

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

ONE

MAGAZINE

What Our
First Convert
Taught Us

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

APRIL-MAY 2012

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COLORADO

Rethinking
Outreach

They're All Dead!
Beauty for Ashes



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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.

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First Glimpse >>>>

Four Lattés and a White Chocolate Mocha

Five close friends met one afternoon in Sloan's Meadow, a woodland park near their college campus. They gathered to continue a classroom discussion about the importance of world missions and what role they would play themselves in taking the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Intent on the lively debate, they failed to notice an approaching thunderstorm. With lightning flashing around them, the students left the trees and took shelter under a haystack in an adjoining field. In that strange place, Samuel, James, Francis, Harvey, and Byram found themselves on their knees, praying out the storm for the hearts of those who had never heard the name of Christ. They left their shelter determined to make a difference.

This impromptu prayer meeting in 1806, later dubbed the Haystack Prayer Meeting, became the catalyst for the first missions movement in North America. When the resulting student organization sent its first worker to India four years later, it was just the beginning. Between 1812 and 1961, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions sent nearly 5,000 missionaries into 34 different fields, with hundreds of thousands of converts.

Five close friends met on Facebook one afternoon in early December 2011. They gathered to discuss grim news. Their missions organization faced a financial shortfall that would keep 11 missionary families from returning to their respective fields in the coming year. They pondered the importance of world missions and what role they could play themselves in taking the gospel to the ends of the earth. David, Jacob, Kiley, Matthew, and Mick left the online meeting determined to challenge their generation to raise the bar of missionary support and involvement. The result? Pledge21k.

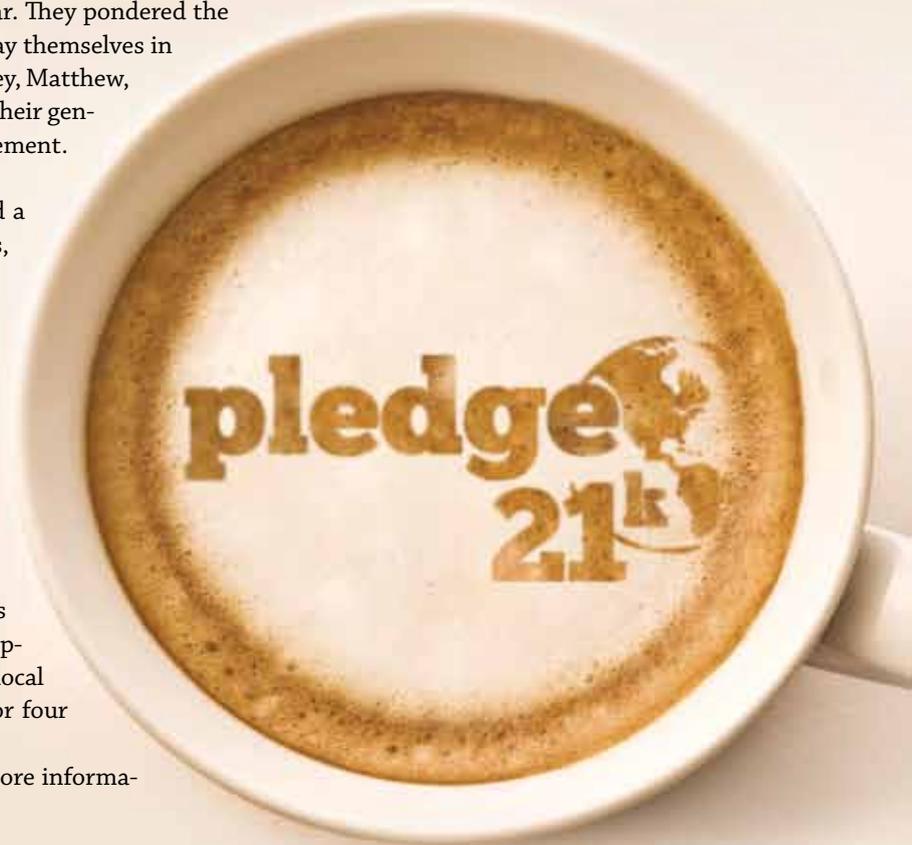
The premise is simple. Through social networking, find a thousand friends, family members, churches, youth groups, Sunday Schools or college groups—anyone willing to give \$21 each month for the sake of world missions. For some, the pledge will be new. For others, a simple increase. For all, a step of faith!

What will \$21 a month do? It will help underwrite the cost of sending all 11 missionary families back to the field, ease the financial strain in stateside operations, and—most important—send a unified message about this denomination's dedication to sharing the gospel with the world.

What will it cost? Pick any of the following: lunch fajitas for two at my favorite Mexican restaurant; a year's subscription to (your favorite magazine); nine holes of golf at the local course; two (cheap) haircuts; a week of bagged lunches; or four lattés and a white chocolate mocha.

So little. Such a difference. Will you pledge \$21? For more information go to www.pledge21k.com 

ERIC THOMSEN, MANAGING EDITOR



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Letters:

Have something to say?

Say it! The editors of *ONE Magazine* look forward to hearing from our readers. Your feedback, comments, and suggestions are necessary and appreciated.

Email editor@nafwb.org or send correspondence to:

ONE Magazine

Letters to the Editor
PO Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

ONE Magazine reserves the right to edit published letters for length and content.

Accept greetings from Cameroon. Your magazine is like food in the desert, for here many false doctrines abound, and their fervor is aided by the distribution of their literature. I especially enjoyed Norma Goldman's article on caring for pastors and hope to share it with my pastor. Reverend Burden's article on praying in public was also very moving.

Ngala Hans, *Cameroon Baptist Association*
Cameroon, West Africa

My wife Karen (Reno) Maute is involved with missions through Women Active for Christ at church and is also a district officer. In the latest issue of *ONE Magazine*, on page 28 is an article on missionaries that cannot deploy because of finances. The article shows a picture of them, but we were unable to locate their names. We also went to www.fwbgo.com and could find no information there either. Could you provide us a list of names or let us know where to find information on them?

Jim Maute *via email*

FROM THE EDITOR: Jim, thank you for your inquiry. The names of the missionary families in question have been withheld for security reasons. Some of them serve in areas where it is dangerous, even illegal, to share the gospel. For a complete list of their names, contact Free Will Baptist International Missions, or find a partial list of names at www.fwbgo.com.

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Beauty for ASHES

By Kenneth Eagleton



The call came early on a June Saturday, long before the sun dawned. Information was incomplete and confusing, but one thing was sure—there had been a terrible accident.



In the months before that life-changing call, the young people at São José Free Will Baptist Church in Campinas, Brazil, had been experiencing revival. Teens and young adults who had grown up in church were committing their lives to Christ, some for the first time. Others were recommitting to decisions made as children. Teens who had only recently started attending church were saved.

The revival began when the church's new pastor, Nilvio, started paying special attention to the young people and their needs. Most were from broken homes. Some were involved in drug use. One new convert, 21-year-old Sandy, had been spiraling downward into drug addiction since age 13. Her live-in boyfriend, an abusive criminal, left her when she became pregnant. Her grief increased when she lost the baby four months later. That's when she told Roselaine, a São José church member, she was ready to go to church. Roselaine had faithfully invited her to church and prayed for her. Sandy attended a youth camp the church hosted during Carnival (South American equivalent to Mardi Gras) and was saved. As a result, her life changed radically.

Danilo, a 19-year-old young man I had discipled while serving as interim pastor of the São José church a few years earlier, proved instrumental in helping Sandy through the difficult transition to a drug-free Christian lifestyle. Danilo was one of the spiritual leaders of the youth revival. His spiritual passion and desire to live for the Lord were contagious.

Miquéias was only 13 years old. His Christian parents quit attending church because of unpleasant circumstances in their former congregation. Through the influence of friends, Miquéias started attending São José church. He soon got his heart right with the Lord and his parents back in church—the Free Will Baptist church. His mother, Roselaine, was the one who invited Sandy to church.

Rodrigo, though only 14, was known at school for bragging about his sexual exploits. Danilo and Miquéias lived in the same apartment complex as Rodrigo and invited him to attend the youth meetings and church. Before long, Rodrigo gave his life to the Lord and became a new creature with a new lifestyle. A couple of months later he told Pastor Nilvio that a rumor had begun circulating at school that he had

In spite of tremendous heartbreak and loss, the Lord provided the families of these teens amazing comfort and helped them display grace and forgiveness.



become a homosexual because he quit chasing girls.

One Friday night in early June, a group of young people piled into four cars and drove to a hill in the countryside to spend the night praying. As they returned to the city around three on Saturday morning, the driver of the last car, filled with five teens, lost control on a tight curve, rolled over, and hit a concrete rail. He was speeding in an effort to keep up with the others. Danilo, Miquéias, and Rodrigo were killed instantly.

That's when the call came...

Why, Lord? Why these fine, Christian young men? Young men who were making a difference in the lives of others? Just a week earlier, two of them had been accepted for an upcoming mission trip to Uruguay. How could so many other teens with sin-filled lifestyles not suffer any consequences while these three God-fearing young men lost their lives in such a tragic way? These were the questions people were asking—parents, church members, and friends. I didn't

have answers for them regarding God's purposes.

Isaiah 61:2-3 details the prophecy of how the Servant of the Lord (Jesus Christ) would come "to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness...."

I saw Christ fulfill that prophecy in Campinas. In spite of the questions, in spite of tremendous heartbreak and loss, the Lord provided the families of these teens amazing comfort and helped them display grace and forgiveness for the young car driver who survived the crash. The funeral service was a garment of praise—a celebration of three young men who brought glory to God with their changed lives. The church came together as a family. Community and schools were deeply affected.

Immediately after the tragedy, 30 new young people began attending church. Though not all of them continued, many came to faith in Christ. The superintendent of the apartment complex where the boys lived invited the church to hold services on the premises. As many as 200 people attended the weekly services. People were saved, and others who had been out of church rededicated their lives.

A year later, the youth revival continues, and it has spread to the whole church. The São José Church reported 120 salvation decisions, 87 people in discipleship classes, and 37 baptisms last year. The average attendance of 260 is nearly double the previous year.

How many of these men, women, and children are Christ-followers because of the faithfulness of three teens and because of their deaths? We will only know in eternity. But in the here and now, we can find comfort in seeing God's promises fulfilled and His faithfulness demonstrated. Once again, He has given beauty for ashes. **ONE**

About the Writer: Dr. Kenneth Eagleton and his wife Rejane have been missionaries since 1984, first in Cotê d'Ivoire, West Africa, and in Brazil since 2003.

Bloom!

BY DARLA
TRIMBLE

Believe God's Words and His Promises

“BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED.”

I must have heard that phrase more than a 100 times during my husband Kevin's 20 years as a Free Will Baptist youth minister and pastor. Yet during that time, I didn't understand how God was allowing my roots to deepen in the rich soil of His service to one day bloom for Him in the place He would plant me—into the chaplaincy and the soil of Fort Campbell.

Looking back, I realize that I had always relied on my relationships in the church, community, WNAC, or Bible study groups when it came to reaching out into the world for the cause of Christ. I knew I was comfortable, and I desired to do more for God.

During the summer of 2007 at the National Youth Conference, God began to speak. Listening to Gowdy Cannon—a bilingual youth pastor working in inner-city Chicago—challenge teens to do something bigger and greater for God, my mind started to reel, and my heart began to throb with the thought of so many ministries, so many people, so many ways to serve, so many who needed help. I spoke with Kevin, and we prayed together about possibilities. I sensed God asking us to go beyond our comfortable boundaries into an unknown world of ministry. He gave us a glimpse into the open doors of the military. We began praying, and God began working.

After months of waiting and preparation, Kevin was accepted into the military. After three months of chaplaincy training (CHBOLC), we received orders to Fort Campbell in Kentucky. Five months later, Kevin's battalion deployed.

During this transition, I worked at Free Will Baptist Bible College. But when the school year ended, I moved to our home at Fort Campbell—alone. Although my children helped transport our stuff, by this time my daughter was busy working at a summer youth camp, and my son was training for his own military career. It was time for me to bloom, on my own, without



the aid of anyone, and it was hard.

In the past, when my children were seeking direction or praying for God's call, I'd always told them they needed confirming circumstances, confirming Scripture, and God's peace. Now my situation required these of me—true reliance on God's previous promises and His Holy Word. Kevin was gone. No one at Fort Campbell really knew me or knew who I was. No church had called us to a position. I couldn't rely on my children. It was just me.

God reminded me of a Bible college chapel sermon Jack Williams preached earlier that year concerning Noah and the ark. He emphasized that the ark served its purpose for a specific period of time. Then God asked Noah to leave the ark to be planted in another place. As I pondered this, I realized my job at the college had served as a bridge. Now, I was leaving the comfort zone—evacuating my ark of safety. God had called me, and He was planting me into a new place of service.

Convinced that God had called Kevin into the chaplaincy, I reminded

more education, officials graciously allowed him to finish his classes after being fully accepted. Third, there was Kevin's broken leg from two years earlier. Through a competent surgeon and God's grace, 22 broken bones healed miraculously. The army noted the doctor's comments of miraculous healing and allowed him to join. Finally, Kevin's passion for soldiers and their issues, problems, and questions during his initial consultation served as confirmation.

Throughout those dark days of deployment, when I truly wondered how I would make it through, I remembered and reaffirmed my belief in all these promises, confirmations, and God's Words. If I were to flourish, I had to believe.

Bridge the Distance

I was lonely. Alone in the house for days, I tried to stay busy, sending packages to Kevin and visiting my children and family when they were available. But I wasn't blooming. My neighbors at Fort Campbell might as well have lived 100 miles away. I did not know them. They were busy, stayed to themselves, and most had small children. We had little in common. Plus, it was summer, when most families leave and there's little activity—a difficult time to move to an army post. In order to bloom and not wither, I could not just stay inside my house. I had to do something; but what could I do?

Nothing says caring like cooking. Since cooking and baking are two things I enjoy, I began to reach out to neighborhood ladies through cookies, gifts of food, and preparing meals for neighbors. One neighbor started accompanying me, and this eventually led to a relationship. I was able to minister to her through difficult family

situations. I invited another chaplain's wife over for a brunch and coffee. I helped young mothers, watching their children when I was available. God began to open doors in the neighborhood, and it became my own mission field. I couldn't wait for others to come to me. I had to move out of my safety zone and bridge the distance in order to bloom where I was planted.

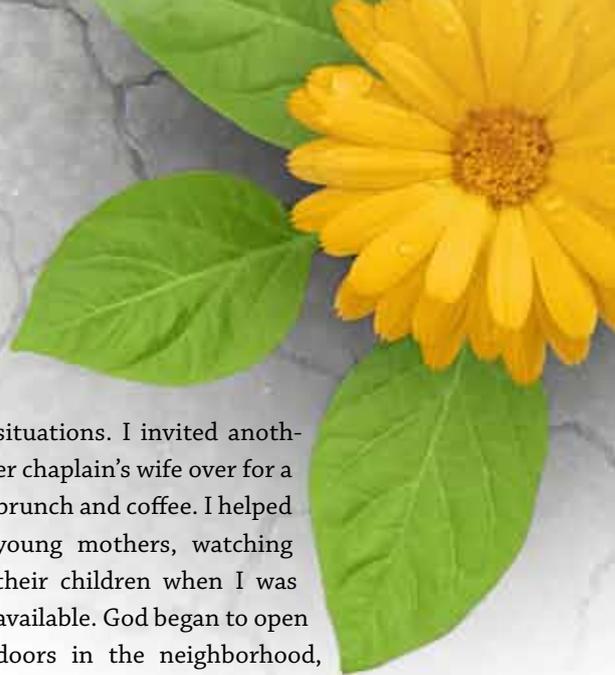
As a chaplain's wife, I was invited to Battalion Steering Committee meetings. Although I knew little of military protocol, I began to volunteer and was later asked to serve as treasurer. I went to the Officer Spouses Club meetings, Chaplain's Spouses coffees, and volunteered at a school on post. Perhaps the hardest step of all was attending chapel services alone. No longer the pastor's wife or Nathan and Rachel's mom, I was just Darla. I volunteered for children's church, something I had rarely done because of Kevin's preaching ministry. I had always taught Sunday School. But in the military chapel, there's only children's church, so I determined I would thrive with the opportunities available.

With each new step, God continued to plant roots of faith, trust, and belief deeper in His soil. And I was blooming. The words of Luke 6:38 stand true: "Give and it shall be given unto you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over shall men give into your bosom, For with the same measure, that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

I couldn't wait for others to come to me. I had to move out of my safety zone and bridge the distance in order to bloom where I was planted.

myself constantly of the confirming circumstances that took us through the waiting and the waivers that finally brought my husband to this place.

First, Kevin was older. But that year, the Army extended its age limits for chaplains. Second, when Kevin needed



Blossom or Wither

Throughout life, we all face choices. We can blossom or wither. During the hardest and most lonely days of Kevin's deployment, I had to dig deep into God's well-springs and bloom where God had planted me.

Satan desires us to wither and surrender to depression when we encounter difficulty and darkness. But when we wither, Satan wins, and God's kingdom does not flourish. In contrast, when we believe God's promises, trust Him daily, and reach out to others to accomplish His will, we will bloom. What choice will you make in your hard place today?

I thank God for every church, WAC group, friend, family member, and adopt-a-chaplain participant who called or sent cards, notes, packages, and gifts. I displayed all of them proudly. I some-

times waited days to open them, looking forward to the words inside. Many days, they literally gave me the encouragement I needed to make it through another day.

My cousin adopted me and sent me a card each week. When I went home to visit my family, my home church planned a 25th wedding anniversary celebration for Kevin and me. They took pictures and sent them to Kevin in Afghanistan. My family came and picked me up at Fort Campbell to spend those long summer days with them. Each card, each act of kindness helped me blossom and not wither.

May God bless everyone who gave, following the words of Romans 12:10-16: "Be kindly affectioned, one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer. Distributing to

the necessity of the saints; given to hospitality, Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another."

Truly, God has given me an opportunity to "bloom where I am planted." More than that, He's taught me the meaning behind those words and helped me implement them in daily life. In your ministry, your neighborhood, your hard place, believe God's words and His promises, bridge the distance through hospitality, and blossom for Him. He calls us all to do something beyond our familiar boundaries. What's keeping you from that calling today? Find your place and bloom! 

About the Writer: Darla Trimble is a longtime WNAC participant and frequent contributor to its program materials. WNAC encourages all women to bloom and allow God to stretch them for His purposes. (www.wnac.org) A Missouri native, Darla attended Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, OK, where she met her husband Kevin. Chaplain Trimble and Darla currently serve at Fort Campbell, KY.

A 50-Year Legacy

In 1962, Free Will Baptist International Missions opened two new fields. Tom Willey, Jr. and his family began work in Panama while two couples—the Fulchers and Robinsons—started ministry in Rivera, Uruguay. Fifty years later, their legacy continues in five thriving churches in Uruguay and 11 churches and 12 mission works in Panama.

What will your legacy be in 50 years? Through an endowment with Free Will Baptist Foundation, you can have a part in reaching the world for Christ until the day He returns. **Start your legacy today!**



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Surprised by Joy

By Jaimie Lancaster



Cristina was concerned.

She told me her mother had been attending church and had recently “got saved.” That was the reason for her phone call and the invitation to visit her ranch. She wanted us to investigate the church, to make sure it was not among the many fringe groups so plentiful in Uruguay and Brazil.

Cristina was perplexed. We arrived at the sprawling

ranch house with its tree-lined drive. We felt as though we were driving onto a movie set. Her grandfather had constructed the two-story ranch house. When he built the house, the cattle slept on the first level in the winter and the family on the second. The body heat of the animals helped warm the house. Thankfully, they stopped that practice long before our visit.

After the cultural niceties and greetings, Cristina shared her bewilderment. It seemed that since her mother accepted Christ as her Savior, she had changed. And that bothered Cristina, because it was so unlike her mother. The worrying, stern mother had become a happy, trusting woman. When one of her brothers sold his portion of the family property because of debts, Cristina's mother just said, "Oh well, God has a plan and will take care of him."

This attitude and her mother's newfound, consistent joy were foreign to Cristina. She wondered if maybe she could experience this joy too. Tammy left behind a Gospel of John and the book *More than a Carpenter*, and we said goodbye.

Cristina's mom really was changed. We visited her, and her face beamed with the message that she had found the "good news!" She shared her testimony with us, telling us about the wondrous work the Lord had done in her life. "It was like a heavy load had been lifted from my shoulders!" she exclaimed. She knew what she was talking about. Living in the country all her life, she had carried many a heavy load. Afterward, she remarked that Cristina needed this life-changing experience, and she desired to see her daughter saved. We left the meeting almost as excited as Cristina's mother.

their first Bible study. Tammy fielded many questions from Cristina, who had grown up Catholic and experimented with eastern religions. In her search, Cristina had never really found the peace she was looking for.

Cristina was honest and open. After two Bible studies, they discussed God's forgiveness. Cristina talked about how hard it was to forgive someone who had hurt you very badly. She then went on to tell a very personal story of how she had been wounded deeply. Tammy shared from her own life experience, explaining how she had forgiven someone who caused hurt in her life and the peace that resulted. The stage was set, and Cristina asked the key question: "How could you do that?" The discussion turned to the example of Jesus, His sacrifice for us, and God's love that sent Him to die. Cristina looked Tammy in the eye and said, "I want that peace!"

Cristina understands. She bowed her head, and with tears in her eyes, this strong, independent, woman acknowledged her position as a sinner in need of salvation, prayed, and received Christ in her heart.

When I came to say goodbye to her that day, Tammy and Cristina were smiling from ear to ear. Cristina said she fi-

This attitude, and her mother's newfound, consistent joy were foreign to Cristina.

Cristina was searching. About six months later, John William sent a CD to Cristina's son, his best friend. When she arrived to pick it up, she mentioned that she had read the books and would like to be involved in Tammy's Bible study. An obstacle loomed: her schedule and the Bible study schedule weren't a good fit. Tammy offered to meet with her individually. The first week, Tammy prepared the study and Cristina didn't show. The second week, Tammy prepared the study with the same results. On the third week, however, Cristina showed up late (as is the custom) and they shared

nally understands why her mom is so happy and the joy she must feel, because she is experiencing happiness, joy, and peace as well. She left the house with a new Bible and a discipleship study, and without the burden she had been carrying for so long. The person who had hurt her had been forgiven.

More importantly, ***Cristina had been forgiven.*** She hurried home to tell her mother the good news and to share her newfound joy with her brother who is an atheist. Maybe he too will find himself surprised by joy! **ONE**

About the Writer: Jaimie Lancaster and his wife Tammy are missionaries to the city of Montevideo, Uruguay. Jaimie works with youth at Nueva Vida, a downtown church.

HIGH NOTES

IN COLORADO



BY DANIELLE MCCRANEY

WHEN IS A MUSIC SCHOOL MORE THAN A MUSIC SCHOOL?

WHEN IT IS A CREATIVE WAY OF MEETING PEOPLE AND MAKING CONTACTS IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. GRACENOTES MUSIC ACADEMY IS DOING JUST THAT IN CASTLE ROCK, COLORADO, AND EXPANDING THE OUTREACH OF TRUTH FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, A FREE WILL BAPTIST MISSION CHURCH STARTING IN COLORADO.

After making the decision to move to Castle Rock to join the church planting team there, I began praying about my specific role in the church. Music has long been the passion of my life, and I knew that my ministry would lie in that area. I had been trained as an instructor in a music program that taught music to toddlers, and I planned to utilize my training in some way. After sharing this desire in one of our itinerate services, a pastor encouraged me to contact his brother and sister-in-law. He told me they had developed a similar curriculum that was keyboard-based and biblically focused. Mark and I contacted them about the possibility of using their curriculum, and they were thrilled to partner with us in creating a new music school.

After we arrived in our new home, we talked with neighbors about the possibility and practicality of starting a music school for preschool children in Castle Rock. Most seemed interested and wanted to know when we were opening and contemplated enrolling their children. After much prayer, many phone calls, and lot of searching, we found an ideal space adjacent to a pediatrician's office and signed a lease. We named the school Gracenotes Music Acad-

emy and opened our doors for business in October 2011 with three students. We have since grown to 15 and started three new classes in January.

Gracenotes offers music classes to children as young as 12 weeks and

AS WE TEACH STUDENTS FROM HOMES PRACTICING DIFFERENT FAITHS, WE ARE USING MUSIC TO POINT THEM TO THE SAVIOR.

continuing through age eight. In each class, the student and his partner use the keyboard to learn the fundamentals of music. One of my favorite parts of teaching classes at Gracenotes is that in every class, we intentionally include songs about Jesus. For example, one of the songs says, "Jesus is a friend of mine; He is with me all the time." Each time we sing and play the song in class, and each time the students practice it at home, we plant seeds in precious young hearts.

Several networking opportunities in the local community helped get the school off the ground. While making contacts for the school, we have also been able to make promising contacts for the church as well. I recently met

a lady who is an advertising manager for a direct-mail magazine. She helped both the school and church become official sponsors for the annual Star Lighting, one of the biggest events in Castle Rock. She has since enrolled her two children in our school and does not currently go to church anywhere. She also introduced me to the magazine's owner, who is planning to do an editorial on both the school and church in an upcoming edition of the magazine and is working to set up interviews

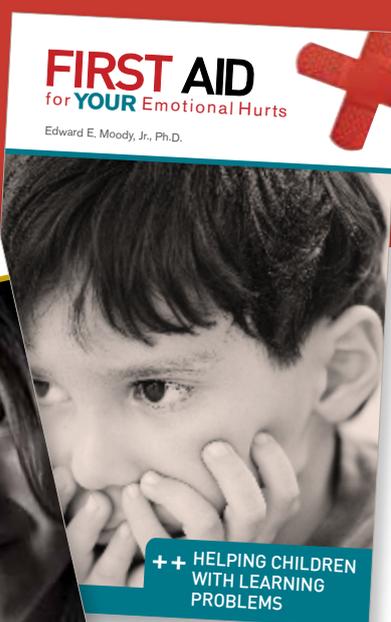
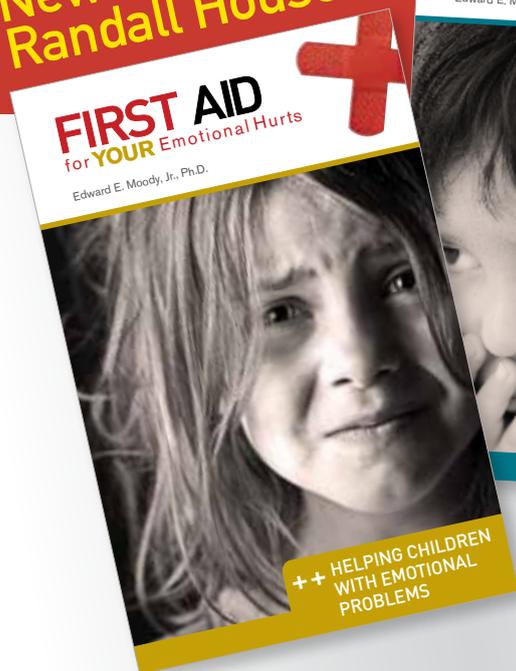
about both on the local radio station.

From the beginning, Gracenotes has been an intentional effort to both teach young children music and to expand the range of contacts for our church. As we teach students from homes practicing different faiths, we are using music to point them to the Savior. Seeds are being planted, and we hope to see them sprout soon. Please pray that God will use Gracenotes Music Academy to bring people to Himself through truth. **ONE**



About the Writer: Danielle McCraney and husband Mark have joined Donnie and Susan Burke in a team effort to plant a new Free Will Baptist church in the Castle Rock area. Learn more about Free Will Baptist Home Missions at www.homemissions.net.

New From
Randall House



Dr. Edward E. Moody Jr has released **two new titles** in the **FIRST AID** series devoted to the needs of children.

This new resource is ideal for parents, grandparents, teachers, as well as all ministry staff as they reach out to those children who are hurting.

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Visit www.FirstAidForYourEmotionalHurts.com for more information from the author.

WHAT OUR FIRST CONVERT TAUGHT US ABOUT

OUT REACH

BY RANDALL WRIGHT

Most churches with a passion to fulfill the Great Commission are constantly seeking effective ways to reach people. They often spend thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours searching for new and exciting methods. Sometimes, the tactics and programs we embrace verge on sensational, and we suddenly realize that this year's outreach event must top last year's in order to remain effective. It can become an endless and frustrating cycle.

I am convinced, however, that every church can embrace several simple and effective strategies to strengthen their outreach. They are lessons we learned from our first convert in Texas.

Ryan came to our opening service. She had told us the week before that she would, but if you have been involved in outreach, you know that most "I'll come to church" promises turn out to be empty words. Ryan was different. She and her three children came to our launch service, just as they said. We were so excited. We were even more excited when Ryan later acknowledged that she prayed to receive

Christ during the service. It had been 18 years since she had been in church, and it was the first time for her three children.

Since the launch in October, Ryan and her children have attended every service. She has a wonderful excitement about her new relationship with Christ and recently began bringing family and friends to church with her. As I thought about Ryan's conversion and her continued growth, I realized she has taught us several things we need to remember when reaching our community for Christ.

CONNECT RATHER THAN CREATE.

We first met Ryan and her children after we connected with a local agency sponsoring free oil changes for



single mothers. We jumped at the opportunity to get involved. We made phone calls, scheduled appointments, planned events for the kids, and had ladies on hand to distribute literature and talk to these mothers about their needs (and our church) while their cars were being serviced.

Often, a new church does not have financial or personnel resources to provide and promote an event like this, so connecting with a larger agency can be a great help. Most cities and communities sponsor regular events. They do most of the planning, promoting, and financing.

We simply look for these events, volunteer our services, plan ahead, and provide volunteers. By connecting, we enjoy an effective outreach effort we could not do alone. In our city, several agencies sponsor multiple events throughout the year—The Performing Arts Center, The Parks and Recreation Department, the Independent School Districts, and others.

WORK FROM THE OUTSIDE IN. I have always been amazed at how Jesus often shared the gospel or offered forgiveness of sins while meeting a physical need in someone's life. Whether He was commanding the woman caught in adultery to "go and sin no more" (John 8:10-11) or telling the paralytic that his "sins are forgiven," while telling him to take up his bed and walk (Mark 2:9-11), His ministry touched both the spiritual and physical needs of people's lives.

As we prepared for the oil-change outreach event, we contacted local schools and shared information about

what we were doing. We asked if they could direct us to any single mothers who would benefit from the free oil change. They embraced the opportunity. Most people are glad to help churches meet physical needs in the community. I am convinced that God will bless churches that seek to meet the needs of their community (Jeremiah 29:7). As we sought to meet Ryan's physical need, it provided an opportunity to meet her greatest need, a personal relationship with Christ. Working from the outside in reminds us that outreach soars on the wings of ministry.

MAKE IT EASY TO INVITE. We were amazed when only seven weeks after Ryan's first visit, she came to church with 12 visitors. We had planned a small Christmas program. The children dressed in Nativity attire, sang songs,

and recited Scripture. Ryan's children had special parts in the program. She told us she would have several visitors with her for the program, and she did. In fact, the entire congregation worked hard to invite family and friends. With their work and Ryan's effort, our young church set an attendance record of 67.

It is vital for our church to provide regular opportunities to promote and encourage members to invite family and friends. We plan events and services that they will want others to see, hear, and experience with them, making it easy for them to invite others. We plan sermon series, children's programs, baptisms, baby dedications, and attendance goals that provide natural opportunities to invite others. Often guests are more inclined to attend if they believe their attendance will help someone other than themselves.

In retrospect, I can't help but wonder if our church would have connected with Ryan had we not reached out to a specific need in our area. How many of those 12 visitors would have come with her had we not planned a special event? We may never know the answers to the questions. We do know, however, that connecting with a local agency to help

WORKING FROM THE OUTSIDE IN REMINDS US THAT OUTREACH SOARS ON THE WINGS OF MINISTRY.

meet the needs of people allowed this opportunity to reach one more for Christ. We also know just one convert can teach us a great deal about effective outreach. **ONE**

About the Writer: Randall Wright and his family are planting a church in North Dallas, Texas. For more information about the Wrights and other Free Will Baptist church planters, visit www.homemissions.net.



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A FWBBC student faces a life-and-death emergency in Haiti.

**THEY'RE
ALL**

The last day of a mission trip to Haiti found a Free Will Baptist Bible College senior suddenly thrust into an emergency life-and-death encounter. Kacy Stone, a pastor's daughter from Morehead, Kentucky, had traveled to the island nation on September 2, 2011, with a group of volunteers to assist with Vacation Bible School at a mission station two hours from Port-au-Prince.

After a week of VBS activities with more than 700 people in classes, most of the volunteers immediately returned to the United States. But Rick Stone (Kacy's father) drove an SUV to another mission station to observe a new water filtration system and visit with colleagues. Kacy, her friend Caitlin Hall, and Pas-

DEAD!

BY JACK WILLIAMS

tor John, and John Baptist (both Haitian) accompanied him. Everything went as planned until the group started back. That's when they plowed headlong into rough weather with heavy rain, thunder, and lightning.

Moments before the SUV passed a roadside stand, lightning hit the small tin structure, striking seven of the eight people under it. Pastor Stone stopped the vehicle, and the group began pulling bodies from the tangled pile to administer CPR.

"We thought they were all dead," Kacy said. "It was a horrific moment. We had a hard time getting the bodies separated, because they were facedown and tangled together, lying on top of each other. Pastor John and John Baptist separated the bodies while the rest of us began CPR and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Three of us could perform CPR, and seven people needed attention. Only one person had a pulse. I worked on three or four people. During the storm, Pastor John stood beneath the rain and lightning and raised his hands to Heaven, praying for mercy from God."

All three CPR personnel worked on a 13-year-old girl, reviving her once, but

she died at the scene. After 20 minutes of non-stop emergency procedures, the group placed four survivors (three men, one woman) in the SUV and drove to a hospital. Kacy, Caitlin Hall, and John Baptist rode in the SUV to assist. Three survivors were conscious and thrashing about, unaware of where

Do what you can, and leave the rest to God.

they were. The fourth (a man) was unconscious with shallow breathing, and a slow heartbeat. The group continued to work on him, but he died during the 15-minute drive to the hospital.

“We left three dead at the scene,” Kacy said, “and one lonely little girl about seven years old, the only one not hit by lightning. She watched her sister and grandmother die, and her father

taken to the hospital where he also died. When we went back for the little girl, she had gone with another family member. We later found out the grandmother was a voodoo priestess.”

This marked Kacy’s third VBS trip to Haiti. The FWBBC senior and her friend Caitlin Hall learned CPR procedures at Camp Caleb in Kentucky. Kacy’s father, Reverend Rick Stone, pastors First Free Will Baptist Church (Lexington), serves as moderator of the Central Kentucky Conference, and chairs the national Master’s Men Board.

When asked about advice for others who plan mission trips to Haiti or similar fields, Kacy said, “Although nothing can prepare you for an encounter like that, prepare for the unexpected. Know what you can do in emergencies and stick with what you know. Do what you can, and leave the rest to God.”

She continued, “Five people died that day, five who may have never heard the Good News of Christ. I won’t live long enough to forget what happened or fully understand why it happened. I must remember that God is sovereign, rules with a sovereign hand, and always does what is right.”

The frantic day ended, and Kacy boarded a plane to Florida. She then traveled by car to Tennessee and showed up for classes Monday morning at FWBBC. But she never forgot the storm, the thunder, the lightning—and the prayers of Pastor John as she did what she could in a crisis moment a long way from home. As Kacy left my office, she stopped and spoke five words: “I’m going back to Haiti.” **ONE**

About the Writer: Jack Williams is director of communications at Free Will Baptist Bible College.



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OUTREACH

(Even in Retirement)

BY NORMA JACKSON GOLDMAN

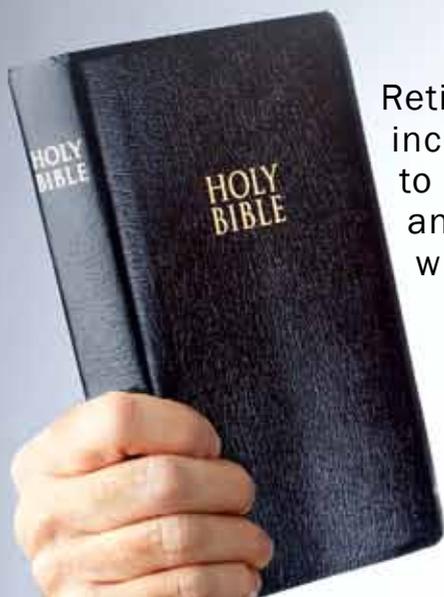
What is outreach, anyway?

In the Christian community, outreach often means moving beyond the walls of a church building to connect with people who lack a spiritual anchor. Our minds immediately rush to the words of Jesus, “the fields are white unto harvest, but the laborers are few.” Jesus’ words are as daunting to us as they must have been to those first-century hearers.

All Are Called to Harvest

Just as parenting is a lifetime assignment, so too, is our call, our need to reach beyond ourselves and participate in His harvest. The concept of farming was far better understood in Jesus’ days than in our culture today. Some of us haven’t seen a plow or a tractor in many years (if ever), and we certainly wouldn’t have a clue how to operate one. But the harvest Jesus described was a harvest of souls—people ripe and ready to be added to His kingdom. Retirement offers incredible opportunities to be His hands, His feet, and His heart reaching out with Good News.

Retirement offers incredible opportunities to be His hands, His feet, and His heart reaching out with Good News.



The Tools for Harvest

The Spoken Word. “Won’t you sit with me for a few moments while I share some really Good News?” “Here, let me help you with that heavy load you are carrying. I know Someone who can ease the load.” “Did you know that I have been praying for you during the hard time you are experiencing? I’d love to talk with you about it when you’re ready.” “I hope you’ll come with me to a place where you’ll find a warm reception, loving hearts, and the answers you’re looking for.”

The Word of God. Another tool is the Word of God. “I like to give Bibles to people who don’t have one of their own; I hope you’ll take some time to read this, and I’d be honored to talk with you about what you’re reading.” “As I read my Bible this morning, these verses really spoke to me about God’s

help in times of uncertainty. Can I share them with you?” “I know you’ve had a rough time with your health, lately. You might want to read these verses from the Bible about God’s plan for good health.”

Prayer. “Father, will you help me speak to my friend and give me the words to say how concerned I am about her spiritually?” “Lord, my son needs You desperately as Savior, and I have shared the gospel, but still he has not trusted in You. Would You send Your Spirit and cause him to be convicted of his need for a Savior?” “Dear God, my brother is so far from You, he has no idea that he is lost. Convict him of sin and open his heart and ears to the words I will say.”

The Holy Spirit. We can never forget the dynamic power of God’s Spirit in bringing the lost to understand and accept the gospel, nor His power

to help His children effectively, fervently, and consistently share their faith in the most ordinary of circumstances. And when we find ourselves careless, missing opportunities, failing to ask for divine appointments, or losing hope for those we’ve prayed for so long, He is there for us—encouraging, comforting, sharpening all our tools.

What is so special about harvesting in retirement years is that we have a lifetime of examples to share. God has proven Himself faithful in forgiving, cleansing, empowering, and even rescuing us from our own failures. How could we think of keeping this good news all to ourselves! **ONE**

About the Writer: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman enjoys a successful freelance career in her retirement. The award-winning writer lives near Nashville, TN. Learn more about retirement options at www.boardofretirement.com.



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THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTORS: Scott and Tammy Craft, Pryor, Oklahoma; Oak Grove FWB Church, Durham, North Carolina; Wayne Nicholson, Joelton, Tennessee



FACING DOWN THE DARKNESS

BY JOHN CAREY

It was a beautiful fall morning in September. As chaplain of the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, I had just finished physical training for the day. I spoke for a few minutes with my executive officer then headed home to clean up and change into my regular duty uniform.

It was during the drive home that I heard the first radio report about a jet hitting one of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. You know the rest of the story of that tragic day more than 10 years ago. So much has changed since then, and tragedies, terrorists, and the Global War on Terror have become part of everyday conversation.

After the despicable attacks that day, we also heard many stories about great and selfless acts of sacrifice, from firefighters and policemen in New York City to the military personnel and civilians who joined forces to care for the wounded after the attack on the Pentagon.

I will always be haunted by the story of Todd Beamer saying, “Let’s Roll,” to his fellow passengers as they moved to thwart the murderous plans of terrorist hijackers on Flight 93. He and his fellow travelers lost their lives that day when the plane crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, but they kept the terrorists of Flight 93 from taking other American lives. While I had heard those memorable

words many times before 9/11, it took the self-sacrifice of Todd Beamer and the other brave passengers of Flight 93 to burn that phrase into the American conscience forever.

As a preacher, I believe those same words are appropriate for Free Will Baptist chaplains, missionaries at home and around the world, pastors young and old—anyone who serves the Lord sacrificially, honoring God with a life of service for Him.

I can’t help but picture a young man or woman at one of our Free Will Baptist colleges, kneeling in prayer, offering to follow the Lord—going where He would have them go, telling others about the saving and transforming power and newfound life that comes only from Jesus Christ.

John 1:12 says, “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” Jesus went on to tell all believers to follow the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, dedicating their lives to His cause.

From kids to college students, to those who have been in ministry for

years, God calls all of us to get busy and make disciples. I believe the Lord is tired of churches that sit in a perpetual muddle while the world stumbles on in darkness. The Great Commission tells us, in effect, “Let’s roll!” It calls us to step out in faith and sacrifice and share Jesus with a world that’s lost, dying, and going to Hell.

From kids to college students, to those who have been in ministry for years, God calls all of us to get busy and make disciples.

We will never return to the carefree days before 9/11. Today, the Armed Forces are more diligent and determined than ever to defend America against all her enemies. As an Army chaplain, I will continue to embrace the opportunity to shepherd soldiers going into harm’s way, fighting the dark forces that oppose freedom at home and around the world.

As Christians, we too must determine to follow the mandate of our Lord, facing down the dark forces opposing individuals and families today, reflecting His light, and pointing others to Christ. With this in mind, let me end this article with a very important question. **What are you doing in response to His mandate? ONE**

About the Writer: CH (MAJ) John Carey is currently based out of Fort Meade, MD, and represents Free Will Baptists in the U. S. Army. He deployed to Afghanistan in February with the 1st Medical Brigade.



A LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME DIRECTION

by Brenda Evans

Pop's toes were gnawed on, some gnawed off. But that was what pushing through jungles and tangled mountain terrain does to a man's feet. Besides, it was his own knife that did the gnawing. On the up side, his pointed-toe boots fit better.



When a man is restless for God, he does what he has to do. Converted at 13 and committed to obedience in carrying the gospel at 17, Pop Willey was driven by an unquenchable compulsion. Souls were dying.

The first time I saw Thomas H. Willey, I was a college student. He and Mom (his wife Mabel) had just come out of Cuba where Castro the revolutionary had declared himself Castro the Communist. Pop was tall, mustachioed, and imposing in a rugged, outdoorsy way. He looked like a man who had been to hard places, done hard work, and enjoyed it to the bone.

Two years later I saw Pop again. His boots made a soft clatter on the stairs to our apartment over a house church my husband Bill pastored in northern New Hampshire. A cowboy hat skimmed Pop's ears. His "gotcha" grin, I learned, was the afterglow of his previous day's audience with the artist Norman Rockwell. He towed an easel in one hand and a bag of paint in the other.

They were home from the field because of Castro, but Pop's heart was not home. It remained in Cuba, Panama, and Peru where men were still untouched by the gospel.

While with us, Pop captured the White Mountains of New Hampshire on canvas by day, and by night he and Mom

spoke in fledgling evangelical churches, fanning the flame for missions. Pop told of canoe trips deep into the Peruvian and Panamanian jungles and across rough mountains in western Cuba toward the unreached.

Recently, I revisited both Mom and Pop Willey's biographies. Yearnings rose from the pages. Yearnings to live with warmth, daring, adventure. To break new paths, engage new challenges. But most pungently, yearnings to live guided, obedient lives. From age 17 until his death at 70, Pop was captured by Christ's final command to "Go into all the world."

To young ministry and missions students, Pop often said, "It is not *where* you are that makes you a missionary. It is *what* you are." By what you are, Pop meant obedience. He knew that was hard. By nature, Pop was a mule, not a lamb. Not naturally compliant or meek, submission to the will of another was not easy for Pop. But his obedience to the Lord's call was unwavering.

Pop, or Tom as he was known in earlier days, began his faith journey with an education at Asbury Seminary, where he was at first refused admission because he had only a third-grade education. He longed to be "a man of one Book," so after long remediation in their academy, he was admitted to seminary. After his senior year, he headed to Peru where an 18-day trek by train, car, mule, and long canoe—in that order—brought him deep into the jungles of the Amazon Basin.

The Campas Indians with lurid red and black face paint, the screams of frightened monkeys, the bark of a leopard seized Tom's heart. Overhead loomed a canopy of trees; below, a tangle of undergrowth. Humid air vibrated with the cries of beasts, birds, insects, but Tom felt embraced by an unexplainable peace.

The white missionaries already working among the Cam-



pas were a different matter. Tension and complaints surged among them. Disturbed by what he saw, Tom spent more and more time with the Campas, especially twin boys who became his inseparable companions romping through the jungle to hunt and play.

Later, Tom understood the tension had been spawned by spiritual and physical exhaustion. At Asbury, he had learned that obedience to the Lord included tending to his own physical and psychological needs, and so he painted to soothe his tired soul. For a restless young missionary whose urge was to always push on and on, it was a valuable lesson.

Tom's year among the Campas set the course for his long years in missionary work. He was drawn toward the remote, the hard to reach, the untraveled way. And especially toward those untouched by the gospel. Personal comfort was never his motivation.

But in the Peruvian jungle in 1928, Tom, an avowed bachelor, admitted for the first time that marriage was no longer secondary to him. Back in the states, at age 32, Tom declared to a casual acquaintance, the 25-year-old Mabel Bailey, "The Lord wants you to marry me." Eventually, with the Lord's approval, Mabel agreed. Within a few years they birthed a son and daughter, Tommy and Barbara.

The couple quickly became known for fearless obedience to God's call to frontier missions. Near the end of 1936, Tom began a three-month scouting trip to Panama in search of Choco Indians, an unreached tribal group. Aboard a banana boat, he headed toward the southeastern province of Darien. Then paddling a piragua, a needlelike canoe hollowed from a log, Tom and a friend made their way up the Sambu River to a Choco village.

"I have a great message for you," Tom told the chief, "a message about God." Bewildered, the chief said he had not heard of God, knew no word for Him. Tom knew he had found the people he had sought—those who had never heard.

In Peru, Panama, Cuba, and every other place he minis-

tered for 40 years, Pop was propelled forward by his determination to reach those who had not heard the gospel or seen the book called the Bible. By foot, canoe, horseback, he pressed on to "do the undone," as one biographer said.

Pop demonstrated obedience to Christ in the way he lived. In pastoral theology at Cedars of Lebanon seminary in Cuba, he "lectured" through gab sessions sprinkled with humorous stories, personifying love. *Live it* was his point: "Be imitators of me as I am of Jesus Christ."

Pop faced the extreme claim of obedience in Cuba in January 1959. Batista was out, Castro was in, and Batista's supporters were dying by firing squad. Pop felt compelled to speak Jesus' salvation to those going to the wall each day. And so he did. By December of 1961, Castro had declared himself a Marxist-Leninist and closed Cuba to American missionaries. Mom and Pop moved permanently out of Cuba and into a stateside ministry.

But Pop was restless. Stateside wasn't for him. In 1964, he wrote to his son Tom in Panama:

"What about a mule or husky horse? You'd better begin to make a list of what I need—mosquito net, boots. Can I get a poncho down there? A pith helmet?...My health is OK. Just weak in the feet, and I know how important good feet are... hard to wait."

By the end of 1964 he was back in his boots in a dugout canoe headed up the Sambu River in southeastern Panama toward his beloved Choco Indians.

When Pop Willey died in 1968, I imagined that he died with his boots on. Worn, pointed-toe boots on gnawed, obedient feet. That image still reaches into my soul, urging me on, speaking its challenge: Live a life of long obedience in the same direction. 

About the Writer: Brenda Evans, a retired English teacher, lives in Catlettsburg, KY, with her husband Bill. She speaks regularly at women's conferences and retreats, and is currently writing a memoir.



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THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES

BY GLENDA FULCHER

Adventures? Yes, I've enjoyed a few.

I traveled to a foreign country at a time when only the privileged or politicians had the opportunity. As a missionary, I helped establish the first Free Will Baptist mission work in that country. A few years later we turned our attention to a new foreign country and culture where we eventually started a new church. And, recently, at age 73, I enjoyed the high adventure of returning to both countries and seeing that their adventure is only beginning.

The Adventure Begins

In 1962, the Paul Robinson family and my family—the Fulchers—arrived in Uruguay. In those days, the terms “career missionary” and “short-term missionary” were not used. When God called you to go, you went! We answered yes and made a lifelong commitment to missionary service. We had no internship, orientation, counseling, or missionary methods. We simply knew people needed to hear the gospel to be saved, and we wanted to do our part to see they heard.

After praying and planning, we decided to begin the work in an area without missionaries of any denomination. We moved to Rivera, a town on the border of Uruguay and Brazil, and began our first work in the rural area

of Santa Teresa. We did everything we knew to do: visited the area, found a family willing to let us hold services on their property, and started services that consisted of singing, Bible class for children, and preaching. With no vehicle, we traveled by taxi or horse and cart.

As I consider the humble beginnings of our work in Rivera, I know it was the Lord who established a permanent work. God used our ignorance—our feeble attempt at doing it all in a



foreign language—to plant the seed of His Word in hearts.

We began to see people accept the Lord as Savior. At times, the battle was strong. We faced the spiritual indifference of unbelievers, the pervasive influence of spiritism, and the constant battle against immorality in the lives of new believers.

Over the next few years, we planted a church in the city of Rivera, another in the neighborhood of Barrio Recreo, and one in the rural area of Aguas Buenas.

My heart was filled with emotion when I attended the 50th anniversary celebration services January 14 and 15. It had been 42 years since my husband Bill and I left Uruguay. It was a thrill to see that the churches we started were not only still there, but had grown. New buildings have been constructed. The children of those early years are now pastors and leaders, and other churches have been planted.

An enormous tent on the grounds of the Santa Teresa church filled for the anniversary services, and we truly had a great celebration, celebrating and rejoicing over what God has done in Uruguay in 50 years. In that time, several missionary families have come and gone, the churches have endured struggles, and some converts have fallen by the wayside. But praise God for those who have remained faithful.

Each church presented special music during the celebration, and individuals shared their testimonies. The celebration continued into the afternoon as we assembled at the camp property in Aguas Buenas, for a Uruguayan asado (traditional barbecue) and fellowship.

The testimony of Brother Casildo Trindade, pastor of the Santa Teresa Church, touched me deeply. He expressed his deep appreciation for the missionaries who visited his humble home and shared the gospel with him in the early 1960s. He thanked us for leaving our homes, families, and comfortable lifestyles for a place with no electricity, running water, or automobile in order to teach him the Word of God. My heart was filled with love and admiration for this servant of God. I am thankful to the Lord that Casildo has remained faithful all these years. His life has not been easy, and for some time, he was the sole pastor of three congregations.

I was blessed to see how God has blessed. From that simple beginning, God has raised up His Church and an association of Free Will Baptists in Uruguay. It was an emotional time as our Uruguayan family honored the founders, missionaries, and pastors, concluding the service with special prayer for each one of us.

A Second Stop

Before arriving in Uruguay, I also attended the 50th anniversary of Free Will Baptist missionary work in Panama, January 6-8. After working in Uruguay nearly eight years, we left the country to address the educational needs of our son. In 1971, we turned our attention to Panama. Tom Willey, Jr., had already established a work, and with the help of Cuban pastor Estenio Garcia, had arranged to preach in several locations.



When Estenio left Panama, Tom was left with all the work. We began working in Agua Buena (later named San Vicente) while Tom worked in the Panama City Church and several other locations. During our years in that area, the San Vicente Church and the First Church were established, and we began the Betania Church.

It has been 32 years since we left Panama, and a number of other missionary families have planted additional churches and established a Bible seminary. As people arrived on the seminary campus for the combined association meeting and celebration, I was amazed to see nearly 300 people attend. I couldn't help but let my mind wander back to the first organizational

meeting of the Panama Association in 1972, with 60-70 persons present. Things have certainly changed.

The Panama Free Will Baptist Association planned a great celebration: a founders' dinner on Friday evening, association meeting on Saturday, graduation service for four seminary graduates on Saturday night, a great celebration service Sunday morning, games and fellowship Sunday afternoon, and a talent program Sunday night. Once again, my heart filled with emotion to witness "children" and "young people" from 32 years earlier in places of leadership throughout Panama. What a thrill to see what God has done in that country.

The Adventure Continues

It was such an exciting adventure to begin and develop Free Will Baptist churches in these countries. If you have prayed and supported the work, you, too, have played a critical role in the adventure. I am reminded of 1 Corinthians 3:6-9, and realize that many have planted, many have watered, and God has given the increase.

What an adventure still awaits! As I looked across the congregations at the faces of both Uruguayan and Panamanian children and young people, I couldn't help but picture future preachers, pastors, teachers, and workers. The next generation will continue the adventure, reaching many more souls with the gospel and expanding the ministry of Free Will Baptists in these countries and beyond. Let's start planning the celebration...the 100th anniversary will be here before we know it!" **ONE**

About the Writer: Glenda Fulcher and her husband Bill served as career missionaries from 1960-1979.

I Mean, Really...

a life-changing conversation over pie and coffee

BY NEIL GILLILAND



“I mean, really...” Rebecca stated indignantly over the pie and coffee she and her husband Jim shared with their friends Andrew, Jennifer, Bob, and Lisa. It was tradition—Sunday night after church, pie and coffee. Usually, it was a time to laugh and chat, but tonight was different. The services of the day required more serious conversation.

“I mean, really, do you think God would send people to Hell if they never had a chance to hear the gospel? I don’t think that’s what the missionary really meant in his sermon tonight,” Rebecca continued, glancing at the others over the top of her mug as steam drifted around her face.

Andrew, generally quiet, was the first to respond. “So, Rebecca, since you think God won’t assign those who have never heard to Hell, what *does* He do with them?”

“I don’t know. I just think God is good and, in the end, all of us will make it. I mean...God loves the whole world. And, because He is so good, He won’t send people to Hell, will He? I mean, really...” Rebecca trailed off, her voice reflecting a deeper question.

“So, because God is good, He won’t punish anyone? Will we all go to Heaven?” Andrew responded quizzically. “Then why did God send His Son to die? I mean, if none of us will spend eternity in Hell, then why send Christ to die? It wasn’t necessary.”

Lisa spoke up quickly, “Why would there even be a Hell? But the Bible talks a lot about Hell. And what about all the passages that talk about eternal separation from God or stress that after death, there will be a division of those who believe and those who don’t?”

“Okay,” Jennifer jumped in. “I think I’ve got it. Hell does exist. It is for the devil and all his angels. And the reason Christ died was so we could all be saved. He died for all of us, so He provided a way for all of us. So, in the end, we will all be saved. He died for everyone; so, His death was necessary. And, because of His death, everyone will go to Heaven. I mean, the Scripture does say that He died for all, doesn’t it?”

“If that’s true, Jen,” Bob’s frustration showed clearly as he set his fork down, “then why do we need preaching? Why would the pastor give an altar call? Tonight, the missionary said we need to go and make disciples. Why would we need to do that if we were all going to be saved in the end? If He had already paid the price? Luke 16 says there is a great gulf between the saved and the lost. And doesn’t the Bible talk about a wide road that leads to destruction?”

“Bob, you don’t have to be so snippy!” Jennifer’s think-

ing was being shaken. “That wide road thing is from *Pilgrim’s Progress*, not the Bible!”

“No, it really is from the Bible,” Lisa interjected softly, “I just read it this morning during my quiet time.” She pulled a pocket testament from her purse. “Look, here it is—Matthew 7:13-14: ‘Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. Because straight is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few be there that find it.’”

“Okay, okay...since you guys are so smart, then you tell me what is going to happen to those who have never heard. I will concede some people will not go to Heaven; some people are really mean and wicked. You know, I can’t imagine God letting Hitler or mass murders in Heaven. But I am still not convinced that those who have never heard about Christ will spend eternity in Hell.” Jennifer had lost interest in her pie, fully engaged in the dialogue.

Rebecca, quiet since her first comment, spoke up, “Wow! You know, I never really thought about this. It just never seemed logical to me that people who never heard of Jesus would be condemned. Let me throw another idea out, and you guys tell me if it’s wrong. Let’s say someone has never heard about Jesus, but they really do want to know truth and really look for it. I don’t know...let’s say a Hindu. What if he has never heard of Christ but spends his life seeking the truth. And because he has never heard of Jesus, he sincerely follows what he knows as god. I mean...the Hindu guys on TV are pretty serious about their faith.”

“That’s a popular notion these days, Rebecca,” Andrew inserted. “It’s the old adage ‘All roads eventually lead to the same place.’ You know, the idea that as long as you are sincere, it doesn’t really matter if you believe in Jesus, Krishna, or another god. The important thing is that you are sincere in your belief and are seeking truth.”

“Exactly!” Rebecca exclaimed. “That’s exactly what I meant.”

“I don’t want to sound like Mr. Spiritual,” Bob chimed in, “but the Bible talks about that. While you were talking, I was looking up some passages. Listen to what Acts 4 says, ‘Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under Heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.’ And, to me, the clincher is in Romans 10: ‘For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have

not believed? And how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they be sent?’ I guess those passages just really make it clear to me.”

“Wow,” Jennifer said, “this is really messing with my mind. If all this is really true, no wonder missionaries talk with so much passion. To think that all those people are really lost, and....” Jennifer stopped speaking and looked down, staring hard at the tabletop. Her mind was swirling, and she felt sad.

“Well, I heard a missionary say once that God would judge us by the truth that had been revealed to us,” Lisa added. “I mean...you don’t have to look very far to see God’s handiwork. Just look at nature.”

“Oh, that’s great!” Rebecca spoke a little sarcastically, “I have heard the gospel all my life, and I seldom look at nature and say, ‘Oh look at what God did,’ let alone want to follow Him based on that.”

Andrew spoke slowly, “You know, really the only chance people have is for someone to tell them about the Lord. And that verse Bob read said God’s plan is for someone to tell them.”

“Man, I have taken this whole thing so lightly. I never thought about it like I am now,” Bob spoke somberly.

Rebecca said, “It’s so much easier to believe they’ll all be okay, especially if they haven’t heard about Jesus. But it’s really not true, is it?”

“Here I go sounding spiritual again,” Bob said, “but maybe we should meet again soon to talk about what all of this means to us...personally. Maybe we could get the pastor to meet with us, or maybe a missionary. The truth is, if we really believe that people are lost, and the only way they can be saved is to hear the gospel and make a decision, then we have a serious responsibility.”

“I knew all of this really, but I didn’t want to believe it,” Lisa softly whispered. “It’s like Bob said. It means I have a lot of responsibility. You see we *have* heard. When I was younger, I thought about being a missionary. I thought maybe the Lord was calling me. But I got sidetracked with college, career, kids...and now I have to answer some hard questions. The truth is, I think we all do.”

The friends were unusually quiet. After a few moments, they all rose. Leaving a generous tip for half-eaten pie and cold coffee, they departed with hearts beginning to warm with truth. **ONE**

News Around the World

Mission Hires Director of Advancement



ANTIOCH, TN—On February 2, 2012, International Missions' General Director Clint Morgan announced to the board, staff, and missionaries that Mark McPeak had accepted the offer to return to the Mission as director of advancement.

The response from missionaries, board, and staff has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

"As a missionary who is currently stateside because of the financial crisis our Mission is facing," Kristi wrote, "I know the importance of finding someone to develop a solid strategy for a strong support base. I believe Mark's proven passion for sharing the gospel and his amazing giftedness will be a vital part of leading International Missions into the future, where missionaries will remain on their fields of service without fear of being called back to the States because of a lack of funds."

McPeak's role encompasses engaging the entire IM family in

unified strategies and tasks; effectively communicating the purpose of IM; and developing and maintaining constituent relationships.

For more than nine months, the board grappled with the timing of implementing this vital position. In the December meeting, the board authorized hiring a director of advancement within the approved, reduced budgetary restrictions.

When informed of McPeak's employment, Keith Burden, executive secretary of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, responded, "Mark McPeak's personal integrity, people skills, and credibility among denominational leaders uniquely qualifies him to assist International Missions as they address present challenges and build a stronger, more effective outreach for Free Will Baptists."

McPeak asked, "Please pray (and partner) with us as we seek the Lord's direction. We desire that our plans will be His plans."

McPeak transitioned to his new position on Monday, February 6. **Full release available at www.fwbgo.com.** ■

Year-End Financial Picture for International Missions



ANTIOCH, TN—Although the audit for fiscal year 2011 has not occurred, unaudited numbers drawn from financial reports have been released by Rob Conley, chief financial officer for International Missions.

Money sent to the Mission as undesignated funds provided \$1,670,149.26 for underfunded missionary accounts, field projects, and field ministries. "What a

blessing that so many donors have transitioned their giving to the general fund," General Director Clint Morgan stated appreciatively. "Individuals, churches, and associations giving undesignated funds to International Missions made it possible for all missionaries to end the year without carrying the burden of a deficit account over into the new fiscal year."

Designated money entered accounts as designated throughout the year. At year-end, three accounts were over-funded and contributed \$34,770.76 to the \$1.67 million that flowed out of the general fund to subsidize underfunded accounts. The accounts of two retired missionary families contributed \$24,715.63 to the

general fund. One career couple who has yet to deploy to their field of service added \$10,055.13 to the general fund. "Please note," emphasized Rob Conley, "that no career missionaries with overseas service had overfunded accounts. Yet, because many donors have given undesignated, the funds to supplement underfunded accounts were available. Kudos to our donors!"

Conley also indicated that though undesignated funds greatly benefited missionary ministries, the unaudited numbers indicate the Mission ended the 2011 financial year with a deficit of \$443,748.91. "We absolutely do not have funds in reserve to sustain another year of financial losses," explained Conley. "Rebuilding those cash reserves is the goal of every missionary currently on stateside assignment. Substantial one-time gifts and a tremendous World Missions Offering will encourage Mission personnel and strengthen the bottom line. However consistent, systematic support through monthly faith-promise giving, church budget giving or tithing, and consistent giving through existing channels and programs is necessary to build the cash reserves. I truly thank God for those who have taken that step of faith."

Full release available at www.fwbgo.com ■



Panama: The Panamanian National Association met January 6-9 to commemorate 50 years of Free Will Baptist work in the country. The four-day celebration also included the graduation of four students from the Chame seminary. On Saturday, January 6, Cirilo Mendoza, Kathia Mendoza, Lino Pascacio, and Benjamin Acevedo received their bachelor's in theology. Each graduate immediately began leading local churches and ministries. ■



Brazil: Seven students graduated from the Campinas Bible institute Friday, January 6. Six students received two-year Bible certificates and one received a B.A. Kenneth and Rejane Eagleton returned to the States on January 12 for stateside assignment. Don Robirds, retired FWBIM director of communications and former Brazil missionary, began teaching on February 13 at the Campinas seminary in Kenneth's absence. ■



Spain: On Sunday, February 5, the Alpedrete FWB Church celebrated six years since their inaugural service, with 54 people crowding into their small storefront building. The congregation has negotiated a lease on a new building that will more than double their space, allowing them to have several classrooms. ■



Uruguay: Five young people were baptized during the annual family camp held during Carnaval in Uruguay. This year's camp, held February 20-25, followed hard on the heels of the national association meeting (January 14-15) and celebration of 50 years of Free Will Baptist ministry. The meetings were held in Rivera where Free Will Baptists began ministry in the country. ■



Panama: The mission effort in Penonomé held its inaugural service on Sunday, February 5. On February 17, Lori Torrison wrote, "We had 19 at our most recent Wednesday night service!" ■



France: Two men were baptized in the Nantes FWB Church on Sunday, March 4. The younger man was the fourth member of his family to come to Christ and be baptized. He testified that his father's changed life played a pivotal role in his decision to become a Christian. ■

Pioneer Missionary Margaret Merkh Dies



ANTIOCH, TN—Margaret Merkh, former missionary to Ivory Coast and France, died February 21, 2012, at the age of 82. Dan preceded his wife in death in April 2002, after 54 years of marriage.

The funeral was Friday, February 24, in Suffolk, VA.

The Merkhs were commissioned to missionary service in Ivory Coast, Africa, in 1957. They pioneered the work in France (1966-1975), starting churches in four cities: St. Nazaire, Rennes, Lorient, and Nantes.

Full release available at www.fwbgo.com ■

A professional educator teaches a week in Cuba and returns with a different point of view.

CUBA!

BY GREG KETTEMAN



The Cedars of Lebanon Seminary in Cuba was established

in 1944 by pioneer Free Will Baptist missionary Thomas H. “Pop” Willey. Its goal was to train Cuban ministers for churches planted in the island nation. Sixteen years later, due to government restrictions and austere economic conditions, the seminary was shuttered from 1960 through the late 1980s. By 1989, when the seminary reopened, the need for trained ministers and church workers in Cuban Free

Will Baptist churches was greater than ever. As conditions in Cuba changed, and with the help of American Free Will Baptists, the seminary built new facilities to accommodate students who came to study.

The FWBBC-Cuba Connection

Free Will Baptist Bible College has enjoyed a long and productive relationship with the seminary. In 2009 we committed our support to Dean Ariel Alfaro in a letter to the Cuban gov-

ernment confirming our educational relationship with the institution. We promised to send teachers to the campus periodically to teach upper level and graduate courses. Two FWBBC professors have already been to the seminary to teach—Missions Program Coordinator Ron Callaway and President Matt Pinson. The college also sponsored courses taught by North Carolina pastor and educator Eddie Moody and by Tom Willey, Jr., son of the seminary’s founder.

When I met Dean Alfaro at FWBBC in 2009, he asked me to come to Cuba and teach a course in school administration. Arrangements were made for me to travel to the seminary in October 2011. Veteran missionary Ron Callaway accompanied me as guide and translator. We left Nashville October 21 and returned October 30.

Retro Vehicles

Arriving in Havana, I saw coconut palms and picturesque mountains along the northeastern coast of the island. We drove from Havana to Pinar del Rio, past large tracts of land where sugar cane processing cooperatives operate and starkly-designed government buildings house state-owned universi-

ties. Vintage American automobiles from the 1950s roam the streets (one of my favorite things, sort of like attending an antique car show, except these cars were used as regular transportation). Small homes are built entirely of poured concrete, framed by crumbling sidewalks and long-neglected streets with serious potholes.

Horse-drawn, two-wheeled carts and old dump trucks provided transportation for many people. Crowds stood on the side of streets in Havana and Pinar, walking or with Cuban pesos in hand signaling that they would pay for a ride. We saw many people alongside the main road from Havana to Pinar.

They Found a Way

The Cedars of Lebanon Seminary occupies seven acres of Cuban farmland, a beautiful oasis of Christian faith and hope in a nation that has experienced spiritual and political oppression for decades. A large worship center, dining hall and classroom complex, and several dormitories accommodate the needs of a growing student body. The chaplain, academic dean, and seminary director live in modest 1950s-era campus housing.

My gracious hosts were Ariel and Yamilis Alfaro. Ariel has an insatiable desire to grasp scriptural theology and has developed into one of the most capable Free Will Baptist theologians. He has a passionate vision for the seminary to grow and meet the spiritual needs of the people of Cuba. Yamilis is mother to all the seminary students. The students came to their home at all hours and obviously look to the couple as role models and second parents.

We found a joyous, indomitable spirit among Cuban Christians who worship in tidy churches packed with people. They have learned to work hard and creatively to make the most of

their resources. Their vision is to raise a generation of educated, well-prepared Christian leaders who are salt and light in a society heavily influenced by agnosticism, atheism, and socialism.

We attended the church led by Pastor Orlando Gigato on Sunday. The service was encouraging, the singing enthusiastic, and the Word of God read and quoted skillfully. As I spoke through translator Ron Callaway, I observed the congregation's response and was humbled at how graciously and attentively they received my words. That night, we returned to an evangelistic service where the church youth had a major role providing music prior to Brother Callaway's sermon. Although the service was in Spanish, I was moved by the responses.

Hungry to Know

I found it remarkable that the college students are so hungry to learn. Twenty-five people attended the school administration course I taught at the Cedars of Lebanon Seminary, sitting four hours a day on wooden benches. Many of them went to additional seminary courses, which meant another four hours on the same wooden benches. I wish all students were as attentive and eager to learn as these. It was rewarding to see how they responded to the ideas and concepts we discussed, and how they engaged in discussions about the topics presented.

My class included seminary administrators, a veterinarian, two chemists, and several teachers, one of whom who taught Spanish at the university. Local Free Will Baptist pastors came for the class as well as seminary interns who had already finished their programs. They enjoyed reading the articles I had asked Mr. Callaway to translate for the course, and these sparked vigorous discussions that led to teaching opportunities.

We attended chapel Thursday night, and distributed gifts sent from the WAC group at Cross Timbers FWB Church (Nashville) to seminary students. Needles, thread, personal shampoo and soap, small items of jewelry, and other items were divided and wrapped for distribution to students. This was quite meaningful to them, and the student body president rose to express thanks on behalf of the students. Half the gifts sent by the Cross Timbers WAC were delivered to women in Havana working to establish a ministry to prostitutes. The sewing supplies and other products will be used to provide training for women desperate to escape sin's bondage.

WE FOUND A JOYOUS, INDOMITABLE SPIRIT AMONG CUBAN CHRISTIANS WHO WORSHIP IN TIDY CHURCHES PACKED WITH PEOPLE.

Mr. Callaway and I left for Havana to return to the U.S. on Friday afternoon. We stayed in the home of long-time Cuban Christians, Miguel and Nora. Nora, recently diagnosed with breast cancer, was recovering from her first chemotherapy treatment. She and her husband insisted that Ron and I sleep in the only air-conditioned room the night before we left for the Havana airport. Miguel, a physics professor, enjoyed our lengthy conversation about the use of statistical data in research and biblical creationism. Brother Callaway patiently and skillfully translated the professional jargon for us.

Five Lessons Learned

We headed to the airport at 4:30 the next morning. The flight from Havana to Miami departed late, and we missed our scheduled flight in Miami. Later that night, we experienced weather



delays but finally arrived in Nashville at 1:00 a.m. At one point, Brother Callaway prayed, “Lord, we didn’t want it, but you’ve provided us with lessons in patience, and we thank you.”

Ron Callaway Impact. My experience in Cuba made a major impression on my understanding in several areas. First, I saw the impact of Ron Callaway’s missionary ministry. He is a vital link to the past, the present, and the future in the Cuban work. I’m thankful for Ron’s willingness to invest his life in ministry to Spanish-speaking people, and for the way God has blessed Ron’s

investment with the trust and respect of our Cuban brothers and sisters.

Translation Frustration. Second, I understood first-hand, the isolation, frustration, and helplessness of people who do not speak the native language. Without my babysitter, Ron Callaway, I couldn’t even carry on a simple conversation about the family’s pet or the good meal. Although Ron was very patient, I regret that he had to spend his time helping me with every interaction.

Cuban Determination. Third, I was amazed at the joy of Cuban believers and their determination to press on in spite of difficulty. I was humbled by their willingness to accept me unconditionally (knowing only that I was Brother Ron’s friend and coworker). I am challenged to be more thankful for the resources and circumstances He grants in my life.

Transforming Gospel Power. Fourth, I couldn’t get away from the great need for the transforming power of the gospel in Cuba. The people and the entire country are in serious need of an “extreme makeover” that can only come from the power of the gospel and Christian values that the Holy Spirit brings to the hearts of men.

Prayer Awareness. Fifth, I am praying with newfound awareness for Cuban Free Will Baptist leaders to have the wisdom, courage, and understanding to maximize their resources and opportunities. These sincere men of God want to see the gospel transform Cuba, one heart at a time. I intend to do what I can to help as they seek to honor Him in this great task. **ONE**

About the Writer: Greg Kettelman is provost at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Learn more at www.fwbcc.edu.

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+ Intersect >>>

The Great Omission in the Great Commission



Staring up at those fuzzy flannelgraphs of Mary Elizabeth Griffith. Traveling the “Romans Road” with Jack Nicholson. Returning the warm, caring smile of John Boyte. My Sunday School teachers when I was a kid.

Bert and Dianne Tippett, Joe and Beverly Jones, Tommy Sanders—they made the Bible come alive to me when I was a teenager. My Sunday School teachers during turbulent years.

Kevin, Solomon, and the Back Burner

Good teachers are the mortar holding a church foundation together. I remembered that recently while I was soaking in the teaching skills of the gifted Kevin McAlister in Sunday School at Farmersville, California. He was making Ecclesiastes read like Solomon had just written it last week!

But there may be a problem.

I went through some recent books and blogs on ministry. The in-vogue topics were familiar: preaching, leadership, small groups, culture, marketing, finance, counseling, vision, strategy, networking, worship, music—important issues all.

Its absence stunned me once I noticed it—Christian education. The teaching ministry of the church. I saw not a single men-

tion of it in any resource I scanned. Ministry pundits must be writing about it, but I sure didn't see it, and I looked at the work of some prominent people who write about ministry.

Not Missing in the New Testament

One focused trip through the New Testament should adjust the problem if I am right in my diagnosis. Even if I'm not, it would do us good to revisit what Scripture says about education. Jesus taught all kinds of people in all kinds of places. His students were those who would open themselves to receive His doctrine. Lessons, parables, examples, questions and answers, proverbs—the Lord was always teaching. And the Great Commission not only contains a directive to teach, it is such a directive in and of itself: “Go and make disciples—a disciple is a learner—“teaching them . . .” (Matthew 28:19-20).

When Jesus went back to Heaven, though, school wasn't out! The book of Acts opens by noting that Jesus' teaching had just begun. The soon-to-be-born church was to continue the lesson. Search Acts and see how integral teaching Scripture was to the young church. It was bound up with their preaching the gospel.

The elements of Christian education then weave their way throughout the New Testament letters. Keep in mind, for example, that one of the gifts of the Spirit is teaching. Look no further

than First Timothy for another case-in-point. In this charter for church administration, Paul mentions teaching, learning, and doctrine repeatedly (see 1 Timothy 1:3, 7, 10; 2:7, 11, 12; 3:2; 4:6, 16; 6:2, 3). While it is true that the pastor must have an aptitude for teaching, the teaching gift extends throughout the body of Christ.

Toward Solutions

So what do we do to insure that we are fulfilling the Great Commission education mandate in a day when many in the church downplay doctrine?

Prioritize—Church leaders should insist that Christian education be a high profile item in the vision, mission, and planning of the congregation—and should budget accordingly.

Mobilize—Identify, challenge, and recruit people in the church who seem qualified to teach; cultivate a climate for nurturing and valuing Christian education.

Organize—Use whatever approach (small groups, graded Sunday School, intergenerational, etc.) you think is consistent with Scripture and your church's mission. But be intentional in seeing that the ministry of teaching is accomplishing what it should in building up the body.

Catechize—Our local church leadership developed a catechism to use in teaching our young people the essentials of what we believe. To see the catechism, click on the "About Us" link at www.crosstimbersfwbc.org.

Maximize—Make the most of those gifted to teach by helping them sharpen their skills through workshops, conferences, training sessions, online classes, college and seminary education.

Evangelize—The laborers are few, including those who are called to the church's teaching ministry. When we reach people with the gospel, we will continue the work of committing the truth of God to faithful people who will be able to teach others (2 Timothy 2:2).

And while you're at it, why not call, write, email, or text your Sunday School teacher a "thank you" this week? **ONE**

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

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News at FWBBC

89 FWBBC Students Make President's / Provost's List

NASHVILLE, TN—The fall 2011 semester at Free Will Baptist Bible College ended with 89 students earning academic recognition, according to Provost Greg Ketteman. Twenty students made all As and were placed on the President's List—seven seniors, four juniors, six sophomores, and three freshmen. Sixty-nine students earned a B average or higher and were placed on the Provost's (formerly Dean's) list—29 seniors, 8 juniors, 14 sophomores, and 18 freshmen.

President's List: "A" Honor Roll

Ayers, Rebekah (Sr.) AL
Brown, Reese (Fr.) TN
Dankson, Charity (So.) TN
Ford, Taylor (So.) TN
Franks, Alyssa (Sr.) TN

Fry, Katy (So.) MO
Hill, Elizabeth (Fr.) VA
Looney, Jordan (Sr.) TN
Lute, Derreck (Fr.) OH
Martin, Michael (Sr.) OH

Nelson, Megan (Sr.) TN
Pierce, Aaron (Jr.) MS
Pointer, Catie (Jr.) AR
Richards, Shawn (Sr.) TN
Rish, Rebecca (Sr.) IN

Sample, Kayla (Jr.) IL
Sims, Brittani (Jr.) MI
Timmons, Jesse (So.) SC
Trotter, Audrey (So.) TN
Williams, Samantha (So.) AR

Provost's List: "B" Honor Roll

SENIORS

Bradford, James (IN)
Calhoun, Matthew (GA)
Carpenter, Elijah (TN)
Cyrus, Beth (KY)
Douglas, Thad (GA)
Duttine, Katie (WV)
Forrest, Lauren (TN)
Harden, Kim (MO)
Howard, Thomas (MI)
Hubbard, Haylee (AR)
Jeffreys, Georgia (AL)
Jordan, Blake (MS)
Landers, David (AR)
Maloney, Zachery (KY)
Martin, Jaclyn (OH)
McCuin, Hanna (KS)
McGhee, Jennifer (TN)
Nelson, Stephen (NC)

Phenicie, Judson (AL)
Pointer, Christen (AR)
Price, Lacey (OH)
Ramos, Leigha (TN)
Reeder, Amanda (MO)
Shearon, Michael (TN)
Smith, Greg (MI)
Snow, David (TN)
Spruill, Carl (VA)
Trimble, Rachel (TN)
Willaford, Jason (NC)

JUNIORS

Bryan, Katie (TN)
Coker, Daniel (MS)
Culwell, Jacob (TN)
Hagood, Kimberly (TN)
Hagood, Nathaniel (TN)
Hampton, Nicholas (TN)

Hovis, Bethany (MO)
Munsey, Rachel (TN)

SOPHOMORES

Barwick, Deana (GA)
Chambless, Samantha (MI)
Dankson, Brooke (TN)
Engel, Kenneth (FL)
Fondren, Brooke (MS)
Hall, Mary (NC)
Hutchinson, Timothy (MI)
Kyburz, Richie (MO)
Manning, Jake (NC)
Nelson, Melissa (NC)
Scott, Kaitlen (TN)
Suarez, Josue (FL)
Thomas, Miranda (AR)
Whitworth, Emily (TN)

FRESHMEN

Bozeman, Stephen (GA)
Burns, Rachel (OH)
Deel, Austin (TN)
Dunbar, Josh (AR)
Gedeon, Rebekah (MS)
Lindgren, Madison (CA)
Lindsey, Deandra (AL)
Mouser, Amanda (TN)
Parton, Stefani (KS)
Petty, Maria (IL)
Pierce, Andrew (MS)
Pool, Kaitlyn (NC)
Riggs, Johanna (France)
Saverance, Nathan (SC)
Snow, Elizabeth (TN)
Walters, Dustin (AL)
Williams, Joel (MO)
Wilson, Derek (TN) ■

Attendance Jumps 80% at FWBBC Fall 2011 Welcome Days

NASHVILLE, TN—Seventy-seven prospective students from 15 states attended Fall 2011 Welcome Days November 10-12 at Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to Rusty Campbell, director of enrollment services. This marks an almost 80% increase over Fall 2010 when 43 students participated. Campbell also reported a 50% rise in the number of states represented, up from 10 a year ago.

The group included 17 students from Michigan, 12 from Tennessee, 11 from North Carolina, seven from Illinois, six from Arkansas, five from Ohio, four from South Carolina, three from Alabama, two each from Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississip-

pi, and Oklahoma, one from Florida and one from Missouri.

Mr. Campbell said, "Our Enrollment Management Team went all-out this summer and fall to make contact with students, parents, and pastors. They're a great group to work with, and they're committed to bringing more students on campus. When the prospective students arrived last week, we were ready with answers to their questions and three days of special events to give them a taste of what it means to be a student at FWBBC. We emphasized FWBBC's high-quality academic programs as well as its deeply spiritual campus life. We hope many of the students decide to enroll here." (continued) 📍

Attendance Jumps 80% at FWBBC Fall 2011 Welcome Days (continued)

Visitors enjoyed a full schedule that included two nights in the dormitories and a musical Thursday evening that featured “Front Porch Pickin’ and Games,” plus late-night Spiritual Life group meetings in the dormitories. They attended classes Friday and heard 2006 FWBBC graduate Craig Batts speak in chapel. The President’s Reception for seniors, parents, and sponsors met in Thigpen Theater after chapel.

A campus-wide tour Friday afternoon acquainted visitors with the 17 campus buildings. They then gathered in the Coffee House for a time of interaction with current FWBBC students, and later some kick ball, dinner, and 90 minutes of Camp Fire and Smores, before the Flames Classic Basketball event closed out Friday night activities. Saturday morning the students shared a continental breakfast before packing up and returning home.

Exit evaluations completed by visiting students indicated their preferred areas of study focused on education, English, history, business, biology, music, psychology, science, nursing, missions, and pastoral ministry—all areas in which FWBBC offers associate’s or bachelor’s degrees.

One student reflected, “I had a great time and enjoyed the time with my youth group. I really liked my host—she seemed nice.”

Another visiting student said, “It was swell! Thanks for the fun weekend.” A third student simply cheered, “Welcome Days was great!”

The Spring 2012 Welcome Days is scheduled April 19-21. For more information, contact the Enrollment Management Office at recruit@fwbbc.edu. ■

FWBBC Student Named “Best Senator” at Tennessee Intercollegiate Legislature

NASHVILLE, TN—The 42nd General Assembly of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature (TISL) met November 17-20 at the state capitol and elected Free Will Baptist Bible College junior Frank Thornsby as “Best Senator” for the 2011 session. The model legislature which originated in 1966 is conducted by college students from across Tennessee and provides students with an education about state government and an opportunity to express their opinions on state issues.

Mr. Thornsby, a 20-year-old History major from Kentucky, led a four-person delegation from FWBBC as the college participated in its first TISL event. Other FWBBC students in the legislative team included freshman Collin Lane (Arkansas) who served as alternate senator, sophomore Bethany Coats (South Dakota) who functioned as a higher education lobbyist, and junior Daniel Coker (Mississippi) who served as a representative.

“This was a first for all of us,” Thornsby said. “It was an exciting four days, almost magical, as we prepared legislative bills and interacted with serious-minded students from 60 colleges regarding political and ethical issues of the day, knowing that some of the legislation we prepared would be presented to the Tennessee General Assembly. Many TISL bills from previous years have, in fact, become law. What a great experience! I’m looking forward to the 2012 session and an even greater involvement by FWBBC students.”

The FWBBC administration and staff encouraged student participation in TISL. Dr. Jon Forlines, vice president for student

services, arranged funding for the Thornsby-led delegation. The session days were long and full, beginning at 8:00 a.m. and extending to 9:00 p.m.

In addition to winning “Best Senator” designation by his TISL peers, Frank Thornsby was named to the Committee on Higher Education and appointed to the Election Commission. He was aggressive on the Senate floor, speaking repeatedly, debating and discussing issues to the point that he became known as “The Face” of conservative religious colleges.

“I felt right at home confronting colleagues in open debate,” Thornsby said, “and for that, I credit all the C-Span I’ve watched since age 14. The world of public policy needs more individuals with a jurisprudence guided by biblical truth. My greatest experience at TISL was being named ‘Best Senator’ on the Senate floor. While some self-gratification was involved, the overwhelming sense of representing FWBBC well trumped all other emotions.”

Mr. Thornsby serves as president of the FWBBC student body. His plans for 2012 TISL participation include writing more bills for the legislature and leading a larger delegation of FWBBC students to the state capitol.

“Since day one of my FWBBC student body presidency,” he said, “it has been my goal to build up our community domestically and to share that community of faith and learning on a local, national, and global stage. Attending TISL is the first step in our reaching out to a lost and dying world that desperately needs to hear the Good News.” ■

LeaderProfile >>>>

a ministry of Randall House

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

>>>>Can you think for yourself?

Signs of maturity, according to Corey, are revealed when believers do not simply accept what the church or minister says but wrestle with God's Word to find answers for life. Corey teaches his youth group to think for themselves, to struggle with their own faith so when each of them hit the "Why?" time during or after college, he or she will be ready for it.

Corey's father worked as a skilled electrician, training military personnel at Guantanamo Bay until Corey was five. After he and his family relocated to Virginia Beach, Corey attended Gateway Christian School. He remembers his father faithfully reading his Bible every morning before work. He recalls seeing his mom praying in her room regularly, and these influences helped him to know early in his childhood that he was called to ministry.

Since July 2009, Corey has served as youth minister at New Hope Free Will Baptist Church in Joelton, Tennessee. Corey loves to connect with young people, preach, and study.

Corey, you are a great leader! ONE



Describe your quiet time. "It's my first appointment each morning. I want to begin my day in prayer and fall asleep every night talking to God. Once a week, I do a five-mile prayer hike, taking my dog Denali with me."

Describe an ideal date for you and Rachel. "We both love literature and reading classic books. We love dinner at Carrabba's and a movie. I enjoy analyzing books and movies."

How would you improve your leadership style? "I am too laid back. Fearing that delegation may appear to show favoritism, I often hold on to tasks. My busyness often occurs because I did not hand items off to other capable people."

What are the top three books you have ever read (other than the Bible)?
Crazy Love by Francis Chan
Don't Waste Your Life by John Piper
Out of the Silent Planet by C. S. Lewis

What are you reading right now?
Erasing Hell by Francis Chan,
Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson
Onward by Howard Schultz

Paper or Plastic Questions
Mountains or Ocean? Ocean
Music or Talk Radio? Audio Book
Coke or Pepsi? Sweet Tea
Email or Texting? Texting
Mac or PC? Mac
Socks or house shoes? Bare feet

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A Final Salute to CHAPLAIN (LTC) DAVID L. SPEARS

BY KERRY STEEDLEY



At the Jonesboro Cemetery in Sanford, North Carolina, about 3:30 in the afternoon on December 29, 2011, family, friends, and fellow soldiers of CH (LTC) David Spears gathered at his grave to present full military honors and render a final salute to this soldier of Christ and his country. My wife Brenda and I were blessed to attend the funeral of this faithful Free Will Baptist Army chaplain.

David was born in Vicenza, Italy, November 24, 1960. He was born again in 1978, at age 18, at Kendale Acres Free Will Baptist Church in Sanford, North Carolina. He died at home early on Christmas morning 2011, after a year-long courageous battle with brain cancer. His funeral was conducted at his home church with Richard Barnes, the pastor who led him to Christ, officiating.

Barnes was personable and powerful in reflecting on David's life and service. He spoke comfort and encouragement to David's wife Wanda; his children Michael, Rachel, and Amanda; his mother Ruth; and his sister Ruth Ann. He presented a clear Christian witness and extended a persuasive invitation for everyone present to trust in the same Christ who saved David and called him to be a chaplain.

David celebrated his 51st birthday and was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in November before he died in December. I view this as his final promotion on earth before his real Commander-in-Chief, the Lord Jesus Christ, gave him his finest promotion to Heaven.

The church was packed to overflowing with folks sitting in the choir loft. Two generals from Fort Bragg, the U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains from Washington, DC, and many other officers and enlisted soldiers attended the funeral to honor their chaplain.

One of the most moving moments in the service came when Specialist Patrick Patterson, chaplain assistant, delivered the special music while struggling to control his emotions and his love for his chaplain.

CH (LTC) Keith Croom, senior army chaplain at Arling-

ton National Cemetery, presided at the graveside service and spoke of his long friendship with David. He described him as a man of conviction, a straight-shooter committed to his values, and a man who loved Jesus. Just before the American flag covering David's coffin was folded, before the volleys were fired, and before the bugler played "Taps," Chaplain Croom remarked that David served for years to honor the flag, and David would now be honored by the flag. He said, "I believe my good friend and fellow soldier fought stubbornly in his battle with the enemy death until early Christmas morning so he could say happy birthday to Jesus in person."

I am convinced this soldier and warrior received a welcome home from the One who called him to be a soldier, perhaps with these words: "Mission accomplished and the battle is over. Your last deployment is done. Welcome home. Well done, my good and faithful servant."

My first meeting with David was in the early 1980s at Free Will Baptist Bible College where David was a ministerial student. I came to know and appreciate him as a hard-working, honorable, and "hooah" chaplain. In Army lingo, *hooah* means hardcore, hard charging, enthusiastic, sharp in appearance, fit, competent, and motivated. He was a soldier's chaplain, a special soldier who loved serving with and ministering to soldiers. He spent most of his career in Airborne and Special Operations units, where the pace is fast, and the demands mentally and physically challenging.

DAVID WAS A SOLDIER'S
CHAPLAIN, A SPECIAL SOLDIER
WHO LOVED SERVING WITH AND
MINISTERING TO SOLDIERS.

Terry Austin recalls that David broke his foot in several places on a parachute jump with the 82nd Airborne Division, but was soon jumping again. He pursued the military chaplaincy for several years before being commissioned. He was still working on doctoral studies, even though that meant being pushed in a wheelchair on the campus of Liberty University just weeks before he died. David volunteered for the hard duty of combat multiple times in Iraq and Afghanistan and also served in Panama and Africa.

David and his wife Wanda were able to attend the Wednesday night service at the 2011 Free Will Baptist National Convention. He stood tall, straight, and handsome in combat camouflage at the Home Missions booth, despite his

illness. He was smiling and positive in articulating his passion for his calling to be a Christian chaplain. Soon after he learned that he had terminal brain cancer, he told his friend of over 30 years and fellow FWB Chaplain, Terry Austin, "I know Jesus; I really do." To paraphrase, I think David was telling others not to worry. All was well with his soul.

When the morning roll call was sounded in David's unit at Fort Bragg after the Christmas leave, David was not present for duty. But when the roll is called up yonder, David will stand at attention in formation and when his name is called, answer, "Present for duty, sir!"

Soldiers often repeat a particular phrase to fellow soldiers when moving out on a new mission or concluding departure or farewell ceremonies. It is my final salute to my brother in Christ and my brother chaplain. "I'll see you on the high ground (Heaven), Chaplain Spears." **ONE**

**Note: I am grateful to David Crowe and CH (COL) Terry Austin for their assistance in preparing this tribute.*

About the Writer: Kerry Steedley served 34 years in the military, 28 of them as a FWB Army chaplain. He has served as a hospital chaplain in Mobile, AL, since retiring from active duty in the Army.

From David Crowe on behalf of the Home Missions Department

The National Home Missions Department serves as the endorsing agency for Free Will Baptist military chaplains for all branches of service. What an honor it is to be associated with these ministers in uniform. I truly feel privileged to be part of the Home Missions Department, which connects me to our home missionaries, pastors, and chaplains. I had the privilege of attending Chaplain Spear's funeral and was joined by Retired Army Chaplain Kerry Steedley and his wife Brenda. They had driven from Mobile, Alabama, to attend.

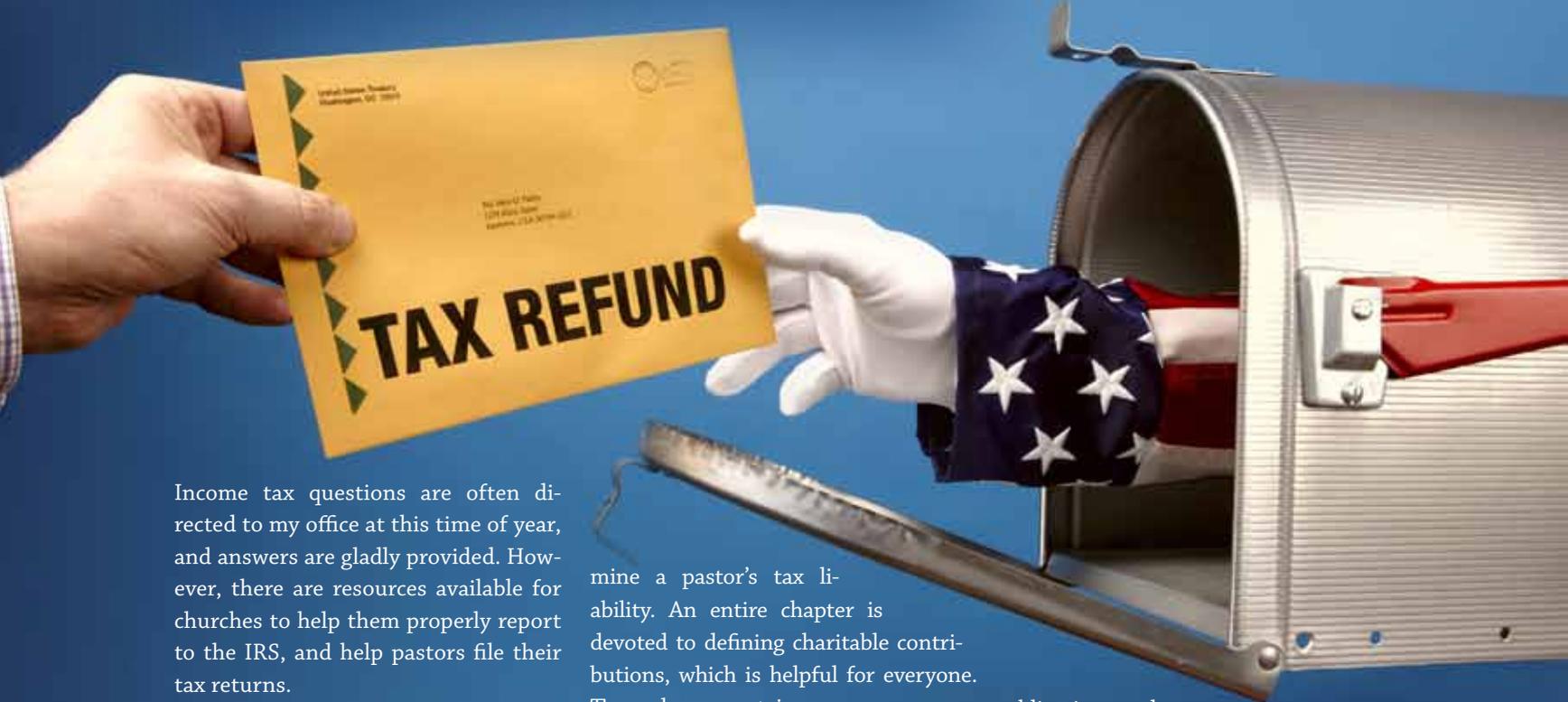
I experienced several emotions at the funeral. I felt patriotic. I still love this great country that David Spears and all of our chaplains love and serve. I felt proud. I was proud to have known Chaplain David Spears and his dear wife Wanda. I was proud of his life, his example, his faithfulness, and his service. As I looked at all the stripes, stars, and bars on the many military men and women in attendance to honor this great saint and soldier, I also felt peace. I had peace in knowing there are still many men and women who love this country and what it stands for, and are willing to lay their lives on the line every day. I felt passion. I was challenged by David's life and service, to also finish well the task God has given me to do. Finally, I felt purpose. As I flew back to Nashville that evening, I understood, as much as at any time in my life, that whether God is using us as civilians or soldiers, we all have one purpose.

Chaplain (LTC) David Spears understood that purpose well—to win men, women, boys, and girls to Jesus Christ. May I serve as well.

☞ *David Crowe, Director of Development* ☞

Brown on Green >>>>

Put the Hammer Down on Taxes



Income tax questions are often directed to my office at this time of year, and answers are gladly provided. However, there are resources available for churches to help them properly report to the IRS, and help pastors file their tax returns.

Richard Hammer's *Church and Clergy Tax Guide* will answer all your tax questions. It is published annually, so it is always up to date. The book is not available through bookstores but online at <http://store.churchlawtodaystore.com/20chcltaxguf2.html>. It is over 600 pages and includes a helpful index to help you find what you need quickly.

The book spends the first several chapters dealing with how the pastor should file his income tax, addressing all the unique factors that deter-

mine a pastor's tax liability. An entire chapter is devoted to defining charitable contributions, which is helpful for everyone. The volume contains many pages on Social Security and retirement plans for the pastor, and two entire chapters are dedicated to the church's reporting requirements, offering advice on how a church should conduct itself to remain a charitable entity.

The last chapter is filled with illustrations that show the pastor and church treasurer how the reporting should look on various tax forms. The book includes sample policies a church can adopt to make sure they have covered legal

obligations and to protect themselves from lawsuits.

Richard Hammer is both an attorney and a CPA. He graduated from Harvard Law School and has written over 100 books. He serves as legal counsel to the Assembly of God denomination. No one in Christian circles is more qualified or recognized as an expert in church law. This book is highly recommended for any church or pastor who seeks guidance concerning law and taxes. **ONE**

THREE THINGS EVERY CHURCH TREASURER SHOULD KNOW:

1 Pastors are employees for tax purposes and self-employed for Social Security tax purposes, but churches are not required to withhold taxes from their pay. Therefore, pastors should be issued a W-2 by the church.

2 For a gift to be considered a charitable tax deduction, it must be a completed gift. Gifts that have conditions placed on them are not considered completed and are not tax deductible. For example, a church receives land to build a church but the donor requires that the property will resort back to him or his heirs if the land ceases to be used for the church. This condition would render the gift non-deductible.

3 Churches are required to receipt gifts over \$250 and should state on the receipt that no goods or services are provided. In the case of fundraisers where the donor receives a gift for a donation over a certain amount, the retail value of the gift must be deducted from the gift receipt.

CALM DOWN *and Enjoy the Ride*

By John Brummitt

*I have
always enjoyed
riding roller coasters.*

It's exciting to be strapped into a little bucket then slung up and down and around in circles, all at break-neck speeds. But it's a short ride. If you have watched the news in the past year, you know that your investments have also been on a massive roller coaster without any real end in sight. How do we endure the ride without losing our lunch?

Watch for Warning Signs

Before strapping into any roller coaster, potential riders are bombarded with signs and warnings about what is required and prohibited—no pregnant women or people with heart problems or high blood pressure. You can't miss the warnings.

When it comes to the market, however, many investors only see the first part of the ride, the uphill climb. They don't bother to check out the rest of the ride or read the risks involved. The fact that the track for the financial roller coaster is being laid in front of us as we ride doesn't allow for a lot of reaction time in our investments. So, where do we find warning signs? We check the past track record to make an educated guess about risks that lie ahead.

Follow Safety Instructions

Safety instructions for a roller coaster are pretty cut and dry: keep hands and feet inside the ride at all times; don't remove safety restraints; and remain seated until the ride comes to a complete stop. Safe investments are a little more difficult to nail down because the ride lasts far longer than a minute or two.

When we know the ride will last 40 years or more, we are more jumpy about staying put, even though it usually works to our advantage to do so.

While roller coasters can be frightening, they can also be a lot of fun. Just remember to watch for the warnings, remember the safety instructions, and start planning your exit strategy years before you actually reach the end of the ride. Jumping off a roller coaster in motion is never a good idea. **ONE**

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

In a report by Fidelity Investments, participants in retirement plans who dropped their equity (stock) allocation to zero between October 1, 2008, and March 31, 2009, and kept it there saw their accounts grow two percent on average through June 30, 2011. In contrast, investors who returned to equities at some point saw their balance jump 25%. And those who remained seated throughout the ride saw their balance increase by 50%.

Exit to the Right Plan

Eventually, everyone must exit the investment ride. Remember to gather your belongings before you exit. On a roller coaster, everyone gets off at the same time. You can't miss the sudden stop as the brakes lock in at the end of the ride, everyone is slung against their restraints, and the cars come to a screeching stop.

With retirement it's a little different. It's more like switching tracks for your cart. This can be a tricky process but can be done easily if you plan well and follow several simple guidelines. Never switch tracks while you are on a downhill grade because the cart is traveling too fast to make the switch without suffering any damage. Plan for the transition as a year rather than a day. This will allow you to slow down and switch tracks without turning over your cart at breakneck speed. Those retiring in 2012 should have been making adjustments in 2010 or even earlier.



To help churches minister to their pastors, **Randall House** offers a one percent donation to the pastor's Board of Retirement account on all D6 curriculum purchased by the church each quarter.

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News From WNAC and MM

WNAC Executive Committee Revises Standards

NASHVILLE, TN—“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” This theme from Ephesians 4:3 provided the backdrop for the WNAC Executive Committee semiannual meeting November 10-12, 2011, at Courtyard by Marriott in Nashville, Tennessee. In their first retreat-style board meeting, the committee packed reports, business, brainstorming, vision casting, and learning into every possible minute of time together.

Executive Director Elizabeth Hodges cited in her report to the committee that she has personally visited 12 of WNAC’s 22 reporting states, meeting with women and sharing results of their giving and praying over the years. The committee reviewed Provision Closet distributions, as well as cards and letters of thanks from missionaries, missionary kids, and retired missionaries who have benefitted from WNAC ministries. Financial reports revealed tight funds, with a staff committed to doing as much as possible with available resources: Free Will Baptist women must provide for the needs of the office as WNAC does not receive regular Together Way funding except monies designated for WNAC.

One highlight of the weekend involved a morning-long presentation by a consulting firm. Consultants conducted an extensive survey among WAC state leaders, compiled results, and shared their findings with the committee. Leaders expressed opinions on everything from their perception of the purpose of WNAC to their views on WNAC literature and topics to address at retreats and national conventions. The committee listened

then prayed for wisdom to act upon the survey results, asking God to help lead the organization on the path that would meet needs and honor Him.

The committee also completed an examination and revision of the constitution and by-laws, as requested by the 2009 WNAC Convention. This labor-intensive project consumed a major portion of the committee’s time as they examined documents line-by-line, revised and updated wording to reflect current language and policies, and organized document structure for greater clarity. The proposed constitution will be sent to WAC state leaders for circulation among members in their states. This will enable women to read, ponder, and prepare to vote knowledgeably at the 2012 WNAC Convention, July 17, in Memphis, Tennessee.

With survey results in mind, the committee planned the upcoming convention. Maintaining the one-day format—popular with women last year—delegates will conduct business, worship together, hear missionary speakers, and choose from seminars dealing with finances/time management, depression, and parenting. Afternoon options include a brainstorming session or time for sharing and discussing results of the survey.

Members of the WNAC Executive Committee dedicate themselves to hearing the women of our denomination and responding by implementing ideas presented, answering questions, and providing opportunities for women to serve. WNAC extends an invitation for all women to join as co-laborers, each filling her God-designed role in the Great Commission. ■

DRT Update From Master’s Men Director Ken Akers

In the spring of 2005, I was asked if Master’s Men or the denomination had a plan to help churches and individuals following a natural disaster. When I replied no, the answer disappointed me. I felt impressed that Free Will Baptists needed a disaster response team, and that Master’s Men should take the lead. Little did I know that only a few months later, such a team would be put to the test.

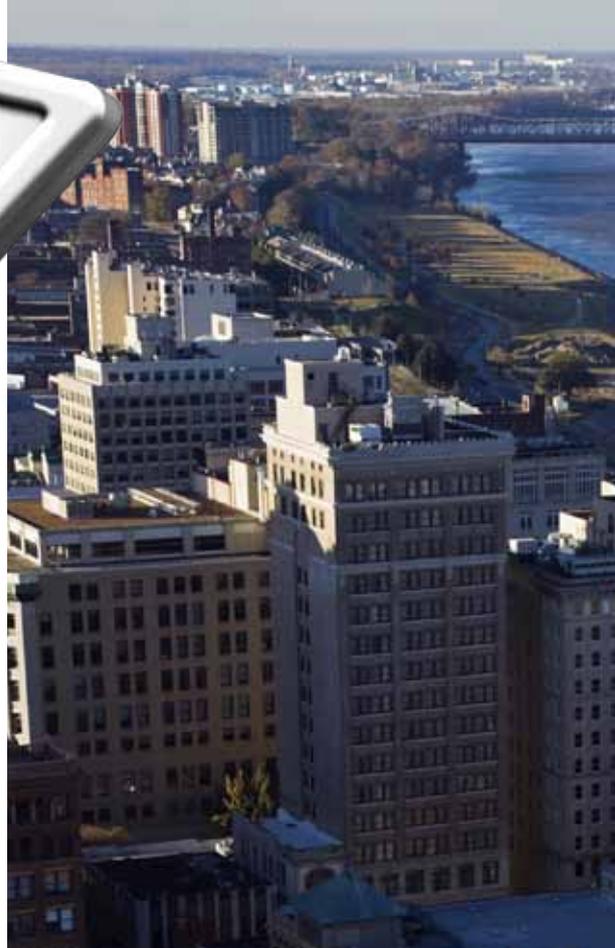
In August, Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast with such force that it devastated millions of people. Because we had seen the need, with God’s help, we were prepared to offer aid. We had purchased a large truck with a work bed, and several churches and individuals made donations to equip the truck.

It took some time before things on the Gulf Coast settled down enough to allow us to join recovery efforts. Law enforcement and the National Guard prevented people from entering the area until after the search for bodies had been completed. In the meantime, we started recruiting volunteers to go. On the first day, more than 50 people gathered at Gulf Coast Free Will Baptist Church to help. While the church needed much work, we had enough help to reach out to the entire community.

More than six years later, Master’s Men and the Disaster Relief Team continue to help when needed. In 2011 alone, we assisted with relief efforts and monetary gifts in Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Missouri. We have also taken our relief work international as a team of workers volunteered in Haiti following the earthquake of 2010.

Today, we have three trailers and two trucks for use in disaster relief. We have also been able to assist several states purchase trailers and equipment for state disaster relief efforts, and we are working with other states to help them prepare for disaster.

Currently, we are preparing cleaning kits to be stored and used as needed. Information about the project can be found on the Master’s Men website (www.fwbmastersmen.org) if you would like to help supply the contents of the kits. ■



NYC 2012

NYC Conference Fees

We hear it every year at the registration desk, “Our state paid our registration fee.” Then the registration desk staff person has to explain the fee structure for the NYC. In an effort to save everyone some time and confusion, here is a breakdown of the fees for the FWB National Youth Conference.

First is the **Competition Event Fee**. This fee is paid for each competition event. Generally, a church or individual will pay this fee to the regional level of competition (district or state). This fee helps offset expenses for the competition, including awards, judges’ honorariums, directories, supplies, and other convention expenses. The regional competition forwards this fee to the NYC for each event that advances to national competition. This is the fee

people are talking about when they say, “Our state paid our registration fee.”

The **Conference Fee** is something different. This is the fee paid through the Pre-Registration form or at the Convention Registration Desk in order to get the NYC ribbon for the name badge. Every person that attends any youth conference event, such as worship services, seminars, or competition, must have an NYC ribbon on his or her name badge.

The **Student Conference Fee** is \$25 for those in grades 1-12 who Pre-Register before June 15. The Student Conference Fee is \$35 at the door.

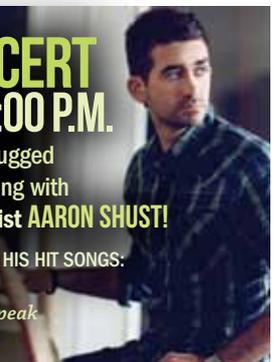
There is also a \$15 **Adult Conference Fee**. We are pleased that adults are supporting the students and involved in the youth conference, how-

Teen Worship Service Speakers:

- Sunday AM – JOSH BAER
- Sunday PM – DAVID OUTLAW
- Monday PM – DARIN GIBBS
- Tuesday PM – SEAN MCDOWELL

NYC Seminar Tracks:

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- Children’s Ministry
- Student Ministry
- Music Ministry
- Pastoral Ministry
- FWB21 Panel Discussion



NYC CONCERT
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AARON IS KNOWN FOR HIS HIT SONGS:
-My Hope Is In You
-Give Me Words to Speak
-My Savior, My God



ever, the larger audiences require additional audiovisual and image projection equipment to ensure everyone can hear and see what is happening on the stage. We have determined that it is appropriate for adults to pay a small fee to attend, rather than increase the fee for students. We are also offering additional programming for adults in the form of training seminars for youth workers, parents, and pastors.

The conference fees help cover expenses including programming, speakers' honorariums, audiovisual equipment, decorator, and other conference expenses. We offer four days of programming for a minimal fee. We hope our attendees recognize the value of the conference and enjoy the variety of events available.

2013 NYC Guidelines

The NYC Guidelines is in process of being revised for 2013. Major changes include the Human Video becoming a full competition event and a new Bible Memorization option. This revision of the Guidelines will be available for purchase July 2012; it will be in effect for the 2013 competition.

RACISM, and the world evangelism, GOSPEL



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AN FWB21 PANEL



Garnett Reid

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Danny Elliott

Clint Morgan

Calvin Lewis

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For more info, visit fwb21.com/panel

Introducing 2012 Nominees for Standing Boards and Commissions

Antioch, TN—The following have been nominated for board and commission positions to be filled at the 2012 National Association of Free Will Baptists in Memphis, Tennessee, according to Tim Campbell (AR), Nominating Committee chairman:

2012 Convention Election Schedule*

Free Will Baptist Bible College 2018

Will Beauchamp (FL) to replace **A.C. Allen** (SC) – *(ineligible for re-election)*

Will Beauchamp recently became senior pastor of First FWB Church, Seffner, Florida, after serving eight years as associate pastor. He also worked as senior administrator of Seffner Christian Academy, taught in the school's Bible department, and served as athletic director. He moderated the Central Florida Association from 2008-2010 and serves on the associational ordaining council. A 1995 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Will earned a M.A. in Biblical Studies from Dallas Theological Seminary in 2010. He and his wife Jennifer have two daughters, Cadence and Emory.

Ken Simpson (MO) – *(eligible for re-election)*

Mark Stripling (AR) – *(eligible for re-election)*

International Missions 2014

Robert W. Brown (VA) to replace **Paul Creech** (GA) – *(deceased)*

Robert W. (Bob) Brown pastors Heritage FWB Church, Fredericksburg, Virginia. The Ohio native and U.S. Air Force veteran has been in full-time ministry since 1992, pastoring churches in Arkansas, Kansas, Texas, and Virginia. He has served as moderator and Executive Board member for both the Virginia and Kansas State Associations and was a member of the Christian Education Boards for Arkansas and Virginia. Robert earned a B.A. in Pastoral Training from Free Will Baptist Bible College and a M.A. in Biblical Studies from Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. He and his wife Ann Marie have two children, Amanda and Shane.

2018

Nelson Henderson (AR) – *(eligible for re-election)*

Mark Price (OH) – *(eligible for re-election)*

Brad Ransom (OK) to replace **Randy Wilson** (OK) – *(ineligible for re-election)*

Brad Ransom has been director of Oklahoma Free Will Baptist Missions since January 2007. Before accepting this position, he ministered for more than 25 years as pastor or pastoral staff member at three churches in Oklahoma. Ransom has served on the Oklahoma State Mission Board and Christian Education Board, and as a member of the Board of Trustees of Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College. A 1988 Hillsdale graduate, Brad earned a Master of Ministry degree from Bethany Theological Seminary in 1993, a Doctor of Ministry degree in Christian Counseling from Christian Seminary in 1996, and the M.A. in Church Planting and Evangelism from Liberty University in 2011. He and his wife Lori have three grown sons and six granddaughters.

Randall House Publications 2018

Mark Braisher (OK) – *(eligible for re-election)*

Mike Trimble (MI) – *(eligible for re-election)*

Michael D. Mounts (OH) to replace **Edwin Hayes** (OH) – *(ineligible for re-election)*

Michael D. (Mike) Mounts pastors Harrison FWB Church in Minford, Ohio. Since 1981, the Ohio native has pastored six churches in Alabama, Georgia, and Ohio. He has served on the national Master's Men Board, as Ohio state moderator, and as a member of the Georgia state Christian Education Board in addition to other local, state, and national positions.

A graduate of Northeastern High School in Springfield, Ohio, Mike continued his education at Rosedale Bible College, Bethany Bible College, and Free Will Baptist Bible College. He and his wife Sandy have one son, Jared.

Executive Committee 2014

Stan Bunch (MO) to replace **Gary Fry** (TN) – *(resigned)*

Stan Bunch was born and raised in Berryville, Arkansas. After attending Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College (where he later completed coursework for his Master's degree), he pastored Verdella FWB Church in Liberal, Missouri, until 1983, when he and his wife Brenda were appointed to overseas missionary service. For more than 25 years, Stan and his family were instrumental in starting three churches in Panama, the most recent in Chitré in 2004. Stan recently resigned from the Mission to become executive secretary of the Missouri State Association, a position he began in March.

2015

Glenn Poston (TN) to replace **Glen Johnson** (VA) – *(ineligible for re-election)*

Glenn Poston has served as promotional director for the Tennessee State Association since 2007. The South Carolina native spent the previous 33 years pastoring churches in Tennessee, Illinois, Georgia, and Alabama. He is a member of the General Board of the National Association, and has served on various district, state, and national boards and committees. A 1974 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Glenn and his wife Sara have two sons and four grandchildren.

Mike Wade (OK) – *(eligible for re-election)*

Todd Smith (SC) to replace **Keith Woody** (TX) – *(resigned)*

Todd Smith graduated twice from Bob Jones University, first in 1992 with a B.A.

in Bible, and again in 1994 when he received the M.A. in Pastoral Theology. During undergraduate studies at BJU, Todd worked with the bus route and junior church at First FWB Church in Inman, South Carolina. During graduate school, he ministered as youth pastor and interim pastor at Whitney FWB Church in Spartanburg. After graduation, Todd began his first full-time pastorate at Hillside FWB Church in Florence, South Carolina. He served six years as pastor before accepting a home missionary role at Southside FWB Church in Aiken, South Carolina, where he remained for seven years. In February 2007, Todd became executive secretary of the South Carolina State Association, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the state office. Todd and his wife Teresa have three children—Victoria, Cameron, and Hunter.

Historical Commission 2015

Eric K. Thomsen (TN) to replace **Darrell Holley** (FL) – *(resigned)*

Eric K. Thomsen became managing editor of *ONE Magazine* in 2005. The Florida native worked previously as National Youth Conference coordinator, teen curriculum editor, and director of art and marketing for Randall House Publications. He has served as minister of music at Bethlehem FWB Church in Ashland City, Tennessee, for nearly 20 years. An avid student of Free Will Baptist history, he authored the script for *Honoring Our Heritage*, a 2011 documentary marking the 400-year history of Free Will Baptists, and as a general editor of *Free Will Baptist Convention Sermons*. A 1995 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Eric and his wife Jennifer have one daughter, Victoria.

Commission for Theological Integrity 2017

Kevin Hester (TN) to replace **Leroy Forlines** (TN) – *(resigned)*

Kevin Hester is chairman of the Department of Theological Studies at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Having served in Christian education ministries in church and parachurch organizations, Dr. Hester informs practical ministry with the biblical wisdom of the Christian tradition. A 1993 FWBBC graduate, he holds a M.Div. from Covenant Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from Saint Louis University. He is author of *Free Will Baptists and the Priesthood of All Believers* and *Eschatology and Pain in Gregory the Great*. He and his wife Leslie have four sons and live in Spring Hill, Tennessee.

General Officers

Moderator - **Tim York** (TN)

Assistant Moderator - **William Smith** (GA)

Clerk - **Randy Bryant** (AL)

Assistant Clerk - **Ernie Lewis** (IL)

*Not electing: Home Missions, Board of Retirement, Master's Men, and Free Will Baptist Foundation

Beating the BLUE SUEDE BUDGET

Great activities to enjoy in Memphis without breaking the bank...

With Wall Street in uproar, gas prices on the rise, and salaries spiraling downward as the cost of living creeps upward, it is a good time to perfect the fine art of budget travel. Thankfully, this year's convention city offers visitors great low-cost options.

TRAVEL THE TROLLEY

Perhaps the most visible Memphis attractions are the trolleys. The vintage cars offer a nostalgic trip through downtown's most memorable attractions and provide a breathtaking view of the mighty Mississippi.

The Main Street Trolley stops at Cook Convention Center, Civic Center Plaza, Court Square, Peabody Place, Beale Street, National Civil Rights Museum, FedExForum, and the Historic Arts District while the Riverfront Loop trolley provides access to the Tennessee Welcome Center and the Mud Island monorail and museum.

From brass seat accents and glass transom windows to hand-carved mahogany and antique lighting fixtures, every detail has been faithfully restored. Passengers may board at any stop, but exact fare is required.

At only a dollar per ride, the trolley

is certainly tops when it comes to low-budget entertainment in Memphis. Learn more: www.manta.com

MEET THE MONORAIL

Experience great views of downtown and the Mighty Mississippi as a Swiss-made monorail whisks you across the harbor to Mud Island River Park. While at the park, take in the River Museum with 18 galleries showcasing the history of the Mississippi River Valley, from early Native Americans to modern-day modes of transportation. The museum contains more than 5,000 artifacts, including two full-size boats to board and explore. Wander the grounds and gardens or saunter along the river walk beside the busy river.

Take advantage of a \$10 price package (less for children and seniors) including museum admission, round-trip fare for the monorail, and a guided tour of museum and gardens. For more details, visit www.mudisland.com.

VENTURE OUTDOORS

TripAdvisor.com has named the Memphis Zoo tops in the United States for good reason. Get up close

and personal with a polar bear, play in a geyser, visit a petting zoo, or hop a tram for an unforgettable look at the exotic animals. Plan a minimum stay of half a day, or you might not have time to enjoy ice-skating. Yes! Ice skating in Memphis in the middle of the summer—it's a popular break from the heat.

The zoo is open seven days a week, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and costs \$15 for adults, \$10 for children. While the price may push the boundaries of a low budget, the zoo is well worth the cost. Tennessee residents enjoy free admission on Tuesdays from 2:00 p.m. to closing. (And if you're *not* from Tennessee, avoid this crowded time slot.) Visit www.MemphisZoo.org for more details.

The Memphis Botanic Garden welcomes everybody—especially little bodies. With outdoor areas such as Playhouse Lane, Critter Creek, Wormville, and Treetop Adventure, you can only imagine the fun your kids will have in the popular children's garden aptly named My Big Backyard. Admission is \$8, \$5 for children (and free for seniors and infants). The park is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m.

Pre-Registration

National Association of Free Will Baptists

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

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

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

National Association

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

Voting Delegates:

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

Non-Voting:

- Licensed Minister
- Attendee (includes infants and toddlers)

Tickets:

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

National Association Information: www.nafwb.org

National Youth Conference

Preschool:

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

Students: \$25

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

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

College Age / Adults: \$15

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

- Adult Attendee (No students or children)

Tickets:

NYC concert featuring Aaron Shust.....Qty _____ x \$10 = _____
Tuesday, July 17, 9:00 pm

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

Women Nationally Active for Christ

Voting Delegates:

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

Non-Voting:

- Missionary
- Attendee

Tickets:

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

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

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

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

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

Card # _____

Card Holder _____ Exp. ____/____

RETURN TO:

Convention Registration

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

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

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

Convention Housing

2012 National Association of Free Will Baptists

Crowne Plaza Memphis Downtown

300 N Second Street
Memphis, TN 38105
Phone: 800-2CROWNE | 901-525-1800
Rate: \$129
Group Code: NAB
Self-Parking: \$10 | Valet: \$18



Note: Reservations can be made by telephone or internet directly through the hotel.



Memphis Marriott Downtown (HQ)

250 N Main Street
Memphis, TN 38103
Phone: 888-557-8740 | 901-527-7300
Rate: \$129
Self-Parking: \$18 | Valet: \$20



DoubleTree by Hilton Memphis Downtown

185 Union Avenue
Memphis, TN 38103
Phone: 800-222-8733 | 901-528-1800
Rate: \$119
Group Code:
Valet Parking: \$12



***Room rates do not include applicable taxes (15.95%).**

1. Prepare Personal Information

You will need the following:

- +Name(s)
- +Address, City, State, Zip
- +Phone/Email
- +Credit Card Information
- +Special Requests:
 - Non-Smoking Room
 - Wheelchair Accessibility
 - Rollaway Bed
 - Crib

2. Contact Your Hotel of Choice

(See details above.)

Reservations will open at 9 am, CST, 10 am, EST, Monday, May 7, 2012. Hotels have been instructed **NOT TO ACCEPT** reservations before this time.

- +Hotels may limit the number of reservations made by an individual.
- +Cut-off date: Friday, June 15, 2012.

3. Receive Your Confirmation

On May 7, links to hotel reservations will become available at:

www.nafwb.org.

to 4:30 p.m. and Sunday and Monday, 11:30 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Visit www.MemphisBotanicGarden.com.

Surprise the kids with dinosaurs and a shrunken head at the Pink Palace Museum. While you're there, take in an educational feature at the IMAX theater or visit a distant star system at Sharpe Planetarium. Learn more at www.MemphisMuseums.org.

If you still have energy to spare, enjoy horseback riding, hiking, or paddleboating at Shelby Farms Park or run, walk, or ride the seven-mile trail from the farm to the heart of Midtown: www.ShelbyFarmsPark.org.

BEAT THE HEAT

Get out of the Memphis summer heat and humidity (before you begin to resemble the city's famous barbecue) as you visit a number of museums in the Greater Memphis area.

Visit the free Museum of Biblical History in nearby Collierville, where

you will find replicas and artifacts from the pages of biblical history. The museum includes exhibits, learning lab, and a large reference library. A \$3 donation is suggested.

Learn more about the significant moments of the Civil Rights Movement—both struggles and victories—at the National Civil Rights Museum. The museum, named a top ten attraction in the nation by *USA Today*, is housed in the renovated Lorraine Motel where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

The Museum is located at South Main and Huling Streets, and is open Monday and Wednesday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Admission is \$13 (less for children and seniors) and Tennessee residents enjoy free admission on Mondays after 3:00 p.m.

A. Schwab's Dry Goods Store is the only remaining original business on Beale Street in the heart of Mem-

phis. Opened in 1876, the three-story building is filled with powders, hand-cuffs, clerical collars, saucepans, and the largest collection of hats in town. Open Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. While visiting the store, walk down Beale Street, one of the most famous locations in America, known as the Birthplace of the Blues.

Kids will delight in the Children's Museum of Memphis where they are encouraged to experience a flight simulator, sit in a real airplane cockpit, explore a 50-foot model of the Mississippi River, and many other activities.

Still need more low cost options to beat the blue suede budget? You might need to stay an extra week! **Download the free Memphis Travel app for Apple or Android** to learn more about the sights, sounds, and attractions of Memphis. [ONE](#)

Miss your chance?

The Executive Office has released a second printing of **Free Will Baptist Convention Sermons**, a hardbound, thousand-page, volume that compiles 75 years of sermons preached at the annual convention.

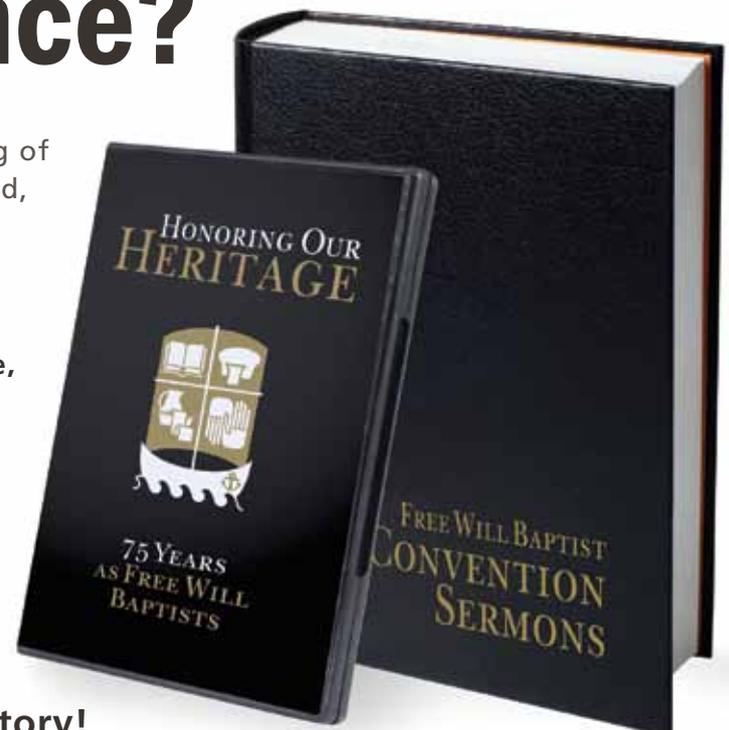
The purchase price is \$30.

Copies of the documentary, **Honoring Our Heritage**, are still available for \$15 (shipping and handling not included).

Contact the Executive Office to place your order:

www.nafwb.org | 877-767-7659
debbie@nafwb.org

Don't miss the second chance to own these keepsakes of Free Will Baptist history!





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

One to ONE >>>>

Sister Willie

The mid-1960s was a turbulent period in our nation's history as people questioned everything. It was a confusing time for a pre-teen boy growing up in a small town in eastern Oklahoma. I managed to survive that crazy era, thanks to the influence of godly parents and the loving care of a Free Will Baptist church.

I did not have to navigate the uncharted waters alone. Fortunately, there were other young people about my age attending the same church. That's where Sister Willie comes in (Willie was her first name). She was the junior boys' Sunday School teacher. I will always wonder what she was thinking when she agreed to teach that class.

Each Sunday Sister Willie greeted us dutifully, armed with her large-print Bible, flannelgraph, and teaching pictures. Honesty dictates I tell you (to my chagrin) that I cannot recall a single lesson she taught. There were no learning centers in our classroom—no modern, technological gadgets. As I recall, we never had a class party, field trip, or overnight camp-out.

What I do remember are those times, usually at the end of the lesson, when Sister Willie would make a passionate appeal for us to commit our lives to Christ. The urgency in her voice and her tear-filled eyes were unmistakable evidence of her concern for our souls. Those images are burned indelibly into my memory.

Years passed. One day, while visiting a nursing home, our paths crossed again. Although the years had robbed Sister Willie of

her independence and mobility, she still had a sharp mind and a pleasant disposition. Once again, her eyes glistened with tears as I told her how God had worked in my life in those intervening years. I had the privilege of thanking her personally for her witness to a troupe of rowdy boys.

A short time later, Sister Willie went home to be with the Lord. At her memorial service the officiating minister asked me to say a few words about this precious lady. This time, my eyes filled with tears as I recalled how she left a lasting impression on me during those formative years.

It is entirely possible there are junior Sunday School teachers reading this column. Some weeks, you probably question if you have any lasting impact on your students. Take it from a former junior boy—you are! They may not remember the content of many lessons, but they will never forget your concern for their lives.

You don't have to be an exceptionally gifted individual in order for the Lord to use you. God still delights in using ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Sister Willie was a prime example. **ONE**

Have your cake and eat it too!

With a gift annuity through Free Will Baptist Foundation, you can **help International Missions reach men, women, and children around the world** while enjoying competitive rates, payouts based on age, limited tax deduction, and tax-free income.

Single Table		Joint Table	
Age	Rate	Ages	Rate
65	4.7%	65/65	4.2%
70	5.1%	70/70	4.6%
75	5.8%	75/75	5.0%
80	6.8%	80/80	5.7%
85	7.8%	85/85	6.7%
90	9.0%	90/90	8.2%



Learn more today: www.fwbgifts.org | 877-336-7575 | foundation@nafwb.org

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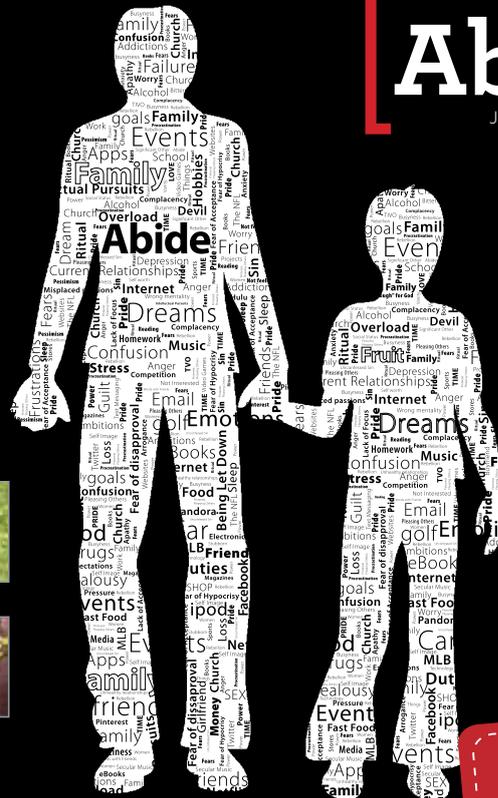


Walt Mueller Tim Elmore Aaron Shust Sean McDowell Mark McPeak

For a complete list of speakers and topics go to D6Conference.com

[Abide]

John 15:4-5



Register by **May 1st**
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D6conference.com

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