

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

# ONE

MAGAZINE

Embracing the Eternal  
Two Views of the  
Emerging Church

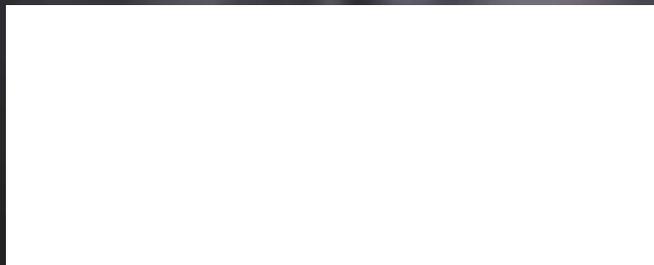
The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

JUNE/JULY 2007

[www.onemag.org](http://www.onemag.org)

# GET IN THE GAME

The Importance of Lay Ministry





# MASTER'S MEN 14th Annual National GOLF TOURNAMENT

Pine Creek Golf Course, Mt. Juliet, Tennessee  
August 2, 2007

- **18-hole, two-man scramble.**
- **Fund raising event** for the Master's Men.
- **Cost** \$70 per golfer (includes: greens fees, cart, 2 mulligans, practice balls, prizes, door prizes, buffet lunch).
- **Hole Sponsorship** available for churches, businesses, Master's Men Chapters, individuals, and organizations starting at \$50.00. Sponsors will receive a sign at a tee box acknowledging their support.
- **Shotgun start** promptly 7:30 a.m.
- **Check-in** begins 6:00 a.m.

From Nashville: Take I-40 east to exit 226 (Mt. Juliet). Go south on Hwy 171 (approximately 1 mile to Hwy 265). Go east on Hwy 265 to Logue Rd. Turn right on Logue Rd. and the golf course will be on your left.

To register, call the Master's Men office at **(877) 767-8039** or visit **[www.nafwb.org/mm](http://www.nafwb.org/mm)** today!



## COME ON OVER AND HELP US!!

**WHO?** Individual members of the organization, area chapters, and anyone who wants to help both now and tomorrow.

**WHAT?** Create additional fund or add to the existing endowment for Master's Men.

**WHY?** Provide ongoing funding for ministry today and into the future until Jesus returns.

**WHEN?** Now! Do something today, and regularly add to it in the future.

**HOW?** Two ways are available.

**1** By making a significant gift (\$10,000 or more), you may (a) name the agreement a "memorial" to a deceased loved one or a friend, or (b) you may create a living legacy for your or you and your family.

**2** By making a gift (of any amount) to the general endowment of Master's Men.

Yes! I want to help. Enclosed is my fully deductible gift for the Master's Men Endowment.

Yes! I want to establish a personal or family endowment for Master's Men.  
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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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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Keith Burden MANAGING EDITOR: Eric Thomsen ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Ken Akers, Bill Evans, Larry Hampton, Ida Lewis, Ray Lewis, Marian Pilgrim, Deborah St. Lawrence, Bert Tippet, Jack Williams LAYOUT & DESIGN: Randall House Publications DESIGN MANAGER: Andrea Young DESIGNERS: Suzanne Franks, Mary Ann Cook, Amanda Everson PRINTING: Randall House Publications

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**ERIC THOMSEN**  
MANAGING EDITOR

## FIRST GLIMPSE

### I DON'T WANT TO WRITE THIS EDITORIAL.

It's a strange feeling for a guy who has been passionate about writing since kindergarten. In truth, my reluctance to write has little to do with my love affair with nouns, verbs, and well-constructed sentences. I remain mesmerized by the intricacies of my craft.

Why then, do I hesitate to write this particular piece? It's your fault.

Let me explain. Perhaps you noticed the recent expansion of *ONE Magazine* from 48 to 56 pages (the April-May 2007 issue). In my quest to fill the additional pages for the current issue, I read scores of articles submitted by *ONE* readers. I scanned state newsletters, browsed personal blogs, and pored over a file drawer flowing with church newsletters.

The experience was humbling. From upper Ohio to the lower Okefenokee, Hanford to the "hollers" of West Virginia, Free Will Baptist writers are a talented bunch. The words stirred me to tears, made me laugh aloud, and, at times, drove me to my knees. I wish I could print them all. I can't. Instead, I am going to share my space.

*How can today's godly woman halt the downward spiral? She must raise the bar for the next generation...She must model the biblical principles of womanhood before her daughters and her sons, creating a lasting example for the coming generation to follow.*

**From "The Evolution of Eve,"**  
by Robin Hawkins, OH

*In the frenzy of our busy lives, we easily forget God and His passion for us. We forget He lives within and around us and loves us with eternal affection. We need the small things to signify His presence. Blue can be one of those reminders...*

**From "Blue Sky" by Rena Barnhill Brewer, GA**

*Refresh yourself often in the Word of God and in prayer. Ben Patterson is right: "prayerlessness is its own punishment." Linger on that statement for a moment. If you are too busy to stop, read, meditate, and pray, you are too busy. Nothing elaborate is needed. Perhaps you can only squeeze fifteen minutes from your morning, but they will be the most powerful fifteen minutes of the day if you share them with God.*

**From "Go Fly a Kite" by Matt Crain, IL**

*Many other "stains" cause us to judge others by their looks. When we limit ourselves to those who appear to be "stain free," we miss many blessings...when we judge people only by appearance we limit their value and deprive ourselves the blessings of a wholesome relationship.*

**From "The Stain," by Rhonda Hodges, CA**

For *ONE Magazine* writer's guidelines, write to:

Editor: ONE Magazine  
PO Box 5002  
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

or email [editor@nafwb.org](mailto:editor@nafwb.org). □

## LETTERS

### Meet Emanuel

Great article about Emanuel! We have supported two daughters in Indonesia through the same program for the last several years, and it has been such a blessing to our family. I also applaud the way you are introducing your daughter to missions at an early age. God bless you and your wife as you continue to raise her with eyes opened to people around the world and a vision to share Christ with them!

**Judy Bailey, Japan**

I am a Free Will Baptist who is African-American, and I have a young son. We have much to thank God for, and we love our church home immensely. In each issue of *ONE Magazine*, I hope to find an article that highlights an individual of color leading in our cause. I think it is important for my son to see that he too can take a lead role in our denomination.

It's wonderful that Free Will Baptists support children such as Emanuel a world away. My concern is that my son not only learn about diverse populations that need Jesus, but also about diverse leaders within the denomination that are making a difference.

I ask that you consider that your readership is ever becoming more diverse. Please consider highlighting all race, color, and nationality that are leading in service to the King of Kings.

**Anonymous, VA**

### Suggestions

You are doing a great job with *ONE Magazine*. The layout is great and looks so professional. I am proud of it. The Ecuador article was very encouraging—seeds planted will bear fruit.

What about an article on questions that unsaved people ask? Or how about a column about "lessons I learned in ministry." Could you publish a "what works" column where readers send in ideas on a variety of topics like outreach, ways to help families assimilate into church, special day ideas, etc. We could always use more articles about the family—raising godly kids and building strong marriages, etc.

**Sandy Atwood, TN**

**To our readers:** Thank you, Sandy! The *ONE* editors welcome comments, criticism, and suggestions. Write to:

**ONE Magazine**  
PO Box 5002  
Antioch, TN 37011-5002  
Or email: [editor@nafwb.org](mailto:editor@nafwb.org).

# Embracing the Eternal

By Sarah Fletcher

**ASK SHERI WOOLARD OF HUBERT, NORTH CAROLINA, AND** she'll tell you, she's excited! She and her pastor husband Kevin recently teamed together, organizing a monthly Family Focus night for their congregation. Since they began the monthly Sunday evening events in February 2007, the church has seen increasing numbers and enthusiasm for both the events and for ministries in their church.

Everyone gets involved. Men and teen guys focus on the Word through Master's Men Direction Bible studies. Women and teen girls share Together in the Word studies from WNAC's new *Together With God* magazine. Rotating volunteer couples lead children in special times of Bible learning through videos, activities, and games. Everyone comes together afterwards for a fellowship meal or refreshments. Food responsibilities alternate between the men's and women's groups.

March's Family Focus drew 44 women and 37 men into the Word. "We wanted to gear things toward the whole family," comments Pastor Woolard. Holding the combined event on an already scheduled church night makes this fea-

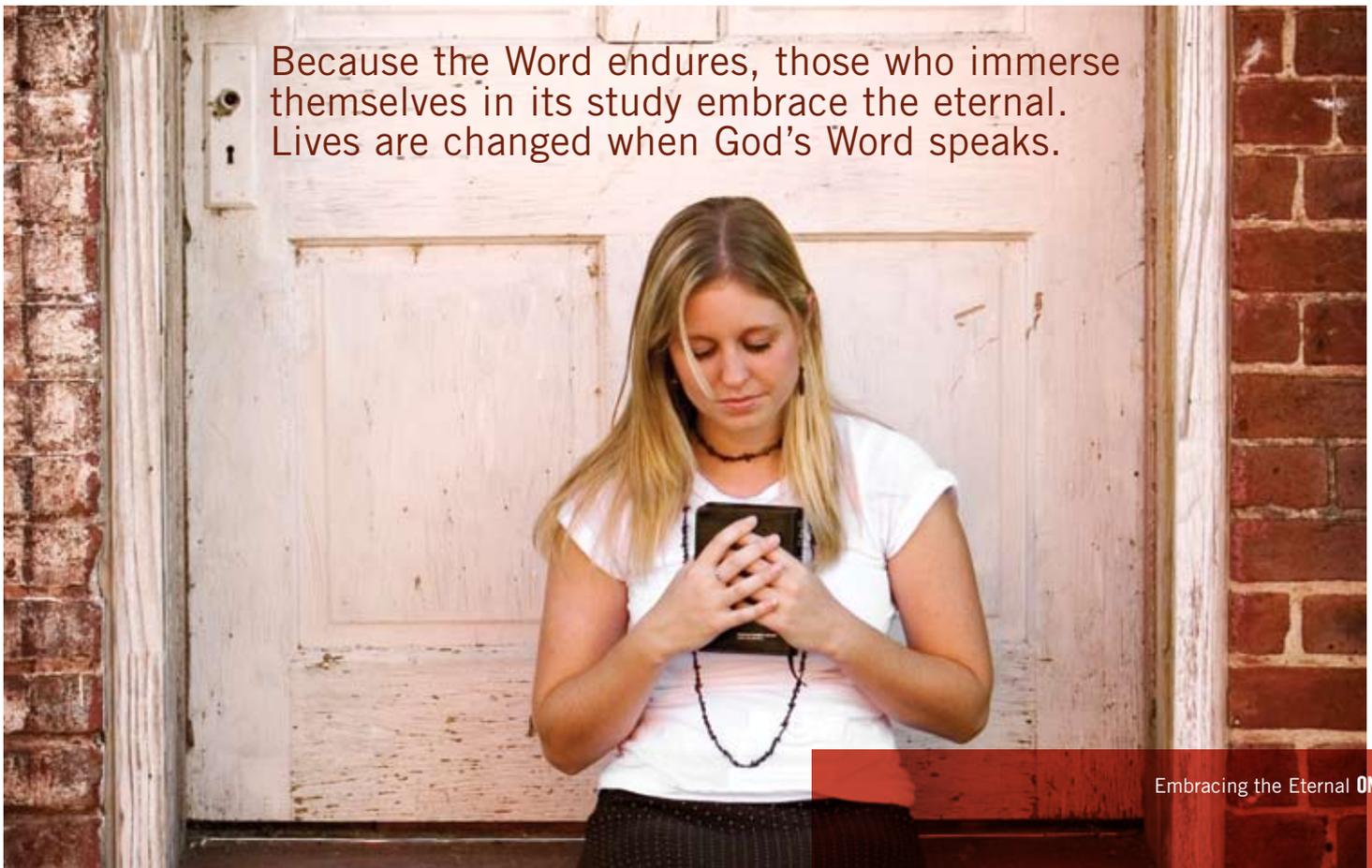
sible. The food and fellowship add an extra draw.

"It's working for us; everyone seems to really like it," says Brother Woolard, who has served the Hubert congregation for seven years, the last two as pastor. "Our men have responded well." The church just organized its Master's Men chapter this past year, but already they've agreed to host a regional Master's Men rally, September 21-22.

Family participation is paving the path for giving. One month, a cake auction netted \$1,400 for WAC missions-related projects. The church set a goal of \$5,000 for the April 2007 World Missions Offering. To heighten the excitement, Sheri agreed that Kevin could purchase a motorcycle if the church reached their goal. "Funny thing is," says Sheri, "I have been dead set against that forever and the church knows this. When we made the announcement, the whole place went crazy. They never get that excited in church."

The Woolards and their congregation are not the only ones excited about Bible studies, however. Throughout the denomination, churches are discovering and using these resources from Master's Men and Women Nationally Active

Because the Word endures, those who immerse themselves in its study embrace the eternal. Lives are changed when God's Word speaks.



for Christ. They have discovered that people want to get into the Word. People value time. People set priorities. For Christ's followers, time with God should be high priority.

"We love the Bible studies," says Jennifer Misenheimer of Holdenville, Oklahoma. In her church, Together in the Word Bible studies bridge women of all ages.

Ken Akers, director of Master's Men has also seen an increase in Bible study use—especially since the introduction of their latest studies, "Ready to Serve" and "Rain Man." Pastor Dennis Kizzire of Beech Springs FWB Church, Slaton, Mississippi, is excited about the inclusion of PowerPoint™ presentations in the newer Direction studies. Beech Springs Master's Men, which numbers in the thirties, meets for Bible study at 8:00 a.m. one Sunday each month.

Group Bible studies meet specific needs. Individuals, especially new believers, commit to read God's Word daily, but find themselves wondering, "Where do I go from here?" Organized Bible studies map out a course and give people a plan. Group Bible studies also encourage accountability. Women especially cite Bible studies as an effective way to connect with other women in their church. One woman commented, "There's just a special closeness that develops among women meeting together around the Word."

How are these Bible studies different from Sunday School? Rather than the familiar teacher-student scenario, Bible studies encourage equal sharing with minimal guidance from a facilitator. Participants feel their input is valued, since typically they've already done their homework, digging into a passage and seeking personal Holy Spirit instruction. Because women meet with women, and men meet with men, participants share more freely than in the usual Sunday morning setting.

"It's just different," commented pastor's wife and long-time Bible study proponent Phyllis York. "In Sunday school, you expect a teacher to explain the passage. But in Bible studies, you have to go there on your own."

How do the studies work? Master's Men designs its Direction studies for monthly use with any size men's group. Studies are formatted in a three-ring binder that includes notes, helps, and 25 handout sheets. The three latest studies are also available in CD-ROM format. The CD includes files for reproducible teacher's notes, handouts, and PowerPoint™ presentations. Chartered Master's Men groups receive two studies per year at no charge, but Direction studies are available for any church or individual to purchase, regardless of affiliation.

Together in the Word offers women monthly, weekly, and bonus Bible study options. WNAC packages its studies as a pullout center section in *Together With God* magazine, a 32-page, full-color, bimonthly publication that also includes study-related inspirational articles and helpful information. Studies are interactive and formatted in typical woman's Bible study fashion with wide margins and spaces for comments and reflections. The cost of the studies is minimal; individual magazine subscriptions are \$12 per year. WNAC offers free online facilitator's guides, weekly study sheets, color visuals and posters on its website: [www.wnac.org](http://www.wnac.org).

Both Direction and Together in the Word studies follow Free Will Baptist doctrine and distinctions. Ohio pastor and former Master's Men director Tom Dooley authors the men's studies. Mrs. Lorene Miley conceptualized and created the current Together in the Word study about prayer titled, "Farther Still." *Together With God*, which premiered in January 2007, will enlist various Free Will Baptist women to write future studies.

The benefits of Together in the Word and Direction Bible studies reach far beyond fun and fellowship. Because the Word endures, those who immerse themselves in its study embrace the eternal. Lives are changed when God's Word speaks.

Excited? Absolutely. Who wouldn't want a congregation of believers, searching the Scriptures daily, growing in the knowledge of God and sharing it with others. □

## DIRECTION BIBLE STUDIES

available from **Master's Men and WNAC**

### Ready to Serve: First Timothy

(Also Available on CD, w/ PowerPoint™) At the Master's Service • How To Avoid a Shipwreck of Faith • Improving Your Prayer Life • A Woman's Place Is in the Church • What a Pastor Should Look Like • Deacons—Serving God's Flock • How To Stay Spiritually Fit • Be an Example (Part I) • Be an Example (Part II) • All in the Family • The Ministry of Mercy • How To Detect a Man of God

### Rain Man: Lessons from the Life of Elijah

(Also Available on CD, w/ PowerPoint™) Standing Against the Tide • F.R.O.G. Man • The Man God Uses • Beating the Blues • Gone To the Dogs • Failure and Faithfulness • Departing Lessons

### Other Direction Bible Studies:

**Become a Man Who Prays**

**The Armor of God  
Pure Man**

**Blessed Is the Man  
Winning Men**

**Getting a Grip**

**The Walk**

**Champions of Faith**

**Serious Pitfalls to Spiritual Progress**

**Molded by the Master: A Biblical**

**Look at Peter (Also Available on CD,  
w/ PowerPoint™)**

### Current Together in the Word Study

**Farther Still:** Into the Heavens • Union and Communion • Praise Empowers Prayer • Intercessory Prayer • Prayer and Fasting • Prevailing Prayer • Spiritual Warfare • Going on to Maturity

### Coming in September 2007 Travel Light Series

**Getting Rid of the Baggage** by Emily White, Beverly Brantley, and Sue Winchester *Twelve weeks of unloading the stuff that hinders victory in our lives*

**Road Study: One Family's Journey** by Mona Dukes  
*Special December Christmas study*

**This Little Light of Mine** by Pat Franks  
*Four-part study of biblical basis of missions*

**How Much Is Too Much?** by Carol Reid  
*Gaining a healthy, godly perspective on finances and possessions (16 weeks)*

# decisions, decisions



BY SARAH FLETCHER

**LADIES, WHAT WILL YOU GIVE THE SPECIAL MAN** of your life for Father's Day? If you're like 53% of Americans, you've yet to decide. A tie. Fishing gear. Electronic gadgets. Dinner. A card.

Mother's Day decisions rate similar offerings. Gifts for moms annually include more than a billion phone calls, 150 million cards, and a myriad of plants and flowers—25% of total holiday flower sales. One in three adults honor mom with a meal at a nice restaurant.

Compared to the life contributions of most fathers and mothers, these gifts are tokens at best. What can you give to significantly honor the special people of your life? Why not give them the very things they gave you—the virtues and values you seek to instill in your own children? Qualities like vision and integrity, a servant attitude, a love for the Word, and a heart for the world.

Two annual offerings provide those very things and lend honor to Mom and Dad as well. The Master's Men Father's Day Offering and WNAC Mother's Day Offering provide vital funding for the two small departments involved in great efforts for God.

Master's Men helps coordinate FWB Disaster Relief, plans and sponsors regional rallies and sports fellowships, and promotes evangelism through Operation Saturation. Mission trips, Bible studies, and retreats provide men opportunities to share the gospel with others. Master's Men and Women Nationally Active for Christ work together to sponsor marriage enrich-

ment conferences together, helping to build and maintain strong families.

Women Nationally Active for Christ seeks to help women find their place in Christ's Great Commission and serves as the women's ministry arm of the denomination.

The department produces *Together With God*, a bi-monthly magazine, publish resources and women's Bible study materials, sponsor international mission trips, and maintain the Missionary Provision Closet which provides missionaries with home essentials. Each year the office plans and coordinates a two-day convention and a national retreat for hundreds of women.

WNAC also serves as a clearinghouse, routing and receipting financial gifts for a number of valuable ministries. However, WNAC retains no portion of these funds for operational expenses. The office depends totally upon designated gifts and special offerings.

Both groups emphasize service as a way of life and a means of ministry. Like the parents we all seek to honor, these Mom and Pop organizations work together for the good of the Free Will Baptist family.

Honor the man in your life with a generous gift to Master's Men this June 17. □

*Sarah Fletcher is the managing editor of Together With God magazine, published by Women Nationally Active for Christ. She also coordinates curriculum and publications for the department. She and her husband Keith live in Antioch, TN.*



By John Arlon Hawke

**HE DROVE FROM MISSOURI TO TENNESSEE** IN the early 1960s to tour the Free Will Baptist National Office Building at 3801 Richland Avenue, just down the street from Free Will Baptist Bible College. He was warmly welcomed and escorted through the three-story structure that had once been considered part of Nashville's Mansion Row.

"What I remember most about the tour," the retired layman says, "was that everybody I met was named Reverend this or Reverend that. I kept thinking to myself, 'They need some laymen here. Laymen could do some of these jobs, and we could turn those preachers loose to go pastor or start churches.'"

### **A Place to Work**

The layman who met all those Reverends in one building was Fred Green. He and his wife Cathy had just returned from the Free Will Baptist Home for Children in Greeneville (TN), because, as Fred says, "After we heard the Children's Home director speak in Monett (MO), we decided that we wanted to work for Free Will Baptists, and we drove to Greeneville."

However, when they arrived at the Children's Home, they discovered that the kind of help the home needed most was milking cows and mending fences. "I couldn't do any of that," Fred says, "so we drove back to Missouri and waited for God to open a door for us. One day in 1967, right out of the blue, Sam Johnson called and offered me a job with the Church Training Service Department."

### **Mechanic's Son**

Fred came to Missouri the long way. He spent his first 11 years in Alhambra, California, before his dad,

a mechanic by trade, moved the family to Springfield, then down to Arkansas, and back to Missouri. He was converted at age 12. While in Springfield he met Cathy who became his wife in 1961 at Grant Avenue FWB Church when Fred was 22.

A man who prefers staying active and staying outside, Fred took a job with the Missouri State Highway Department when he finished high school. For the next 10 years, he spent a lot of time studying gravel and rocks used in highway construction. But Fred and Cathy wanted more than highway work.

Then came the week when the director of the Tennessee Home for Children conducted a meeting in Monett. That's when Fred and Cathy decided they wanted to serve Free Will Baptists.

### **God Opens a Door**

Fred spent the next 20 years doing just that—working for Free Will Baptists in jobs and places he had never imagined. He invested seven years with the Church Training Service Department as director of production and distribution. During that time, he and Cathy enrolled in FWBBC, taking classes as they could.

He later accepted a position in Durham, North Carolina, where he served seven years as manager of North Carolina's Bible Book Store. "That was my biggest challenge," Fred says, "moving from the CTS Department to manage the bookstore. What exciting days and demands came our way."

Then it was back to Nashville when Randall House Publications called, and Fred found himself again working in printing preparation and promotional areas. By 1985, he had completed his work with Randall House and opened his

# could do that!

own bookstore near Rivergate Mall.

“That’s one thing I’d probably not do again, if I could start over,” Fred notes. “I love books and everything associated with them, but the area where we started the store did not support it. We sold out, and I began handling literature for two publishers before landing at Thomas Nelson Publishers where I spent 13 years in shipping and warehouse work before I retired.

“I was always interested in books and publishing,” he continues. “I don’t write articles, but I like to take my time and read a good book at my own pace.”

## Layman in Retirement

Fred joined the Free Will Baptist retirement program in 1971. When he retired in August 2005, he chose a joint-lifetime annuity that provides a monthly income as long as he and Cathy live.

“The retirement plan was all I thought it would be,” he says. “Of course, my monthly check would be larger now if I had contributed more in those early years. When I worked at Randall House, I had funds automatically deducted from my check. It was a convenient and easy way to put money aside for retirement.”

The monthly check from the Board of Retirement supplements their income. “They told me the truth about the program,” the 68-year-old layman says. “I’d advise younger laymen and minis-

“They  
need some  
laymen  
here...  
turn those  
preachers  
loose to  
go start  
churches!”

ters to start as early as possible, and put in as much as the law allows.”

## Flower Children

The slender, 5'-7", hazel-eyed layman has been a Free Will Baptist deacon 35 years. He and his wife are active members of Donelson FWB Church in Nashville. Their two children (Tammy and Jeremy) both live in the area.

Fred and Cathy maintain their own flower garden. Fred likes to walk and exercise outside as much as possible, reluctantly moving inside YMCA facilities when the weather turns hostile.

He’s a reader of novels, all flavors, especially those written by John Grisham.

“Looking back,” he says, “what I liked most was opening up new bookstores, the excitement of bringing all the elements together—property, fixtures, stock, and meeting customers.”

Fred was right 40 years ago when he decided that a layman could do that. After all, the two most influential people in his life are laymen—Lee Evans (father of FWB Foundation director Bill Evans) and Sam Johnson, the lay leader whose phone call launched Fred and Cathy into a ministry with Free Will Baptists.

Fred Green the layman has served his denomination faithfully on local, district, and state levels as a deacon, bookstore manager, production and shipping director, and promotional representative. Sure, Fred, any layman could do that! □

*John Arlon Hawke is a freelance writer and journalist with a wide range of publishing experience. He currently makes his home just south of Nashville, TN. Find out more about the Free Will Baptist Board of Retirement and Insurance by calling (877) 767-7738 or by visiting [www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org).*



# Help, Hope, Healing



As Mike scanned the courtyard next to the surgical block, he noticed Sam. At least that was the name Mike had given the three-year-old boy last year. Here he was again—a year older, but still crawling because of his disabling deformity. Sam's foot had been badly burned as an infant and was fused to his leg. The Hanna Project doctors had been unable to help him the previous year. Dr. Cox, an orthopedic surgeon, examined the small boy and decided to tackle the challenge. Five hours later, two surgeons and a nurse completed the major operation in the small bush hospital in Doropo, Ivory Coast.

Mike asked Sam's father why he had returned with the boy after being turned down the year before. His simple response: "I had hope." Hope led this father to make a 30-mile trek through the bush.

Help, hope, and healing—the mot-

to of The Hanna Project (THP)—were shared with Sam, his family, and thousands of others during the six days a 40-member team worked in the northern bush of Côte d'Ivoire earlier this year.

## Following Christ's Example

The Hanna Project is spreading the gospel the way Jesus did—by ministering to the mind, body, and soul of the lost. Following Christ's example, THP goes where others don't, to help those whom others won't.

The lost, the blind, the lame, the disfigured, the dying now testify to the passionate and life-changing love of Christ for His children.

Case in point: The king of Seroudi traveled nearly five hours to the Doropo clinic, hoping to gain clearer eyesight. Dr. Hill and his team checked Monsieur le Roi's eyes and fitted him with a pair of glasses. As tribal king, he

testified that his villagers carried him on their heads as a symbol of respect and honor. But, since he met Jesus, he realized there is only one King! Not only did this man's eyesight improve, but he gained spiritual insight as well.

## Save-A-Life Projects

THP has sponsored two initiatives over the last two years in the rebel-occupied territory of northern Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), West Africa. In February of this year, a team of U.S. surgeons, nurses, EMTs, optometrists, and church leaders performed dozens of operations, treated thousands of medical conditions, and shared the gospel with villages all across the territory. Only a handful of the 40-member team are full-time ministers. The others took leave from their jobs and left their comfort zones to fulfill their roles as lay ministers—tithing with their time and



A young patient named Joel (left, below) demonstrates the life-changing effects of the ministry of THP.



## The Hanna Project in Action • By Brent Vawter and Deborah St. Lawrence

skills in addition to their wallets.

THP targets those trapped by poverty and oppression. Its heartbeat is for those labeled unreachable or untouchable. “We help people whose very lives and livelihood are at stake,” says team member Cameron Lane. “The people we treat in surgery, for instance, are often outcasts from society because of a deformity or disease.”

Joel and his father traveled 500 miles after hearing about The Hanna Project’s surgeons. Joel was just another active, 11-year-old boy—until you looked at his face. A large tumor obscured his left eye. Mocked by the other kids, he no longer attended school. Dr. Brooks removed the tumor and Joel discovered he could see out of his left eye! But, even more important to him he now looked “normal.” His father’s eyes filled with tears as Joel proclaimed, “Now the other kids won’t make fun of me.”

### Innovative Outreach

Created in 2005 by the Board of FWB International Missions as a vehicle for reaching restricted-access countries for the purpose of evangelism,

The Hanna Project honors the lifetime work of Free Will Baptist missionaries Carlisle and Marie Hanna. When Mike Cousineau was asked to head The Hanna Project, he and long-time colleague Clint Morgan (whose two-year feasibility study resulted in THP’s formation) began looking for ways to take THP into Côte d’Ivoire. They had worked in this country for decades as Free Will Baptist missionaries, and felt the present need and their contacts made Côte d’Ivoire a good launching pad for the fledgling NGO.

“This year we’ve also begun operations in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, and are developing a plan for Morocco and Mauritania as well,” indicates

## The Hanna Project is spreading the gospel the way Jesus did—by ministering to the mind, body and soul.

Cousineau. “We’ll go wherever God sends us, but only if He’s sending us.”

The Hanna Project works where disease and injury are prevalent, where education is inadequate or altogether non-existent. People lack even the basic skills to recognize, prevent, and

address health problems. Through The Hanna Project, the gospel is being preached both in word and deed.

By providing surgery, eye care, and medical assistance, THP creates goodwill between villages and the teams, opening the door for the gospel to be shared while giving much-needed assistance.

### Hard Work

Working in places like Côte d’Ivoire is grueling, to be sure. Teams sleep in tents on the baked sand, labor in extreme heat and sun, are surrounded by heartbreaking disease and despair, and are separated from their families. Their effort isn’t without political risks, either.

No one knows this better than Mike Cousineau, the project’s administrative director. Mike, the son of Free Will Baptist missionaries, has worked in Côte d’Ivoire for the last 27 years. He has been involved in several life-threatening accidents traveling through the



Mike Cousineau, Administrative Director of The Hanna Project

## Following Christ's example, THP goes where others don't, to help those whom others won't.

African bush. He's been shot at, beaten, held captive, targeted for assassination, and witnessed the interrogation and execution of a colleague.

"We're not careless in how we do God's work," says Cousineau. "We thoroughly research the situation, develop contingency plans, and work with people on the ground who know the situation well.

"But we don't operate in fear either. Fear is the devil's tactic to scare us into staying still. We can't afford to sit still! It's 2007, yet entire people groups still don't know about Jesus. They are good people—people you and I would be blessed to have as friends—but for lack of the gospel, they're following the pagan practices of their ancestors."

To compound the tragedy of their ignorance, there's the very real physical plight these people face day after day. Whether rooted in a corrupt or warring government, generations of pagan traditions, or an ineffective educational system, the cycle is both dooming and damning.

"We want more than anything to win lost souls and make disciples of Christ," says Clint Morgan, consultant to The Hanna Project. "Evangelism is the primary purpose of The Hanna Project. But experience has taught us many cultures require we earn the right to share the gospel. We have to gain access first."

The Hanna Project doesn't fit under the description of a relief organization. Its model is not to distribute supplies, but rather to personally touch the lives of those needing Christ's love. By pro-

viding a crucial surgery, enabling vision for those who can't see, or educating entire communities on how to avoid and treat health threats, it's all about sharing and showing the gospel of Christ.

"The Bible says we were made to do good works. Jesus also tells us to care for the needy, to love them like we love ourselves, and that doing so is an act of worship to Him," says Cousineau. "The Hanna Project is a great way for individuals, churches, and even businesses to do just that."

### Dramatic Impact

In only six days, the 2007 team performed more than 50 surgeries that included cleft lips, tumors, lumps, knee repair, burn trauma, congenital deformities, bursitis, and even a gunshot wound. They also handled numerous dental procedures, injections for arthritis, and treatment for staph. Meanwhile, the eye clinic gave almost a thousand eye exams and dispensed over 850 pairs of prescription lenses.

Optometrist Dr. Hill and his team observed dramatic responses as women and men saw clearly for the first time in many years. Some people sat in stunned silence as they distinguished the features on beloved faces. Others reacted with tears of joy. Still others jumped to their feet, shouted, and ran about as they thrilled to the ability to make out individual leaves on trees.

Four mobile medical teams set out each day into the African bush aboard trucks and motorcycles to work in the most remote of the remote areas. Using local pastors as interpreters, lessons on hygiene and first aid were taught, sanitary and first aid supplies were distributed, wounds and sicknesses were treated, and the gospel was boldly preached. Decisions for Christ were made in most of the 43 villages visited, including one entire village that committed to cease its pagan worship and animal sacrifice to follow the one true God.

### Injecting Fun

The idiom "laughter is the best medicine" may not be theologically or med-

ically accurate, but The Hanna Project includes fun in its ministry nonetheless. Each team visiting the villages had members whose role was to play with the kids and hold a soccer camp. Each village was left with a new soccer ball personalized with prayers and Scripture written by team members.

The response in villages was overwhelming—from kids, mothers, and village leaders alike. And it wasn't the gift of a soccer ball or a bar of soap that warmed the reception, but rather the love of Christ poured out in each place.

Through gifts, acts of kindness, and good old-fashioned fun, The Hanna Project earns the opportunity to preach the gospel in each community. "That's the main reason we're out here," said Jimmy Holbrook, pastor of Harrah FWB Church and 2007 Hanna Project team member. "We won't leave a village until we've had the opportunity to share about Jesus. If we have to come back again the next day and the day after that to get to that point, we will."

The Hanna Project's vision is cast, the word is out, and the buzz is build-

For additional information about The Hanna Project and how you or your church can get involved, visit the website at [www.hannaproject.com](http://www.hannaproject.com) or call (405) 600-8040.

ing. "With such a compelling mission and successful model, supporting The Hanna Project is a great way to engage a congregation that's in need of a spark," says Cousineau. "As we go into more and more regions, we're going to need more team members, equipment, financial resources, and certainly prayer partners." □

*Brent Vawter, a consultant/partner in a Philadelphia-based marketing agency, joined The Hanna Project's 2007 team after hearing about it on a radio station. He lives in Oklahoma City. Deborah St. Lawrence is the media coordinator for Free Will Baptist International Missions.*



# PRAYER WORKS

By Danny Gasperson

*“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” —James 5:16b*

The people of Zephyr Hills Free Will Baptist Church can testify that prayer works. In response to our prayers, God stepped into our dilemmas, struggles, problems, and needs, doing things only He can do. A recent focus on prayer for global outreach brought about a remarkable transformation within our church.

## Challenge from God

Some time back, God challenged us to reexamine our priorities and align them with His. Scripture teaches that God’s chief desire is to receive worship from all nations, kindreds, people, and tongues. Prior to our self-examination, we confidently asserted we were a missions-minded church. Upon closer scrutiny, we decided we were a church that didn’t mind missions. We were not opposed to missions; we even thought it was a good idea. We just did not participate.

Our missions involvement consisted of limited financial support, hosting missionaries on occasion, and praying for the few missions concerns brought to our attention. Our Women Active for Christ group sponsored the vast majority of the church’s missions participation and support—our missions representatives. We knew this had to change. God used the valuable leadership of our WAC to effect this change.

## Women Lead the Way

The priority shift was a church-wide endeavor. However, since WAC carried the torch for missions involvement, they took the lead in this critical transformation. First, they made some adjustments of their own. Although they paid their dues, carried out projects, and included missions as a part of their program—missions was not their priority. They boosted missions from part of the program to heart of the program.

## Prayer Brings Change

Many changes in our church are the natural results of praying for global outreach. Our knowledge of missions has increased exponentially. We could not pray effectively for things about which we were ignorant! As our knowledge grew, our hearts expanded, both toward missions work and toward FWB missionaries. Over time, we developed deep and rewarding relationships with several missionaries.

Emphasis on world prayer cultivated a sense of personal ownership. Global evangelism is no longer “something someone else does.” We are involved personally which led to an increase in missions giving. God also gave us a desire to become active participants in mission work. Today, many members of the congregation are interested in short-term mission trips. Families are learning foreign languages together. Some are considering God’s

# How to Pray Effectively for Missions

- **Remember missionaries are real people.** They struggle with discouragement, spiritual discipline, righteousness, balancing family and ministry, and multitudes of other day-to-day issues. Whatever “real life” concerns you are facing, a missionary may be dealing with, too.
- **Be informed.** Subscribe to missionary newsletters. See [fwbgo.com](http://fwbgo.com) and [homemissions.net](http://homemissions.net) for current FWB requests.
- **Learn about the culture** the missionary ministers within, world religions, and political and economic pressures. This allows prayer to target concerns believers may face.

Zephyr Hills FWB Church hosted a weekend prayer conference in the fall of 2006.



call to full-time missions work. Others have applied for passports—just in case God opens a door of opportunity.

God surprised us with extra blessings. As our missions giving increased, our overall giving increased as well. When we began to value ministry around the world, our appreciation of local ministry grew. People became more sensitive to local opportunities to serve. Praying for the salvation of people around the world made us keenly aware of our own



responsibility to “go and make disciples” in our area. Understanding the difficulties missionaries face in cross-cultural settings helped us think more creatively about ways to overcome barriers to evangelism in our neighborhoods.

Realigning our priorities as a church inspired the congregation to do the same in their homes. Many families reconsidered lifestyle choices in an effort to become better stewards of God’s blessings.

## WAC Benefits

Women Active for Christ has benefited from this process. Respect for the group continues to grow, as others in the church understand the importance of their purpose and work. WAC is no longer viewed as an offshoot or auxiliary organization, but as a vital part of the ministry of our church. We need WAC—not because they do missions for us—but because they help us do missions better. The church body has become more interested and eager to support their projects. Several new members have been added, especially younger ladies excited about the opportunity to be part of what God is doing around the world.

I especially appreciate how the ladies of our church have grown in their desire and ability to minister to missionaries who visit. We believe God does not send missionaries to serve our church, but so our church can serve them. The WAC does a great job of serving.

As pastor, I thank God for Women Active for Christ. They add value to our church in innumerable ways. I am especially thankful for the way God has used them throughout the transformation of our church.

Prayer does change things. But prayer also changes those who pray. At Zephyr Hills we’ve learned that when we align our hearts with the Heavenly Father, the result is revival in its purest form. □

*Danny Gasperson pastors Zephyr Hills FWB Church, Asheville, N.C.*

*Adapted from the March/April 2007 issue of Together With God, the magazine published by WNAC (Women Nationally Active for Christ).*

# Making a Difference in Retirement

BY NORMA JACKSON GOLDMAN



WE'RE ALL FAMILIAR WITH THE PASSAGE FROM ESTHER when the young queen realized that God had placed her in a position of influence so she could carry out His plan for His chosen people. In similar fashion, God uses people today to perform acts of service that require special skills, many learned over a lifetime in the workplace. Virtually every life skill can be used to build the kingdom of God. Consider the skills God has given you that can be used "for such a time as this."

## Need to Be Needed

Psychologists tell us one of the basic needs of every human is to know that his or her life matters to someone, that they are making a difference, and that someone needs them. This comes sharply into focus in retirement. After serving in vital roles in a profession or workplace for many years retirees often experience anxiety in the early days of retirement, wondering if they still have value. We know—intuitively and from Scripture—that the best way to demonstrate the love of God is through acts of kindness, caring, and service. Even the strongest, most confident person in your life needs to hear you say, "You really matter to me. I cannot imagine what life would be like without you." Putting the two together—your need to make a difference and the needs of others—is a formula made in heaven for a productive and meaningful retirement.

## Build on Experience

My friend Mary recently retired and tutors children for two hours a day at a nearby elementary school. One of the teachers at the school reports a miraculous turn-around in one boy's test scores and behavior since Mary has been working with him. Another friend, gifted with a pleasant speaking voice, plans to record books for the blind when she retires. An attorney provides contract review service for his church, while a successful businessman, now retired, leads a study group of younger professionals, teach-

ing them how to apply Christian business principles in their places of work.

The transfer of hard-earned skills from the business place to a church setting can be one of the most rewarding

[Opportunities to serve are only limited by our imagination.]

aspects of retirement. It provides seniors an opportunity to give back to the body of Christ that fed them spiritually, nurtured family and friends, and helped them become the person they are today.

An executive assistant for a local service club comes to our church one day a week to run the church bulletin. A retired court reporter transcribes the pastor's sermons so they can be posted on the website. An internet technology specialist devotes several hours each week to upgrading the church's website and software programs. Women gifted in knitting and sewing create beautiful prayer shawls given to the homebound and those facing surgery or long-term illness.

Disaster relief provides endless opportunities. All types of construction skills are necessary—painters, people who can cut down trees, clear debris and prepare food for the work crews. More churches are offering car care clinics for widows and single moms, providing oil changes, routine maintenance, and simple repairs that are often neglected due to their cost.

Opportunities to serve are only limited by our imagination. There is a ring of authenticity when the church declares Christ's love for a lost world through acts of compassionate service. A watching world takes note of a helping hand with no strings attached—simply of message of hope and encouragement. Are you making that kind of difference? □

*Former magazine editor Norma Jackson Goldman enjoys a freelance career in her retirement. She lives in Nashville, TN.*

# I'M NOT DEAD YET!

By Pat Thomas

**WHEN MY HUSBAND, ROY, PASSED AWAY AFTER A** battle with pancreatic cancer in March 2003, I wondered what I would do with the rest of my life. For almost 49 years, I led the busy, delightful, exciting life of a Free Will Baptist preacher's wife. We moved back and forth across the country starting new churches, holding revivals, attending national conventions, visiting missionaries, and serving God in many capacities.

After Roy's death, however, I found myself grieving deeply. I kept a lonely vigil, walking around our beautiful home in Greeley, Colorado, and visiting his

grave at the nearby cemetery. I do believe grieving is a natural and necessary process, part of God's plan when we lose someone we love. Grief causes believers to cling to the Lord, and God certainly proved Himself faithful as I made funeral arrangements, selected a grave marker, cancelled my husband's cellular phone and credit cards, filed federal and state taxes, and completed the mountain of legal requirements that follow the death of a spouse.

While my grief was difficult, I did not let it stop me. I continued to teach the Women's Bible Class at Highland Hills Free Will Baptist Church where my son pastored. I continued to play the organ at church, and sat with my handicapped grandson so my daughter-in-law could attend church visitation. I continued cleaning the church, witnessing to people about Christ, calling absentees, and doing everything I could to encourage the people in our congregation. I even found more time to spend in prayer and Bible study as a result of fewer house-keeping duties. These practical things helped me through the difficult process of grieving.

It is easy for senior saints to use increasing age and declining health to "rest on our laurels" and become inactive in the work of God. I believe, however, that these years can be some of our most productive for Christ. Here are some suggestions for all senior saints (no matter the age, health, or circumstances) to keep us involved in ministry during our golden years:

**1. Take care of your health.** Eat right, exercise regularly, and control body weight. Certainly we all experience declining health and become less active as we age. Many times debilitating diseases strike us, but as good stewards of our bodies, our "temples," we need to do our part to stay healthy.

**2. Work on your personal appearance.** Old is not a synonym for dowdy, drab, dated, dull, or dreary. We can be modest, conservative...and up to date in our dress styles. As senior saints, we need to set an example for younger people. We can do so by dressing our very best for church services, and by always looking nice when we go out in public.

**3. Down-size and simplify your life.** Many seniors have too much stuff! Our houses and garages can become cluttered. Have pity on children



and grandchildren and get rid of “trash and treasures” so they won’t have to do it when we die. Besides, the less “stuff” we have to worry about, the less house-keeping we will have. This will free our time to serve the Lord.

**4. Stay active mentally** by learning constantly. Computer skills are a great place to start. Make your life easier by paying bills and taxes online. Communicate with your family, friends, and missionaries by email. Use Bible software to prepare Sunday School and Bible lessons. Read good books and study God’s word as long as eyesight permits. When eyesight fails, listen to God’s word and good Christian music on CD or MP3 player.

**5. Listen to the news**, and stay knowledgeable about current affairs. Vote. Stay politically and socially involved. Don’t become a “couch potato” or a hermit who never leaves the house. Go to all the church and social activities your health will permit, especially if these involve family members. Read denominational periodicals and attend quarterly, state, and national meetings when possible.

**6. Stay busy for God and active in church.** Talk to your pastor about starting a senior prayer breakfast or potluck luncheon. Continue to witness for Christ. If you can no longer drive a car, use the telephone to contact prospects and absentees. Since you have more leisure time, write or send emails to missionaries and assure them of your prayers.

**7. Get involved in new ministries.** Go on mission trips with your church youth group. Be willing to move to a new area, take a new position, and enter a new ministry. I became dean of women at Southeastern Free Will Baptist College at age 67. I sold my retirement home in Greeley, Colorado, and moved to Raleigh, North Carolina. At age 70, I recently retired for the third time. I am moving to Florence,



Arizona, to help the Howard Gwartney family start a new FWB church.

**8. Be a good steward of your life’s savings.** Be generous with your giving. Pay your tithes and give to missions and benevolent causes. Remember God’s work in your will. Set your house in order legally. It is important to have a current and living will, giving power of attorney and medical instructions when you become incapable of making decisions.

A child of God never has time to sit down and quit working for the Lord! I believe the senior years offer many wonderful opportunities for ministry. Most senior saints no longer work at a secular job. We can vegetate, become TV addicts, sleep our lives away—or we can use our golden years to accomplish much for the Lord. So, hey! Let’s get busy and stay busy for God! □

*Pat Thomas (pictured above with late husband Roy) lives in Arizona where she remains an active part of a church building team.*

## How would you like to guarantee the future of our denomination? You can. It’s really very simple.

By including a bequest in your will naming **The Together Way** for a specific amount or a percentage, you can assure this vital total ministry support will serve our denomination.

If you don’t already have a personal will, now would be a good time to have one drafted. If you have already made your will but would consider **The Together Way**, you can do so by adding a simple codicil, or you might simply give the residue.



Please clip and return this form to:  
**Free Will Baptist Foundation**  
**P. O. Box 5002**  
**Antioch, TN 37011-5002**

[www.FWBGifts.org](http://www.FWBGifts.org)  
 Or call us toll-free at  
**(877) 336-7575**



Yes, I am interested in remembering **The Together Way** in my will.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS togewill060707

I am probably the least likely person to be involved in prison ministry. You see, my sister-in-law was murdered by a paroled criminal who had already killed three people. Watching my brother struggle to raise three young children and seeing the life-long effects of their mother's death on them left a bitter taste in my mouth.

I wanted all criminals to face the maximum punishment allowed by law with no pardons or paroles possible. I felt that prisoners

BY LILA THOMPSON

# THE RAZOR-WIRE CHURCH

should suffer the full consequences of their actions and be given no mercy. I didn't view criminals as individuals who were lost and in need of a Savior. I've since had to ask forgiveness for my attitude.

#### HUGGED BY A CHILD MOLESTER

My attitude toward prisoners began changing after my church (Cross Timbers Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee) started collecting candy bars for prisoners' gifts. I had the opportunity to make frequent visits to prison with Chaplain Wellborn and helped organize distribution of our gifts. On two occasions, my husband Ernie and I distributed gifts to prisoners at Riverbend Maximum Security Prison.

It is hard to describe the apprehension while being searched and escorted through locked gates. After clearing the first checkpoint, we were guided through a second checkpoint, then on to the chapel where we mingled with low-security prisoners and waited for other volunteers to join us.

During this time, we talked openly with the inmates. I never thought I would shake hands with someone who had murdered and dismembered a man in a jealous rage, or receive a warm hug from a man imprisoned for child molestation. But you see, those two men along with countless others have been changed by the power of Jesus Christ in their lives.

#### CHRISTMAS BEHIND LOCKED DOORS

Volunteers were divided into small groups and taken to various buildings on the prison grounds. We passed through many locked gates and came to an open area surrounded by high fences topped with razor wire. The guards led us to Building 3 where prisoners are kept in individual cells 23 hours a day—allowed out only to exercise in a cage-like enclosure once a day.

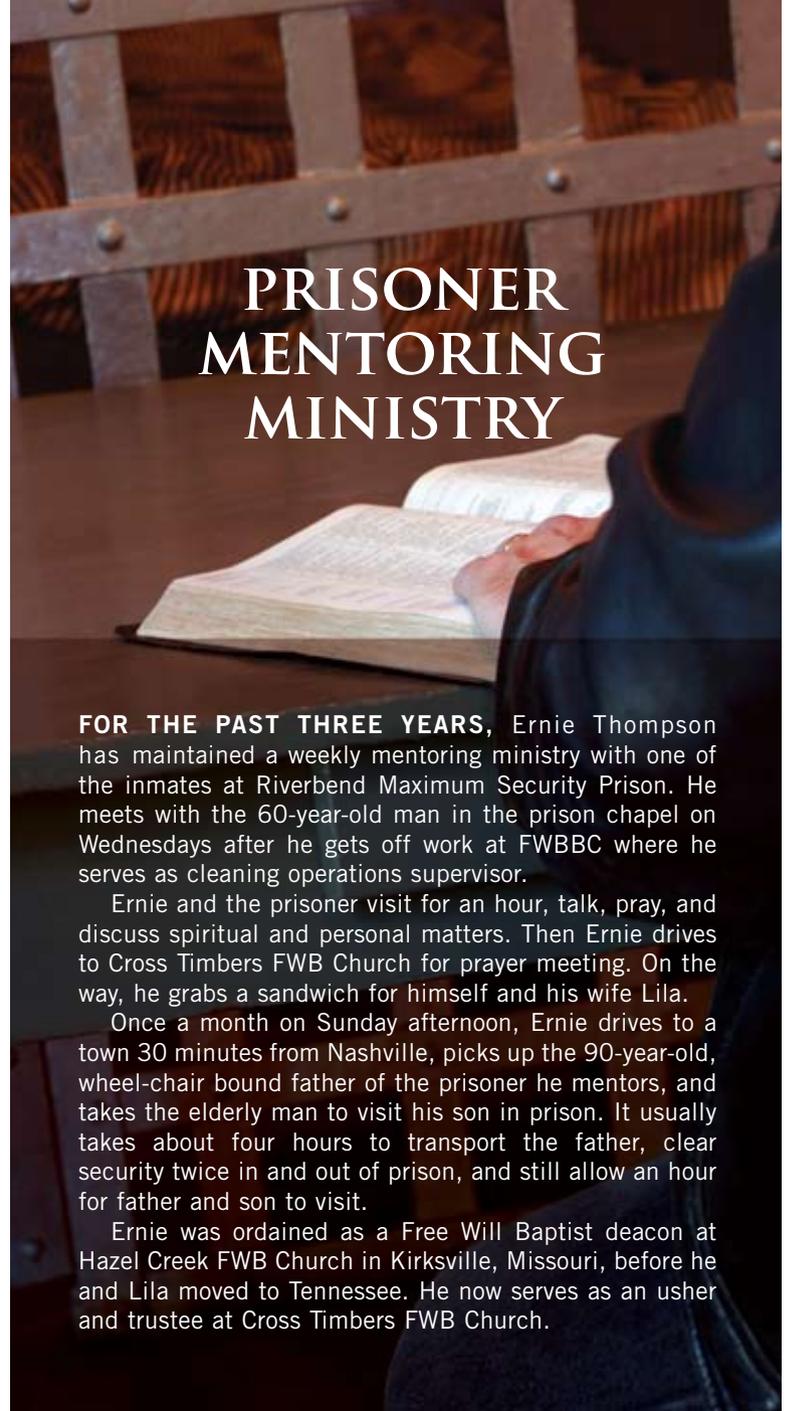
Many of these inmates have no contact with the outside world, except when volunteers come during the holidays.

Two large grocery bags of gifts were placed before each cell, and we were allowed to shake hands through the pie-hole (a 6 x 12 inch opening through which their food trays are passed). We opened the bags and passed the Christmas gifts through the opening. We could talk to the prisoners only during the time we were passing gifts through the pie-hole. We visited four sections or wings of Building 3 and spoke with four different men.

#### REACHING AMERICA'S DISCARDS

Let me tell you about one of the prisoners I met. His name is James, and he had a picture of a four-year-old girl taped to his cell window. He was not married to the girl's mother and would not be allowed to see her during his incarceration. He said that was his worst punishment—not being able to see his daughter.

James appeared to be quite young, as did most of the prisoners—perhaps in his early 20s. I don't know his crime, but I do know his regrets and that he will be in prison for another 10 years.



## PRISONER MENTORING MINISTRY

**FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS,** Ernie Thompson has maintained a weekly mentoring ministry with one of the inmates at Riverbend Maximum Security Prison. He meets with the 60-year-old man in the prison chapel on Wednesdays after he gets off work at FWBBC where he serves as cleaning operations supervisor.

Ernie and the prisoner visit for an hour, talk, pray, and discuss spiritual and personal matters. Then Ernie drives to Cross Timbers FWB Church for prayer meeting. On the way, he grabs a sandwich for himself and his wife Lila.

Once a month on Sunday afternoon, Ernie drives to a town 30 minutes from Nashville, picks up the 90-year-old, wheel-chair bound father of the prisoner he mentors, and takes the elderly man to visit his son in prison. It usually takes about four hours to transport the father, clear security twice in and out of prison, and still allow an hour for father and son to visit.

Ernie was ordained as a Free Will Baptist deacon at Hazel Creek FWB Church in Kirksville, Missouri, before he and Lila moved to Tennessee. He now serves as an usher and trustee at Cross Timbers FWB Church.

It is difficult for me to imagine life without anyone to give you a hug or to tell you that you are loved. Hundreds of men like James are locked away with no contact with the outside world. Their families have disowned them, society has washed its hands of them, and it seems that the Christian community has also forgotten them with an out-of-sight-out-of-mind attitude.

We must change our way of thinking as Jesus said in Matthew 25:39–40, “Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.” □

*Mrs. Lila Thompson is the receptionist at Free Will Baptist Bible College. She and her husband Ernie are members of Cross Timbers FWB Church in Nashville, TN.*

# A BUCK A WEEK

Buck A Week is an opportunity for students to participate in supporting global missions. Students are challenged to collect a buck a week and bring the donation to the Tuesday National Youth Conference service at the convention in July, or mail the donation to the National Youth Conference by July 9.



Select ministries supported this year include:

1. International Missions - Bible Institutes in Russia, Cuba, India & West Africa
2. Home Missions - White Earth Indian Reservation
3. Scholarships for missions students

The Buck a Week campaign is sponsored by Randall House Publications. To find out more, visit the website at [www.NYCbuckAweek.com](http://www.NYCbuckAweek.com) or call (800) 877-7030.

*NYC (National Youth Conference) and Buck a Week are ministries of Randall House Publications.*

## RETREAT SPARKS RANDALL HOUSE

NASHVILLE, TN—The leadership of Randall House Publications met March 19–22 at Oak Haven Resort near Sevierville, TN. Six ministers joined the meeting for a one-day focus group. Executive Director Ron Hunter said, “The six ministers were a microcosm of who Free Will Baptists are—age and geographical differences, differences in ministry philosophies. They gave straight answers to questions. They analyzed CLEAR curriculum, provided insight about books we should publish, affirmed our product direction, and made suggestions on training and services we offer. They were a great group.”

The visiting ministers—Matt Upton (CA), William Smith (GA), Bill Hayes (OH), Jeff Myers (MO), Jimmy Holbrook (OK), and Tim Owen (FL) took part in a one-day marathon meeting that ran from early in the morning until late evening.

California pastor Matt Upton said, “It was resourceful, outside-the-box thinking. I was amazed that a national agency would be that open to new ideas.”

Ohio pastor Bill Hayes agreed. “I left feeling better about Randall House than ever before. It’s obvious that they want to minister to our churches and people.”

The Vision Retreat was the second of a three-phase effort to analyze strengths and weaknesses, and plan strategies to improve the products and services of the denomination’s publishing arm.

William Smith, executive secretary of the Georgia State Association, said, “I was excited about our discussion regarding what kind of books Randall House should publish in the future. The management team may have been shocked at the volume of feedback.”

Board member and Florida pastor Tim Owen said, “The Vision Retreat was refreshing and revealing.”

Ron Hunter confirmed that the company would make some tough decisions in several areas. “The major challenge is how to improve communication with pastors and leaders in our local churches. The focus group made it clear that this is one of our weaknesses. We hope to change that and make it one of our strengths.”

## FWBBC RECEIVES \$20,000 GIFT

FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE recently received a gift of common stock valued at \$20,000 for the general fund from Mrs. Sarah K. Newberry of Tallahassee, Florida, according to Tom Sass, vice president for financial affairs.

President Matt Pinson said, “We are always pleased to receive gifts in the form of stock from donors, as well as cash gifts or gifts of property. This is an excellent to assist the college. I thank God for Sister Newberry and her generous gift.”

Mrs. Newberry and her late husband Frank were members of New Salem Free Will Baptist Church in Colquitt Georgia where Pinson once pastored. Sarah Newberry has been active in local, district, and state Women Active for Christ outreach. “I’m just glad I can help support FWBBC,” Mrs. Newberry said. “God makes it possible for me to do this.”

President Pinson said, “Sarah Newberry is a long-time friend and encourager. She is a committed Christian who faithfully discharges her stewardship responsibilities. I hope that her example will inspire others to consider new ways that they can support FWBBC.”



Senior Aaron Pontius presents plaque to Matt Pinson.

## SENIOR CLASS PRESENTS PLAQUE TO FWBBC

THE 2007 SENIOR CLASS at Free Will Baptist Bible College presented a plaque to President Matt Pinson during Bible Conference honoring former student body president Gerald Turner who died in November 2006.

President Pinson said, “Gerald Turner was a leader on this campus and a good example for all of us. He demonstrated what it means to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. He also loved the students and the college. We will be honored to hang this plaque on the FWBBC campus.”

The plaque includes a picture of Gerald with the words “Loving God, Loving People” and a scripture quotation (Matthew 23:37–37) above the picture.



## CHARLES HAMPTON DEAD AT 68

DR. CHARLES HAMPTON, who served 25 years at Free Will Baptist Bible College (1974–2000), 20 years as registrar, died March 5 at age 68. He retired in 2000 after being diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease.

President Matt Pinson said, “When Dr. Hampton joined the FWBBC faculty in 1974, he was unique with his Ph.D. in

mathematics and his warm heart for the work of God.”

Pinson continued, “More important, he was a godly man, a loving husband and father, and a man who chose to invest his life in the mission of Free Will Baptist Bible College. He had such an impact on so many of our lives. Thank God for his spiritual and educational legacy.”

After graduating from FWBBC with a B.S. degree in 1960, Dr. Hampton went on to earn three more degrees—B.S. (Oklahoma Baptist University, 1963), M.N.S. (University of Oklahoma, 1966), and Ph.D. (University of Texas, 1970).

During “Charles Hampton Day” at FWBBC in September 2000, Dr. Robert Picirilli, longtime friend and professional colleague said, “With his credentials and love for teaching, Dr. Hampton could have been on the faculty of almost any university in this country or anywhere, making multiples of the money he’s made here and earning considerably more prestige. Instead, he has chosen to make higher Christian education his ministry, his service to the Lord and the Church.”

Dr. Hampton was one of four sons of the late Ralph Hampton, Sr. Three sons became Free Will Baptist ministers. His older brother Ralph chairs the Biblical and Ministry Studies Department at FWBBC; younger brother Larry is an adjunct faculty member at FWBBC and an editor at Randall House Publications. The fourth son (James) is deceased.

Charles was active in the Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers at both the state and national levels. He also chaired both the Research Commission and the Commission on Professional Activities (now the Association for Biblical Higher Education).

In addition, he was a member of the adjunct mathematics faculty at the University of Tennessee branch in Nashville, and its replacement, Tennessee State University. Charles was a recipient of National Science Foundation Grants at the University of Texas and Vanderbilt University, and was an N.D.E.A. Fellow.

In broader denominational work, Dr. Hampton was moderator of Oklahoma’s First Mission Association (1968–70) and chaired the state Mission Board (1972–74). He was elected president of the Free Will Baptist Music Ministries organization in 1977 and wrote articles for *Contact* magazine, stirring interest in the music fellowship. He pastored in Oklahoma and Texas, and served as minister of music in several churches.

He is survived by his wife Peggy; sons Brian and Joel; daughters Mrs. Shari Windom, Mrs. Jennifer Bowen, and Mrs. Leslie Hester; and 15 grandchildren.

## LADY FLAMES WIN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE Lady Flames basketball team made history March 3 when they won the Association of Christian College Athletics (ACCA) Division II national tournament in Bethany, Oklahoma. This marks the first time that any FWBBC team has won a national championship.

Athletic Director Mike Phillips said, “I am so happy for our women’s team and Coach Nathan Willhite. I congratulate them for what they did this year for our program and college. Most important, I thank them for their Christ-like attitudes this season.”

The Lady Flames came back from a 31-28 halftime deficit to defeat Emmaus Bible College in the championship game 56-51. They opened the second half with a 10-0 run and never lost the lead.

Freshman forward Lindsay Wolf, was named ACCA Division II National Player of the Year and National Tournament MVP. Freshman guard Katy Cobb was named to the National All-Tournament Team.

Coach Willhite, now in his fourth year, knew that this was a special team. “They never quit. We were a young team, and we had our frustrating moments, but we came together and worked through it. Win or lose, we remained a team.

Willhite continued, “I am excited about the national championship, and what it means to our team, program, and college. My sister Elizabeth is our only senior and four-year starter, and she went out on top. I’m thankful not only for the players but for their parents who encouraged them to attend FWBBC.”

Women’s basketball at FWBBC is in its 10<sup>th</sup> year of competition.



(L) Assistant Coach Emily Edwards, Coach Nathan Willhite, Amanda Fretter, Jacquelyn Jackson, Amanda Ellison, Katy Cobb, Elizabeth Willhite, Lindsay Wolf, Kristyn Baumann, Mary-Catherine Thompson.



Photo (left to right): Ezra Caynor, Kristen Edwards, Matt Bracey, Hannah Postlewaite, and John Landing.

## STUDENTS ELECT OFFICERS

THE FOLLOWING FIVE STUDENTS at Free Will Baptist Bible College were elected to serve as 2007–2008 student body officers:

Matt Bracey, junior history major from Ashland City, Tennessee, was elected president. The vice president is junior Hannah Postlewaite, English major from Florence, South Carolina. Kristen Edwards, a sophomore from Turbeville, South Carolina will serve as secretary-treasurer.

Two pastoral ministry majors complete the new slate of officers. Junior Ezra Caynor from Rittman, Ohio, was elected chaplain and will provide spiritual leadership for the student body. Sophomore John Landing from Dearborn, Michigan, will serve as worship leader.

## JETS PUBLISHES PINSON AND REID

THE JOURNAL OF THE EVANGELICAL THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (JETS) published book reviews by two Free Will Baptist Bible College personnel in the December 2006 issue.

President Matt Pinson's review of Roger E. Olson's 250-page *Arminian Theology: Myths and Realities* stretches more than four pages. He praises the ground-breaking work, observing how rare it is for a book to discuss traditional theological issues in a way that respects tradition yet brings fresh, constructive insight to the contemporary theological scene.

Pinson concludes: "Everyone interested in evangelical theology needs to read this work....Reading this book will help Calvinists to move beyond the caricatures of Arminianism found in Calvinistic theological literature. Arminians and other non-Calvinists will be introduced—most for the first time—to a more grace-oriented stream of Arminianism with which they were formerly unfamiliar."

FWBBC Old Testament professor Garnett Reid delivers a hard-hitting critique of *The Original Story: God, Israel, and the World*, a 318-page paperback co-written by John Barton and Julia Bowden. Although Reid takes the authors to task in five areas, he acknowledges, "It is hard to imagine a more reader-friendly layout than they provide... (including) wide margins for note taking as well as sidebars with additional data on key terms, people, and subjects."

Dr. Reid confronts the authors for giving no quarter to readers who take seriously the OT's testimony regarding its nature as revealed truth from the mouth of God.

## RALLY WEEKEND RAISES \$35,000

TWO TENNESSEE RALLIES on the same weekend in February raised more than \$35,000 for Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to David Williford, vice president for institutional advancement.

The 25<sup>th</sup> annual Northern Quarterly Rally met Sunday evening, February 25, at Pleasant View Christian School with more than 400 people attending, including students and staff from FWBBC. President Matt Pinson gave an update on the college's relocation efforts and future plans. The College Choir, under the direction of Dr. James Stevens, provided the musical program.

Moderator Randy Riggs announced that the Northern Quarterly's 22 churches raised almost \$30,000 for the college and that more funds would be arriving after the rally.

Earlier that weekend, the Upper Cumberland Fellowship's annual FWBBC Rally met at Cookeville FWB Church on Friday evening, February 23. Jack Taylor officiated, welcomed nearly 100 people to the event, and introduced New Mercy, a mixed trio from FWBBC, to sing for the worshipers. FWBBC's director of communications, Jack Williams, gave a brief update about the college and then preached.

Reverend Taylor indicated that more than \$5,300 had been raised for FWBBC among 19 churches, with additional funds expected.

"We thank the Lord for the friendship, the financial support, and the year-round encouragement that we receive from the Northern Quarterly and the Upper Cumberland Fellowship," David Williford said. "I hope that other associations will follow their example and schedule an FWBBC Rally Day every year."



# New Horizons

## STARTING FROM LITTLE ROCK



EACH YEAR, THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE FREE WILL Baptist National Convention is the commissioning service for both International and North American church planters. Last year Home Missions commissioned 10 missionary families and sent them into the Mid-Atlantic, the South, and the Rocky Mountains and West.

### Here Am I, Send Me

This year in Little Rock, Home Missions will commission seven additional missionary families. These church planters have said, "I will go." They want to reach souls for Jesus. These men and women have a passion to find lost sheep, lost coins, and lost sons (Luke 15: 4-7; 8-10; 11-24). They have heard God's call to serve. The summons has been confirmed by the Word of God and anointed by the Holy Spirit. The abiding conviction will serve them well in the years ahead as they build a church in the cities where God is sending them.

### Where Are They Going?

- **Stephen and Denise Gray** will plant a church in the fast-growing city of Collinsville, Illinois.
- **Jeremy and Jill Lightsey** are headed to San Antonio in the Lone Star State of Texas.
- **Michael and Holly Hutton** will grow a church family in Spring Hill, Tennessee.

- **Mark and Donna Thomas** have set their focus on Pueblo, Colorado, an area with little evangelical witness.
- **Tim and Angie Riggs** will head south to one of the nation's hot spots for growth—Mobile, Alabama.
- **Dale and Julie McCoy** will reap a harvest of souls in Prattville, Alabama.
- **Tim and Robyn Osborn** will leave Memphis and begin sharing Jesus in the neighboring suburb of Oak Hill, Tennessee.

By the time the convention meets in July, several new families will join these missionary families.

### Thanks and Applause

When we gather in Little Rock on Wednesday evening, July 18, 2007, and these missionaries stand before us, they will hear the words, "We charge you to teach the word of God faithfully and fearlessly. We admire you, love you, and pray you God's Speed." The great congregation of Free Will Baptists will rise with thunderous applause as they thank those who will be sent throughout North America and the regions beyond. □

*Larry A. Powell, general director, Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department.*

## Will Your Retirement Plan Keep Giving? Have you considered the benefits of a gift annuity?



### Consider these benefits:

1. A regular income for life
  2. A portion of your income will be tax free
  3. A significant charitable tax deduction
  4. Assurance of a future gift to Home Missions
- I am considering \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
to establish my Home Missions Gift Annuity.

ANNUAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT				
SINGLE LIFE RATE		JOINT LIFE RATE		
Age	Rate	Younger Age	Older Age	Rate
55	5.5%	55	55	5.0%
60	5.7%	60	60	5.4%
65	6.0%	65	65	5.6%
70	6.5%	70	70	5.9%
75	7.1%	75	75	6.3%
80	8.0%	80	80	6.9%
85	9.5%	85	85	7.9%
90+	11.3%	90	90	9.3%

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P.O. Box 5002  
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

[www.FWBGifts.org](http://www.FWBGifts.org)  
Or call us toll-free at  
**(877) 336-7575**

# 2006 Benjamin Randall Offering a Success

Yearly Offering brings in \$348,711.08 for Home Missions  
BY RICHARD ADAMS

This yearly offering goes to the Home Missions general fund. With your help, we can continue being a support ministry to help plant new churches all over North America. We challenge every church to prepare for this year's Benjamin Randall Offering on November 18, 2007.

THE HOME MISSIONS FAMILY WANTS TO THANK each donor who took part in the annual Benjamin Randall Day offering! Between the years 2000 through 2006 the offering has raised \$2.5 million.

It is crucial that new churches continue to be built throughout North America (our Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria.) Free Will Baptists must reach across this vast area to share Christ with those who need to know Him. We must strengthen existing churches and build new churches. If we fail to do so, it will not be long before we have no students to attend FWB colleges, pastors to fill pulpits, missionaries to go overseas, or church members to support them.

This year will be my last to coordinate the offering. In January 2008, after 18 years, I will step down from my position as director of development. The 27-year journey has been exciting (beginning with the nine years I served on the Home Missions Board).

David Crowe will replace me as director of development. David is an outstanding man with fresh, new ideas. I know you will help him as he wears several hats including director of development, manager of the Church Extension Loan Fund, and coordinator of the Benjamin Randall offering and capital stewardship campaigns.

November 18, 2007 is a very important day—Benjamin Randall Day. This date has been designated for the annual Home Missions Day Offering in honor of Benjamin Randall, one of the founders of the Free Will Baptist denomination. Make this offering the best yet. If every church participates, we could easily raise more than \$500,000. □

## Top Ten Donors to the Benjamin Randall Offering in 2006



Jason Myers  
Victory FWB  
Hanover, PA



Randy Wright  
Piney Grove FWB  
Guin, AL



Danny Dwyer  
Cramerton FWB  
Cramerton, NC



Daniel Voss  
West Tulsa FWB  
West Tulsa, OK



Tom Scott  
Union Ridge FWB  
Sulligent, AL



Mark McCraney  
Red Bay FWB  
Red Bay, AL



Howard Messer  
East Side FWB  
Elizabethton, TN



Jay Baines  
Townsend FWB  
Townsend, DE



Harold Blankenship  
Evergreen FWB  
Erwin, TN



Ray Williamson  
Faith FWB  
Lavalette, WV

### HAS GOD CALLED YOU TO BE A... LEADER · AUTHOR · SPEAKER

Are you asking yourself, *How do I accomplish God's Call?* If so, then CLASSeminar is for you!

Randall House Publications Presents CLASSeminars for Christian leaders, authors, and speakers, November 12-14, 2007, Donelson FWB Church

The seminar will feature Florence and Marita Littauer and a complete staff of professional speakers and writers. They will provide practical methods for becoming a skilled communicator.

For more information or to register, call (800) 433-6633 or visit [www.classervices.com](http://www.classervices.com).



## MISSOURI NAMES MISSIONS DIRECTOR

IN A HISTORIC move, the Executive Committee of the Missouri State Association of Free Will Baptists named Frank Webster as the first full-time state missions director. Webster will coordinate all missions activities in the state, both home or international. He replaces Dale Skiles, who recently retired from the position of state Home Missions director.

Pastor of First FWB Church in Neosha, MO, since 1992, Frank and his wife Debbie bring years of ministry experience to the position. He will work closely with churches across the state to inform, recruit, and promote giving to Free Will Baptist missions. In his own words, "Deb and I look forward to seeing how the Lord can use us to enhance an already great missions emphasis in Missouri."

## FWB PIONEER DIES AT 104

GRADY UNDERWOOD of Plant City, FL, died Wednesday, February 28 at the age of 104. Underwood was a FWB pioneer in the state of Florida. The Alabama native moved to Florida in 1946, was ordained in 1953 (age 49), and in 1955, with the help of Raymond Roberts and Fred Bradshaw, he started the Central Association. As his ministry continued, he was responsible for starting several churches in the state.

Well past 100 years of age, Underwood recently recalled the first sermon he preached. His text was Matthew 7, and the sermon was titled "Fruit Trees." He attributed his long life to clean, godly living, and often said, "As the soul prospers, so shall your health!"

## YOUTH GROUP DONATES COMPUTERS

AFTER MONTHS of fundraising, students at the Chula Vista FWB Church in California donated five new computers to California Christian College to replace outdated equipment. The project was part of the "Dream List" compiled by the college as it approaches its 50th anniversary. According to the college, "This wonderful gift will provide several years of research capabilities for CCC Students."

The youth group has challenged other groups to help meet the needs for new equipment at the college. For more information, contact Anna-Jean Walley at the college: (559) 455-5566.

## SOUTH CAROLINA EXECUTIVE SELECTED

THE STATE EXECUTIVE Committee recently named Todd Smith executive secretary following the resignation of Mike Jones. Smith assumed the duties of Executive Secretary on March 1.

The North Carolina native earned his bachelor's degree in Bible and master's degree in theology from Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC. He has ministered at churches in Inman, Spartanburg, and Florence, SC. Most recently, Todd pastored Southside FWB Church in Aiken, SC. He has been the clerk of the South Carolina State Association for 10 years.

Smith anticipates the challenges of the job before him. "I have a vision for our state to continue to grow and expand beyond the boundaries of the ever-growing needs before us...a tremendous vision for what God has yet to accomplish in and through our state."

## WALLACE MALONE DIES

ILLINOIS MINISTER Wallace Malone died November 29, 2006, at 89 years of age. A veteran of 66 years of ministry, Malone is remembered for his example as a beloved pastor and church organizer. Ordained in 1942, he pastored churches across Illinois, and was the founding pastor of the Bethel FWB Church in South Roxana. Malone served as the moderator of the Illinois State Association, co-founded the Illinois state youth camp (now known as Camp Hope), and was a member of many state and national boards.

According to long-time friend Bob Shockey, "He served the Lord and the Free Will Baptist people with a deep humility, with a servant's heart, and with the attitude of a man who knew that what he did for God today would matter in eternity."

## ROGER REEDS DEAD AT 79

FREE WILL BAPTIST visionary, Dr. Roger C. Reeds, died on May 2, 2007 following an extended illness. Converted in 1947 and called to preach the following year, Reeds is best remembered for founding Randall House Publications (the Sunday School and Church Training Department of the National Association of Free Will Baptists). His vision for quality Free Will Baptist Sunday School curriculum blossomed, and today Randall House Publications provides ministry resources for churches and organizations around the world.

Following his retirement from Randall House, Dr. Reeds pastored Trinity FWB Church, Goodlettsville, TN. Read more about his amazing life in the August-September 2007 issue of *ONE Magazine*.

Close to Home is a new feature of *ONE Magazine* that highlights Free Will Baptist life on the state, local church, and individual level. To submit your news to Close to Home, email [editor@nafwb.org](mailto:editor@nafwb.org).

# Hispanic Harvest

## A Closer Look at the Gwen Hendrix Bible Institute

By Rick Bowling

The following graduates of the Gwen Hendrix Bible Institute minister in the following locations:

Alfredo Cenicerros	Georgia
Pablo Fernández	Costa Rica
Josué & Cristina Rivera	South Carolina
José Nuniz	Tennessee
Aarón Sautés López	New Mexico
Francisco Robles Arias	South Carolina
Jesus del Angel	Georgia
José Luís Rodriguez	South Carolina
Débora Murillo Pérez	Michoacán, Mexico
Elías Pérez	Oaxaca, Mexico

Partner with the Gwen Hendrix Bible Institute to provide quality training for Hispanic pastors and lay leaders. Send your support to:

Home Missions Department  
PO Box 5002  
Antioch, TN 37011-5002  
Attention: Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute

To find out more about Free Will Baptist Hispanic ministry, visit [www.homemissions.net](http://www.homemissions.net) or call (877) 767-7674.



2006 graduates pose with Earl Hendrix (center) and Rick Bowling (right).

*"...The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of harvest, that he will send forth labourers into His harvest"* (Matthew 9:37b–38).

AS I WRITE FROM INMAN, SOUTH CAROLINA, the seventh session at the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute is underway, and God is really blessing! Ten students from California, Washington, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, Texas, and Tennessee have arrived for this session. When I see students leave everything to study the Word of God, I am reminded that God is still calling laborers into His field of harvest. I cannot help but remember students who have already finished their education and are hard at work.

When Jorge Zacaries Molina came to South Carolina from Mexico, he intended to earn money to make a better life for his family back home. He found something far more valuable, however, and in time Jorge, his wife, and his parents accepted Jesus as their Savior. Until their move, the family had never heard the Word of God because their hometown, Michoacán, Mexico, has no evangelical church.

After being saved, the family became very concerned about their lost loved ones in Mexico. Jorge's parents returned to Michoacán and started a Bible study in their home every Sunday. As a result, friends and family members soon accepted Jesus. They quickly ran out of room in their home and started meeting in a park in their city. The congregation continued to grow, even though they had no pastor to lead them.

JORGE FELT GOD leading him to enroll at the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute. While there, God called him to preach, and he eventually returned to Michoacán to build a church in the traditional Roman Catholic stronghold.

When Jorge returned to Mexico during the Christmas season, three Catholic seminary students and a nun greeted him. They tried to persuade him to join their efforts. Instead, he

offered them the way of salvation. Not long after, the local Catholic church began to distribute Christmas gifts to every “member” of their church. Using a mobile audio system, they prowled the streets making the announcement. The battle for souls is raging in Michoacán, but God has laborers in that bountiful harvest field!

ECUADORIAN DIEGO CUEVA also attended the Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Bible Institute. Today, he and his family live in Woodbridge, Virginia, where they are starting Hispanic works across the state. Several men and women led to the Lord by Diego have returned to their own countries to start churches. Diego is building a church in Woodbridge, Virginia. The future pastor of this church will arrive from Ecuador to attend the Bible Institute this semester.

STORY AFTER STORY COULD BE TOLD about the graduates of the Institute. God is using the institute to train laborers for their work in the harvest. The work has only begun, and much remains to be accomplished. We need your help!

Please help Free Will Baptist Hispanic Ministry through prayer and financial support. Join the effort to prepare those God has called into the field of harvest. □

*Rick Bowling serves as director of Hispanic Ministries under Free Will Baptist Home Missions.*

## California Is in BIG Trouble!

By Dean Long

DO YOU KNOW THAT ONE IN EVERY 10 people in America live in the state of California? More than 37 million people are crammed into this state representing a great smorgasbord of cultures. California measures 770 miles long and 250 miles wide (a total of 163,707 square miles), making it the third largest state in America.

The state has the highest mountain in the continental United States (Mt Whitney, 14,494 feet above sea level) and the lowest spot in America (Death Valley, 282 feet below sea level). Why should I tell you all of this?

I recently became chairman of the California State Home Missions Board. This board is responsible for building new Free Will Baptist churches across the state and helping existing churches that are struggling.

In 1980, 84 churches reported to the state association. Today, only 48 churches report, and some of those are without pastors and struggling. Conservatively speaking, 15–20 churches are able to support the total denominational work here in California. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that we need help!

*We need your help!* First, will you pray for us on a daily basis? Second, will you consider coming to California to pastor or help build a church? Our biggest problem is not money or available facilities. We need you! California is one of the largest Free Will Baptist mission fields, and we are dying. The ministries and churches in California should be growing and prospering, but they are declining.

It would be easy to stick our heads in the sand like the ostrich, but you and I both know that denial is not the answer. That is why I have turned to you—the rest of Free Will Baptists across the nation—to help us.

Will you help? Will you pray? Will you consider coming to California and giving us a hand in any way the Lord may lead you? I hope and pray you will. I thank you in advance for your support. □

*Dean Long is chairman of the California State Home Missions Board.*

# Military Chaplains

## Serving America's Fighting Congregation

By Richard Anderson

Pray for your FWB chaplains and their families. Throughout the past six years, many FWB chaplains and their families have made tremendous sacrifices to support the war on terror. My family and I have been comforted and encouraged by your cards and e-mails reminding us of your loving prayer support.

The core duty of the Chaplaincy is encapsulated by the following:

...conduct religious observances; provide pastoral care, and model ethical leadership. Religious observances offer military members and their families the opportunity to enhance their relationship with God. Comprehensive religious support includes pastoral acts, ceremonies, ordinances, worship services, and religious education opportunities.

Pastoral care serves the diverse educational, humanitarian, and spiritual needs of the military community. Pastoral care involves counseling, marriage and family ministry, men's and women's programs, youth and singles outreach, suicide prevention, critical incident stress management and traumatic stress response ministry, and privileged communication.

Modeling ethical leadership impacts the moral climate within the military and facilitates decision-making based not only on what is legal, but what is right. As special staff members, chaplains advise leadership about the spiritual needs, religious concerns, and ethical issues that influence the unit's mission and quality of life.

These core duties provide a clear ministry description for chaplains serving around the globe. I want to close this four-part series of articles by challenging all Free Will Baptists to do the following:

- **Pray for your FWB chaplains and their families.** Throughout the past six years, many FWB chaplains and their families have made tremendous sacrifices to support the war on terror. My family and I have been comforted and encouraged by your cards and e-mails reminding us of your loving prayer support. Please continue to pray for chaplains and their families as they seek to ensure freedom's future.
- **Promote the military chaplaincy as a viable ministry.** Depending on the branch of service, military



chaplains receive approximately ten to fifteen days a year to attend denominational conferences and meetings. I strongly encourage all FWB leaders to invite your fellow FWB ministers in

uniform to participate in your associational, state, and national meetings—as well as Bible and missions conferences. It was at a Home Missions conference at Free Will Baptist Bible College during the late 1980s when God began dealing with me about ministry in the military. The message was delivered by Chaplain Kerry Steedley.

- **Invite a FWB chaplain to host a God and country service or a revival.** Encourage young people to pray about serving in the Chaplain Corps. Currently, six FWB chaplains serve in the Army, two in the Air Force, and one in the Navy. The need for additional FWB chaplains is tremendous.
- **Partner in ministry with your FWB chaplains.** For instance, while deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, New Hope FWB Church in Joelton, Tennessee, sent 60 books to be used in Bible studies, along with 30 pounds of premium coffee. Needless to say, their intentional support inspired troops serving in a dangerous and distant land. I'm grateful my home church partnered with me during my tour of duty. Many opportunities are available for FWB churches to be involved in military ministry. If you're interested, just contact one of your FWB ministers in uniform.

General George Catlett Marshall (1880-1959), America's



by Jerry Rayburn

## When God Calls...

### Desert Springs Free Will Baptist Church Goes Self-Supporting

foremost soldier during World War II, once stated, "I look upon the spiritual life of the soldier as even more important than his physical equipment...The soldier's heart, the soldier's spirit, the soldier's soul are everything. Unless the soldier's soul sustains him, he cannot be relied upon and will fail himself and his country in the end." Free Will Baptist chaplains have the distinct honor of nurturing the spiritual life of America's fighting congregation. Will you join us in this vital ministry by praying for us and our families, promoting the military chaplaincy as a viable calling, and partnering with us as we seek to glorify God, honor our men and women in uniform, and serve all?

□

*Richard Anderson serves in the United States Air Force as a Free Will Baptist Chaplain. Currently, Chaplain Anderson is the Senior Protestant Chaplain, Lajes Field, Azores, Portugal. He is married to Faith (VanWinkle) Anderson, and they have two sons, Jack and Jon. Chaplain Anderson can be contacted at [Richard.Anderson@lajes.af.mil](mailto:Richard.Anderson@lajes.af.mil).*

**GOD SENT FREE WILL BAPTISTS INTO MY LIFE** as a boy of 14. Although I wasn't raised in a Christian home, I was saved in a small, rural FWB church in Dickson, Tennessee. Three years later, God spoke to me about preaching. For several years, I grew in my faith, learning that God had a plan for the lives of believers.

As a newlywed in the military, however, it was easy to place God and His plans on the back burner, especially when we did not have access to a Free Will Baptist church. Yet even in the military we had opportunities to be involved in churches from other denominations.

We found no Free Will Baptist churches in New Jersey or Alaska (not to mention the entire country of Germany) during our military travels. But when we arrived in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and checked the yellow pages (our usual routine) for a Free Will Baptist church—Glory, there was one! We quickly joined the only Free Will Baptist church in the area, planted by Home Missionary Bob Lewis. After 12 years of military service, my wife and I had returned home to Free Will Baptists.

Without my knowledge, the First Arizona District Association began to pray that God would start new Free Will Baptist churches since the state had only eight churches at the time. Sierra Vista was one of the cities for which the association prayed specifically.

During the same month when the association began to pray for churches, through military contact, I relocated to Arizona. Looking back, my wife and I see God working behind the scenes. God began dealing with our hearts about serving Him full time after retiring from the military. Little did I know that God was not willing to wait! He had His own timeline.

After arriving in Sierra Vista, God "turned up the heat," and after six months of prayer and searching I surrendered to the call. I contacted Home Missions and volunteered for the Priscilla and Aquilla program. In February 1995, we began a home Bible study with two ladies. I was still active duty military, with six years until retirement. From those Bible studies in our home, to various rented facilities, and a year-long tour of duty in Saudi Arabia—God made provision every step of the way.

Someone asked, "How did you?" I responded, "God did!" After 10 years of faithfulness, Desert Springs FWB Church is self-supporting—possible only with God's provision and the love, financial support, and prayers of many Free Will Baptists. A new sanctuary was dedicated on October 25, 2005, and the organization service was held January 28, 2007, with 61 in attendance.

Many refuse to attempt things for the Lord because they are afraid of failure. But remember, God does the work. We are only required to be obedient. God can do all things, but He wants to use YOU. □

*The following article was written by Ray Hollifield. He and his wife Iris have been our partners in ministry. In the early days of our ministry in Castaic, California, they were our only source of Christian fellowship.*

—Keith Bartlett, pastor, Sloan Canyon FWB Church, Castaic California

# mis·sion·ar·y /mĭsh'ə-nĕr'ē/

n. One who is sent on a mission, especially one sent to do religious or charitable work in a territory or foreign country. One who attempts to persuade or convert others to a particular doctrine or set of principles.

**HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO ANSWER** the call to missions? For me it started in 1966 when I was saved during a revival service at First FWB Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina. I had been invited to attend the service by Iris (my future wife). It was wonderful to know my name had been recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life!

Iris and I dated, attended church regularly, and grew spiritually over the next 18 months. In May 1968, two life-changing events took place. Iris and I were married. Three days later I became a Private in the United States Army. Two years later, after completing a tour of duty in Vietnam, I received my discharge and headed back to my family and church.

Our lives were blessed and we grew and matured in our home church. God began to burden my heart about the ministry. During a feetwashing service, with my feet in the basin, as the men of the church prayed that God would

#### **The Hollifield Family Profile**

Ray and Iris Hollifield

**Married:** May 10, 1968

**Home Church:** First FWB, Spartanburg, SC

Ray served in Vietnam, 1968–1970

Licensed to preach, 1971

**Children:** Chris and Amanda

Chris is a Major in the U.S. Army. He and his wife, Wendy, are stationed at Maxwell Air Force Base (while Chris earns a master's degree at Auburn University). They attend Prattville FWB Church in Alabama, pastored by Dale McCoy.

Amanda and her husband, U.S. Army Lieutenant Zachary Bartlett (and daughter, Alyssa) are stationed at Ft. Wainwright, AK, where they attend Northern Lights FWB Church pastored by Ron Wallace.

use me, I answered the call to preach. Shortly after, I was licensed to preach.

#### **New Horizons**

For the next 29 years, Iris and I served our home church. We participated in every church program possible and held many positions. God blessed us with two children. We prayed for and supported others who went to

mission fields. In 1997, Ed Bryant (our pastor), Keith Bartlett, and I traveled to Cotê d'Ivoire, West Africa. We visited Doropo and experienced the battle between good and evil firsthand. During the trip, I felt God calling me into missionary service. He wanted more from me than prayer and support. He wanted me to go and carry the message of the gospel!

Not long after we returned home, with no warning to my family, I announced that God had called me to Africa. The announcement was received with mixed emotions from my immediate family as well as my church family. I had decided that we would work at the Doropo hospital with the Paschals and Cousineaus (although I had no medical training). When that door closed, I wondered if I had misunderstood God's call.

About this time Keith Bartlett answered the call to a new mission work in Castaic, California. The *Seedling Proj-*

ect would be a joint effort between the California State Association, the West Coast Association, and the Home Missions Department. The plan called for a team of missionaries to go to a growing area north of Los Angeles where church property had already been purchased. Meanwhile, I was asking God for direction about our future.

Before long, God led us to step out on faith and join the team in California. After meeting with Keith, we were excited about this new direction. We joined Home Missions as associate missionaries.

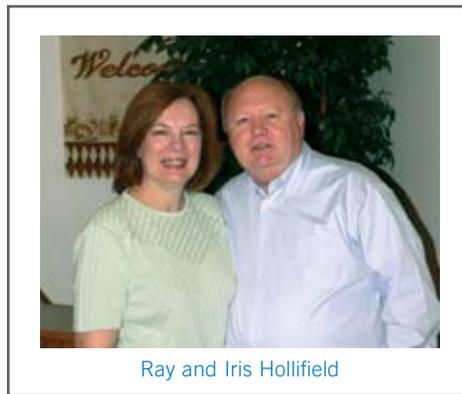
It wasn't long before we discovered that it is more difficult to ask for support than to give, yet many faithful givers made it possible for the mission to move forward. We encountered another challenge when the Castaic Town Council required the new church to provide daycare for young families in the community. Iris began to take classes in order to become a preschool director who met California license requirements.

#### California or Bust

We joined the Bartletts in August 1999. Keith and Janet were leading Bible studies in their home. It was exciting to meet and minister to new families. Only a few months later, we began to meet in a nearby community recreation room. Setting up and tearing down was a lot of work, but oh, what blessings. Several people were saved and baptized, and our first "Friend Day" campaign saw 58 in attendance!

After months of seeking permits from various California agencies, we held a groundbreaking ceremony on Sunday afternoon, December 6, 2000. Several Free Will Baptist pastors and city council members participated in the long awaited service.

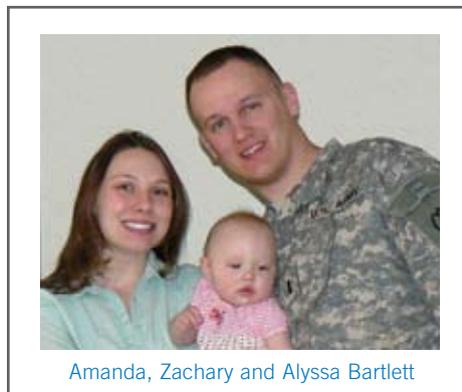
We wasted no time. The following morning, bulldozers and earthmovers began construction. We survived many struggles as we found our way



Ray and Iris Hollifield



Sloan Canyon FWB Church



Amanda, Zachary and Alyssa Bartlett

through the maze of permits, approvals, and requirements. As each problem arose, Keith and I would jump in the car and head for the agency in question, praying all the way. Contractors were often surprised when we returned quickly with the proper paperwork. They didn't know the great God we serve. The challenges of construction provided opportunities to witness to the workers and contractors.

I can't tell you how the excitement grew as we anticipated moving to the new facility. Each week, members of the community visited our services. At last the day arrived—Easter Sunday, April 16, 2001. God blessed, and 151 people attended the service.

Looking back, I remember asking myself if God really wanted me there. But what a joy each Sunday to hear God's Word preached and to see lives changed. God has richly blessed Sloan Canyon FWB Church. We continue to reach our community on a weekly and monthly basis. Attendance continues to rise, and we have seen many people come to know the Lord.

Today, we understand why God laid it on the hearts of the city council members to ask the church to provide a preschool. It has become a wonderful outreach tool. We meet new families every day, and parents have learned we provide a nurturing and safe environment for their children. Our school is a goldmine for lost souls. Pray for Iris and Janet as they continue to direct and shape this ministry of the church.

#### The Blessings of Ministry

I have been asked, "Do you regret making the sacrifice to go to California to help start a mission work?" I remember Matthew 19:27–30 and smile. "No regrets! When you follow the leadership of Christ, you are blessed beyond measure."

On June 4, 2005, our daughter Amanda and the Bartlett's son Zachary were married. Just four months ago, we all became proud grandparents of Alyssa Rae Bartlett. We have progressed from God's family to an earthly family as well.

How long does it take to answer the call to missions? Only a moment! From the moment we are saved, God wants all of us to serve in His great mission field. That field starts in your own home, extends to your church, your local community, your state—even to the four corners of the earth. Your mission is limited only by your willingness to be used of Him. Each morning I wonder what new blessings (and challenges) God has in store for us. We never cease to be amazed. □

Ray Hollifield, Associate Pastor, Sloan Canyon FWB Church

*I hope you noticed Ray and Iris's desire to be used by God for ministry. With them, it's all about ministry. They are selfless in their willingness to be used for the benefit of others and the glory of God. If you're that way, there's a missionary family out there who really needs you!* —Pastor Keith

# What is it?

**WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE FREE Will Baptist Foundation**—the planned giving arm of the denomination? The editors of ONE recently asked retiring director Bill Evans to answer some questions about their ministry.

**Q. How does the Foundation impact the ministry of the denomination?**

A. Perhaps the most significant way is by providing income to various ministries in our denomination.

**Q. How much income are we talking about?**

A. Last year the Foundation paid more than \$332,000 to national, regional and local Free Will Baptist ministries.

**Q. That's a lot of income. Where did they money come from?**

A. Individuals, families, and churches have set up permanent agreements with the Foundation to pay earnings to various ministries every six months until Jesus returns.

**Q. So the assets that back these agreements must be pretty significant.**

A. Yes. The Foundation manages over \$8 million controlled by this type of agreement. Some of those agreements direct us to defer the earnings for a period of years in order to increase the principal.

**Q. What are the tax advantages to indi-**

**viduals for this type of gift?**

A. Gifts to these arrangements are fully tax deductible.

**Q. I suppose individuals like the idea that they can perpetually fund a ministry through their gifts?**

A. Yes. Using this trust, individuals can be assured that contributions to their favorite Free Will Baptist ministry will continue, and the perpetual gift has the potential to grow.

**Q. You're kidding. How can it grow? I thought it was a fixed rate.**

A. For most agreements the standard policy is that we pay 5%. Earnings above 5% are added back to principal,

Looking to  
increase your  
retirement  
income?



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Charitable income tax deduction now!



Please clip and return this form to:

Free Will Baptist Foundation  
P. O. Box 5002  
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

[www.FWBGifts.org](http://www.FWBGifts.org)  
Or call us toll-free at  
(877) 336-7575

Please send me your free booklet explaining this option of helping me and my family and FWBBC.

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Want to help FWBBC in their relocation? Need some significant income tax deductions? Interested in funding retirement with something other than cash, such as stocks, bonds, real estate, etc?

Want to really pump up your retirement account but find yourself short of cash? Fund it with almost any type of assets: cash, bonds, stocks, insurance annuities, real estate, or a combination of two or more. No limits on contributions.



so the payout for the next six months is higher. The agreement is designed so that the principal will keep pace with inflation. The funds are invested in a balanced portfolio of stocks and bonds designed to minimize risk to principal.

**Q. Does the Foundation staff choose the investments?**

A. No. We leave the day-to-day decisions of choosing investments with a professional.

We have developed an investment policy to provide income with minimal risk. Our job is to monitor the professionals to make sure they follow the policy.

**Q. Do you use mutual funds?**

A. No. We hire an investment firm because it is more difficult to monitor the activity of a mutual fund. Our investment firm is instructed to not invest in

any company that would violate our church covenant, and we monitor all trades to make sure they do so.

**Q. Are most of these agreements funded during an individual's lifetime or upon their death?**

A. They are funded both ways. In fact, some individuals fund an arrangement during their lifetime and add to it upon their death. These agreements are a great way for individuals to continually fund their favorite ministry after they have gone to be with the Lord. For instance, if an individual desires to continue giving \$1,000 a year to a particular ministry, they can make a bequest from their will to set aside the amount necessary to generate that \$1,000 annual gift.

**Q. How long have you been managing these gifts and how many agreements do**

**you currently manage?**

A. The Foundation was founded in 1980, and we started managing these agreements immediately. We now manage over 80.

**Q. You have done a great job describing this agreement, but what is it?**

A. It is called an endowment.

**Q. The idea sounds great. How can someone get more information about endowments?**

A. Our interactive website [www.fwbgifts.org](http://www.fwbgifts.org) has additional information. More specific information is offered via email at [foundation@nafwb.org](mailto:foundation@nafwb.org) or call toll free at (877) 366-7575. □

### ***What Is It?***

*Are you curious about the item featured in the photograph? It is an antique wood planer once used to create large, ornate, crown moldings.*

Time spent growing  
closer to God  
at church?

**4 hours a week**

What will you do to  
grow closer to Him  
the other

**164 hours?**

 **Get Connected**  
[over]

# >>> Get Connected

**Christian parents and grandparents** today are looking for opportunities to get their family connected with each other and with the Bible. That's exactly what CLEAR Devotional Magazines for the entire family are designed to do.

## Connect with >>>> the Bible

Studies show that kids, teens, and adults love to read magazines. That's why we created Devotional & Bible Study magazines for each life stage, that help your family connect with **the Bible**.



Infants & Preschoolers

### *My Cuddle Time Bible Storybook*

- Each book has three distinct stories based on three heartprints (A heartprint is a biblical concept or truth that, when taught and repeated, will imprint the heart of a child for life)
- Loaded with bright colors, child-friendly art and simple fonts
- Provides a necessary tool for presenting biblical truths to very young children
- User friendly for parents and other family members (everyone reads to a child—this book lets you read something of substance biblically)
- Can be used as a pre-reader/early reader for older preschoolers



Early & Upper Elementary

### *Explorer's Guides*

- Helps kids spend daily time with God
- Provides a tool for getting students into the Bible
- Inspires students to live out their faith with stories, testimonies, and inspirational articles
- Provides kids with wholesome and positive alternatives for reading material
- Activities and articles can be used to share Christ with friends and family members



Jr. High & High School

### *Clear Horizon & Clear Direction*

- Helps students get into God's Word
- Includes articles of hope and inspiration—many are student-written
- Includes fun and exciting features
- Provides answers for some of life's most challenging questions



Adults

### *CLEAR Living*

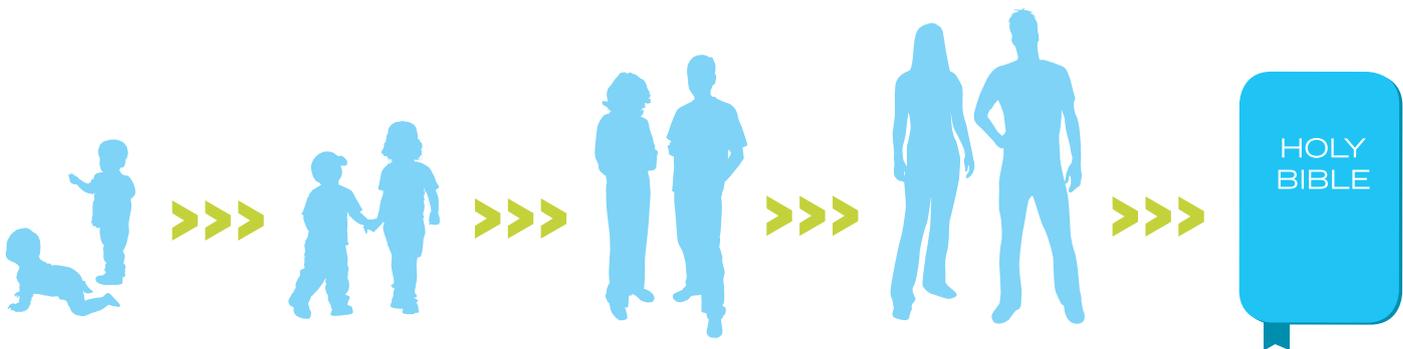
- Direct your daily devotions
- Grow in your understanding of God's Word
- Study the same theme each week as the other members of your family
- Apply the truth in your own life
- Share the lessons you learn each week with your family

# Connect with >>> each other

Each magazine studies the same Bible theme each week. This allows your entire family to grow together!

**BONUS!**

**CLEAR Living for Adults** has a built-in Family Link that gives you a weekly opportunity and activity to connect your family together with the Bible.



CLEAR Devotional Magazines for each life stage are designed to be exciting and interactive with the Bible. They are the perfect tool to create opportunities for you to interact as a family in a meaningful way that will lead you closer to Christ and to each other.

## Subscribe Today!

	Age/Grades	1 year (4 issues)	2 year (8 issues)		Age/Grades	1 year (4 issues)	2 year (8 issues)
<b>Adults</b>				<b>Upper Elementary</b>			
<i>Clear Living</i>	Adults	\$28.99	\$52.99	<i>Explorer's Guide 2</i>	4-6 grades	\$19.99	\$36.99
<b>Teens</b>				<b>Early Elementary</b>			
<i>Clear Horizon</i>	10-12 grades	\$28.99	\$52.99	<i>Explorer's Guide 1</i>	1-3 grades	\$19.99	\$36.99
<i>Clear Direction</i>	7-9 grades	\$28.99	\$52.99	<b>Pre-school</b>			
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				<i>Bible Storybook</i>			



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# Where Are They Now?

## NORMAN & BESSIE RICHARDS



Norman and Bessie Richards family [circa 1977]

By Neil Gilliland

“I LEFT MY HEART IN SAN FRANCISCO” WON THE Grammy for song of the year in 1963. For Norman and Bessie Richards, it was the year they gave their hearts to each other and to a lifetime of ministry in the name of Christ.

Their journey began in the small Arkansas town of Searcy, the “city where thousands live as millions wish they could.” Answering God’s call meant Norman and Bessie had to leave their city of thousands to reach a world where millions live without the gospel of Jesus Christ. Their journey paused in Nashville, Tennessee, (FWBBC); Columbia, South Carolina, (CIU); Paris, France; Lausanne, Switzerland; and, finally, Côte d’Ivoire, West Africa. There, along the eastern border of Côte d’Ivoire, they left their hearts in the name of the Holy One in the town of Agnibilekrou and the surrounding villages.

Year after year they poured themselves into the lives of the Ivorian people. With tender, loving hearts they raised two sons, Gene and Randal, on the African continent among their adopted people. After more than 25 years of service, health challenges made it impossible for them to continue their ministry in the tropics.

The easiest path would have taken them back to Searcy or near one of their sons. But for Norman and Bessie, the easiest path was never an option. Their journey led them from Ivory Coast to six years in Slidell, Louisiana, under the auspices of Free Will

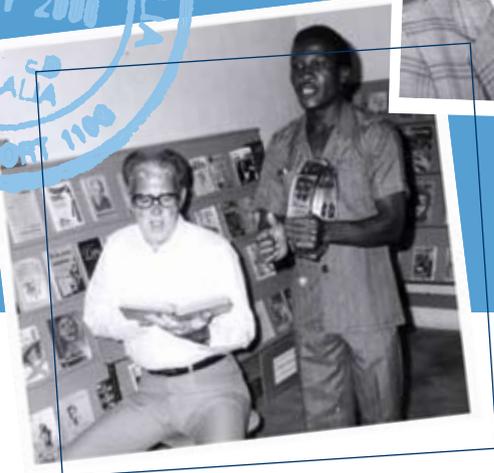
Baptist Home Missions.

Where are they now? What happened to the cute couple from Searcy? Their journey has taken them around the world and back...not to Searcy, but to Nashville, Tennessee. Norman, to no one’s surprise, is again pouring his life into the lives of people as the Minister of Senior Adults and Pastoral Care at Donelson FWB Church. Bessie serves alongside Norman and has been an integral piece of Donelson’s children’s ministry. Their passion for the millions who have not heard continues as they coordinate an ESL (English as a second language) ministry to immigrants.

I suppose I need not mention, they are also grandpa and grandma to four grandchildren.

Frank Sinatra may have left his heart in San Francisco, but Norman and Bessie Richards continue to leave their hearts around the world. Searcy can be proud, and so are we. □

*Neil Gilliland serves as Director of Member Care for the Free Will Baptist International Missions Department.*



**Pictured:** Scenes from the Richards' ministry in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa.



Photo: Mark Cowart

# INTERSECT

WHERE THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

## LET ME GET THIS STORY STRAIGHT

**IT HAS BEEN AROUND FOR 2,000** years. You would think that after such a long time and seeing its power change millions of lives we'd have it straight by now. What am I talking about? The gospel—the good news of how Jesus Christ changes lives.

Sadly, though, many still discount or even distort the simple message. In our age of political correctness when we act as though no one has the “right” to be offended, some want to blunt the edge of Christ’s gospel.

### “Cosmic Child Abuse”?

Consider, for example, Steve Chalke’s approach in *The Lost Message of Jesus*:

“How then, have we come to believe that at the cross this God of love suddenly decides to vent his anger and wrath on his own Son?” If this were the case, he suggests that God would be guilty of “cosmic child abuse” in “punishing his Son for an offense he has not even committed.” If Jesus suffered for our sins, the cross would be “a personal act of violence perpetrated by God towards humankind but borne by his Son,” making “a mockery of Jesus’ own teaching to love your enemies and to refuse to repay evil with evil” (182–183).

So just how have we come to believe that Christ died for our sins? We have received it from the very mouth of God in His own infallible Word, that’s how. The fact is, He is an absolutely holy God who will not excuse our sin, our violation of His holiness.

Indeed, God’s wrath falls upon us in our sin. “The wrath of God abides” on all who do not trust Christ, John’s Gospel teaches.

If that offends our smug, fragile pop culture sensibility, where no one’s to blame for anything, so be it! God is angry with sin, and He will pour out His wrath upon sinners—unless....

### Saved from Wrath

Enter the gospel of Christ. Jesus’ death was not a “sudden” decision, as Chalke claims, and to label it “a form of cosmic child abuse” borders on blasphemy. He, God, made Jesus to be sin for us—the Jesus who never sinned—so we might be made the righteousness of God in Jesus, Paul explains.

The formal word describing what Jesus did is “propitiation.” He suffered God’s wrath for us, satisfying God’s demand for total holiness in the punishment of sin. That’s how much God loves us; but that’s also how much He loves His holiness. When we trust Christ, His righteousness becomes ours, shielding us from wrath and judgment. God returns evil with grace, not with more evil.

That’s good news—the best news a person will ever hear! Paul said in the first chapter of Galatians that we had better get the story straight. Eternal destinies are at stake if we veer off course about the gospel just as certainly as if we never took the message to those who need it. An altered gospel, like one withheld, is no gospel at all. □

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

## CUBAN ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 65 YEARS



**PINAR DEL RIO, CUBA**—Christians celebrated the 65th anniversary of the FWB work in Cuba during their annual association meeting, February 20–24. The meeting was held at Cedars of Lebanon Seminary in Pinar. Regional Director Stan Bunch and Director of Field Operations Steve Lytle attended the conference. Kathleen Willey Peterson was also present. Although each of these invited guests spoke during the conference, the majority of the preaching was by young, recent graduates from the Bible institute.

The theme for the five-day conference was “Los Que Bajo el Guano Adoramos” (We Who Worshipped Under the Thatched



Roof), referencing the chapel building on the seminary property that was used until the early 1990s.

Presentations honored previous generations—those who helped Pop and Mom Willey found the FWB work and those who labored alone during the 25 years of isolation from the outside world. But Cubans aren’t living in the past. They also celebrated new church plants within traditional areas of work and at least 12 churches planted in three of the eastern provinces. Their reports indicate a total of 24 new mission works on the island and the average Sunday School attendance increased by almost 600 people in 2006.



### FOUR BAPTIZED IN CAMPINAS

**CAMPINAS, BRAZIL**—Four people acknowledged their commitment to Christ through baptism on Sunday, March 18, at the First FWB Church in Campinas, Brazil. Pastor Lucas immersed two teens and two adult women.

The teens, Evandro and Paula, are the great-grandchildren of Waldemar Daminelli, the first pastor of the church.

### A GREAT COMMISSION REVOLUTION

**ANTIOCH, TN**—International Missions and Home Missions are combining efforts to sponsor *A Great Commission Revolution* in Little Rock. The joint missions rally at the National Association of Free Will Baptists will be both informative and inspirational. Three Free Will Baptist pastors will share their innovative—even revolutionary—approaches to fulfilling the Great Commission.

Jim McAllister, pastor of Harmony FWB Church in Fresno, CA, will share “A Cross-Cultural Revolution.” Learn about the ways Harmony Church reaches out to various people groups to share the gospel in their Jerusalem. God has brought the nations to their doorstep and Harmony is reaching them.

Bobby Ferguson, pastor of First FWB in Houston, TX, has led his people to reach out to their Judea and Samaria through “A Church Multiplication Revolution.” The people of First Church had a burden to multiply their efforts and four churches later—they have.

Karl Sexton, pastor of Gateway FWB in Virginia Beach, VA, will share how his people are inspired to do their part in reaching the ends of the earth through “A Missions Conference Revolution.” Gateway is mobilizing to impact the world and God is honoring their efforts.

Come, learn how revolutionary obedience to the Great Commission can change your church. All three pastors will speak and then participate in a question-and-answer panel discussion. No conference attendee will want to miss it!



## GOOD NEWS TRAVELS

**CHITRÉ, PANAMA**—Members of the Good News FWB Church in Chitré, Panama, know the gospel is to be shared. Several newer converts have family ties to the mountain village of El Barrero. Although many of the residents of the small town have been exposed to the gospel through Christian family members or radio and television, there is no evangelical work in the town and no evangelistic outreach has ever been attempted there.

However, March 16–18, 2007, members of the church took the good news to El Barrero. The campaign was held in the front yard of the Mendoza family. An average of 60 people attended nightly.

At the end of the three-day outreach, 15 people had accepted Christ as Savior, including the 82-year-old man who hosted the meetings. Mr. Mendoza's son and daughter-in-law were also among the new converts.

Some villagers have offered to donate land for a small church building. Immediate plans are to have periodic services in homes, and seek God's direction for future ministry.

This is the second mountain town the Chitré church has reached with the gospel this year. The congregation is continuing monthly outreach events in El Capurí, a village where the gospel had never been preached.

## CELEBRATE! WITH US

**ANTIOCH, TN**—Free Will Baptist International Missions is hosting *Celebrate!* at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 17, in Little Rock, AR. This inaugural event offers an exciting format, combining a delicious evening meal with the sights and sounds of international cultures.

Share a table with a missionary. Hear moving stories of God's amazing power to change lives. View never-before-seen footage of Free Will Baptist ministry around the world. Revitalize your vision of the Great Commission.

*Celebrate!* the progress made in spreading the gospel over the last few years. Feel the excitement as you hear stories of breakthrough ministries on our fields. See the faces of the enormous wave of people seeking to share God's love with unreached peoples. *Celebrate!* God's work with us during this interactive event.

Tickets may be purchased (\$30) when preregistering for the National Association, or may be ordered directly from FWBIM (615) 760-6120 or [kiley@fwbgo.com](mailto:kiley@fwbgo.com).



## INDIA ASSOCIATION MEETS

**SONAPURHAT, INDIA**—Somewhere between 5,500 and 6,000 people celebrated God's blessing on His work in India at the 56th annual FWB conference in Sonapurhat, India, March 8–11.

Daily activities began at 5:30 a.m. each morning with personal devotions, followed by group devotions, and breakfast. A Bible class and morning worship service rounded out pre-lunch activities. A business meeting was held each afternoon.

The evening service began at 6:30 p.m., usually concluding by 9:30. Dinner was served immediately after the evening service allowing attendees to be in bed by midnight. The people seemed to thrive on the full day of meetings.

Missionary Carlisle Hanna and the Indian pastors spent much advance work to prepare the worship, eating, and sleeping facilities



for the vast throng. A spirit of joy and heart-felt worship was evident during the services.

A highlight of the conference was the annual Sunday morning baptismal service. This year 44 people (24 men and 20 women) publicly professed their faith in Christ through baptism.

# What MASTER'S MEN Means To Me

Members of local Master's Men chapters share their thoughts about the ministry of Master's Men



Master's Men is a ministry of action more than words!

WHEN KEN AKERS ASKED ME TO explain what Master's Men means to me, I thought it would be an easy task. Before long, I realized that the ministry of Master's Men is complex and of great importance—not only to me, but to my local church and the denomination as well. This ministry helps men fulfill their God-given roles as spiritual leaders in their church and homes. The

I believe the Lord purposely planted Master's Men in my local church—just for me. Through Master's Men, He continues to mold and shape me into the man He wants me to be.

history of Master's Men in my own church provides a great example!

When I first began attending First FWB Church, Austintown, Ohio, in 1995, the church had no organized men's ministry. A well attended monthly men's breakfast, however, suggested the need for one. Our local chapter was established in early 1998.

Since that time, Master's Men has become a strong, vital arm of ministry in our church. We sponsor annual church events for our congregation and the entire community, take care of the church grounds, and complete small tasks for widows and the disabled. Although the pastor has an inner circle of deacons who aid him physically, mentally, and spiritually, Master's Men makes his circle of support much larger. We pray for him and for each other on a daily basis, sharing struggles, concerns, and problems. We hold one another accountable, and during monthly meetings, we study and grow in God's Word by using Direction Bible Studies published by Master's Men. These excellent studies address important topics relevant to Christian men, helping us to become the men God wants us to be.

So, back to the original question, "What does Master's Men mean to me?" Simply put, Master's Men shows me the nature of God, assures me of His love, and allows me to see the mercy and grace He so willingly extends to me—all while building relationships with other Christian men. My faith in Jesus Christ has grown through the in-

fluence of Master's Men. That growth enables me to share the Good News boldly with the lost around me. Master's Men is a ministry of action more than words, speaking loudly through the way I live. Master's Men teaches me to be a real man, yet reminds me that I can do nothing in and of myself. Jesus is my strength. Through Him, nothing is impossible.

Master's Men constantly reminds me that real men are monogamous, completely devoted to their wives and families. I have learned to keep my relationships in order of priority with God first, family second, and ministry third.

I believe the Lord purposely planted Master's Men in my local church—just for me. Through Master's Men, He continues to mold and shape me into the man He wants me to be. Don't let your church miss out on the blessing of Master's Men!

**William "Bill" Saltsman**  
First FWB Church, Austintown, Ohio

Heritage FWB Church, Columbus, Ohio, began as a Master's Men chapter in 2004. Since that time, Master's Men has been instrumental in helping the

## What Can Master's Men Do for Your Church?

- Provides Fellowship
- Builds Accountability
- Promotes Bible Study
- Stimulates Spiritual Growth
- Revives Evangelism
- Realigns Priorities
- Emphasizes Family Values
- Teaches Men How to Be Better Christians

Heritage men's group in two key ways: fellowship and holiness. Master's Men provided resources that helped our men's group quickly implement activities and allowed the men of our church to engage in greater fellowship. Our relationships are no longer limited to the brief exchanges and hellos on Sunday and Wednesday. Now, the men of Heritage have regular times of fellowship where we get to know each other, share our burdens, and discuss topics relevant to Christian men.

We have also enjoyed the excellent Bible study resources offered by Master's Men. At each monthly fellowship breakfast, the Master's Men chaplain prepares a devotion from the Direction Bible Study Series. Each lesson is uniquely geared toward issues facing Christian men today. The Bible study helps our men to grow in holiness and faith in God through Jesus Christ. These materials are a tremendous testimony to the ministry of Master's Men, focused on the spiritual development of Christian men everywhere.

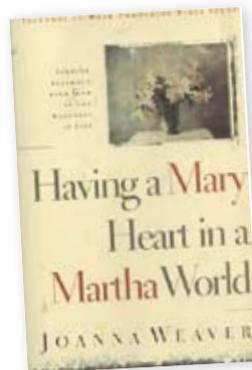
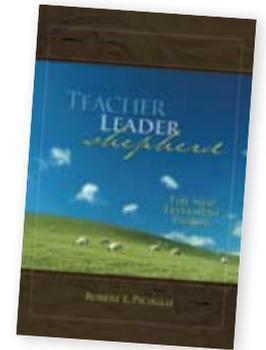
**Clay Burgett**  
Heritage FWB Church, Columbus, Ohio

## **Teacher, Leader, Shepherd: The New Testament Pastor** by Robert E. Picirilli ISBN 0892655690 Price \$12.99

*Teacher, Leader, Shepherd* is not a how-to book for pastors. Instead, it is an examination of the New Testament's teaching on the pastor's role in the church. Picirilli, who taught Greek and New Testament at Free Will Baptist Bible College for more than forty years, examines the passages that pertain to the pastoral office.

While the author takes an exegetical approach to the passages considered, he includes practical exposition of the implications of those texts. His discussion of the pastor's call, qualifications, and role is grounded in a careful exegesis of the relevant passages.

This volume will benefit those who are just entering the pastoral ministry as well as those who have pastored for many years.



## **Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World: Finding Intimacy With God in the Busyness of Life** By Joanna Weaver ISBN 1578562589 Price \$13.99

This book is written for every woman who feels she isn't godly enough, loving enough, or doing enough. Like Mary, many women desire to sit at the Lord's feet. Yet the hectic routine of their daily life seems to make intimacy with the Lord nothing more than a dream. Others, like Martha, love Jesus and want to serve Him. Weariness, resentment, and feelings of inadequacy—fruits of a frantic lifestyle—make such service seem almost impossible.

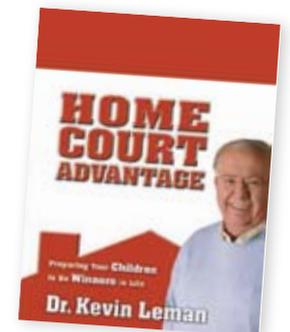
Author and pastor's wife, Joanna Weaver shows Marys and Marthas alike how they can deepen their devotion for the Lord while strengthening their service of Him. By following her creative, practical strategies, those women who choose "the better part" will experience "living-room" intimacy with the Lord that flows naturally into "kitchen" service for Him.

## **Home Court Advantage: Preparing Your Children to Be Winners in Life** By Kevin Leman ISBN 1589972074 Price \$22.99

Kevin Leman observed that "Hanging out with their families" was the top choice given by U.S. teens for where they would like most to spend more time. Yet well-meaning parents continue to sign their kids up for every available activity—music lessons, ballet, choir, one or two sports a season, and academic enrichment programs—in record numbers. The result? Kids are raised by teachers, day cares, coaches, and peers.

Leman's belief that "Time together at home as a family is the foundation upon which security and stability are built in your children" is the basis of this practical book. His book is full of helpful items such as "Ten Keys to 'Home Court' Character" and "Practical Suggestions for Family Meals, Significant Time Together, and more."

*Home Court Advantage* is both entertaining and informative. Leman's wit and wisdom sparkle throughout, making this an invaluable tool for harried parents.



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



# conversation with the Emerging Church

BY KEVIN RIGGS

# Two Views

**POSTMODERNISM**—that hard-to-define, cultural shift away from absolute truth to relative thinking—is not a four-letter word. Postmodernism is not the quintessential sign that the end is near. It does not mean God is dead, Christianity is on life-support, or the church is no longer relevant. Quite the contrary!

## Blessing in Disguise?

Postmodernism is a blessing in disguise. How can I make such a bold statement? Biblically, I can say so because Jesus said He would build His church in such a way that even the gates of Hell (postmodernism included) would not prevail against it. Practically, however, I have another reason for such a claim. But in order to understand postmodernism as a blessing one must first understand a recent shift in 21st century thought.

To put it simply, since the days of Acts, at no time in history have people been as open to God as today. Yet those same open minds are closed to traditional organizations like the church. The postmodern mind is tired of status quo and suspicious of most things organized. The very reason postmodernism can lead to nihilism (no objective basis for truth) and existentialism (each individual is responsible for his or her own destiny) is because society has seen the failures of traditional structures and is looking for something (anything) to take its place. Today's generation is tired of facts, figures, and a nicely put together apologetic.

People today are looking for something real, meaningful, and lasting. In their search, they are willing to accept messy paradoxes, even contradictions. Now, like no time since the days of the Apostles, disciples of Jesus have an opportunity to show the world what a differ-

ence following Jesus makes, the good, the bad, and the ugly—without having to know all the answers. In spite of postmodernity, the fields are still white unto harvest. Peter told the church to “be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” Peter’s admonition is as relevant today as it has ever been.

While the modern mindset shouted “prove it,” the postmodern mind whispers, “live it.” The modern mind stumbled over the miraculous and supernatural (prove the existence of God; prove the virgin birth; prove the infallibility of Scripture; prove the resurrection; etc...) while the postmodern mind embraces—even longs for—the miraculous and supernatural. In the past, unbelievers were introduced to a good apologetic for the faith and then applied that truth to their lives. Today, many people want to know, “Does it work?” or “What difference will Jesus make in my life?” before they examine the deeper question of “why.” Their thinking leaves the doors open wide for every believer to share his or her faith and to live his faith.

In a postmodern world, the differences between Christian and non-Christian are more obvious, attracting the person looking for meaning and purpose in life. For years we have preached that following Jesus is about relationship, not religion. Postmoderns are looking for—above everything else—a real, genuine, authentic, growing relationship.

## A New Church Emerges

The emergent (emerging) church was born out of a deep desire to present the gospel in a way that would reach and impact our changing culture. Initially, it was a

# what is Truth?

BY KEVIN HESTER

WHEN PILATE ASKED JESUS, “What is truth?” he echoed a question that had dogged humanity since Eden. Twenty centuries later, humanity is still asking the same question. It is one of the basic questions of human nature, what F. Leroy Forlines refers to as one of the “inescapable questions of life.” And the answer to the question forms the foundation of one’s worldview. Over the past quarter century, however, the popular answer to the question has changed and with it the dominant worldview. Modernism, which asserts that absolutes can only be found through observation, has slowly given way to postmodernism. Postmodernism rejects absolutes entirely—the concept that objective truth does not exist. “Truth” is not discovered but rather formed in communities as a means of discourse.

As a result, society has undergone a shift in the way people understand truth. Although subtle societal change is normal and expected, some implications of the postmodern understanding of truth are disturbing. How should the Church respond? Some evangelicals argue that the church should embrace postmodernity in order to fulfill the great commission. Others vehemently argue that to do so would be to forfeit the gospel itself. Like most battles in the “culture war,” the answer to this question is more difficult than it may appear on the surface. As a historical theologian, I believe we can answer this question only when we understand how the two views of truth came about.

## The History of Truth

In the years before Pilate, humanity sought for truth. Two different schools of thought were prevalent in the

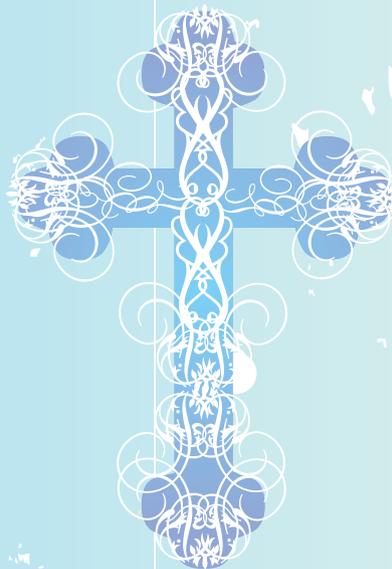
ancient world. The Jewish tradition saw truth as *hoqhma*, the wisdom of God bound in the nature of God Himself. Truth was found in acknowledging God and a desire for right living. This response is demonstrated by The Preacher’s statement in the last chapter of Ecclesiastes, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” Around the same time, however, Greek philosophers argued that truth was most appropriately found in understanding the nature of the world. They believed that observation and logical deduction leads to the discovery of truth.

Early church theologians Jerome and Augustine merged the two schools of thought. They asserted that God Himself was truth—a truth made known in the person and work of Jesus. Their training in classical Greek, however, brought them to realize that truth could be found in other ways. They admitted that even pagans could understand some aspects of truth through observation and reason. Augustine argued that no matter how truth is discovered, “all truth is God’s truth.”

Following in their footsteps, Thomas Aquinas argued for two books of truth. The book of nature could be glimpsed through observation and reason. The book of revelation (which he viewed as higher and more authoritative) contained truth available only through God’s special revelation. Such division laid the groundwork for the medieval understanding of theology as the pinnacle of all arts, the surest means of discovering truth. This understanding of truth continued through the Protestant reformers and can be found in the writings of Luther and Calvin among others.

{For a fully annotated version of this article in downloadable format, please visit [www.onemag.org/two\\_views.htm](http://www.onemag.org/two_views.htm).}

The emerging church did not spring from the walls of liberal academia. It took root in trials and errors of disillusioned evangelical ministers trying to reach a segment of the population that did not respond to the gospel.



As the Modernist utopia crumbled in a 20<sup>th</sup> century pockmarked by world wars, genocide, AIDS, and terrorism, people realized its utter failure to fulfill its promises.

{For a fully annotated version of this article in downloadable format, please visit [www.onemag.org/two\\_views.htm](http://www.onemag.org/two_views.htm).}

■ knee-jerk reaction to the paradigm shifts of the late 20th century. On the surface, the emerging church is neither right nor wrong, good or bad, but simply an effort to live out the gospel in a postmodern context. However, like most movements, the emergent church offers glimmers of hope, great challenges, and more than a little danger to the body of Christ.

Defining the emerging church (both what it is and what it is not) is difficult at best and impossible at worst.<sup>8</sup> However, we can identify several general characteristics of this movement, summarized briefly below:

(1) **Missional:** The emerging church takes Christ's challenge to "go into all the world" seriously. The goal of the mission, however, includes not only individual salvation, but cultural (and environmental) redemption as well.

(2) **Flexible:** Rather than observing a strict ecclesiology, the emerging church prefers a decentralized form of religion, leaving local churches free to form their own community values.

(3) **Narrative:** The emerging church compares following Jesus to a journey. As a result, many teachers embrace narrative (story telling) to emphasize faith, and prefer group Bible study over preaching.

(4) **Dialogue:** The emergent church places high value on asking questions and looking at things from different angles. At the same time, however, the emerging church does not deny the existence of absolute truth. They simply believe that understanding truth is not as easy (or as clear cut) as the modern mind assumed. Adherents of the emergent church emphasize the importance of dialogue (opposed to creeds and formulas) for

those living in a post-Christian era.

(5) **Vintage Faith:** According to voices within the group, the emerging church seeks to recover the basics of what it means to live and worship in Christian community, based on Acts 2. In one sense, the term "vintage faith" is the polar opposite of the every popular "seeker-driven" movement that attempts to reconcile popular culture with today's church. As a result, the arts, symbols, icons, and ordinances are highly valued in corporate worship.

The emerging church did not spring from the walls of liberal academia. It took root in trials and errors of disillusioned evangelical ministers trying to reach a segment of the population that did not respond to the gospel. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, evangelical churches were efficient in reaching the modern mind. While mega-churches connected with these young, urban professionals, those born after 1965 showed little interest in the latest methods or programs. The generation sought a new way to follow Jesus. Their question was, "What does it really mean to be a Christian?"

Over time, some of the doctrinal beliefs (or lack of beliefs) of those within the emerging church have been questioned, and rightly so. But it is important to remember that the emerging church emerged out of evangelicalism—not liberalism. It was an attempt to contextualize the gospel for a postmodern age trying to reach a generation of people who had become indifferent toward the church. □

*Dr. Kevin Riggs pastors Franklin Community (FWB) Church in Franklin, Tennessee. He may be contacted at [revkevfcc@yahoo.com](mailto:revkevfcc@yahoo.com).*

## Truth in Flux

With the rise of the Enlightenment and the birth of science, things began to change. The two books of Aquinas were radically divided into truth that could be discovered through observation (science) and beliefs available through revelation (theology). In time, however, observation came to be seen as the only means of sure truth. This movement was promoted by the thought of philosophers David Hume and Immanuel Kant.

Kant further divided science and philosophy into different schools of thought. Science continued to base itself on the belief that observation was the only means to truth. Spurred on by greater and greater advances in discovery and technique, Empiricism became the basis for Modernism. As more problems were solved, Modernism became optimistic that all challenges facing human civilization could be rectified by science, that the world was steadily progressing toward utopia.

While science marched onward, philosophy struggled to respond. An early attempt to answer Kant's critique of reason was Existentialism. Existentialism capitulated to Kant, arguing that meaning and truth could only be found through a "leap of faith." Others said that if we can examine aspects of truth over a long period of time in a particular culture we ought to be able to accurately examine certain truth claims. When this task proved too difficult Nihilism argued a position of absolute skepticism.

Philosophy ultimately concluded that "truth" was a human construction, learned in community and determined by individual will. Rather than truth being de-

finied by agreement with reality (objective truth), truth was defined by individual understanding. It was therefore malleable and indeterminate beyond the personal sphere. Individual beliefs were no longer based on earlier more basic concepts (foundationalism) but seen as a complex web of independent but connected ideas. Systemic inconsistency was no longer an indication of error but an enigma to be celebrated.

## Return to Truth

As the Modernist utopia crumbled in a 20th century pockmarked by world wars, genocide, AIDS, and terrorism, people realized its utter failure to fulfill its promises. They became disenchanted with Modernism's claims, yet when they turned to philosophy they literally found nothing. Truth had been diminished to the simple perception of the knower. Enter postmodern thinking.

Post-moderns live in a broken world awash in a sea of "truths." They search for meaning and significance, doubting all previous hierarchies of power and knowledge but finding only the Existentialism and Nihilism from which postmodernism sprang. The blessing of postmodernism, if there is one, is that people are ready—now more than ever—to hear the Christian answer to the question, "what is truth?" Post-moderns do not have the same prejudices as their modernist parents. They are looking for community, authenticity, and transcendence. If the Church can present Christianity in this way, postmoderns will come to see Jesus as the only "way, TRUTH, and life." □

*Dr. Kevin Hester teaches in the Biblical and Ministry Studies Department at Free Will Baptist Bible College.*

## Comments on the Emerging Church by J. Matthew Pinson, Part One

### What the Emerging Church Does Right.

The Emerging Church (EC—broader than "Emergent," which denies evangelical orthodoxy) rightly criticizes an outdated seeker-sensitive evangelicalism for substituting entertainment for worship, marketing for evangelism, big business CEOs for shepherds, and psychotherapy for preaching. The EC critiques the Baby Boomer church for being too tied to modern culture. Yet the EC seems to have tethered itself just as closely to postmodern culture.

### What the Emerging Church Does Wrong.

The EC manifests one of the central problems it criticizes in Boomer Christianity: consumerism. ECs are in danger of catering to postmodern consumer tastes, which have been shaped by the secular culture (e.g., many ECs resemble dark, twenty-something night clubs with college music and a smattering of candles and icons). "I'm the seeker now. Be sensitive to me!" Rather than mimic the secular culture, the healthy church of the future will resist tying the gospel to the trends of this passing evil age (1 Jo. 2:17; Gal. 1:4).

### What the Emerging Church Misses.

The early EC appeared to be interested in authentic Christian tradition. Now it seems dilettante-like, picking and choosing among mystical medieval rituals and spiritualities that seem cool. We need to encourage our young people to move beyond what is cool at the moment, tying themselves to the Scriptures and historic Christian teaching and practice. This will free them to tap in to the spirit of the age to come rather than wedding Christianity to the spirit of this present evil age.

*J. Matthew Pinson is the president of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, TN.*

# We go to the Rock

71st Free Will Baptist National Convention  
Little Rock, Arkansas – July 15-18, 2007



Three days, one city, thousands of Free Will Baptists! The seventy-first National Association will be marked by powerful preaching, heartfelt worship, and renewed friendship. Join the excitement in Little Rock. For more information about the convention, safety guidelines, and pre-registration, visit [www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org).

## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE—NATIONAL CONVENTION

### SATURDAY, JULY 14

**Impact Little Rock**  
Various Locations  
8:00 am – 6:00 pm

**Registration Opens**  
3:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
Statehouse Convention Center  
Atrium Lobby

### SUNDAY, JULY 15

**Registration (Open Daily)**  
8:00 am – 7:00 pm

**Sunday School**  
10:00 am – 10:45 am  
Statehouse Convention Center

**Morning Worship**  
11:00 am – 12:00 Noon  
Statehouse Convention Center

**Evening Worship**  
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
Statehouse Convention Center

### MONDAY, JULY 16

**General Board Meeting**  
8:00 am – 2:30 pm  
Peabody Hotel

#### NYC Competitive Activities

8:30 am – 4:30 pm  
Peabody Hotel

#### NYC Seminars

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Peabody Hotel

#### WNAC Seminar

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
Peabody Hotel

#### Theological Trends Seminar

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
Robinson Center

#### Missions Rally

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Robinson Center

#### Exhibits Open

3:00 pm – 10:30 pm  
Statehouse Convention Center

#### Benjamin Randall Appreciation Dinner

5:15 pm – 6:30 pm  
Peabody Hotel

#### Evening Worship

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
Statehouse Convention Center

### TUESDAY, JULY 17

#### NYC Competitive Activities

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

#### WNAC Convention

8:30 am – 10:30 am  
Statehouse Convention Center

#### Pastors/Laymen Conference

10:00 am – 12:00 noon  
Robinson Center

#### NYC Seminars

8:00 am – 5:00 pm  
Peabody Hotel

#### Exhibits Open

10:00 am – 10:30 pm  
Statehouse Convention Center

#### WNAC Missionary Service

10:30 am – 11:30 am  
Statehouse Convention Center

#### WNAC Fellowship Luncheon

12:00 noon – 2:00 pm  
Doubletree Hotel

#### Convention Business Session

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm  
Statehouse Convention Center

#### Music Commission Seminar 1

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Statehouse Convention Center

#### International Missions Dinner

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm  
Doubletree Hotel

#### Evening Worship

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
Statehouse Convention Center

#### Hillsdale College Reception

9:00 pm – 10:30 pm  
Peabody Hotel

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

#### NYC Competition Finals

8:00 am – 11:00 am  
Robinson Center

#### NYC Seminars

8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Peabody Hotel

#### Convention Business Session

9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Statehouse Convention Center

#### Music Commission Seminar 2

9:00 am – 11:00 am  
Statehouse Convention Center

#### Exhibits Open

10:00 am – 10:30 pm  
Statehouse Convention Center

#### Music Commission Seminar 3

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Statehouse Convention Center

#### FWBBC Alumni Luncheon

12:00 noon – 1:15 pm  
Doubletree Hotel

#### Evening Worship

6:45 pm – 8:30 pm  
Statehouse Convention Center

#### NYC Awards Ceremony

9:00 pm – 11:00 pm  
Robinson Center

# CONVENTION WORSHIP AND PREACHING CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



**Sunday Morning**  
Sunday School  
Mark Paschall (MI)



**Sunday Evening**  
Joe Grizzle (OK)



**Tuesday Morning**  
Pastors/Lay Conference  
Paul Smith (FL)



**Tuesday Evening**  
Wendell Walley (CA)



**Sunday Morning**  
Roy W. Harris (TN)



**Monday Evening**  
Eddie Moody (NC)



**Tuesday Morning**  
Pastors/Lay Conference  
David Crowe (TN)



**Wednesday Evening**  
Nelson Henderson (AR)



PHOTO: Conference Director Roy Harris shares a moment with Josh Riggs.

**A GREAT COMMISSION REVOLUTION** International Missions and Home Missions are combining efforts to sponsor A Great Commission Revolution in Little Rock. The joint missions rally will be both informative and inspirational. Three Free Will Baptist pastors will share their innovative—even revolutionary—approaches to fulfilling the Great Commission.

# Nominees for Standing Boards & Commissions

## HOME MISSIONS BOARD

**2013 Matt Upton (CA)**, pastor, Discovery FWBC, Stockton

**Jerry Atwell (MS)**, deacon, First FWBC, Amory

**Bobby Shepherd (AR)**, pastor, First FWBC, Batesville

## BOARD OF RETIREMENT & INSURANCE

**2013 Rick Cason (NC)**, pastor, Victory FWBC, Goldsboro

**Craig Cook (TN)**, member, Donelson FWBC, Nashville

**Jack Ward (NC)**, pastor, Swannanoa FWBC; director, Western FWB Rest Home, Candler, NC

## MASTER'S MEN BOARD

**2013 Ken Oleson (OK)**, member, Sunnyside FWBC, Del City; officer, Oklahoma state board; firefighter, Del City

**Jason Vinson (AL)**, member, Red Bay FWBC; grocery store manager

**Rudy Taylor (MI)**, member, First FWBC, Pontiac; former president, Michigan Master's Men

## FWB FOUNDATION TRUSTEES BOARD

**2013 Brian Hurst (TN)**, Nashville, TN

**Donnie Miles (SC)**, pastor, Peace FWBC, Florence

**Wendell Walley (CA)**, president, California Christian College

## COMM. FOR THEOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

**2012 Leroy Forlines (TN)**, professor emeritus, Theology Department, FWB Bible College, Nashville

## HISTORICAL COMMISSION

**2012 Jack Williams (TN)**, director of communications, FWB Bible College, Nashville

## MEDIA COMMISSION

**2009 Keith Fletcher (TN)**, director of the Digital Division, Randall House Publications, Nashville

**2012 Kevin Norris (MI)**, member, First FWBC, Chesterfield, MI

## MUSIC COMMISSION

**2012 Doug Little (TN)**, director of mobilization, International Missions Department

## GENERAL BOARD

**2009 Oklahoma - Mike Wade**, executive director, Oklahoma State Office

**2010 Alabama - Rick Cash**, promotional director, Alabama State Office

**Arizona - Charles Marshall**, pastor, Pinnacle Peak Community FWBC, Peoria

**Arkansas - Tim Campbell**, executive director, Arkansas State Office; member, Executive Committee, National Association; president, Arkansas Faith and Ethics Council; member, Advisory Board, International Missions Department

**Association of Mexico - Luis Felipe Tijerina**, moderator

**Atlantic-Canada - Fred Hanson**, pastor, Plaster Rock FWBC; promotional director, Atlantic Canada District Office

**California - Millard Sasser**, pastor, Sherwood Forest FWBC, El Sobrante

**Colorado - Mark Thomas**, home missionary

**Florida - Paul Smith**, pastor, First FWBC, Chipley

**Georgia - Len Blanchard**, pastor, Shallowford FWBC, Marietta

**Idaho - Earl Jenkins**, pastor, Buhl FWBC, Buhl

**Illinois - David Shores**, pastor, First FWBC, Mt. Vernon; promotional secretary, Illinois State Office

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**2009 Mike Wade (OK)**, executive director, Oklahoma State Office

**2010 Rick Cash (AL)**  
**Tim Campbell (AR)**  
**Fred Hanson (CAN)**

## GENERAL OFFICERS

**Moderator Tim York (TN)**, pastor, Woodbine FWBC, Nashville

**Assistant Moderator William Smith (GA)**, executive secretary, Georgia State Office

**Clerk Randy Bryant (FL)**, pastor, Ryanwood Fellowship FWBC, Vero Beach; executive secretary, Florida State Office

**Assistant Clerk Ernie Lewis (IL)**, pastor, Blue Point FWBC, Cisne

## 2007 CONVENTION ORCHESTRA

Sign up as soon as possible for the 2007 Convention Orchestra. "We invite anyone from ninth grade up to participate," says Chris Truett, convention music coordinator. The ensemble will accompany congregational and choir selections during the convention. Rehearsal times are 4:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. daily.

Participants should send name, address, phone number, and church to:

**Chris Truett**  
**1936 Banks School Rd.**  
**Kinston, NC 28504**

**PHONE: (252) 522-2451**  
**EMAIL: [ctruett@bethelfwb.com](mailto:ctruett@bethelfwb.com)**

Send information by June 15 so music can be mailed. Please specify instrument(s) and years of experience. **All singers are invited to join the Convention Choir** for rehearsal on Sunday afternoon at 5:00 on the convention stage.



# Travel Light

72ND WNAC CONVENTION – July 16-17, 2007

## CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

- **Pastor's wives, prepare to be pampered** at our Monday seminar.
- **On Tuesday, "travel" to Central Asia**, catch a glimpse of recent Christmas Joy efforts and enjoy the music of Promise (Zavet) a young men's group from Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- **Luba Kutratova will share her passion for God** and for her country at the WNAC Fellowship Luncheon. Get your tickets early. This is sure to be a sell-out event.
- **Tommy and Pam Jones will share their burden** for the greater Pittsburgh region during the missions service.



## SPEAKERS

**Luba Kutratova**, Almaty, Kazakhstan  
**Tommy and Pam Jones**, Pittsburgh, PA  
**Bobby Ferguson**, Houston TX  
**Jim McAllister**, Fresno, CA  
**Karl Sexton**, Virginia Beach, VA

## FEATURED MUSICIANS

**ZAVET (Promise)**, Almaty, Kazakhstan  
**4-Given**, Hot Springs, AR

# National Youth Conference

FIRST THINGS FIRST - MATTHEW 6:33



## SPEAKERS

**Joey Postlewaite** (AR)  
**Jason Nichols** (AR)  
**Gowdy Cannon** (IL)  
**Casey Cariker** (OK)  
**Christian Powell** (NC)

## CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

**Reach That Guy** service projects include the following:

- Red Cross Blood Drive
- Union Rescue Mission
- Crittenton Home
- Salvation Army
- Habitat For Humanity

Get more information by emailing [info@reachthatguy.com](mailto:info@reachthatguy.com)

**Worship Concert** with Michael Boggs, of FFH, Monday, 9:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Order them when you pre-register at [www.nafwb.org](http://www.nafwb.org).

**Revised and updated Competition Guidelines** will be available at the convention. The book will govern the 2008 competition in Charleston, WV.

**National Youth Evangelistic Team 20th Anniversary Reunion** and Rehearsal, Tuesday, 5:00 p.m. A YET program and alumni reunion will be held Tuesday at 9:00 p.m. YET alumni email [SCM@randallhouse.com](mailto:SCM@randallhouse.com).

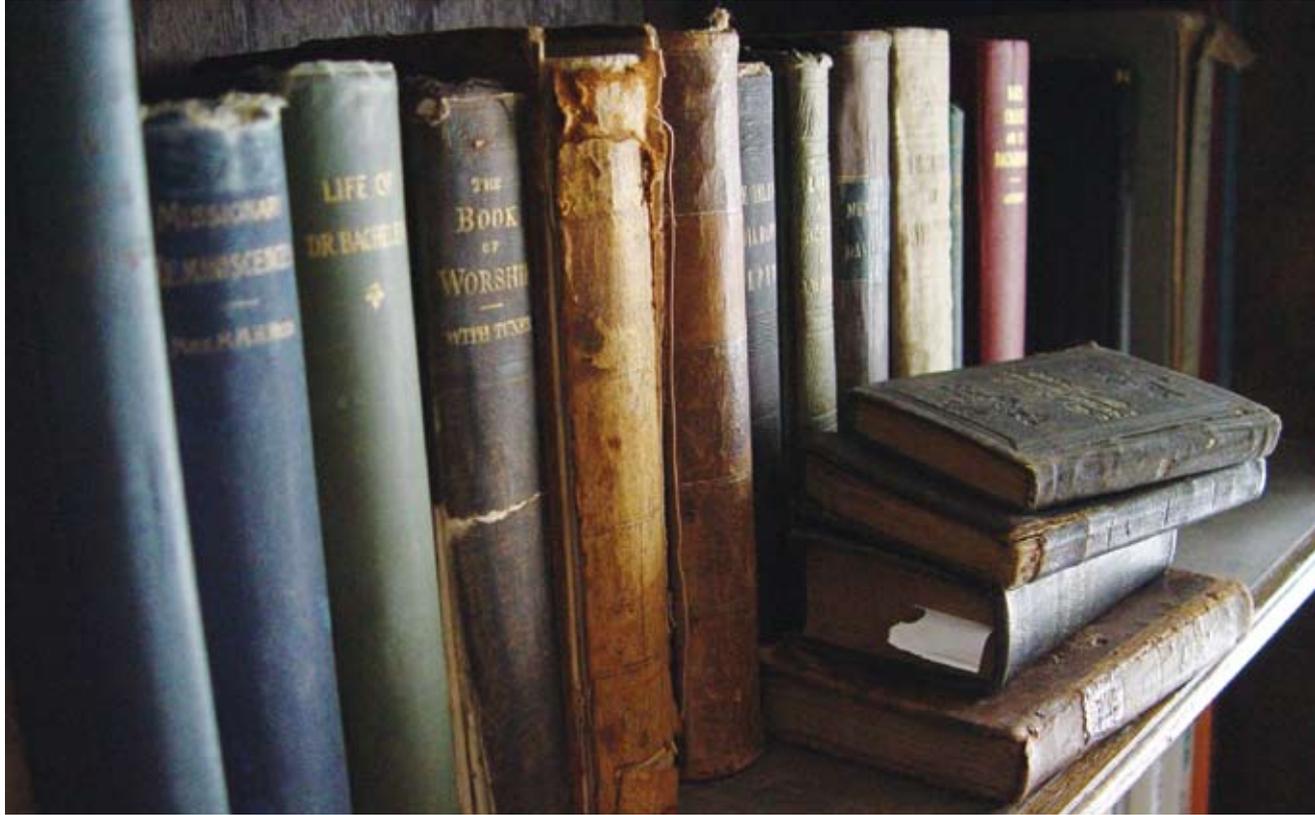
Find the following NYC and competition-related downloads at [www.fwbny.com](http://www.fwbny.com).

- Youth Camp lessons on *First Things First* convention theme
- NYC promotional PowerPoint™
- How to plan a district or state competition
- Bible Memorization Judging Forms
- NYC Judges Application Form
- Youth of the Year Awards info



# MAKING HISTORY

BY ROBERT E. PICIRILLI, FOR THE FWB HISTORICAL COMMISSION



IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THOSE WHO DON'T LEARN from history are destined to repeat its mistakes. I don't know about that, but I do know that good resources are required for meaningful historical research. Free Will Baptists have neglected to collect such resources—and that's a pity.

Historical resources have not been *totally* neglected, of course. A historical collection is maintained at Welch Library on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College. But the archival resources of the college, both in finances and personnel, are limited. Improvements and additions to the collection have not been a high priority.

As a result, the FWB Historical Commission has begun to give more attention to the collection. As a member of that commission, I've volunteered most Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for more than a year, sorting, organizing, and building our holdings.

I have focused on the periodicals in particular—the various regular publications of state organizations and national agencies. The objective is to compile complete sets of these publications and to place them in archival-quality, permanent bindings for better preservation and

easier research. The project requires a great deal of time and financial investment, but the result will be something *ONE* readers can be proud of.

However, many issues are still missing, and *we need to fill in these gaps*. No doubt Free Will Baptists in every state want their state publications to be well-represented in the collection.

We call on Free Will Baptists to check their attics, basements, garages, and closets for back issues of various periodicals published by and for Free Will Baptists anywhere and everywhere. Visit [www.onemag.org/making\\_history.htm](http://www.onemag.org/making_history.htm) for a complete list of what we have and what we need. "Make history" by contributing to the lasting record of Free Will Baptists. If you have periodicals in your possession (or any other FWB publications) **please contact me via email at** [repic@access4less.net](mailto:repic@access4less.net); **by telephone** (615) 297-0183; or **through the mail:** R. E. Picirilli, 301 Greenway Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205. □

*(By the way, we want to form a second set of periodicals for backup purposes, so if you want to "clean out the closet," just send us everything.)*



## FOUNDATION DELIVERS ENDOWMENT EARNINGS

**ANTIOCH, TN**—The Free Will Baptist Foundation delivered more than \$332,000 in endowment earnings to various Free Will Baptist ministries in 2006. The gifts came from endowment funds managed by the Foundation, according to William Evans, director.

For the year 2006 these earnings were delivered to the following ministries:

State and Local Ministries	\$ 155,610
International Missions	\$ 53,353
FWB Family Ministries	\$ 35,228
Free Will Baptist Bible College	\$ 33,739
Board of Retirement	\$ 17,794
Master's Men	\$ 13,441
Home Missions	\$ 9,055
California Christian College	\$ 3,649
The Together Way	\$ 3,445
Hillsdale FWB College	\$ 2,778
Seminary of the Cross	\$ 1,119
ONE Magazine	\$ 1,097
WNAC	\$ 1064
International Fellowship of FWB	\$ 604
FWB Foundation	\$ 280
National Commissions	\$ 175
Randall House	\$ 78
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 332,509</b>

Endowments are permanent gifts invested so that income is available for ministry. These gifts continue to give year after year. The Foundation manages gifts for every national agency and will accept gifts to these endowments in any amount. Over the last ten years, the Foundation has delivered over \$1.3 Million to denominational ministries

For information about endowments, please contact the Foundation at (877) 336-7575 or email [foundation@nafwb.org](mailto:foundation@nafwb.org).

**THE NYC BUCK-A-WEEK** offering will be collected Tuesday evening, July 17, during the youth service in Little Rock. Those not attending the National Youth Conference are encouraged to send their offering by July 10 to

Student & Children's Ministries  
Buck-A-Week  
PO Box 17306  
Nashville, TN 37217

The total will be announced during the Wednesday night missions service during the National Convention and posted online at [www.nycbuckaweek.com](http://www.nycbuckaweek.com). You can have a part in global missions by setting aside a buck a week.

## COLLEGE MOVES FORWARD WITH RELOCATION

**NASHVILLE, TN**—Less than 24 hours after a proposed buyer terminated the contract to purchase the current campus, Free Will Baptist Bible College officials renewed efforts to market the West End campus and relocate the 400-student college in the Greater Nashville area, according to Colonel Mark Johnson, relocation consultant.

"We already had several potential buyers to express interest in the campus," Johnson said. "In the past week, nine have stepped forward. While we're disappointed that the first buyer backed out, other developers are talking with us now. We still hope to relocate to a new campus by the fall of 2009."

FWBBC signed a contract in December 2006 to sell the campus by May 2007 after a due-diligence and inspection period. The buyer notified college officials in mid-March that he would be unable to move forward with the proposed purchase. Later, however, he cited parking concerns during a newspaper interview.

Colonel Johnson said, "We were on track to satisfy parking requirements during the transitional period and had developed a concept plan. We engaged a traffic and parking engineering firm, and were formalizing agreements with neighboring institutions that would meet our needs for parking spaces. We discussed the issue with the metropolitan government codes administrator and traffic and parking engineer, and were assured that this approach would meet all requirements regarding parking."

College officials had been advised by leaders in the real estate market to expect challenges in the contract process, in light of the multi-million dollar price tag.

President Matt Pinson said, "We are undaunted in our relocation efforts. In God's own time, we will locate a buyer and sell the campus. The next interested buyer may be the one to purchase the current campus, or perhaps the buyer after that. We believe it's simply a matter of *when and who*, not *if*."

The college's current facilities satisfy near-term needs and provide for limited growth. Future growth needs, however, in student population and in undergraduate and graduate programs, will require a larger campus.

## REGISTRATION AT FWB COLLEGES TRENDS UPWARD

**ANTIOCH, TN**—According to the annual registration numbers submitted by each school since 1988, the number of students attending Free Will Baptist colleges is on the rise. Schools reporting include: California Christian College, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Gateway Christian College\*, Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, and Southeastern Free Will Baptist College.

During the five-year period between 1988 and 1992, the average number of students in FWB colleges was 575 nationwide. From 2002 through 2006, that average rose to 915, an increase of nearly 60 percent. While enrollment numbers fluctuate year in and year out, the following chart traces a steady pattern of growth among the schools.

YEAR	TOTAL	YEAR	TOTAL	YEAR	TOTAL	YEAR	TOTAL
2006	868	2000	911	1994	642	1988	542
2005	834	1999	860	1993	564	1987	425
2004	1022	1998	830	1992	642	1986	652
2003	909	1997	741	1991	611	1985	670
2002	942	1996	677	1990	560	1984	741
2001	908	1995	649	1989	523	1983	731

\* founded 2002



**KEITH BURDEN**  
Executive Secretary  
National Association  
of Free Will Baptists

## HE TOUCHED ME

**FROM ALL INDICATIONS IT** was another typical Sunday morning worship service. We sang two or three hymns; I welcomed the congregation and led in a pastoral prayer. The ushers received the tithes and offerings. A husband and wife duet shared their rendition of Bill Gaither's gospel favorite, "He Touched Me."

Midway through the song an elderly man slumped over in the pew and began gasping for breath. The music stopped abruptly and the man's sister began to cry out for help—"My God! My God! He's dying."

Two men from the congregation rushed to the gentleman. They checked to make sure his air-ways were clear, to see if he was breathing and whether he had a pulse. He was in complete cardiac arrest. Gently, but swiftly, they laid the victim on his back in the center aisle of the church and began administering CPR.

Someone summoned an ambulance. I asked the congregation to remain seated and pray. After a series of alternating chest compressions and breaths of air, the eyes of the man began to flutter. To the relief of everyone he regained consciousness and began breathing on his own.

In a matter of minutes a team of paramedics arrived. Shortly thereafter, firemen and policemen were on the scene. Once the victim was connected to a heart monitor and an IV was in place, he was transported to a local hospital.

The congregation was visibly shaken. They were in no condition to listen to a sermon. In my judgment a very powerful message had already been delivered! So, I led in prayer and dismissed the service.

Later that afternoon I went to the hospital to visit the patient. He was resting comfortably in the intensive care unit. He admitted he had never trusted Christ as his Savior. I had the privilege of sharing the gospel and helping him pray the sinner's prayer. In time he was baptized and became a faithful Christian.

The heroic efforts of the two men who saved his life did not go unnoticed. Both received a citation from the mayor and their story was featured in the city newspaper. Eventually, a life-saving course was offered at the church by qualified instructors. Not surprisingly, most of those who witnessed the dramatic event participated in the training session.

This incident beautifully illustrates the way God intends for His body (the church) to function. He desires that we work together as a team, using our skills and abilities to help others...to save lives. It's a reminder we should be ready to spring into action when we see an opportunity to serve instead of sitting idly on a pew.

It points to the fact you need not be an ordained minister to make a difference. God is looking for ordinary men and women who are willing to equip themselves for service and get involved. Be prepared. God could use you to "touch" someone for eternity. □

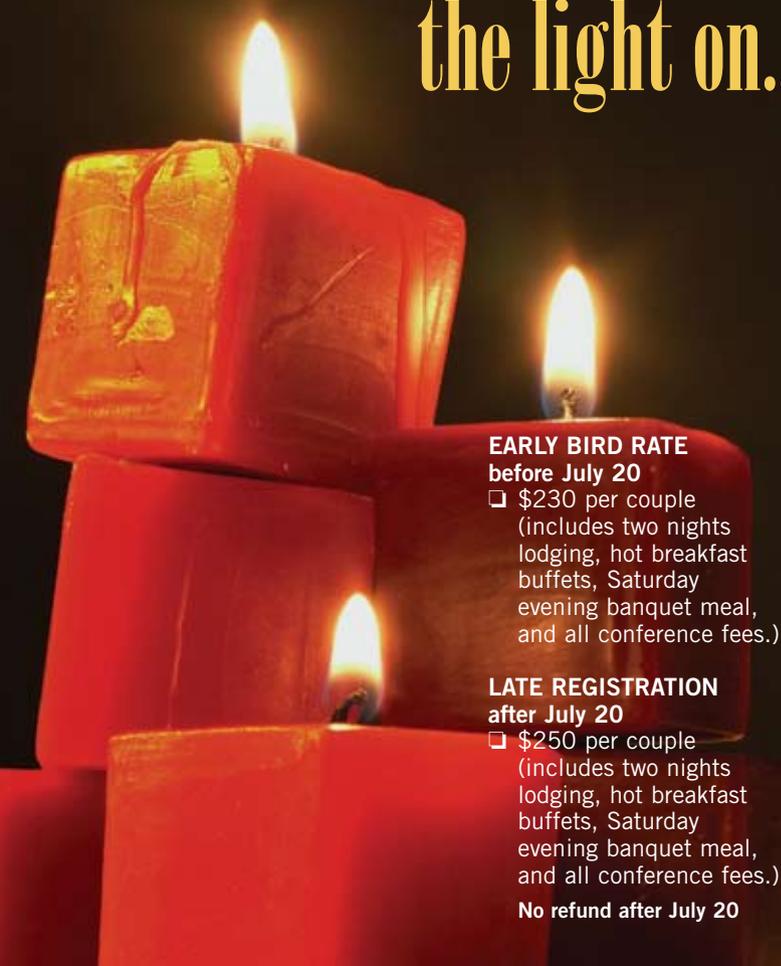


**AUGUST 3, 4 2007  
NASHVILLE, TN**

## **Master's Men National Softball Tournament**

**Reserve a spot for your team today! Call (877) 767-8039  
or visit [www.nafwb.org/mm](http://www.nafwb.org/mm) today.**

Note: The tournament is open only to churches affiliated with the National Association of Free Will Baptists or to mission churches under the direction of the Home Missions Department.



**Leave  
the light on....**

### **WNAC/Master's Men Marriage Enrichment Conference**

**August 24–26, 2007 • Grand Plaza Hotel Branson, MO**

Branson's Grand Plaza Hotel is the site for a weekend Marriage Enrichment Conference. Whether you need a marriage refresher or just a weekend away, the conference promises helpful sessions and plenty of together time for you and your spouse. Enjoy the beauty of the Missouri Ozarks; browse the myriad shops along the strip, take in one of Branson's famous family entertainment venues.

Free Will Baptist sweethearts, Richard and Sandy Atwood will lead the sessions at this Friday evening through Sunday morning event. Conference package includes two nights' lodging with hot breakfast buffets, Saturday evening banquet meal, and all conference costs. Hurry. Space is limited. Register before July 20 and receive the special early bird rate—\$230 per couple.

For registration information, contact Master's Men at [www.nafwb.org/mm](http://www.nafwb.org/mm) or call toll free: 877-767-8039.

**EARLY BIRD RATE  
before July 20**

- \$230 per couple  
(includes two nights  
lodging, hot breakfast  
buffets, Saturday  
evening banquet meal,  
and all conference fees.)

**LATE REGISTRATION  
after July 20**

- \$250 per couple  
(includes two nights  
lodging, hot breakfast  
buffets, Saturday  
evening banquet meal,  
and all conference fees.)

**No refund after July 20**

HUSBAND'S NAME (Please print) \_\_\_\_\_

WIFE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL NEEDS: NON-SMOKING (AS AVAILABLE) \_\_\_\_\_ HANDICAPPED \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT METHOD: CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ CREDIT CARD TYPE \_\_\_\_\_

CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP OF YOUR BILLING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL FULL PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION TO: MASTER'S MEN, P.O. BOX 5002, ANTIOCH, TN 37011-5002

OR REGISTER AND PAY WITH A CARD BY CALLING TOLL-FREE: 877-767-8039



# A LASTING LEGACY

## 2007 Father's Day Offering

When you take part in the Father's Day Offering June 17, 2007, you support Master's Men. But you also support the Free Will Baptist Disaster Response Team, regional rallies, mission trips, marriage enrichment conferences, Operation Saturation, and important projects like making repairs to the Church on the Ridge—one of the first Free Will Baptist churches in history.



Find out more about how YOU can partner with Master's Men. Call (877) 767-8039 or visit the website at [www.nafwb.org/mm](http://www.nafwb.org/mm).

