly is a God-honoring legacy for these students."



## **COLLEGE APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR OF ENROLLMENT SERVICES**

NASHVILLE, TN—Jeff Caudill has been named Director of Enrollment Services at FWBBC. As such, he will oversee the areas of financial aid and student recruitment and retention. He has served with distinction in both fields. Assisting him as Director of Recruitment is Ryan Lewis, a senior from Cisne, Illinois. Ryan has traveled with college ministry teams and played basketball as a member of the FWBBC Flames.

## **NASHVILLE CHURCH GIVES PROPERTY TO FWBBC**

NASHVILLE, TN—Members of Horton Heights Free Will Baptist Church, Nashville, Tennessee, following a decline in attendance to the point that the church could no longer sustain itself, have voted to turn the property over to the Free Will Baptist Foundation.

The sale of the property, approximately 3 acres, will fund an endowment benefiting Free Will Baptist Bible College. The gift will fund a chair for its Missions Department, yielding a five percent return to the college annually to train students preparing for missionary service.

FWBBC president Matthew Pinson said, "Horton Heights Church has played a strong and integral role in the ministry of Free Will Baptist Bible College for decades. This gift will allow the church to continue its support of the college and Free Will Baptist International Missions, thus leaving a Free Will Baptist legacy for the kingdom of God that will continue until our Lord's return."





## CHRISTIAN SERVICE WE'RE ALL ABOUT IT! BY JOHN MURRAY

Education without experience is an oxymoron. Someone has said, "Instruction without implementation is an exercise in futility." Christian service puts into practice what is learned in the classroom.

It was a warm, fall afternoon when a student suddenly burst into my office exclaiming, "Brother Murray, we just led a man to Christ!" A man was visiting his mother in the neighborhood near the college and went for a walk. He stopped to relax on a swing near the college library. Two freshmen were in the area and asked him about his relationship with Christ. They showed him how he could be forgiven of his sins and were able to lead him to Christ. They had just learned "one verse evangelism" the day before.

This is one of the many results of Christian service. Every Free Will Baptist Bible College student is involved in a

Christian service ministry each week.

It is interesting that universities across America are just now seeing the benefit of "community service." Nicholas Confessore in his article, "What Makes a College Good?" in *The Atlantic Monthly* notes the importance of "integration"—where students apply the knowledge they've learned in the classroom. One of the five benchmarks he emphasizes is "how well an institution promotes activity and collaborative learning," and whether the school offers "enriching educational experiences." What is a new emphasis for many colleges and universities has been a weekly experience at Free Will Baptist Bible College for 63 years. Last school year, 2003-04, our students completed more than 7,800 hours of Christian service. Twenty-two groups originated from the campus, and 33 churches benefited from the energetic

ministry of our students.

Christian service is more than what we do weekly. Sometimes, unusual events in the lives of others inspire Christians to serve. During the past two falls, such events have occurred. First, a hurricane hit the coast of North Carolina devastating the churches at Davis and Stacy. During the 2003 fall break, 14 students traveled with Jeff and Calisse Caudill to North Carolina to help rebuild those churches.

The fall of 2004 saw hurricane Ivan assault the Florida gulf coast, particularly the Pensacola area. During the fall break, 16 students went with me to help three churches in Pensacola. We helped one family that was not a part of the church, and the pastor said, "You have done more in one hour to influence the husband to come to church than I have been able to do in two years." Touching lives is what Christian service is all about.



## STUDENTS EXPERIENCE A VARIETY OF MINISTRIES

Each year FWBBC students choose a different Christian service. This enables each student to be exposed to a variety of ministries. They have ministered in jails, nursing homes, Bible clubs, on the street, as tutors, and as conversation partners with foreign students from area colleges. They have preached at the Nashville Union Mission (for homeless men and women), and have been involved in a host of other ministries in local churches.

One of our students named Sharon, who had a neighborhood Bible club in her home, came into my office. She said what she liked about her Christian service was "the opportunity to reach kids for Jesus and make a difference in their lives." She related that the previous Sunday three kids from her children's church group were baptized. She went on to say that one came to her later and told her he wanted to be a preacher.

## WE ARE TRAINING LEADERS

Free Will Baptist Bible College is committed to training leaders. We believe bold leadership is needed in every area of ministry. The leaders of the Christian service groups that go out from the college are led by students who were in that ministry group the previous year. This provides continuity in the group and allows each leader to learn from the leader who preceded him or her.

The quality of the leadership is evident to the community where they serve. I received an email from Melissa Burka, who teaches international students at West End Middle School across the highway from the college. Our students tutor theirs in English, math, and English conversation. She wrote, "We are enjoying having your students over here to help our students. It is amazing the difference it is making for some of our students."

## RESULTS THAT COUNT

I often wonder how those who have made decisions are holding out. I was pleased to have a former student call me and share his experience. He worked at Baptist Book Store. One day a gentleman came to the counter to pay for some books. He asked, "Don't I know you?" As they talked, the man reminded the student that he had been in a jail where the student ministered. He had been saved and called into the ministry. It was encouraging to hear what God is doing in the lives of those touched by Christian service.

*By John Murray, Christian Service Director, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee*

## MORE FROM CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Matt and Cristina Price, candidate missionaries to France, led their conversation partner to Christ after two years of conversation. Every week they talked to him about their faith in Jesus Christ, and eventually he accepted the Lord. Our students meet weekly with a large number of international students from area colleges. This has opened many doors to witness.

I was in the lunch line on campus. Aaron was behind me. He said, "Brother Murray, I am so excited that I have been able to personally lead five people to the Lord this year. I recently led a lady to the Lord at the women's mission." I am privileged to have students stop me on campus or come by my office to share what God is doing in their lives.

A pastor commented about one of our students, "I wish I had a hundred like him. He is committed, energetic, and totally involved in our church." About half of our students carry out their Christian service in local churches.

During prayer time in a personal evangelism class, Charles said, "I want to tell you the greatest thing that has happened to me. I led someone to Jesus last night." He had preached at the Anchor Home for young men, and two of the young men were saved.

Mrs. Campbell, activities director at Knowles Health Care Center, called to let me know our students are doing a wonderful job ministering to the residents. She shared that during the summer the residents ask frequently about our students and anticipate their return.

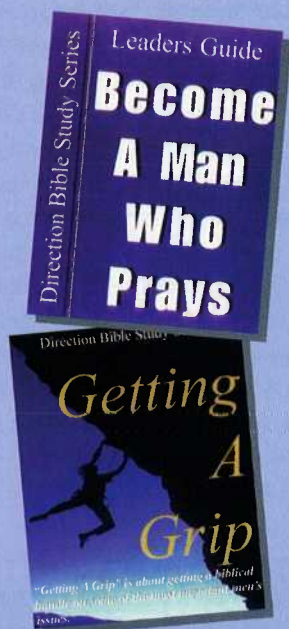
In a personal evangelism class, one young man asked to say a word before we prayed. He expressed concern that he had never led anyone to Christ. He also asked his dorm prayer group to pray that he might lead someone to Christ. Then, he went with a group to the Nashville Union Mission. After the service that night, one came forward to be saved and four made other decisions. The concerned student led the one to salvation. By the way, that was not his regular Christian service. Many of our students serve when it is not required.



What is a new emphasis for many colleges and universities has been a weekly experience at Free Will Baptist Bible College for 63 years.



# DIRECTION BIBLE STUDY SERIES



Master's Men has developed the *Direction Bible Study Series* to help students discover what the Bible says. The series can be used individually or in a group\*. As you study, you will be urged to apply what you have learned. We trust you will be blessed as you seek direction for your life.

## DIRECTION BIBLE STUDIES INCLUDE:

**Become a Man Who Prays**

**Pure Man**

**Winning Men**

**The Armor of God**

**Blessed is the Man**

**Getting a Grip**

**The Walk**

**Champions of Faith**

**Serious Pitfalls to Spiritual Progress**

Each study is available for purchase. Please contact our office for details.

\*As a benefit of joining Master's Men, each Master's Men chapter is entitled to receive two free Bible Studies per year.

**VISIT US ONLINE  
WWW.NAFWB.ORG/MM**



## MEET THE STAFF BOARD OF RETIREMENT & INSURANCE

In the April 2004 board meeting of the Board of Retirement and Insurance, Rev. Bill Evans announced he would soon step down from his duties as director and focus his energies on the Free Will Baptist Foundation. The board elected a search committee to begin the process of hiring the next director. After a careful and extensive search, Rev. Ray Lewis, a North Carolina native, was selected to fill the position. He will assume the director's duties effective August 1, 2005.

Rev. Lewis joined the Board of Retirement staff in May 1983 as the business manager. He was named associate director in 1996. Before joining the Board of Retirement staff, he pastored in Durham, North Carolina, and Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He also taught in the business department at Free Will Baptist Bible College. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina (Pembroke) and Free Will Baptist Bible College. He attended graduate school at Middle Tennessee State University.

Ray and his wife, Ida, are faithful members of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville. They have two children: son Chris and his wife Kelli live in New York City, while daughter Kelly lives in Antioch, Tennessee.

One of the first duties of the incoming director was to hire a secretary to replace Diana Harris who, after serving as secretary for several years, retired this past year for medical reasons. On January 11, 2005, Laura Harrison joined the staff as secretary/receptionist. Laura is from Tampa, Florida. She originally came to Nashville to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College where she met her husband Andrew Harrison. Laura and Andrew attend Cross Timbers Free Will

Baptist Church where Andrew's father, Paul, serves as pastor.

Also beginning his career with the Board of Retirement this year is Joey McGlashan who joins the staff as business manager. Joey was born in Statesboro, Georgia, the sixth of seven boys. He came to know Christ at a young age and became more involved in church as a teen at Glennville Free Will Baptist Church. After graduating from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1994 with a B.S. in teacher education, Joey moved to Greenville, North Carolina, to become a teacher and coach at Trinity Christian School.

From there, he spent a few years in the corporate world, leading him to continue his education in order to become more effective. He just completed his Master of Business Administration at Belmont University in December 2004. The providence of God has been evident in his life as the position of business manager for the Board of Retirement became available as he finished his degree. Joey is thrilled to join the staff and excited about his future serving the denomination.

Joey is married to Karla Kelsey McGlashan. They have one son, Seth, age 3. They are faithful members of Donelson Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville.

Ray, Laura, and Joey are all excited about being a part of the ministry of the Board of Retirement. They look forward to working with our Free Will Baptist ministers, missionaries, and lay employees to prepare them for an enjoyable and productive retirement. Please call our office to see how we can help you.



# SMART MONEY



## MAKING YOUR MONEY WORK FOR YOURSELF AND FOR OTHERS

People who support Free Will Baptist ministries do so out of a spirit of generosity and concern for God's work across the world. Nonetheless, charitable contributions often can be planned to blend with personal goals and objectives donors have for themselves and their families. Charitable remainder trusts are a remarkable tool for achieving these objectives.

Rather than make a bequest to assist a Free Will Baptist ministry, you may find it advantageous to create a charitable remainder unitrust from which you will be paid annual benefits for life; the trust property will later benefit Free Will Baptist ministries.

Just what is a charitable remainder unitrust? Basically, it is a trust in which you irrevocably place cash, securities, or other property, but keep a specified income—usually for life. When the trust ends, the property in the trust passes to the Free Will Baptist ministry of your choice, much as if you had left it in your will. But because you chose to “accelerate” your bequest by means of a trust, Congress says you are entitled to a substantial income tax charitable deduction. Depending on how you arrange your trust, many other advantages are possible:

- Increased income for your family
- Capital gains tax avoidance

- Favorably taxed income
- Diverting of income to a family member in a low tax bracket
- Estate tax savings
- Avoidance of gift tax
- Professional investment of your funds
- A hedge against inflation
- Reduced estate settlement costs
- Meaningful support for FWB ministries

The unitrust provides that a specific percentage (minimum 5%) of the value of the property in trust be paid annually. If the value of the trust increases, the payout will increase, too. Decreases are also possible.

### CONSIDER THE BENEFITS:

- An immediate income tax deduction is available when you create a qualified charitable remainder unitrust during your life. The amount of the deduction will depend on your age and the amount of the benefits you want to receive each year.
- You can transfer stocks or other appreciated property to the trust without paying any capital gains tax on your paper profit.
- You can decide the amount of income you will receive each year. Further, in some cases, your lifetime benefits will be favorably taxed.

You can make contributions to a unitrust that will pay you income during retirement and then distribute the trust assets to a Free Will Baptist ministry after your death.





- The cost of settling your estate will be minimized, and there may be valuable estate tax advantages.
- The trust you establish to benefit Free Will Baptists generally can be tailored to meet your individual financial needs and objectives. Here are some possibilities:

### ESCAPE FROM A "LOCKED-IN" POSITION

Phil has had phenomenal success in the stock market in recent years, but he hesitates to sell because of capital gains taxes on his profits. Solution? Phil transfers highly appreciated stock (that he has owned more than one year) to a tax-exempt unitrust. The trustee sells the stock, avoids all capital gains taxes, and pays income for life to Phil and his wife. Phil earmarks his gift for important programs and receives a substantial charitable deduction this year.

### SAVE FOR RETIREMENT

You can make contributions to a unitrust that will pay you income during retirement and then distribute the trust assets to a Free Will Baptist ministry after your death. Advantages? A part of every contribution to the trust will be tax deductible, based on your current age and the amount of income you retain from the trust. Your retirement savings can grow within the trust, tax free, with substantial income after you retire. Your retirement trust is not subject to most of the restrictions that affect IRAs and pension plans.

So maybe you can't have your cake and eat it too. But you can enjoy the benefits of smart money—money that benefits you and benefits Free Will Baptist ministries as well. For more information about charitable unitrusts, contact Bill Evans at The Free Will Baptist Foundation (877) 336-7575.



## STORM WATCH MASTER'S MEN DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHES DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

In response to several seasons of frequent hurricanes and other natural disasters, Master's Men is organizing a Disaster Response Team. Volunteers in this group will give of their time and abilities to aid Free Will Baptist churches damaged by natural disasters such as hurricanes, flooding, or tornados. While not a building crew for general construction, the disaster relief team will repair damaged church buildings to enable congregations to return quickly to worshipping in their own buildings.

Thanks to the Master's Men Chapter of First Free Will Baptist Church in Red Bay, Alabama, Master's Men now has a heavy-duty, fourteen-foot trailer. This trailer will enable volunteers to haul tools and supplies to a disaster site. Master's Men has also purchased a Ford Super Duty truck equipped with a fully enclosed work bed to pull the trailer.

### WE NEED YOUR HELP! VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers. If you can help with relief efforts (men and women), please contact us. We will add your name to our database and contact you when the need arises.

### EQUIPMENT

Our vehicles need to be equipped with tools to handle the work at disaster areas. Hammers, saws, large push brooms, shovels, and other small hand tools are necessary items. Larger items like chain saws, generators, power washers, and ladders (step and extension) are also needed.

### DONATIONS

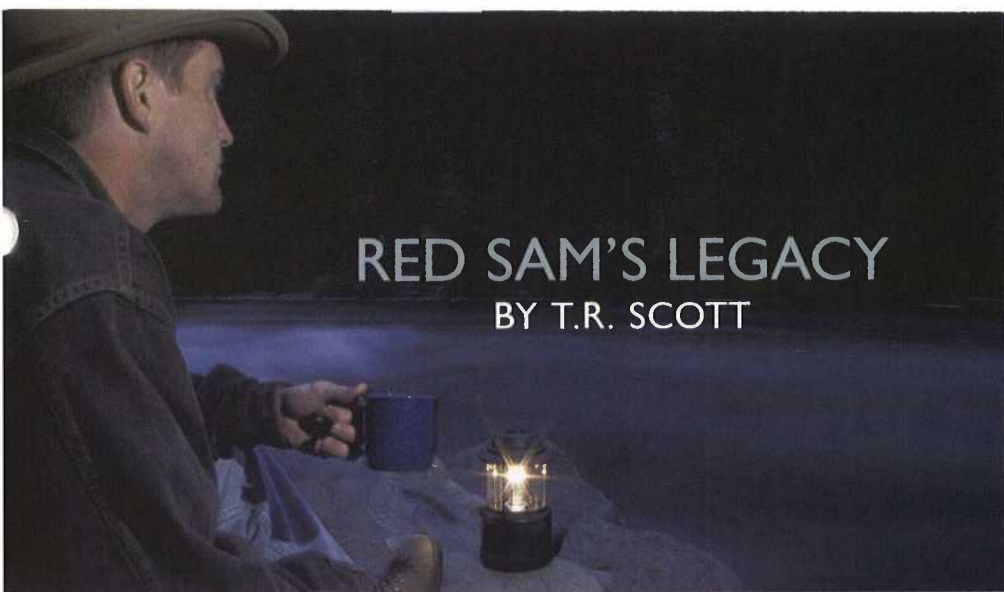
An Emergency Relief Fund has been established to cover the costs of fuel, insurance, and other expenses. To contribute to Master's Men disaster relief efforts, contact David Brown at The Free Will Baptist Foundation: (877) 336-7575.

In addition, Master's Men is looking for donors to help repay the loan acquired to purchase the truck. Contributions are deeply appreciated! Names of donors who give \$100 (or more) will be listed on the truck as friends of the Master's Men Disaster Response Team.

### PRAYER

Please pray for this new venture and ask God what you can do to help.





## RED SAM'S LEGACY

BY T.R. SCOTT

Not many wives would tolerate a husband who camps out year-round, and nobody but Jane Johnson would go camping with him! For 34 of Sam and Jane Johnson's 50 married years, they've camped in a thicket 35 miles west of Nashville, Tennessee. That's how long 71-year-old, red-haired Sam has been director of Hillmont Camp.

Hillmont is Red Sam's dream job, 157 acres of trees and meadows bristling with 30 buildings 20 miles off I-40 north of White Bluff. He and Lady Jane started with the land, a hunger for leadership training, a few old buildings...and the dream.

### THEY DID IT ALL

"When we started in 1971, we cooked and cleaned and painted, mowed and cut brush, nailed lumber, and prayed a lot. We did it all," Sam says. "Come to think of it, I suppose we still do a lot of that now."

His fiery red hair may have lost some of its brilliance, but Sam remembers why he launched the Hillmont dream. "I originally hoped to develop a camp providing ministry opportunities for Free Will Baptist youth in the Cumberland Association. We wanted the camp to become a laboratory for leadership training."

Sam chuckles, "We do a lot of repeat business here. They come back for Jane's homemade yeast rolls. We pay close attention to good food and clean buildings."

### TURNING THE CORNER

Even though Sam has a quiet way of getting things done, folks began taking notice of the easy-going Free Will Baptist layman from North Carolina. He was named Layman of the Year in 1967.

Christian Camping International (CCI)

tapped Sam for its President's Award in 1969. He served four years (1974-1978) as editor of CCI's Christian Camping International Magazine and six years on the International Board of Trustees. In 1997 CCI jointly honored Sam and Jane with the organization's prestigious "Kingsley Living Tribute Award."

During one of Sam's most creative decades (1962-1972), he led the Church Training Service Department and organized the Hillmont Engineers (1967), a leadership training program for Free Will Baptist boys. Hillmont hosted the early Free Will Baptist Leadership Conferences for national and state leaders. Red Sam's dream was blooming in the denomination he loved.

### FLEXIBILITY AND STEWARDSHIP

Hillmont attracts 150 events annually with no advertising other than word of mouth. Whether it's a small executive session with a half-dozen guests or a boisterous group of 350, the camp welcomes all comers and operates 12 months a year.

"We can handle five groups at the same time and still give them the privacy they require," Sam says.

From unique Frontier Village to the Long House near Pineview Lodge, Hillmont resembles a swirling chess match in mid-game. It's a user-friendly facility that doesn't require a coat and tie. Rustic board fences, industrial-grade kitchens, gymnasium, swimming pool, and more spread the word that the Hillmont stamp means excellence.

Sam explains, "Most of our business comes from churches. We've never had a group use the camp and not pay when they finished. I told the Lord years ago

that this was His business, and I was just going to work and watch. Look at what God has done here. Give Him all the credit."

Hillmont has been debt-free 10 years. With a handful of year-round employees, Sam and Jane stand back in amazement at God's provision. Sam estimates that the \$1.5 million investment in buildings, land, and equipment would cost twice that today.

### CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST

The Johnsons got in on the ground floor with the Free Will Baptist retirement plan. They invested all they could because, as Sam says, "We didn't know of a safer or better place to put our retirement funds."

About a year ago, Sam and Jane converted their retirement plan to a charitable remainder trust with the Free Will Baptist Foundation. "We did this for two basic reasons," Sam says. "First, the Foundation offers the flexibility we need. Second, the Foundation provides us an opportunity to continue supporting the Free Will Baptist agencies we've prayed for through the years."

Sam explains, "The trust we set up through the Foundation will, at our deaths, channel funds to Free Will Baptist Bible College, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Master's Men, the Tennessee Children's Home, Cumberland Camp and others. And in case anyone asks, Hillmont is not included in our list of trust recipients."

The charitable remainder trust provides the Johnsons a tax-deduction now as well as a revenue source, and will continue to benefit Free Will Baptist work after they die.

### WHAT WOULD I DO?

Asked about his retirement plans, Sam's eyes twinkle, "Me, retire? What would I do with my time if I retired? I plan to continue serving here as long as God gives me health to do it."

Perhaps all that camping out kept him young, or maybe Sam's just too busy to age. He's dreaming about the next building project, planning for tomorrow's group, praying for a new generation of leaders.

Red Sam's legacy to the future of God's work rises majestically out of the meadows and trees in a holy place called Hillmont. Leaving the camp with his smile flashing in the rearview mirror, I wanted to shout, "Play it again, Sam!"



# THE SWISS ARMY KNIFE OF SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

BY KEITH FLETCHER



Carl Elsener invented the Swiss Army Knife in 1891. Today a factory in central Switzerland produces over 34,000 of these versatile pocket tools each day. From the North Pole to the space shuttle, the adventurous and the ordinary have carried the original multi-tool. As good as the original was, Elsener's creative invention has been improved many times during the past 100 years. Now computer-savvy individuals can carry a "SwissMemory USB" that boasts a 512MB memory stick and an LED flashlight.<sup>1</sup>

Over 40 years ago, Free Will Baptists launched a new curriculum, written and produced by Free Will Baptists for Free Will Baptists. Sunday Schools all over the country and around the world used this solid, Bible-based curriculum. In the fall of 2004, Randall House introduced another totally new and innovative curriculum, based on the CLEAR Learning System™. This new line emphasizes life application in light of the timeless truths of the Word of God. Thirty brand-new products can now be used in a variety of ways by both the adventurous and the ordinary.

might be thrown away, an attractive, full-color magazine may be passed around for weeks, exposing dozens of people to the gospel.

Don't neglect the outreach potential of *My Cuddle Time Bible Storybook*. Leave this book in waiting rooms or other places children will read it (or ask a parent to read it). Be sure to stamp or write your church's contact information on the back. Who knows how God might use this little book to bring entire families into His kingdom?

## REACHING PEOPLE FOR CHRIST

One youth minister bought extra copies of the teen student magazines (*CLEAR Direction* and *CLEAR Horizon*) to leave at local teen hangouts—and for good reason. Every issue contains both relevant articles and the simple plan of salvation. Every other student magazine in the CLEAR line (*CLEAR Living* for adults and *Explorer's Guides* for elementary students) includes similar evangelistic emphases. Order extra copies and "accidentally" leave them in the waiting rooms of your hospital, doctor's office, dentist's office, or car repair shop. Where a small pamphlet or tract





their children, military personnel, college students, and the incarcerated. Provide the appropriate personal Bible study magazine to each one. Keep in touch and encourage their progress with a new magazine at the end of every quarter.

One teacher provided an *Explorer's Guide* to the son of an unsaved coworker. The boy insisted his parents help him with the Bible studies. They even bought a Bible for the first time. Imagine what the Holy Spirit might do in that family!

## CUSTOMIZING OUTREACH

*CLEAR Connection* (with separate editions for teens and adults) is a brand-new, but often overlooked product. Designed to give guests, prospects, new members, and absentees a taste of the lesson, this versatile multi-tool can be tailored to your class or church. Class or church secretaries can fill in the custom spaces with pertinent information about events, devotional thoughts, or additional lesson content. Some classes purchase enough copies of *CLEAR Connection* so every student can use it in class or pass it along to others.

Every age level of CLEAR curriculum includes communication tools to bridge the gap between Sunday school and the home. For preschoolers, *Take N' Talk* sheets draw parents into learning activities that reinforce and teach biblical principles in the home. Elementary teachers can duplicate and send home the monthly *Family Links* newsletter found in every teaching guide. On the adult level, these same *Family Links* are included in each lesson as a reminder to apply and respond to biblical truths as a family every day, not just on Sunday mornings.

Many pastors develop sermons around weekly family themes. Themes can be printed in the weekly bulletin along with the family memory verse. Imagine your whole church not only studying the same theme, but also learning Scripture verses together!



## HELPING EVERYONE STUDY THE WORD

Do you know any willing but neglected Bible students? What about the home-bound? Leave a copy of *CLEAR Living* for their personal Bible study. What about teachers of children or teen classes, or nursery workers? When do they get "adult" Bible studies? Again, provide copies of *CLEAR Living* so they can join the church family as it grows in God's Word. And don't forget missionaries and

Truly, CLEAR is the Swiss Army Knife of Sunday school curriculum. Be inventive; be creative. You're in the Lord's army, and CLEAR offers the Sword of the Spirit in powerful packaging to reach people for Christ.

*Keith Fletcher is the Editor-in-Chief of Randall House Publications. You may reach Keith at: (800) 877-7030 or keith@randall-house.com.*

<sup>1</sup>Information and product photos taken from [www.ideafinder.com](http://www.ideafinder.com) and [www.swissknifeshop.com](http://www.swissknifeshop.com).





## THE CLEAR CHOICE

BY TIM YORK

I admit when I first saw the promotions and heard Ron Hunter, the General Director of Randall House Publications, talk about a new curriculum being produced, I was uneasy. I was concerned about how our church would receive those new ideas. Questions must be answered when you deal with curriculum and a volunteer teaching staff—questions like, Will they understand how to use the curriculum? Will they like the new curriculum? Will the product have new approaches that will change the way classes function?

In order for anything to be successful in a local church, it must have the support of the pastor. When I returned from the National Association, it became my practice to promote the excitement and discuss the benefits of CLEAR curriculum in our services.

What are these benefits? One major benefit of CLEAR curriculum is that it helps combine Sunday School studies and

family devotions. For the first time in 43 years of being in Sunday School, my entire family is studying the same subject on the same week. CLEAR provides an opportunity for families to maximize that one-hour of Sunday School by studying the same passage together throughout the week.

The second benefit of CLEAR has been the opportunity for individuals to enjoy hands-on Bible study. In the past, our church has provided extra curricular studies, but finding a time to meet for these studies was almost impossible because of scheduling conflicts. CLEAR allows us to meet that need during the Sunday School hour.

As a pastor, because of CLEAR I know our teachers have prepared for class—a third benefit. Other curriculums allow teachers to read their Teacher's Guide to the class or do a "running commentary" on the text. But with CLEAR, the teacher

must focus on the subject and be able to explain how the text relates to that subject. CLEAR provides an exposition with an emphasis on a doctrinal theme. With CLEAR, teacher preparation must begin before Saturday night. This is beneficial because the teacher, after using the daily devotions to meditate on the theme, uses the teacher's guide to bring the devotion and text together. This curriculum is much easier to prepare and present because it requires a daily walk with God in His Word—not a one-hour "cram-session" at the end of the week.

If you were to ask the families of our church to choose a curriculum today, after using CLEAR in their family devotions and in Sunday School, they would tell you their choice is CLEAR.

*Tim York is the pastor of the Heritage Temple FWB Church in Cannonsburg, Kentucky.*



# THE DOCTOR CAN SEE YOU NOW

BY JACK WILLIAMS

Dr. LaVerne Miley and his wife Lorene have already retired four times, and there's no end in sight. The bright-eyed couple retired the first time in 1979 after returning from Ivory Coast, West Africa, where they served for 17 years as medical missionaries with Free Will Baptist International Missions.

Dr. Miley retired a second time in 1996 after teaching 17 years at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Lorene's second retirement came in 1993 when she completed 14 years as editor of *CoLaborer* magazine with Women Nationally Active for Christ.

## LIFE BEYOND RETIREMENT

The Mileys' ministry has always reached out to people hurting both physically and spiritually. That did not stop after their fourth retirement. At age 69 when many couples prefer a rocking chair, the Mileys again answered the call to Christian service.

In 1997 they volunteered to assist the Christian Discipleship Center (CDC) in Cortez, Colorado. The CDC outreach focuses on Native Americans, specifically the Navajo and Hopi tribes. The Mileys loaded books, clothes, and a few personal items, and surprised all their older friends by relocating to the great American West.

Dr. Miley taught Bible for two years while Lorene demonstrated another of her skills by cooking for students and faculty members. They returned to their Nashville, Tennessee, home in 1999.

But when the call came from CDC personnel in mid-2004 for LaVerne and Lorene

to continue their work with Navajo and Hopi tribesmen, the 76-year-old Mileys reloaded, repacked, and returned to the Four Corners region of Colorado for a three-month teaching stint.

## RETIREMENT PLAN BENEFITS

The Mileys have participated in the Free Will Baptist retirement plan since its origin. And it's a good thing they did, because they needed a source of income in order to serve with CDC in Colorado. Dr. and Mrs. Miley both have annuities with the Board of Retirement.

"Income from our annuities allowed us to volunteer with CDC," said Lorene. "Without the annuities, we would have experienced financial hardship."

The Mileys have several streams of revenue for their retirement years. "We both draw Social Security benefits," Dr. Miley said. "Plus, I have retirement funds from my teaching days at Free Will Baptist Bible College. There's no question that our Board of Retirement annuities play an important role in allowing us to do volunteer work."



Dr. LaVerne Miley (back row, fourth from left) and Lorene Miley (front row, right) with the staff of the Christian Discipleship Center in Cortez, CO.

## CONTINUING LOCAL OUTREACH

For the first time in 45 years, Dr. Miley did not renew his medical license in 2004 after the fee to practice medicine doubled. However, the respected husband and wife team remains active in their local church (Cofer's Chapel FWB Church) and in community outreach.

Lorene has gone to prison for 12 years! LaVerne stepped into prison ministry four years

ago. They also speak frequently at retreats. Both are widely published writers whose journalistic efforts attract readers. They continue counseling ministries as well.

On the eve of their interview for this article, an urgent call forced the Mileys to reschedule in order to help a former prison inmate whom Lorene had been counseling. They rushed 50 miles away to do again their trademark ministry—apply prayer to the hurts of society, speak a kind word, offer counsel, and do it all in Jesus' name.

Even after four retirements and two tours of duty among the Navajos, the sign above LaVerne and Lorene Miley's door still reads: The Doctor Can See You Now.



Dr. LaVerne Miley retired for the fifth and final time on Tuesday, March 15, 2005. He spoke at a missions conference hours before he died.





## MARK THIS MOMENT BY RON HUNTER

As a former U.S. Army Infantry officer, it gave me great confidence to know that other countries around the world desired to use the weapon I carried—the M-16 rifle. I am sure fighter pilots feel the same sense of pride as the F-16 and F-18 aircraft set new standards for fighter jets around the world. Whether choosing weapons, tools, appliances, or automobiles—we want the best and most dependable.

The same is true of Sunday school curriculum; people want quality. Even in its beginning stages,

other churches, movements, and groups are taking note of CLEAR™ curriculum. Every teacher and church wants their small groups and Sunday school classes to have biblical substance and application. Unlike appliances, weapons, or aircraft, the curriculum we choose will pay eternal dividends.

January 19, 2005, marked a historic day for the General Conference of the Western Division of Free Will Baptists and the National Association of Free Will





Baptists. Leaders of both denominations met in Nashville. Hosted by Randall House, the leaders of the Western Division Conference also toured other national agencies including the Executive Office, International Missions, Home Missions, Board of Retirement, The Free Will Baptist Foundation, Master's Men, Women Nationally Active for Christ, and Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Keith Kenemer, Senior Account Executive at Randall House, cultivated this relationship and invited Bishop Captville and nine other leaders from the Western Division to meet with the management team of Randall House. We shared our philosophy of Christian Education and explained how we built and shaped CLEAR™ in very specific and functional ways. The result was wonderful fellowship, shared vision, and increased desire to reach more people for Christ's kingdom. We enjoyed a chapel service together, with Keith Burden delivering the message. As we met with God that morning, everyone felt the significance of the event—knowing this new journey would impact several generations.

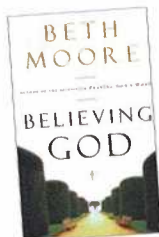
Contracts were signed naming CLEAR™ the official Sunday school curriculum for the General Conference of the Western Division of Free Will Baptists. As many as one thousand churches could purchase CLEAR™ immediately. We look forward to continued expansion and ministry among new people from all classes and groups. I am excited to obey the Great Commission as God brings incredible people to our doorstep.

The Western Division of Free Will Baptists is only one of several denominations considering CLEAR™, because they want the best curriculum in the hands of their people. This can only strengthen Free Will Baptists. We will see more groups choose CLEAR™ because it teaches spiritual values effectively when taught and practiced correctly. Mark this moment! The Western Division is the first of many to come. We count it an honor to serve them and to partner with them in kingdom ministry.

Ron Hunter is the General Director of Randall House Publications.

# WALKING WITH GOD

Books that will fill your soul and renew your passion.

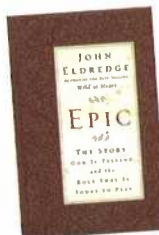


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## TEAM church

### TEAM CHURCH ANNOUNCES UPCOMING EVENTS

ANTIOCH, TN—Randall House publications is pleased to announce upcoming Team Church Christian Education events for the next year. Regional events include:

Columbus, Ohio	March 19, 2005
Nashville, TN (Mid-Tenn)	April 16, 2005
Russellville, AR	April 16, 2005
Charleston, WV	August 20, 2005*
Georgia**	August 27, 2005
Moore, OK	September 17, 2005
Florence, SC	October 1, 2005
Greenville, TN (Tri-State)**	October 8, 2005
Spartanburg, SC	October 15, 2005
Tupelo, MS	October 22, 2005
Nashville, TN	April 22, 2006
Detroit, MI	May 20, 2006

For more information about Team Church events, including helping to host one in your state, please call (800) 877-7030.

\* date not confirmed

\*\* location to be determined

### FREE WILL BAPTIST YEARBOOK AVAILABLE

ANTIOCH, TN—The 2005 Free Will Baptist Yearbook came off the press in March. Yearbooks have been mailed to district association clerks for distribution of complimentary copies to each local church. If you wish to purchase a copy for personal use, call Randall House Publications (800) 877-7030.



### ALABAMA EMPHASIZES BIBLICAL GUIDELINES FOR MARRIAGE

MADISON, AL—Delegates to the 85th annual State Association that met November 10-12, 2004, at Madison FWB Church approved a resolution supporting an amendment to the United States constitution defining marriage as "only between one man and one woman." This resolution also declares, "such an amendment should prohibit states from legally recognizing same sex unions, as civil unions or domestic partnerships."

The association adopted a \$550,000 budget including participation in the Acts 1:8 plan. Delegates also made two changes to the constitution. The first allows the general board to meet at any time during the Association meeting while the second redefines the constitutional procedures by which a church can become a member of the state association. A committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of incorporating the state association.

According to State Clerk, Kenneth Bozeman, 236 attended the meeting, including 79 ministers, 18 deacons, 26 delegates and 113 visitors. Rev. Junior Hill spoke three times in addition to messages by Rev. Danny Thompson, Rev. Mickey Crane, Rev. Barry Raper, and Rev. Tom Scott. Alabama Women Active for Christ sponsored a banquet at the Greenbrier Restaurant featuring speakers Carolyn Hendrix and Janie Aldridge.

Moderator Danny Thompson presided over the meeting and was reelected to another year of service. Other state officers elected include Assistant Moderator, Glenn Poston; Clerk, Rodney Yerby; and Assistant Clerk, Rev. Danny Williams.

The 2006 Association meeting will meet November 9-11, 2005, at the Forestdale FWB Church in Forestdale.



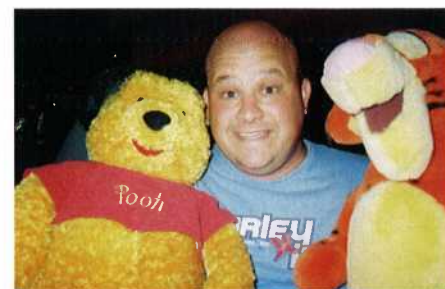
### REACH THAT GUY PLANS HUGE YEAR IN LOUISVILLE

ANTIOCH, TN—This July, Free Will Baptists from across the country will visit Louisville, KY, for the 70th annual National Convention. One facet of our convention growing by leaps and bounds is Reach That Guy, a service project ministry. In three years Reach That Guy has seen almost 3,000 volunteers impact convention cities physically and spiritually.

Any person who registers for the convention can join a Reach That Guy project. Most people are unaware of the financial impact students make on organizations like The Gracious Promise Foundation in Kansas City, KS. Last year, after just four days, every single service goal had been met. Reach That Guy saved this ministry more than \$7,000.

More than 1,000 service opportunities await volunteers this summer. Much of our work will benefit the Salvation Army.

If you feel you are not physically able to join us on a service project, there is good news! You don't have to leave the convention to impact Louisville, KY. You can still become involved in this great work. Send an email to reachthatguy@randallhouse.com to discover how you and your church can get involved.







## W.B. HUGHES WITH THE LORD

**BIRMINGHAM, AL**—William Bonnie Hughes died unexpectedly on November 16, 2004, one day after his 85th birthday. Mr. Hughes answered the call to preach shortly after returning from a tour of duty in World War 2 and spent 47 years pastoring churches in Florida, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Alabama. A 1953 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, he served on the College's Board of Trustees for more than 10 years. Mr. Hughes was also instrumental in establishing youth camp programs in Tennessee and Alabama. Although retired, Hughes remained an active member of Mt. Olive Free Will Baptist Church in Twin, Alabama. He is survived by three children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.



## JONES ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

**NASHVILLE, TN**—After more than fifteen years, Dean Jones, Director of Student and Children Ministries, recently announced his resignation from Randall House Publications, effective July 31, 2005. When asked about his resignation, Dean replied, "For the past 17 years the Lord has blessed me with opportunities to work with the finest students in our denomination. Now, many of those students are in leadership positions in our ranks and beyond—serving the Lord. It has been my privilege to serve, and I know the Lord has other opportunities in store for my future." Steve Greenwood, currently the coordinator of the National Youth Conference, will serve as interim Director.



## FORMER MISSISSIPPI SENATOR DIES

**BOONEVILLE, MS**—Charles Walden died Wednesday, December 15, 2004, after a lengthy battle with cancer. Walden was a member of the Martin Hill FWB Church in Booneville, where he served as a Bible teacher for more than 40 years. According to J.L. Gore, Executive Secretary of the state, "Charles Walden was one of the finest men I have ever known . . . [he] always put his work for the Lord first in his priorities." In addition to his role as state senator, Walden was the only layman to serve as the Moderator of the MS State Association of Free Will Baptists. He is survived by Barbara Ann Walden, wife of 47 years, three children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

## REACH THAT GUY ANNOUNCES CHRISTMAS IN JULY

**GOAL OF 1,500 CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS SET**

**ANTIOCH, TN**—You can make a difference this summer. Reach That Guy, in association with the Salvation Army Angel Tree program, will collect Christmas stockings at the national convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Nineteen thousand boys and girls are part of this program. For details and suggestions, send an email to reachthatguy@randallhouse.com for more details.

You can also make a difference by participating in the blood drive sponsored by Reach That Guy. It will be held Wednesday, July 20. Please check your convention schedule for time and location.

## PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNS CONTACT MAGAZINE

**NASHVILLE, TN**—According to Steven Pierce, former army captain featured in the June issue of *Contact*, he shared a copy of the magazine with Mark Hilgers, an acquaintance from Wisconsin. Several weeks later he received a Wisconsin newspaper. To his surprise, he found Mark on the front page, handing the magazine to Laura Bush.

Mark asked the First Lady to have her husband sign the magazine and return it to the soldier pictured on the front cover. On Inauguration Day, Steven went to his mailbox and found a manila envelope from the White House labeled "Official Orders." Steven says, "My first thought was that I

was about to be recalled to active military duty and be assigned to Washington, D.C." When he opened the envelope, however, he was amazed to find the well-traveled copy of *Contact* signed by the President and his wife.







## BIG WORDS FROM A SMALL COWBOY

### A TRIBUTE TO JACK WILLIAMS

Cowboy Jack is a small man in one sense. He would probably be the first to admit he barely stands eye-level with long stirrups on a short horse. But in other ways, Jack Williams is the biggest man I know. He is a preachin' cowboy who rode across several decades of Free Will Baptist history on a trusted horse called *Contact Magazine*.

He navigated the rough terrain of denominational politics and prickly issues armed only with integrity, the Word of God, the ability to communicate . . . and gallons of strong, black coffee. And when Jack rode off into the sunset in search of his next adventure, he left big tracks across this denomination. He slipped off down the trail quietly, without pomp or fanfare, but the impact of his timeless words will resonate for years to come.

We've corralled a few of his best moments. It's the least we could do for the quiet cowboy who left his brand on all of us.

#### CHARACTER

The best of us are difficult sometime; the rest of us are difficult more frequently.

A trust betrayed can be forgiven, but even forgiveness cannot restore abandoned integrity.

Nobody's born whining. It's an acquired tastelessness.

Biblical success is a master of disguise, robed not in superlatives but in everyday circumstances and ordinary individuals.

What's the going rate for a man's character? The principle is the same regardless of the price.

Playing second fiddle takes more talent than most people think. In fact, second fiddle may be the most important instrument in the band.

No man ever gets above being accountable, especially the man who holds a pen in one hand and a Bible in the other. It doesn't take a Ph.D. to spot the difference between constructive criticism, which is always appropriate, and malicious criticism, which is never appropriate.

The next time you feel taken for granted, rejoice because someone has that much confidence in you.

#### PASTORS

When you're a preacher, exams come twice each Sunday.

Remember that you're a shepherd, not a CEO. The CEO may be the man in charge, but the shepherd is the one they call when life hurts.

Somewhere there may be an overpaid pastor, but I don't know any.

In my opinion, if the typical preacher were a dog, he'd be a beagle. You know the type—hard worker, loyal, warm



nose, floppy ears, eats anything he can find, wouldn't bite you on a bet, kind of clumsy in matters of social grace but all class in matters of character.

If your pastor is not overworked yet, there's a good chance he soon will be unless you do something to prevent it.

The pastor may get his orders from God, but he has to work with us.

Marriages are built on trust. So are local churches. A marriage with no trust is a prison. A local church with no trust is a barbed wire fellowship.

### **LIFE**

I'm not noble enough to say I enjoy tough times, yet I'm realistic enough to admit I need them.

My advice to you the next time you get caught between the bull and the buffalo—be real courteous to the guy holding the rope.

Take charge of your own life. If you don't, somebody else will.

Don't worry. Making mistakes won't kill you. It might be expensive and embarrassing, and you'll probably wish you'd never done it or said it or bought it—but you will survive!

Perhaps the greatest success in Christ is the man who knows he's a failure outside of Christ.

I like the way God writes obituaries for His people. They all end, not with a period, but with a comma. Relax. One of God's unexpected detours may turn out to be the ride of your life.

Thank God for the right to make mistakes and the strength to rise above them.

If a man never lies, he won't have to worry about what he said last time.

That woman is a great woman who walks through life, head erect, whispering encouragement to the man whose dreams rest on her confidence in him.

Nobody tells the story of redemption like the man who has been redeemed.

### **JOURNALISM**

If you have nothing to say, please don't.

Putting error into print does not make it true.

Exclamation points? Hunt them down and kill them.

What I feared most was that I would be unfair in print. Those who wield the journalistic sword must be careful where they lay the edge of the blade lest they harm the innocent while probing for truth.

There's no gentle way to say this—writing is hard work. The present may belong to you, the future to your children. But the past becomes what writers say about it.



### **FRIENDSHIP**

While my critics keep me honest, my friends keep me interrupted.

No hurt sears deeper than when friends betray each other.

I now realize that my critics are often my best friends.

### **CITIZENSHIP**

The Church doesn't change the nation on election day but on the Lord's day.

One of the paradoxes of Christian citizenship is that we want the best, but we tolerate the worst.

### **FREE WILL BAPTISTS**

Somehow, in 1935, our fathers found the maturity and the tolerance to put

aside personal preferences, and the foresight to recognize that the only way they could reach their goals was by sacrificially cooperating together.

The Free Will Baptist denomination owes a towering debt to a generation of gentle giants who cast long shadows across the 20th century.

That's Home Missions work—empty seats, few people, and a long, long road. Only the God-called better try it. Perhaps it's time we consider electing more stable businessmen and educators to our boards. If they're sharp enough to beat inflation Monday through Friday and dedicated enough to bow before God on Sunday, they're smart enough to serve on our national boards.

Even blind statistics will tell us that there's bound to be more untapped talent in 230,000 laymen than in 2,400 overworked pastors.

If it's in the Bible, Free Will Baptists believe it book, chapter, and verse.

The fragile flower of unity demands constant vigilance and diplomacy, especially in a denomination as diverse as ours. We cannot allow self-styled guardians, no matter how well intentioned, to force absolute conformity in areas where the denomination has not spoken and may not care to speak.

We're no longer an adolescent denomination stalking the frontier searching for our destiny. It's time we started giving God a higher return on His investment.

Free Will Baptists have driven to the one-yard line more often than any other religious group in American history. And we've fumbled so often that we resemble a quarterback with grease on his fingers.

I feel better about my denomination than the farmer who sent his wife an anniversary card with the bittersweet message: "I've never met a woman who would make a better wife than you. But I'm still looking."





## ONE TO ONE

### THE ABANDONED TRICYCLE

She was four years old. I stood in the yard watching my daughter ride her tricycle on the sidewalk in front of our house . . . something we never let her do unsupervised. I stepped inside to take a phone call; I was gone less than two minutes. When I returned, the tricycle sat abandoned in the driveway. My little girl was gone.

At first, I thought she had slipped into the house when I wasn't looking. I quickly checked each room and ruled out that possibility. An uneasy feeling swept over me as I returned to the front yard. My wife joined the search. Together we rushed up and down the sidewalk calling out her name, but she didn't answer.

We went house to house asking our neighbors if they had seen her. No one had. Sensing our deep concern, some of them began to help us look. My heart pounded wildly as I ran through the neighborhood. I was on the verge of panic. How could a little girl disappear into thin air?

I tried to stay calm, but fear wrapped its icy fingers around me as a frightening image flashed through my mind. Only a few weeks earlier a four-year-old girl in our community had been snatched from her front yard. Her name was Heather. She bore a striking resemblance to our daughter. Police discovered her lifeless body in an orchard on the outskirts of the city three days later. My anxiety heightened.

Adjacent to our yard was a large city park. As I stood there surveying the landscape, something caught my eye. Several hundred yards away I saw a child playing on a swing set. I bolted for the park like a sprinter out of the starting blocks. An overwhelming sense of relief swept over me when I realized the child was my daughter.

My first impulse was to scold her. Instead, I swept her up in my arms and held her tightly while shedding tears of joy. As I carried her home I told her I loved her, and I never wanted her to wander off again.

I learned that day that nothing becomes a priority until it becomes personal. I was aware that children were abducted and harmed every day, but their plight took on a whole new meaning when my daughter was missing.

I was also reminded that concern for the lost is communicated by actions more than words. We didn't have to tell our neighbors we were worried about our daughter's disappearance. They could see it in our faces and hear it in our voices.

I still remember how it felt to embrace my little girl that day. May we never forget that God uses us to wrap His arms around a lost world . . . one person at a time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Burden".

Keith Burden  
Executive Secretary





## The Charitable Gift Annuity

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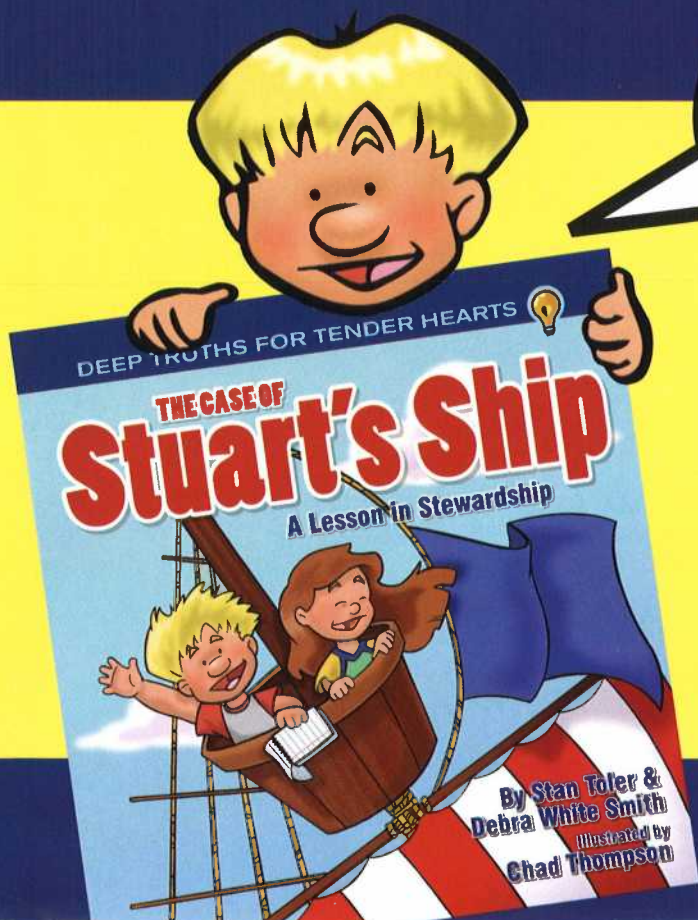
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