

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

# ONE

MAGAZINE

**UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION**  
The Build-a-House Project

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

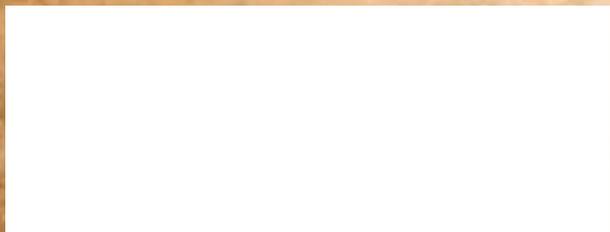
**JUNE-JULY 2009**

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TO GET INVOLVED

Prescription for  
**POWERFUL  
PRAYER**

Down the  
**OPEN ROAD**



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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.



18



25

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## ARTICLES

- 06 Step Up to the Plate
- 08 On the Run
- 09 Prescription for Powerful Prayer
- 12 Down the Open Road
- 14 More Than a Job
- 16 Equipped to Serve
- 18 Who Should Lead Twenty-Somethings?
- 20 A Recipe for Ministry
- 22 Sharing the Vision
- 23 Where in the World Is Sarah Malone?
- 25 The Rescue
- 30 Chasing El Dorado
- 32 A New Focus
- 34 Can You Trust Your Gut?
- 35 Giving With Simplicity
- 37 Lifecycle of Giving
- 42 Kindling the Flame in Iowa
- 44 Franchising McChurch

## COLUMNS

- 04 First Glimpse
- 41 Intersect
- 29 Brown on Green
- 48 Leader Profile
- 54 One to One

## NEWS

- 27 News Around the World
- 39 News Around the Nation
- 46 News at FWBBC
- 49 News About the Denomination
- 50 2009 Convention Information

36



# FIRST GLIMPSE

## I Dare You



Leaning out as far as I dared, I peered nervously into the murky depths. An ominous mist rose from moss-covered black water as the morning sun dipped tentative fingers into the creek bed. The noxious odor of rotting wood and fungus touched my nostrils, and I wrinkled my nose in disgust.

“I don’t know. It looks pretty gross.”

I glanced around at my buddies. Crooked grins stretched across expectant faces. Spectators at a sideshow...or an execution!

“Scared?” Casey’s question lashed like a whip.

“Of course not.” My voice trailed off as I turned to look again. The large cast-iron pipe spanning the void seemed to shrink before my eyes. What had I been thinking when I bragged that I could ride my bike across that?

Licking lips suddenly gone dry, I turned to my so-called friends again. “I’m not sure I can do it.”

William’s eyes locked on mine. “Oh, come on. You said you could do this. You can’t back out now.” He paused then dropped the bomb, speaking slowly, deliberately. “I dare you!”

With shaking hands, I reached for my bike...

Dare is a fascinating word. From the Old English *durran* or *durst*, it can relate a first-person challenge (I dare you) or a first-person response (I take that dare or I dare not). *Webster’s* defines it “to prove courage,” but similar ancient Norse, Middle-German, and Finnish words read fool, madman, or lunatic—the dark side of daring. Today, the word dare is often associated with risk, change, danger, and discomfort. Hardly comforting words! Yet

ERIC THOMSEN  
MANAGING EDITOR



Photo: Mark Cowart

even a casual reading of God’s Word makes it clear that He relishes in men and women who will take His dare, step out in faith, and make a difference in their world.

So...what is God daring you to do? Help start a church? Take Bibles across the nation and around the world? Lead a class of twentysomethings or become more deliberate in the way you pray for missionaries around the globe? You will find these challenges and more within the pages of this magazine. Will you take the dare?

With heart racing and adrenalin pumping, I threw down my bike and whirled to look back at my friends on the opposite bank. The dark waters below no longer held menace. Suddenly, the creek seemed little more than an overgrown ditch.

“Who’s next?” My challenge rang out in the still morning. “I dare you!” **ONE**

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## LETTERS

Your recent article, "Superman Has Cancer," touched our hearts. As soon as we read the title, we knew you had to be referring to Neal Thomsen, our beloved pastor from Jacksonville, FL (your dad). Since reading your article, we have been praying diligently for your family!

**Brent & Carla Krueger,  
Oklahoma City, OK**

FROM THE EDITOR: *Thank you to Brent, Carla, and countless others who expressed their concern, prayers, and well-wishes after reading, "Superman Has Cancer." Dad's prognosis is good, his outlook is positive, and we are grateful for your prayers.*

It was a wonderful day when Danny and Faye [Dinkins featured in "Danny's Way Out," April-May 2009] and Granny (Danny's Mother) became members of the Philadelphia FWB Church on January 11, 1987. I remember the date because our pastor, Amos McMillan, was so excited that God blessed our church with five new members. Besides the Dinkins, my sister had just given birth to a set of twin boys! I thank God that He blessed our church with such a wonderful couple who has been faithful and dedicated to our church and—most important—to their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Betty Owens, Folkston, GA**

The article in the April-May issue entitled, "Is Church Growth a Waste of Time?" is totally contrary to what our FWB leaders

such as Roy Thomas, Bob Shockey, Trymon Messer, and other great denominational preachers and leaders have taught us by example for many years.

I have been an ordained minister for nearly 40 years in the FWB denomination. For 30 years, I pastored three great churches, and I am presently ministering in full-time evangelism and soul winning. I have found over the past 40 years that Matthew 28 works for me and also for others who are willing to work this plan that God has given us. I preach in approximately 40 churches a year and can say that the churches that use a definite plan for church growth are the ones that are flourishing. I must express my disagreement to this article. Church growth is a "Bible Plan" and we are told to "Go into all the world..."

**Freddy W. Dutton, Columbus, OH**



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# Calling all men to **Step Up** TO THE

# Plate

“Master’s Men is more than a softball tournament!”

Director Ken Akers grins broadly. “Don’t get me wrong. I enjoy organizing softball tournaments and golf tournaments. They are fun—and a great way to promote fellowship and raise money at the same time. But sports ministry is only a small part of what we do!”

For more than 50 years, the mission of Master’s Men has remained unchanged: to promote spiritual growth in Free Will Baptist men. “We want to develop men of priority, prayer, purpose, purity, and passion,” Akers continues. “We challenge Free Will Baptist men everywhere to step up to the plate and be passionate about loving God, leading their families, and serving their church and denomination.”

This clear-cut mission is reflected by the department’s new theme: Count Me In. “We need folks to get involved,” says Tim York, Nashville pastor and Master’s Men supporter. “This is a big year for Master’s Men, and we cannot do it without help.”

The national organization is made up of chapters or groups of men in local churches who meet regularly for fellowship, Bible study (using studies provided by Master’s Men), and service activities. State and national leaders work closely with local chapters to carry out projects ranging from building Home Mission churches to coordinating Free Will Baptist disaster relief efforts (a project adopted by the department in 2006). In addition, the department recently announced the following initiatives for 2009.

## Looking Ahead

**CMI (Count Me In) Conferences** are a new series of regional events for men. Each conference will take a face-to-face approach, helping men develop spiritual depth and challenging them to mentor others.

**The Build-a-House program** has been resurrected after a 10-year break. This fundraising initiative helps to under-

write general fund costs for the department through building and selling homes for a profit. The current project is led by Illinois pastor Bryant Harris and Tom Harmon, a member of the Illinois Master’s Men Board. The three-bedroom, two-bath home will be constructed on a beautiful wooded lot in Benton, Illinois. Land has been purchased, and clearing has begun. Volunteers are needed to complete the project. Your expertise can save time and thousands of dollars in construction.

On July 18, Master’s Men will participate in **Impact Cincinnati**, the annual one-day outreach event sponsored by the Free Will Baptist convention. In 2008, Impact volunteers helped renovate a West Virginia church. In 2007, workers constructed a church outbuilding in one day. Plans for the 2009 project will be announced when finalized.

Phase three of the **Ridge Church renovation project** will begin August 17-21. The department needs a small army of volunteers to participate in this important phase of renovation. No special skills are needed. As one project coordinator said, “If you can lift a paint brush, you qualify!”

During this phase of the project, workers will focus their attention on the interior of the building—patching plaster, repairing holes left by the removal of two chimneys, and painting the walls.

During the first two phases, volunteers repaired the sagging roof structure, replaced joists and worn shingles, replaced peeling exterior paint, removed two deteriorating chimneys, reinforced the bell tower, and repaired drainage problems under the church.

The church, which began meeting in 1793, completed

the existing building in 1820, making it the oldest Free Will Baptist church structure in existence. Master's Men began coordinating the renovation after delegates to the 2007 Free Will Baptist convention in Little Rock, Arkansas, voted to help the New Durham congregation (which no longer meets at the Ridge Church) maintain the aging structure in light of its historic significance.

**Operation Saturation** is an annual joint project of Master's Men and FWB Home Missions. On September 26, 2009, volunteers—both men and women—will gather in Battle Creek, Michigan, to help Jeff Isaacs get the word out about his new church.

On October 3, a second Operation Saturation will be held just outside of Memphis, Tennessee. Under the direction of Tim Osborn, participants will blanket neighborhoods near the new church, distributing flyers, surveys, and other relationship-building materials.

**The National Softball Tournament and Golf Challenge** will be held August 7-8 in Nashville, Tennessee. Softball teams will enjoy two days of high-impact tournament competition—at least five games—with other Free Will Baptists from across the nation. Golfers will enjoy the annual Golf Challenge at Pine Creek Golf Course in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. The two-man, best ball tournament will be followed by an awards ceremony and barbeque lunch in the clubhouse.

## Take the Challenge

The leaders at Master's Men are the first to admit that it is never easy to leave the comfort zone—to head in a new direction. Yet sometimes God takes us out of our comfort zone in order to use us. Gideon learned that lesson the hard way when God instructed him to attack the 135,000-man Army of the East with 300 men.

So take the challenge! Step up to the plate and step out in faith. Join Master's Men in their efforts to make a difference in and through the lives of Free Will Baptist men. **ONE**

### Does your church need a Master's Men chapter?

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- Meeting planning guides.
- Priceless opportunities for fellowship and inspiration.

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## The Mission of Master's Men

The Master's Men Department exists to accomplish the following purposes:

### Discipleship

An effective Master's Men chapter facilitates spiritual growth in men. Faithful teaching of the Word of God calls men to intimacy with God, purity in life, leadership in the home, faithful worship, mentoring others, commitment to the mission of church and denomination, prayer for pastor(s), and a burden to share the gospel.

### Stewardship

Master's Men members are taught to support the ministry of the local church and denomination financially. They learn that stewardship involves not only giving to the Lord's work, but also giving their lives to advance Christ's kingdom.

### Soul-Winning

Master's Men mobilizes men of the denomination out of spiritual lethargy and challenges them to influence their families, communities, and workplaces with the life-changing message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Edification

Master's Men equips men to serve the Lord through their local church by helping them develop into spiritual leaders.

### Fellowship

Men need the examples and encouragement other men can provide. One of the greatest benefits of a Master's Men chapter in any church is the relationships that develop as the result of a common commitment to the person of Jesus Christ.



To do list!

take dog to the vet  
pick up dry cleaning  
go to soccer practice

# On The RUN

By DANITA HIGH

**“Can we all sit at the table and eat together tonight, Momma?”** I looked down into the big, blue eyes of my five-year-old daughter and experienced a twinge of guilt. Like most families today, our family is always on the run. Some days, we meet each other coming and going out the front door. Dinner usually finds the kids at the kitchen bar, my husband eating on the go, and me grabbing a bite while cleaning up the kitchen to save a few extra minutes. We blame it on the excuse, “Life is too busy.”

Life is busy, but busyness is no excuse for missing irreplaceable moments with those we hold closest to our hearts. As believers, we are quick to acknowledge the family is under attack. Yet many times, the attack comes as a direct result of our own misplaced priorities or lack of quality time together. Often, both parents work outside the home. We spend free time at church activities, sporting events, school functions, and the list continues. We grab a meal at a drive-through and eat in the car. In today’s busy culture, we must make a deliberate effort to create opportunities for quality time.

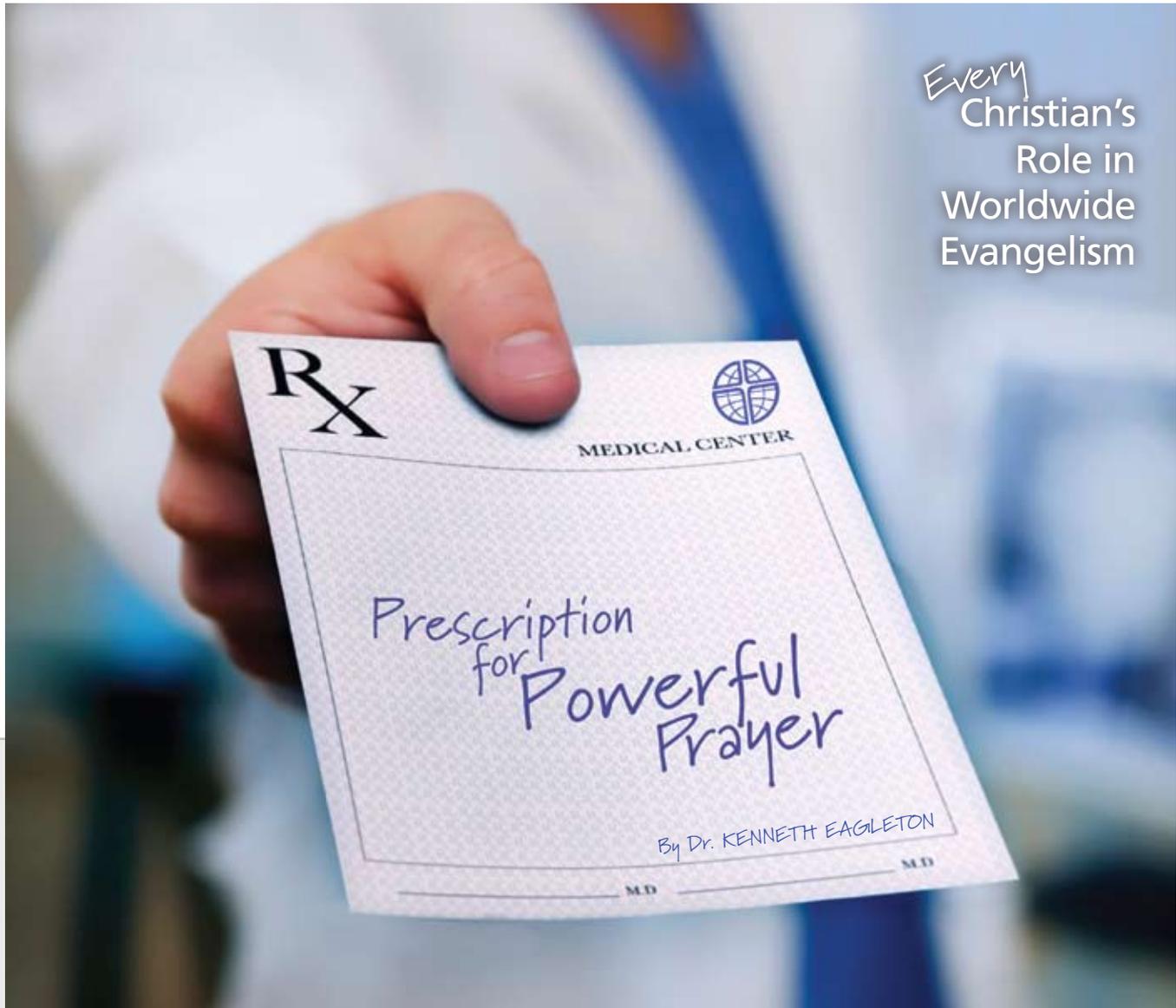
WNAC (Women Nationally Active for Christ) and Mas-

ter’s Men understand the importance of dedicated family time. We understand the challenges and difficulties facing families today. (I’ve already given you a glimpse into my busy home.) We’re devoted to serving moms and dads, offering home and parenting resources, Bible studies, and network support for today’s family.

Does your church currently have an active WAC or Master’s Men group? Are you interested in hearing more about what we have to offer? We’d love to share our vision for these ministries with your family and church.

By the way, my family and I did sit together at the table that evening, and we enjoyed a marvelous dinner. We laughed, talked, and lingered there. I listened eagerly as my daughter and son shared interesting facts about their day. I realized that I never would have heard those stories if we had eaten on the run. I was saddened to think how many stories I’ve missed because I was just too busy to listen. Some things are worth slowing down for. Your family is one of them! 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Danita High has been executive secretary-treasurer of Women Nationally Active for Christ since July 2008. She and her family live in Antioch, TN. Read more about WNAC at [www.wnac.org](http://www.wnac.org).

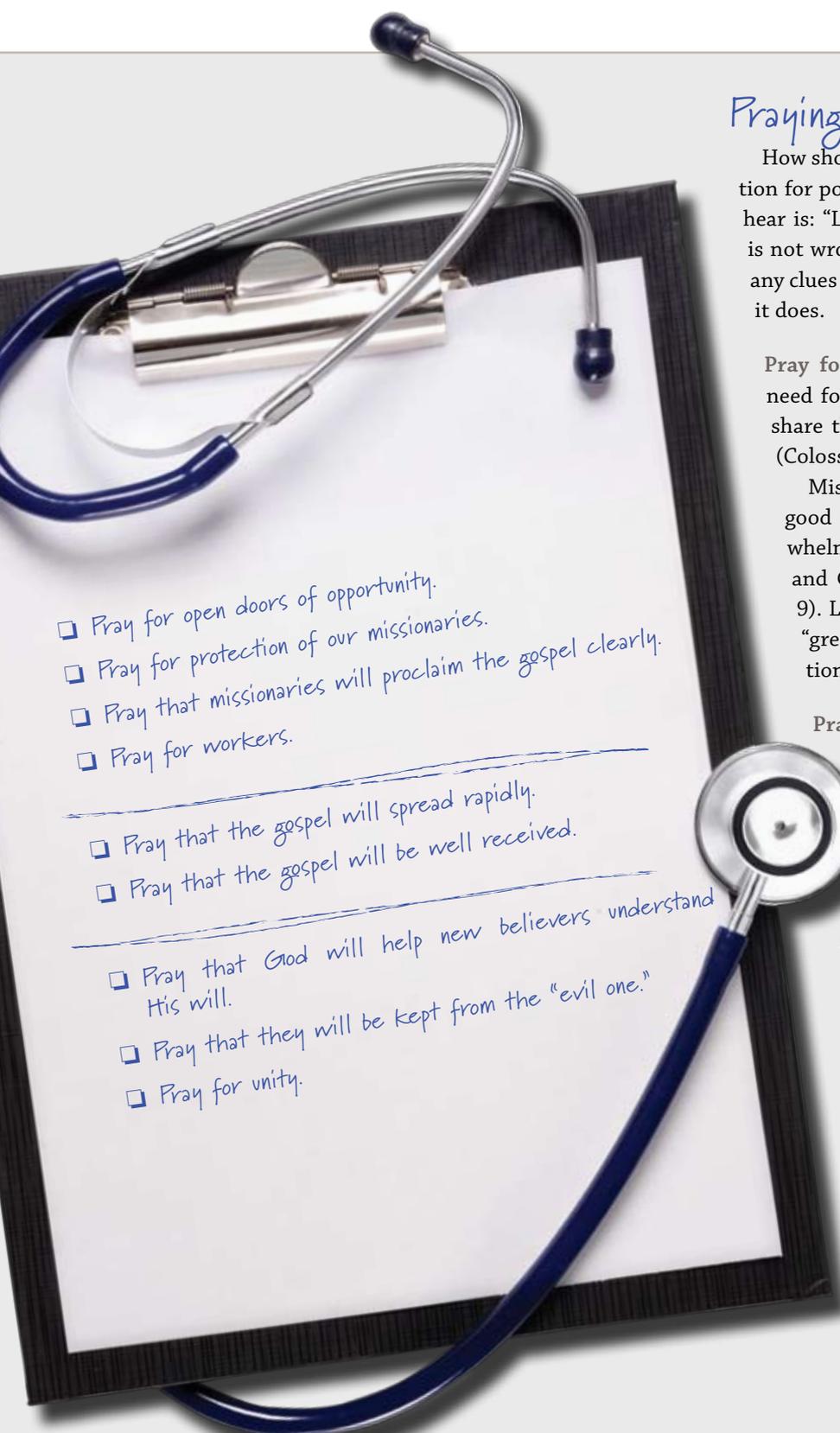


Every  
Christian's  
Role in  
Worldwide  
Evangelism

WHEN MISSIONS IS MENTIONED, MOST PEOPLE IMMEDIATELY THINK GOING AND GIVING. These are important elements of cross-cultural missions. But another element is just as important, yet often neglected—prayer. Paul, great missionary of the New Testament, pled with his supporters, “Brethren, pray for us” (1 Thessalonians 5:25). Paul knew the importance of prayer.

MANY TIMES WE NEGLECT TO PRAY BECAUSE WE ARE NOT SURE our prayers actually accomplish anything. We might not voice it that way, but deep down that is the way we operate. Prayer does make a difference. It is a bridge between the natural world we live in and the unseen, spiritual world.

God is pleased when we pray, even though He already has knowledge of the things for which we pray. He wants us to communicate with Him. We love to hear our children tell us something, even though we know what they are going to say.



- Pray for open doors of opportunity.
- Pray for protection of our missionaries.
- Pray that missionaries will proclaim the gospel clearly.
- Pray for workers.

- 
- Pray that the gospel will spread rapidly.
  - Pray that the gospel will be well received.

- 
- Pray that God will help new believers understand His will.
  - Pray that they will be kept from the "evil one."
  - Pray for unity.

## Praying for Missionaries

How should we pray for missionaries? What is the prescription for powerful prayer? One of the most common prayers I hear is: "Lord, bless all the missionaries." While that prayer is not wrong, it is extremely generic. Does the Bible give us any clues about how to pray effectively for missionaries? Yes, it does.

**Pray for open doors of opportunity.** Paul stressed the need for earnest and vigilant prayer for opportunities to share the gospel in his letter to the believers in Colosse (Colossians 4:3).

Missionaries sometimes feel they don't have many good opportunities; other times they are almost overwhelmed by opportunities. Paul prayed for an open door, and God gave him opportunities (2 Corinthians 16:8-9). Let's pray that God will give our missionaries those "great and effective" opportunities. Notice that opposition comes with the opportunity.

**Pray for protection of our missionaries.** When Paul asked the Thessalonians to pray for his ministry, he said, "...that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for all men have not faith" (2 Thessalonians 3:2). Some people are unreasonable and evil and want to harm missionaries when they arrive in their land with the gospel. We need to pray for their protection. Our missionaries can tell innumerable stories of deliverance from those who wished to do them harm. No doubt this deliverance came as a result of their prayer support. We need to double up on that support as we enter ever more dangerous locales. Many missionaries run great risks to deliver the gospel message.

**Pray that missionaries will proclaim the gospel clearly.** Communicating in another language to people of another culture is tricky. Sometimes things don't come out the way we intend. Often what we say can be misunderstood. One of the great challenges a missionary faces is cross-cultural communication. After asking the Colossians to pray for a door of opportunity to preach the gospel,

Paul continued, “that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak” (Colossians 4:4). He wanted to preach the gospel, but he wanted to do it in a way that would be understood. Pray for missionaries to communicate clearly.

**Pray for workers.** The Lord Jesus Christ emphasized the need for workers in a plentiful harvest field (Matthew 9:37, 38). Billions of people remain unreached with the gospel message. Entire people groups have not received the good news. Someone needs to cross language, cultural, and geographical barriers to tell them. Ask the Lord of the Harvest to call more workers.

## Praying for the Spread of the Gospel

**Pray that the gospel will spread rapidly.** It is urgent that the gospel be taken to those that have never heard (1 Thessalonians 3:1a). Each day, 70,000 people across the globe enter eternity without ever hearing about the Savior. We need to get the gospel out swiftly.

**Pray that the gospel will be well received.** Not only does the good news need to get out quickly, it needs to be well received (1 Thessalonians 3:1b). When the Word of the Lord arrives and is received well, people accept it and cherish it, just as the Thessalonians did. Pray that the gospel will be well received and many will turn to faith in Christ.

## Praying for New Believers

**Pray that God will help new believers understand His will.** Even when we do remember to intercede for missionaries, we often forget to pray for those who put their faith in Christ as a result of the missionary’s witness. They also need our prayers.

The Apostle Paul consistently prayed for those who came to Christ in the cities where he preached. And, in writing to the believers at Colosse, where he never visited, he says, “For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (Colossians 1:9). Notice that Paul’s prayers

were ongoing. Pray for new believers. They sometimes face circumstances we cannot imagine.

**Pray that they will be kept from the “evil one.”** In a magnificent prayer for the disciples in the upper room on that last evening before the crucifixion, Jesus prayed for the Father to protect them from the evil one (John 17:16). Jesus knew they would be tempted by the devil. A deceiver and a liar, Satan will entice and try to trip up believers, especially those who have newly put their faith in Christ. Pray for them. Pray that leadership in other countries will resist the temptations of power, lust, and greed.

Jesus continues His petition by acknowledging that the truth of God’s Word leads to true transformation (verse 17) and the holiness God desires for each of us. In verse 20, Jesus indicates that proclaiming the good news is a multiplication process. The missionary will proclaim the gospel to some. These, in turn, go out and win others to the Lord. Jesus prayed for them all. We can pray that new believers will win others to Christ in a never-ending multiplication process.

**Pray for unity.** Jesus also prayed for unity that night in the upper room. He knew this would be a tremendous challenge to Christians everywhere, in every century. He made it clear that, in the same way the Father and the Son are one, believers should be one with the Father and Son, and also with each other. This is quite a feat—bringing people together who previously were enemies, who are from different cultures, languages, and preferences. But Jesus said this would give evidence to the world that He is who He says He is. We need to get on our knees and pray for unity: unity at home, unity of believers on our fields, unity of believers from all lands.

The Bible has much more to say about prayer and missions. Much more could be said. What is clear is that we have plenty for which to pray. It is just a matter of faithfully exercising it. What a difference this could make in our missionary efforts! **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Kenneth Eagleton grew up in a missionary home, served with his wife Rejane as a medical and leadership-training missionary in Côte d’Ivoire for almost 20 years, and now lives and trains leaders in Campinas, Brazil. Learn more about Free Will Baptist International Missions at [www.fwbgo.com](http://www.fwbgo.com).



## DOWN THE OPEN ROAD

BY WILLIAM R. WALTERS

**IN 1984, I MADE MY FIRST GIDEON** trip overseas to Kenya, East Africa, for the purpose of Bible distribution. On Sunday morning we held 43 church services. Early on Monday morning, we loaded the vehicles with cases of God's Word and headed out to visit schools. At the first school, we went in to see the headmaster and showed him the New Testament that we had for students 10 years of age and older. He stepped to the corner of his office, pulled on a rope to ring the bell for student assembly, and kids came running from every direction.

The headmaster, a born-again Christian, asked us to tell the students who we were, why we were there, and all about Jesus. I built a small platform out of cases of New Testaments and stood on top of them. I talked about Jesus for 20 minutes, and then gave away the New Testaments. Every stu-

dent and teacher received one.

We asked them to repeat the sinner's prayer if they wanted Jesus to forgive their sins and wanted to accept Him as personal Lord and Savior. They repeated each phrase until the sinner's prayer was completed. Then I asked those who had prayed to receive Jesus as Savior for the very first time—and really meant it in their hearts—to raise their hands and their New Testaments. I snapped a picture of their response (right).

### TRAVELING ON

The Gideons did not have enough cars for the seven teams working in Nakuru, so a pastor offered his little car to drive us around. The luggage rack on top of his car was stacked with boxes of New Testaments, as well as the trunk and back seat. The car was so overloaded that the tires scraped the

fenders as we wobbled down the road on the way to the next school. After a long drive, we finally drove through the rusty iron gates that led to the school.

Again, we were welcomed with open arms, and 800 students and teachers received the Word of God. Many received Christ as their Lord and Savior during the visit.

As we backed down the driveway through the iron gates, I looked back toward the school and saw a little boy running down the drive toward us. He stretched his arm through the bars of the gate as far as he could reach, pressing his face up against the bars.

We stopped the car. I rolled down the window and called him to me. He unlatched the gate. I can still hear the squeak of those old rusty hinges. He dashed down the drive to the rear window where I was sitting. His eyes were



**They need someone to lead them to the Lord. They need a solid, Bible-believing church in which to worship. They need friends and those who will love and help them in their daily walk with the Lord.**



PHOTO: Kenyans celebrate after receiving their own copy of God's Word during Bill's first trip to Africa.

filled with tears.

I said, "You must not have received your New Testament."

Shyly, he shook his head. I handed a New Testament to him. As he tried to pull it away, I held it and wouldn't let go. I wanted him to look me in the eyes. He wiped his shirtsleeve across his eyes, drying his tears. His eyes got as big as saucers, and his sad, lonely face slowly transformed into the biggest, most beautiful smile I had ever seen.

I turned loose of the New Testament, and he ran back up the driveway, grabbed the gate, and pulled it closed behind him. One last time he looked back at me. Then he glanced down at the New Testament and with a big wave and a smile, he turned and ran back toward the school.

### **HIS HOPE, HIS SALVATION!**

These two experiences more than 25 years ago changed my life forever. Our team of 27 went to 433 other schools during those two weeks with very similar acceptance and responses.

Take a journey with me to Samara, Russia. We traveled all night long by train on severely worn tracks. The temperature was 28 degrees below zero, and it was snowing heavily. When we got off the train with our luggage, we wondered if anyone knew we were coming. Three believers soon met us at the station, and we loaded up in their frosty car and headed straight to a high school.

Standing outside the school in the frigid air, we asked the Lord to prepare the way. When we showed the headmaster the Russian New Testaments we had for her students and teachers, she allowed us to visit every classroom. Afterwards, she asked us to come back the next morning because there was a different set of students each day.

The next morning we prayed, and again, we went to every classroom. Every student and every teacher received the Word of God. When we finished, the headmaster invited us to her office for hot tea and chocolates. As we sat talking, she said, "I am an

atheist; it is all I have ever known. I am a communist; it is all I have ever been taught. You have come to my school and given all my students and all my teachers the Word of God." Then, turning to the Samara Gideons, she said, "You must come to my school twice every week for two hours and teach all my students the Word of God."

We can't even do that in the United States!

The Gideons are making a difference.

### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

The Gideon organization held its first meeting on July 1, 1899. The name Gideon was chosen from Judges 6, 7. To date, approximately 1.3 billion Bibles and New Testaments have been distributed to more than 180 countries around the world. I remember receiving a Gideon New Testament during my grammar school years. I was already being raised in church, yet it captured my attention at an early age to see Bibles being distributed to everyone. The Gideons have always been welcomed into Free Will Baptist churches, and many Free Will Baptists participate in the national and international distribution of Bibles.

These stories describe international distribution, but Bibles are also distributed here in the United States, many to the hundreds of thousands of immigrants from every corner of the world. They need someone to lead them to the Lord. They need a solid, Bible-believing church in which to worship. They need friends and those who will love and help them in their daily walk with the Lord.

Reaching the world at our doorstep is a vital part of the ministry of Home Missions church planters and members across our nation. We greatly appreciate the work of the Gideons, and of the laity in our Free Will Baptist churches and all they do to further the gospel. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Bill Walters heads the Gideons International Division and travels extensively for this organization. He is a member of Donelson FWB Church in Nashville, Tennessee.



The worldwide ministry  
of laymen at Free Will  
Baptist Bible College.

# MORE than a JOB

By KEVIN HESTER

**THE VINTAGE NAVY RECRUITING POSTER SAID,** “It’s not just a job; it’s an adventure!” For laymen employed at Free Will Baptist Bible College, their labor is more than a job; it is a vocation. The English word *vocation* is taken from a Latin root which means calling. The concept of seeing one’s work as a calling comes from Protestant reformer Martin Luther who said every Christian is called to serve God in all that he does. Thus, he ennobled all occupations. The Puritans recognized this truth and pointed out that even our most menial tasks perform an important function in glorifying God and building His kingdom.

## THEOLOGY OF LAYMEN

The theological truth behind this principle is the priesthood of all believers. First Peter 2:5 says that as we come to God we are “built up a spiritual house, an holy priest-

hood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” Verse nine says we are a “chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

When the apostle Peter used these words to describe those who believed (verse seven) that Jesus was the Messiah, he outlined the priesthood of believers. These verses teach us that through Christ we have both a marvelous privilege and an awesome responsibility of holiness and service.

In salvation, God works to build us into a spiritual temple. He has drawn near to us and consecrated us with His presence. In response, we are called to offer spiritual sacrifices. Our role as priests requires us to engage actively in God’s kingdom-building on this earth. We are responsible for the spiritual condition of our brothers and sisters in



## FWBBC isn't about training scientists, businessmen, and educators.

We train Christians who happen to be scientists, businessmen, and educators.

Christ. We are commissioned to carry the gospel to our friends, our neighbors, and around the world. Being priests means we should commit ourselves to using our spiritual gifts in God's service, seeing every aspect of our lives as an act of spiritual worship.

The doctrine of universal priesthood empowers the laity for ministry. Ministry is the calling of every believer whether ordained or not. The gifts of the Spirit are given for the edification of the body. Spiritual gifts may be localized in the individual, but they belong to the believing community and must be used. FWBBC looks for ways to encourage all its employees to engage actively—both in their ministry here and in broader ministry to the world. We believe it is only as we empower and employ every Christian to do the work of the ministry that we will find success in building God's kingdom.

### LAYMAN ON PATROL

It is for this reason that FWBBC has always done more than train preachers and missionaries. Our mission is to “educate leaders to serve Christ, His Church, and His world through biblical thought and life.”

Free Will Baptist laymen have a welcoming place to serve at FWBBC. They keep the doors open, the lights on, the buildings warm, and the campus safe. Those same laymen make a difference in the Nashville community, in local churches, and in their homes.

Their names are many and their tasks manifold, but Free Will Baptist laymen are the backbone of FWBBC. For instance, Charles Wise keeps the computers working. Sandy Goodfellow oversees plant operations for the nine-acre campus. Missouri-born deacon Ernie Thompson supervises a crew that keeps campus buildings clean and functional. Bruce Bilbrey is a master of all trades, fixing what's broken, painting what's peeling, and happily throwing himself into a thousand other duties.

Free Will Baptist laymen fill indispensable roles in the Administration Building. Greg Kettelman plans curriculum and oversees the faculty. Former Navy seaman Tom Sass makes sure we can keep the lights on. Jeff Caudill brings in the students and helps them pay for college. The Rolling Deacon, Wayne Spruill, surveys everything on campus and has statistics for questions you haven't even asked yet!

Free Will Baptist laymen offer their sage advice and share their learning throughout Johnson Classroom Building. Thurman Pate is training a new generation of teachers

and school administrators. Floridian Darrell Holley offers incisive critique of literature from a Christian worldview. PK (Preacher's Kid) Michael Walker shares a wealth of business experience with a heart overflowing for missions. Creationist Ian Hawkins uncovers the intricacies of God's creation for wide-eyed students in his science classes. High-tech guru Rusty Campbell shares technological expertise to make sure FWBBC can reach beyond our campus to non-traditional students.

### LAYMEN BEYOND THE CAMPUS

But in addition to these important roles, FWBBC laymen step out from these buildings into their communities and into the world to minister. They serve as deacons and trustees in local churches. They teach Sunday School classes and lead worship. They work on Free Will Baptist boards and for the Rescue Mission. They lead mission trips in America and around the world. They work to train Free Will Baptist youth in missions and leadership. But there's more! They are wonderful fathers, fine husbands, and good men. Best of all, they are my friends.

It is largely because of them that Free Will Baptist laymen have a welcoming place to learn at FWBBC. The same laymen who have poured their service into foundations, budgets, and reports are eager to pour their lives into a new generation. They want to teach them by word and by example what it means to be a husband, a father, and a Christian.

Whether over coffee, in prayer groups, or while stripping the wax from tile floors, the laymen of FWBBC are faithfully serving God by serving as priests to others. What they have learned they want to commit to faithful men who will teach others (2 Timothy 2:2). FWBBC isn't about training scientists, businessmen, and educators; we train Christians who happen to be scientists, businessmen, and educators.

There are priests at Free Will Baptist Bible College teaching, serving, and praying for others. God has redeemed a kingdom of priests for Himself, and He has redeemed us for His service. Let us all live our lives as spiritual acts of worship. The work of God in this world is in and through His priests. God is building His kingdom and we all have work to do. Will you join us? 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Kevin Hester is a member of the Bible faculty at FWBBC where he has taught since 2003.

Free Will Baptist laymen find a warm welcome at FWBBC.

# Equipped to Serve

BY THURMAN PATE



## MUCH HAS BEEN MADE OVER THE

preparation necessary for pastors and missionaries—how they must study language, theology, doctrine, and evangelism. But what about the training of Free Will Baptist laymen? Is it important for the layman in the local church to be educated in a place like Free Will Baptist Bible College? What difference will it make in their lives and the role they take in their local ministry?

Some churches are limited in their outreach because leaders, including the pastor, do not have a strong background in the Bible and related ministry areas. While many churches attempt to provide training for teachers and other leaders, the training is often too brief and superficial to make the impact needed.

## The FWBBC Difference

The mission of Free Will Baptist Bible College is to educate leaders to serve Christ, His Church, and His world through biblical thought and life. These leaders include laymen, both men and women. A FWBBC-educated and trained layman is uniquely prepared to make a difference in the local church, business community, home, and denomination. They have been making a difference for more than 65 years and continue to do so.

As is true in the local church, the ministry of music is important at FWBBC. Many students who are not music majors participate in musical groups. Opportunities to develop and use God-given musical talents abound. Participants in chapel and other campus meetings grow closer to God through the music program. These students are better prepared to take leadership roles in music when they return to their home churches.

Every student who attends FWBBC is required to take

**“While some Christians teach in state and community colleges,  
many teachers are avowed atheists or agnostics.  
What a price to save a little money or be closer to home!”**

Bible courses, which helps him or her better understand God’s Word. Through daily chapel they hear godly men and women share not only God’s Word but also God’s work and blessings. Probably as important is the emphasis on the Christian worldview presented in all classes. The teacher candidates learn that the spiritual domain is as vital a part in the development of a person as the intellectual, social, and physical domains. That sets them apart as they teach in Christian schools, public schools, and local churches.

Business students not only learn strong business principles but strong Christian ethics. History majors trace God’s hand through history and are better prepared to understand the blessing and privileges Americans enjoy. English majors study the writings of great men and women, emphasizing the works of Christians. Exercise Science majors center their studies around the body as the temple of God. Science majors see God as the Creator and Author of the orderliness of our universe.

In all academic programs, the goal is to send men and women to local churches prepared to serve as Sunday School teachers, outreach specialists, Christian education leaders, and camp counselors—men and women who can partner with pastors in critical areas to encourage and help carry the load.

### The State University Dilemma

These points make a FWBBC-educated layman different from the student who graduates from Community College or Big State U. In those settings, the academic emphasis is different. In many cases, professors intentionally separate God from the intellect. Man is made eminent, not God. While some Christians teach in these schools, many teachers are avowed atheists or agnostics. What a price to save a little money or be closer to home!

And the social emphasis? Which better prepares church workers—frat house parties at Big State U or the prayer

groups in the dorms at FWBBC? Friends are made for life at college, and friends who are Christian brothers will stick closer than a frat brother and share in your triumphs and trials.

What does an alumnus of FWBBC know about working in a local church that sets him apart? Is it that he sat beside pastors and missionaries in theology class? Is it the participation in weekly Christian Service opportunities? Or could it be the Christian fellowship on campus and discussion of the Christian approach to life? Is it possible that attending Free Will Baptist churches away from home helps students understand more about different worship styles? Does the close working relationships that students have with leaders in the Free Will Baptist National Offices create a better understanding of denominational needs and opportunities? The best answer is “All of the Above.”

### The Place, the Plan, the Program

FWBBC is the place with the plan and the program designed for Free Will Baptist laymen. FWBBC is a name laymen know they can trust to prepare them for service in the local church. While we do not want to keep them in Nashville when they complete their studies, God may have other plans for them.

Many pastors and missionaries came to FWBBC as laymen and left for full-time ministry instead of going back home. Other than God’s special calling, we urge students to return to their home churches and make a difference. As they pursue their chosen vocations, they will be great assets to the pastor, the church, and especially to God’s kingdom.

**ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Thurman Pate, a member of the FWBBC faculty since 1999, chairs the college’s Teacher Education Department. He is a consultant with the Tennessee Department of Education and served 31 years as a principal and teacher in Nashville area schools. Read more about Free Will Baptist Bible College at [www.fwbcc.edu](http://www.fwbcc.edu).



Who Should Lead  
**TWENTY-  
SOMETHINGS?**

BY JACOB RIGGS

**“SOMEONE IN OUR CHURCH NEEDS TO BE A LEADER FOR TWENTYSOMETHINGS. BUT WHO?”**

Great question.

However, the answer isn't as difficult as you might think.

We assume a leader of twentysomethings has to:

**Look cool.** You dress trendy and use a lot of product in your hair.

**Know pop culture.** *The Office* is Tivo'd, and you can instantly recall the name of the most recent *American Idol* winner.

**Be online.** Because if you don't twitter, you've got no chance at connecting with this generation.

If the list above leaves you scratching your head in confusion, it's okay.

I don't think any of these stipulations are necessary to be a good leader of twentysomethings (although it might help to be on facebook). No, the important requirements run deeper than that.

Let me give you an example.

I have a friend who influences my generation heavily. He is well respected. College students and twentysomethings love to hear him speak. He has counseled countless twentysomethings.

He wears penny-loafers, khaki pants with pleats, parts his gray hair from right to left, has probably never seen *The Office*, could care less who won *American Idol* this season, and doesn't have time for Twitter.

What is it about this man that resonates so much with the twentysome-

thing generation?

**First, he is willing to listen.** My generation longs for someone who is interested in them. We have been the targets of marketing our entire lives. We see hundreds of advertisements every day. Everyone wants something from us. So when we find someone willing just to listen and give a little, we jump on it.

If you can learn to listen, you can lead twentysomethings.

**The second reason this man resonates with my generation is that he's genuine.** The absolute worst thing you can do when trying to reach out to twentysomethings is to be someone you're not. Don't even go there. It won't work. We will see right through you, and you'll lose our respect in an instant.



## If you can be genuine, you can lead twentysomethings.

### Try a few pointers to let a twentysomething know you're genuine:

- Tell them about something you struggle with
- Talk about things you enjoy
- Give them a gas card

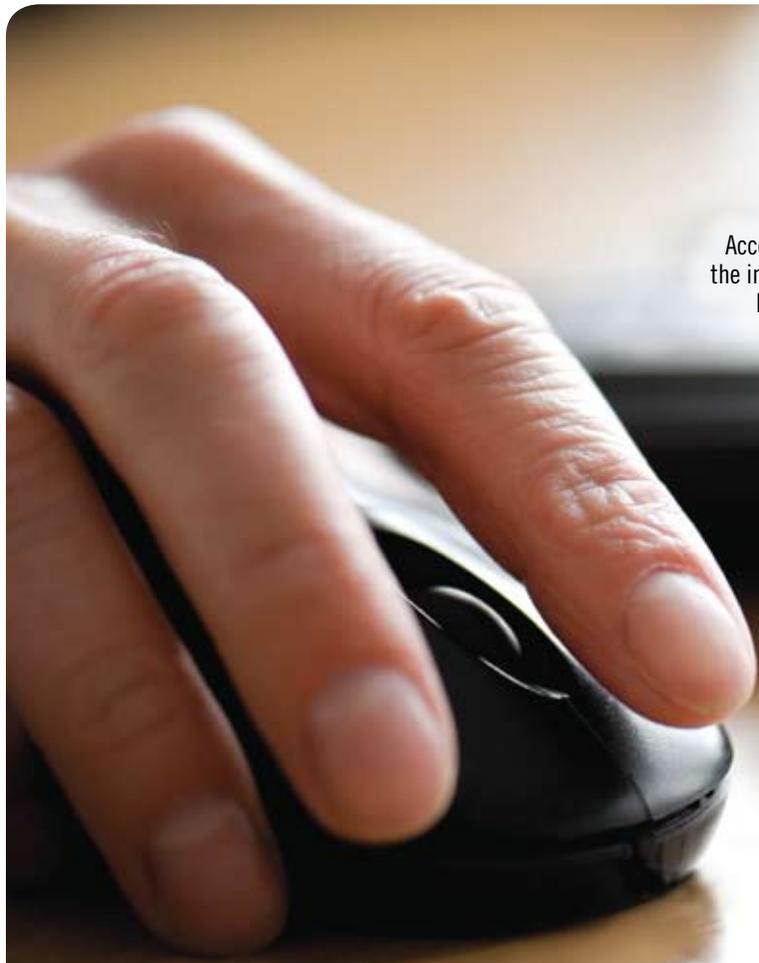
Finally, this man resonates with twentysomethings because his passion for God is obvious. This is the ultimate common denominator. It's your goal for my generation. And it's what we long for and need!

If you have a passionate love for God, you can lead twentysomethings!

The church needs you to reclaim what's been lost. My generation (in general) has left, and someone needs to do something about it. Why not you?

- You can listen.
- You can be yourself.
- You can love God.
- You can lead twentysomethings. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Jacob Riggs is associate editor at Randall House. He's been married to Lynsey for a year. He graduated from FWBCC in 2008, is currently working on his MAR degree at Reformed Theological Seminary, and writes a blog about twentysomething ministry at [www.afrayedknot.com](http://www.afrayedknot.com).



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## A RECIPE FOR MINISTRY

BY RICHARD ATWOOD

*I like to eat! And I am not alone.* I enjoy eating with other people. It's a great way to break down barriers and build friendships. Perhaps this is why so much lighthearted humor has targeted Baptists and their eating. I'm sure you have heard the joke about the symbol of the Baptists being a "covered dish."

**Greg Floars, home missionary to Marquette, Michigan,** says they eat so much at their church, they are known as the "Free Meal Baptists."

But is eating alone in front of a TV more spiritual than eating with others? Of course not! In Acts 2, we find the early church "breaking bread from house to house."

The truth is, food is a useful tool for reaching people and building fellowship. You might call it a recipe for ministry. I asked some of our home missionaries to share their ideas for using food in their ministries.

**Allen Hall in York, Pennsylvania**

We serve refreshments after each Thursday night Bible study.

We provide food for special events—July 4th picnic, homecoming, Men's and Ladies' Prayer Breakfasts, Super Bowl Party, etc.

We have hosted several cookouts for church folks and visiting youth groups. We always try to invite the neighbors. My new associate's family and my family are beginning to take one or two Sundays each month to invite a family out to eat or to our home for lunch. Visitors go to the top of the list!

## Randy Ledbetter and Scott Warren, Salt Lake City, Utah

We hosted two community chili suppers while trying to gather people to start the church. We rented school cafeterias and distributed invitations at 2,500 homes near the schools. During the supper, we provided live Christian music, showed our promotional DVD, shared the gospel, and served free chili dinners to everyone who came. Two of our original families learned about the church from these meals. We didn't have big turn-outs, but God used it to connect us with these families who became part of our church.

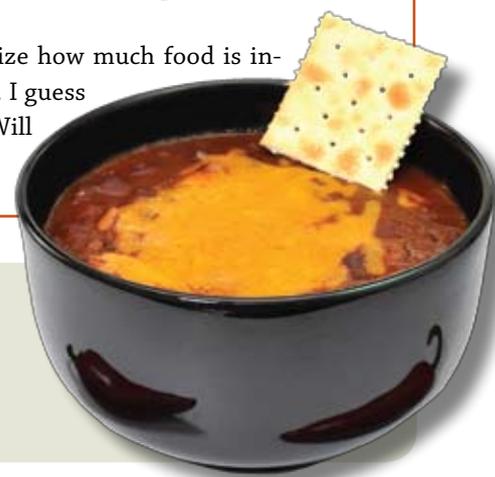
We put cards for free Chick-fil-A sandwiches in the welcome packets we hand out to guests who visit our church.

We go to lunch each Sunday with a group from the church. This has become a great fellowship and connecting time. The restaurants often remember us and associate us with a new church in the area.

Coffee and refreshments are served each Sunday at small group meetings.

We enjoyed a church meal in the park after our servant project last fall.

Wow! I didn't realize how much food is involved in what we do. I guess we are good Free Will Baptists.



## Mark Thomas, Pueblo, Colorado

My mother used to say, "The way to a man's heart is through his stomach."

We advertise and provide fast-food gift cards to first-time visitors.

We invite people to eat with us at our home after church as well.

## Tim Riggs, Mobile, Alabama

We sponsored a barbeque meal after our grand opening service. It went really well, and complete strangers broke the ice by eating together and talking for almost two hours.

Based on that experience, we started a monthly fellowship meal. Usually, each family brings a covered dish.

On our church's anniversary, the first Sunday of April, we cater a meal after the service.

Angie and I invite one family a month to our house for Sunday lunch. We currently invite families in the church, but in time we may expand that to unsaved neighbors.

## Jeff Isaacs, Battle Creek, Michigan

We host a Labor Day picnic at the church. Here is the key. Make it a "community event" hosted by the church. For instance:

"You are invited to Wattles Park Community Block Party. The Berea FWB Church has donated the use of their property for the afternoon. See you on Labor Day at 2:00 p.m."

This also works great for a community Christmas pageant. It's the same concept. The church is sharing in the project.

Of course, church members are there and go out of their way to mingle and meet people. Both types of events have worked well for us.

## Freddy Gillentine in Abilene, Texas

Two years ago, we started having lunch after the Sunday service. Everyone helps by bringing something. It's a great time to fellowship, and we get to know one another without rushing off for lunch or trying to figure out where to eat. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Richard Atwood is director of missionary assistance for the Home Missions Department. To learn more about the ministry of Home Missions, visit [www.homemissions.net](http://www.homemissions.net).



# SHARING the Vision

BY RICHARD ATWOOD

Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, (where I attend) tried a new approach to missions giving this past fall. The new approach was the One Vision Conference. Pastor Mike Gladson wanted to highlight the needs, both in North America and across the world. He said, "The Great Commission isn't a multiple choice but a command to do all. God gave us one vision."

## BEFORE:

We invited six missionary couples to attend the conference: two from Home Missions, two from International Missions, and two who are going to Central Asia to teach. Each had an opportunity to preach, an opportunity to present their mission, and to display their work in the auditorium. The church made travel and hospitality arrangements for each couple, including a large basket of goodies upon arrival.

## DURING:

We kicked it off on Sunday morning. One missionary gave the morning message, and another presented his mission. On Sunday evening, the church family enjoyed a banquet at a nearby location (with catered food so

the ladies would not have to prepare the meal). Again, two missionaries spoke. Before services on Monday and Tuesday evenings, the congregation met for a simple meal so people could spend time with the missionaries. We learned more about their fields and heard more inspiring messages. During the closing service Tuesday night, after the missionaries spoke, the entire church took part in a special prayer service for them. Everyone held a light stick to symbolize spreading the light to the dark world. In each service, the songs and special music coordinated with the missions theme.

## AFTER:

We have stayed in close contact with the missionaries who participated in the conference, and updates about them are printed in the bulletin and announced from the pulpit. We pray for them during services and try to stay involved in their work. (Their email addresses are listed in the bulletin.) A group from our church is

planning a trip to help missionaries in Utah.

## BENEFITS:

People know the missionaries better after talking to them for several days.

Giving to missions is easier. Donors can give one check to cover every missionary supported by the church.

Missionaries don't have to travel as much.

By putting the missionaries in your budget, the pastor can say the offering will effectively promote the gospel locally, nationwide, and around the world.

Churches of any size can do this. Cofer's Chapel averages 200 in attendance. You don't have to be a megachurch. A church of 50 can host one home missionary and one international missionary and still make a significant contribution to their ministries.

It reminds the church that they are part of something big! 

## HINTS FROM PASTOR GLADSON

- Go to another church's mission's conference to see how they do it.
- Plan ahead. • Good music is helpful.
- Offer the option of giving to an individual missionary or to the One Vision fund.
- Make it an annual event. • Put it on the church calendar.



## WHERE *in the* WORLD is Sarah Malone?

BY KENTON KERSTING

**ELIC, ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTITUTE/CHINA**, based in Fort Collins, Colorado, seeks to follow the mandate to go and teach. From small beginnings in 1982, with six teachers fielded in the nation of China, ELIC has grown to 514 people serving in five countries in 2009—China, Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, and Vietnam.

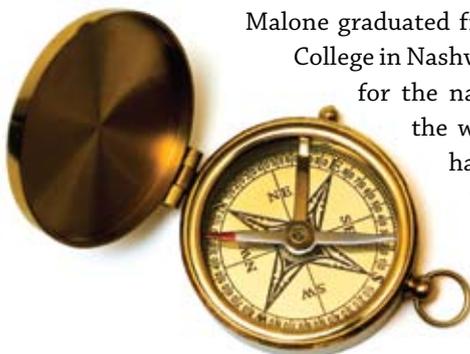
Overseeing operations for ELIC on the other side of the Pacific for the past five years is Sarah Malone, ELIC's Asia vice president. Malone, a member of Bethel Free Will Baptist Church on the outskirts of St. Louis in South Roxana, Illinois, comes from a family with Free Will Baptist ties going back three generations. Included in her genealogy are six Free Will Baptist pastors. Four younger cousins are pastors as well.

Malone graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, with a heart for the nations. "I had a burden for the world. I was open to go but had no peace to go," she said. She waited for that peace for nine years, working as a primary and middle school teacher in South

Roxana. "Then," Malone said, "in January of 1992, the Father said 'Go. Now's the time.'"

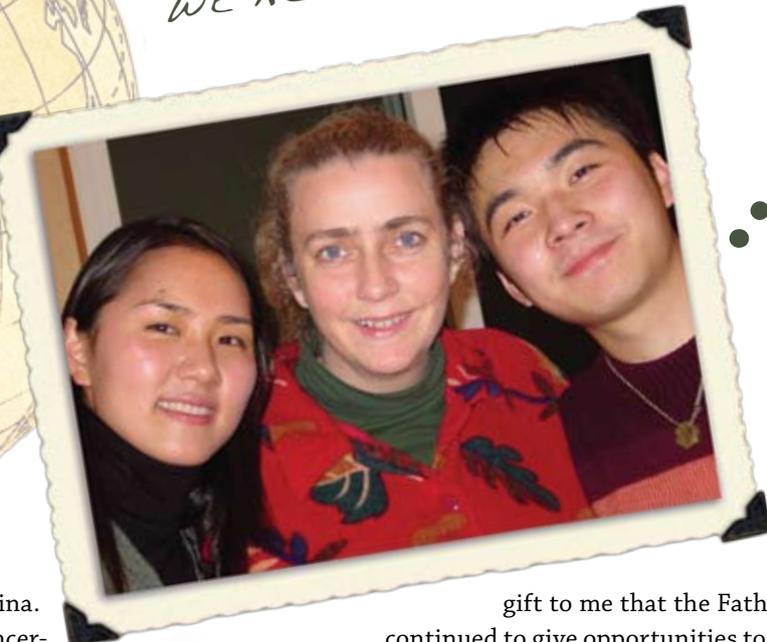
Malone informed the school's principal that she would not return in the fall and began looking in earnest at different agencies to fulfill this call. Having trained in education and aware that God had gifted her with teaching skills, she looked for her most obvious connection to the world—to go abroad as a teacher. Initially, however, the doors closed. Then, in a seemingly insignificant connection that was divinely orchestrated, Malone was introduced to ELIC. What started as a telephone call to inquire about the legitimacy of the organization on behalf of others, ultimately resulted in a 16-year commitment to the agency.

After learning about ELIC, Sarah applied, determined to walk through the open door until it opened further or closed. Early in May 1992, Malone received word she had been accepted to ELIC. As is her practice, she took the matter to the Father, seeking His direction, and late in the month she found peace with a decision to commit to ELIC for the upcoming school year. That left her with only five weeks to raise the necessary financial support to begin her first 10 months in China as a teacher. The daunting mountain was moved by the "faith promises I had from the Father," and in





*"EVEN IN WHAT WE MIGHT SEE  
AS OUR SACRIFICE, GOD TURNS  
AROUND AND BLESSES IN WAYS  
WE NEVER EXPECT."*



August, Malone boarded a plane headed to China.

Her departure in 1992 came during an uncertain time in China's history. "My family was supportive," Malone indicated, "but releasing me and saying goodbye was difficult for them."

Malone's initial assignment was to a school in the capital city; she served as an English teacher for two years before moving across town to spend six years in two different stints at another university in Beijing.

Early in her tenure, ELIC leadership recognized Sarah's administrative abilities, and she was asked to serve in member care. For four years, Malone served 30 teachers at schools in Hebei and Shandong Provinces in China. In the ensuing years, her responsibilities expanded to include serving the teachers in Cambodia and Laos, while still teaching English courses in Beijing.

Then, in 2001, Sarah was asked to consider taking on the responsibility of the newly created position as Asia vice president, overseeing operations of the organization on the Asia side and answering to ELIC's president in America. This was a particularly challenging request because it meant surrendering the classroom, but more importantly to Malone, it meant surrendering the daily opportunities to connect with and speak truth into the lives of students.

Once again, God administered grace to Malone as she followed the leading of her heavenly Father in pursuing His new direction for her. She has been blessed to mentor and encourage former students and friends. "It has been a

gift to me that the Father has continued to give opportunities to touch the lives of those around me. You just can't out-give our Father. Even in what we might see as our sacrifice, He turns around and blesses in ways we never expect."

Malone humbly acknowledges her skills as God-given and quickly gives credit to God for her gifts in serving ELIC and for the organization's success in the field. "It's a matter of walking in obedience, and the Father has given increase," she said with a smile. **ONE**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:**  
Kenton Kersting serves as a teacher with ELIC. Anyone interested in teaching English in colleges and universities in Asia can receive more information from Charolette Tallent: [charolette@fwbgo.com](mailto:charolette@fwbgo.com).





# THE rescue

CHILDREN ARE ATTRACTED TO HER LIKE A MAGNET! PEOPLE LIKE LAURA BRING JOY TO CHILDREN in the smallest but surest ways. Children see beyond gestures and into the heart. Perhaps she has a special love flowing from her these days. She had a lifetime adventure in the United States and returned home with a transformed life.

## THE ADVENTURE

Laura and a friend felt fortunate to get a work exchange visa for the United States. They left their Central Asian home with high hopes of finding the perfect job and spending at least six months living and learning in a cross-cultural environment.

After their arrival, their sponsors took them to their new job—a hotel in a large city in New Jersey. The girls quickly realized their new, exciting experience had become a potential nightmare. The low-scale hotel catered to those looking for pleasure on the wrong side of morality.

Although they sensed it was dangerous for them to stay, they knew no one and felt trapped. Then Laura remembered a couple from America who had visited Kazakhstan several

months earlier. She had served as their translator. During their time together, she shared her plans to work in the States. The kind people had given her their phone number in case she had time to call them while in the States.

Desperate and afraid, the girls felt they had only two choices. They could stay where they were and hope they would not be abused. Or they could see just how serious the American couple was about their invitation.

Shocked by the girl's situation, the Americans told the girls to stay out of sight. They were on their way to pick them up. The Good Samaritan couple left Virginia that night and headed for New Jersey, arriving at the hotel in the early morning hours. They whisked the two frightened girls away and drove them to the safety of their home near the campus of Liberty University.

## REFUGE FOUND

The couple undertook the rescue at personal risk. They did not know who sponsored these girls. Those sponsors might look for the girls and certainly would not be happy with whoever had taken their workers. Yet, this did not prevent them from acting in a compassionate and ethical manner.

The two young ladies found refuge in the home of this godly couple. They found work on the nearby college campus and were around Christians every day. Little-by-little, their hearts were touched by the love and care they received—not only by their personal good Samaritans but also by many others.

God used a most unusual circumstance to bring new life into their hearts. Both accepted Christ and were baptized before their return to Central Asia.

## FAST FORWARD

Several months later, I was in Kazakhstan constructing playgrounds. My team worked at an orphanage run by local churches. I noticed how the children clung to Laura. I asked a translator where this “pied-piper” was from, and if she was a believer. The translator gave me a brief account of Laura’s story.

I had one of those “ah-ha” experiences as I clearly remembered a story of two Kazakh girls rescued from a shady hotel in New Jersey. I heard the story from the Good Samaritans themselves. **Now I saw the living results of their courageous act—clear evidence of how seed properly planted, even in high-risk circumstances, can bring forth real fruit.** ONE

ABOUT THE WRITER: The writer coordinates and oversees work in creative access countries.

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F W B H M

# NEWS

around the world



**CAMPINAS, BRAZIL**—Sunday, March 22, was a special day for the São José church in Campinas. Pastor Lucas, First FWB Church in Campinas, has been assisting the São José congregation for almost nine months while they were without a pastor. The church honored Pastor Lucas for his dedication with a special music presentation and the gift of a new suit. The second day of discipleship classes also began that day with 15 people participating. The day climaxed with the salvation of Cristiane during the evening service. She and her three young children have attended the church for several months.



**EBETSU, JAPAN**—Nathan and Linda Snow moved to North Ebetsu, in the area of Yahata, last fall. They have had many opportunities to make contacts over the past several months. Nathan served on a committee formed to help with a neighbor family's funeral and had the opportunity to share the differences between a Buddhist and Christian funeral with the men. Megan Snow began Japanese junior high school, and has invited friends and teachers to church. Her homeroom teacher visited the Miharashidai Chapel in March, his first time in a Protestant church.



**MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY**—Around 700 churches in and around Montevideo sponsored the Franklin Graham crusade called “Festival de Esperanza” or “Festival of Hope,” March 19-21. The Montevideo Church sponsored the attendance of a number of underprivileged children to a children's festival in conjunction with the crusade. The stadium was filled nightly and overflowed on Saturday. Each night more than 800 adults and youth came forward to make decisions. Over 20,000 children attended the kid's festival where Jaimie and Tammy Lancaster were counselors and led several children to Christ.



**BELO HORIZONTE, BRAZIL**—The First FWB Church in Belo is expanding its leadership. For the first time since the church was organized five years ago, the congregation elected a new vice president, Pedro Borba. Pedro is a young college graduate who works as a manager for an international company. The church elected its first deacon, Adalberto, who is a lawyer for the state of Minas Gerais. He and his wife Rosie also lead the music. Rafael Santos was elected as the first pastoral assistant. He is currently a seminary student and helps with the youth and visitation programs at the church. Amanda, a structural designer for an engineering firm, is the new secretary-treasurer. She has attended the church since she was a young child.

## CAFÉ Y ALGO MÁS



The Alpedrete Church hosted “Café y Algo Más” (Coffee and Something More) on Sunday evening, March 29. Sixty adults filled the hotel dining room to listen as local believers shared music, testimony, and a short parenting seminar. In an adjacent room, four friends from the sister church in Villalba took care of the 27 children who had come with their parents. The event was preceded by a month-long prayer emphasis.

Twenty-nine people who have never attended an evangelical church gathered with believers from the Alpedrete church. Christians had coffee and chatted with friends who were curious about their faith. A 14-year-old flautist played for the event. His faith in the power of prayer was strengthened when he saw how God used his gifts to bless those listening.

Several attendees indicated they were interested in learning more about spiritual matters. This event not only blessed the visitors but also the church members. Their faith in God was deepened as they saw friends they had invited and prayed for enter the hotel.

## NEWS around the world



### First General Director Dies

**REVEREND CHARLES RAYMOND RIGGS** went to be with the Lord Monday, April 13, after extended illness. The 93-year-old died at home in Monett, Missouri, and was buried in Cookeville, Tennessee.

Raymond Riggs began a 35-year ministry with foreign missions in 1943 when elected to the first Board of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions. He served as promotional director from 1950-1953 when he became the denomination's first general director of Free Will Baptist Foreign Missions (1953-1959). He resigned his position to return to the pastorate, but remained on the Board for another 20 years. His dedication to reaching lost people worldwide with the gospel earned him the nickname "Mr. Foreign Missions."

During his tenure as general director, the Mission grew from seven missionaries to 30 serving in six countries: Brazil, Japan, Spain, and Ivory Coast in addition to India and Cuba.

Although he resigned from the Foreign Missions Board in 1978, his concern for the lost around the world never ended. He continued to support the Mission and missionaries. More information can be found at [fwbgo.com](http://fwbgo.com). ■



### International Missions Announces the Printing of Into the Darkness.

**AS INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS APPROACHES ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY**, several special events and projects are planned to help the denomination celebrate this milestone. One project is a coffee table-style book highlighting the Mission's pioneer missionary efforts. Rare photographs enhance the beautiful design and compliment the well-written profiles.

After September 30, this lovely book will sell for \$49.95. Pre-orders paid by September 30 receive a discounted price of \$45, a free copy of Laura Belle Barnard's autobiography *Touching the Untouchables* (while supplies last), and free shipping. The nearly 200-page, pictorial history of Free Will Baptist International Missions will be mailed no later than May 1, 2010. Review sample pages and reserve your copy today ([fwbgo.com](http://fwbgo.com)).

Watch for more information about additional projects and special events. ■

# BROWN

on green BY DAVID BROWN

IN SPITE OF THE CURRENT FINANCIAL crisis, right now is a great time to buy your first home! First-time homebuyers qualify for an \$8,000 tax credit on homes purchased before December 1, 2009. In addition, rates for a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage are averaging 4.75%, which is quite low. Buying a home at this rate could knock \$130 off the monthly payment on a \$160,000 mortgage compared to rates a year ago. Still another reason to buy is that home prices have been falling rapidly.

Some areas of the country have seen real estate values decline over 30%, and nearly every region has seen at least a 10% decline. Foreclosures and a glut of unsold homes on the market are driving prices lower. First-time homebuyers may wish to purchase a fixer-upper and use the \$8,000 tax credit to make the needed repairs. Those who once thought the purchase

of a home was out of reach may be surprised to discover they can now afford to buy.

For example, a year ago they would pay a monthly mortgage payment of \$1,060.87 on a home priced at \$220,000, assuming a 6.05% rate with 20% (\$44,000) down. Today, the same monthly mortgage payment on that home would be \$834.64 because the home price is now \$200,000, and the rate has dropped to 4.75% with 20% (\$40,000) down. Buyers can save \$225 each month, plus they will receive the \$8,000 credit to pocket or to use on home improvements.

There is one catch. Due to the credit crunch, only highly qualified buyers need apply. The best terms and rates will go to those who have a 20% down payment. If that's you, and you have been waiting to buy your first home, now is the time. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: David Brown is director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation. For more information about the Foundation, visit [www.fwbgifts.org](http://www.fwbgifts.org).

## What do I need when applying for a loan?

- Social Security number for both applicants
- Copies of checking and savings accounts for past six months
- Recent paycheck stub detailing your earnings
- List of all credit card accounts
- List of car loan(s) and any other outstanding loans
- Copies of last two years' income tax returns
- Name of person(s) who can verify your employment



# Invest in men...

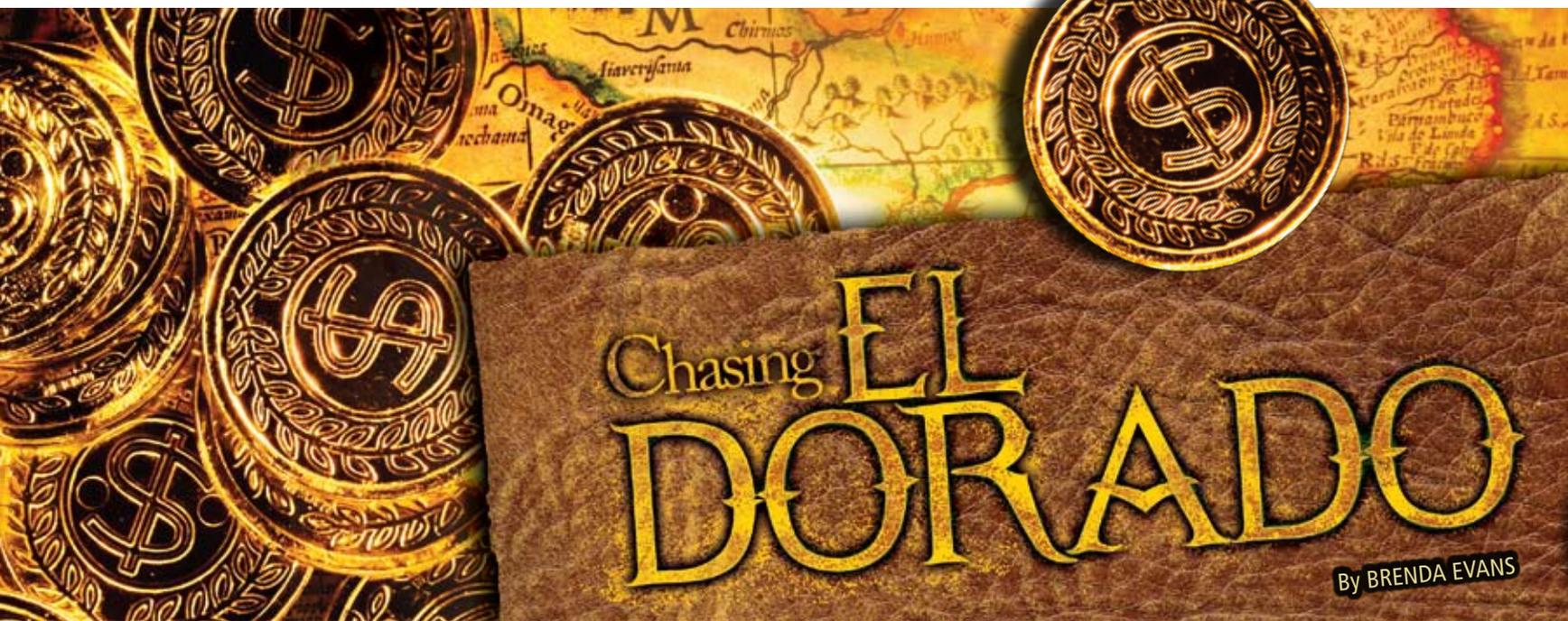
When you make an endowment gift to Master's Men, you partner with a ministry whose mission has remained unchanged for more than 50 years—to promote spiritual growth in Free Will Baptist men.

Ken Akers, director of Master's Men, recently put it this way: "We want to develop men of priority, prayer, purpose, purity, and passion!"

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### AT FIRST, I DID NOT KNOW THAT HE WAS A MAN.

Then I heard that in celebration he smeared his body with gold dust and plunged into a lake to wash it away—as if that deep yellow particulate matter were a useless pollution. It was in the highlands above Bogota, or so they say. And he owned jewels, too, and other splendid objects. Above all, he was real—a king. They called him El Dorado, The Gilded One.

Later someone else said that El Dorado was a place not a man, an entire fabulous country of gold. And for certain it was real since Pizarro crossed the Andes from Quito in 1539 to find it, and in 1595 Sir Walter Raleigh plunged into the Orinoco lowlands to take a look.

Now, in this enlightened century, I know the truth: El Dorado is both real and not real. As legend, El Dorado is in the league with Midas' tragic touch and Jason's golden fleece—fiction pure and simple, enchanting myth, not history.

But in another way, El Dorado is real, as real as the New York Stock Exchange, for it has come to mean any place where wealth can be quickly and easily gained. For that matter, the market in all its permutations has certainly been an El Dorado in recent years. But for current chasers of that deep yellow metallic element, Wall Street has become the place where our wealth can just as quickly and easily be lost.

And gains and losses weigh heavily on my mind—too heavily at times I'm sure. Recently, I heard two financial pundits give contradictory analyses of “the downturn” as

we call it, each with authoritative vigor and supporting statistics. Amusing stuff, or so it seemed to the host of the show. I wasn't so much amused as cynical about “experts” and about my ability to read the direction our economy is going and whether I should go with or against it.

I really cannot name my feeling about money right now. I know I feel jerked around, confused, my emotions as erratic as the market. In the spring, gold was back in serious investors' portfolios and its value rising. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, some big investors bought gold and had Brinks deliver it rather than holding their investment in futures contracts or other securities. But over the past several decades, has any investment been more volatile, more unpredictable?

Certainly, gold is a precious metal, elemental even, a thing valued as the finest of its kind and pleasing to the touch. But I don't trust it, for it is as fickle and uninspiring as its color—a variable tone averaging deep yellow...like the yolk of an egg or jaundiced skin.

Barbara Slavin, managing editor for *The Washington Times*, titled her recent book on American-Iranian relations *Bitter Friends, Bosom Enemies*. That's close to how I feel about money right now: my enemy, my friend, both.

I like what Kathleen Norris says in *Acedia and Me* about knowing and naming your enemy: “Not knowing the true name of your enemy, be it a troll, a demon, or an ‘issue,’ puts you at a great disadvantage, and learning the name can help to set you free.”

So I'm working on naming how I feel about money. Two

financial counselors have helped—Jesus and A. W. Tozer. Jesus referred to money’s usefulness as a commodity but unreliable in any ultimate sense. He warned His listeners not to hold it near and dear as if it has infinite qualities. Money is a necessity, but spiritually it is capable of enthroning itself as a god in my life. There it is again: bitter friend, bosom enemy.

In *The Pursuit of God*, Tozer strikes my heart with his words. Things, he says, are a monstrous substitution for God, “an enemy which we tolerate at our peril.” Verbal clues of this enemy are my preoccupation with words like profit, gain, my, and mine, chief characteristics of possessiveness and covetousness.

I’m cautioned, too, by brief lines in Tennyson’s poem, *Timbuctoo*. Transient allurements can win my heart even though they are creations of mere men. “Imperial Eldorado, roof’d with gold” is one of those temporary whims to which I’m tempted to turn “with yearning hope.”

I know that a lovesick chase of prosperity is as unreasonable as stalking a shadow. Spurred by an ache that makes me “content with discontentment, sulking, driven, bent like everybody else. . . in cheerless, drear pursuit,” as T. M. Moore warns, I joined the chase. It was a weakness of will, a failure of spirit.

Recently, as I sat in my office on the cusp of spring, I watched two astonishing events. Dismal stock reports scrolled across the television screen; the Dow was down more than 300 points that day to less than half what it had

been in October 2007.

Outside my window, a plump bluebird pilfered a pyracantha bush, his feathers fluffed against a cold wind. The berries were almost black with desiccation, their vibrant orange long dead. Yet, in the absence of mealworms—the bluebird’s preferred diet—he found the berries edible. Besides, spring was on its way.

That spunky bluebird brought on a Eureka! moment for me, a bit like Archimedes’ exclamation after discovering a method for determining the purity of gold. I saw the name of what I feel about money: I’ll call it a stoppage, a closure. A letting go of what I’ve lost and gratitude and gladness for what I haven’t.

I have left the chase for El Dorado. Though there are no mealworms right now, and the pyracantha berries are dry, I’m satisfied. And above all, I’m grateful—very grateful.

I’ll let Robert Frost have the final word on deep yellow:

*Nature’s first green is gold,  
Her hardest hue to hold.  
Her early leaf’s a flower;  
But only so an hour.  
Then leaf subsides to leaf.  
So Eden sank to grief,  
So dawn goes down to day.  
Nothing gold can stay.* ONE

ABOUT THE WRITER: Brenda likes medieval mysteries, memoirs, literary journals, and the new ESV translation of the Bible. Currently, she is reading two novels, a biography, and a memoir set in China. She is a member of a Southern writers book club, a women’s Bible study, and Second FWB Church in Ashland, Kentucky.

# Are you Making Plans for the Future?

There are many ways to plan for the future through your will. A good plan will help you care for your loved ones after you are gone, plan for your own care, or even make a gift to Master’s Men.

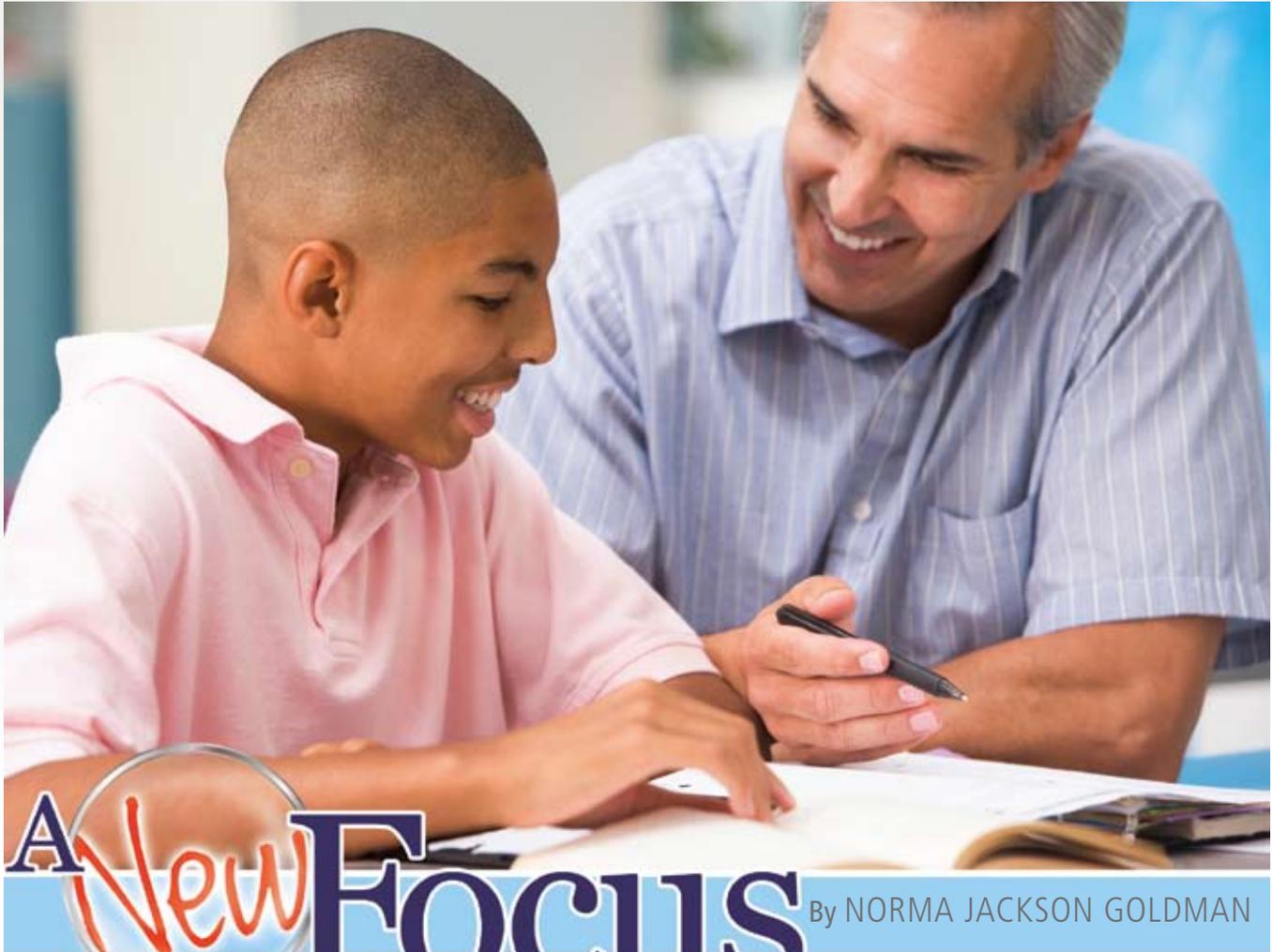
To learn more about how the Free Will Baptist Foundation can help you with your will, visit:



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# A New Focus

By NORMA JACKSON GOLDMAN

**IF THERE WERE EVER A TIME FOR** focus, it's in retirement! Even if you are only in the planning phase and retirement is still "around the corner," it makes good sense to set parameters for your new life, post-retirement. It's tempting to say, "Thanks, but I've had enough focus in my life. Now is the time to kick back and just relax for a change."

Take care not to drift into a state of "it's time for me" to the point that *me* gets in the way of virtually everything else. And when the world is all about *me*, it gets crowded in a hurry. *My* schedule, *my* time, *my* likes and dislikes, and *my* feelings can pretty well fill up the calendar, leaving little time for anything or anyone else.

True, your past concerns in juggling work, raising a family, caring for a home, and being part of your church's activities were legitimate. But you managed to handle all those roles productively. Just because you are retired doesn't mean you can no longer be productive.

On the contrary, many find retirement to be the most productive time of their lives. They put a lifetime of "on-the-job" training to good use in places where they receive the blessing of God and the joy that comes from serving others instead of a paycheck.

As a steward of God's resources, you can demonstrate His lordship in a very winsome way as you truly worship Him with your lifestyle. So the more important question is: "Where would God have me focus my time, my energy, and my life?"

Did you know that retirees do virtually all the tutoring in local schools in the county where I live? Hundreds of talented, dedicated people help youngsters achieve much higher reading levels as they dedicate two to four hours each week, meeting with children one-on-one at school. Teachers report that the influence and support of a caring adult carries as much or more weight as the actual tutoring that takes place. Most polling places could not operate without the as-

sistance of retirees. Think of all the years you simply took for granted that someone would make certain you were registered and eligible to vote, and then walk you through the process. Perhaps you could be that someone.

Take an inventory of your gifts—the things you are good at and love to do. Make sure to list the things you've wanted to do, but never felt you had time (or training) to do them. Include needs that you've observed in your community, starting with your church home, even if it's something you've never tackled before. Finding a place of service and focusing on others leaves little time for self-indulgent sensitivity or living in the past.

A New Testament church thrives on the active participation and contributions of its members. Members should do the bulk of caring and nurturing the church family (no, it isn't solely the responsibility of the pastor), should attend to the needs of those who need a spiritual touch and

encouragement, and handle practical things like landscaping, maintenance of church vans, spring cleaning, and painting. Could you help other members with tax returns or teach teens how to balance a checkbook?

For those with a green thumb, your homeowner's association or an elderly couple could surely use some help in getting seasonal plantings underway.

It is sweet sleep indeed after a day when you've contributed to the health, happiness, and wellbeing of another. Nothing quite matches the knowledge that you've shared your gifts and invested your energy and time for the good of another one of God's children. **ONE**

As a  
**STEWARDSHIP** of  
**GOD'S RESOURCES**  
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winsome way as you  
**TRULY WORSHIP**  
**HIM** with **YOUR**  
**LIFESTYLE.**

**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Former magazine editor Norma Goldman enjoys a successful writing career in her retirement. She lives in Nashville, TN. Learn more about Free Will Baptist retirement options at [www.boardofretirement.com](http://www.boardofretirement.com).

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## ▶ Can You Trust Your Gut? BY JOHN BRUMMITT

ANYONE WHO HAS WATCHED THE NEWS IN recent months knows the financial market has been a little shaky (to say the least). Many investors have been overwhelmed by their losses, and some have even withdrawn what is left of their investment. They let the market determine their actions, forgetting why they invested in the first place. Financial analysts tell us this is a common reaction to downturns in the market. It is commonly referred to as “trusting your gut.”

You trust your gut reactions when you have to make quick decisions. Your gut instincts are hardwired to get you out of dangerous situations without harm. That is the way God made us. This comes in handy when you are trying to survive in the wilderness...or picking a restaurant on a busy street. Usually, you can trust your gut decisions.

When it comes to investing, however, going with your gut may be the worst decision you can make. Making snap investment decisions when things get rough usually hurts you more in the long run than riding out the storm.

Of course, if you are planning to retire in three months, you must do something. Protect your investments! Perhaps you should lock into a guaranteed-rate annuity a little early rather than take a bigger loss on your nest egg.

But people who have more time before retirement should avoid snap decisions. Rather than trusting your gut about long-term financial goals, you should rely on the super computer between your ears. If you are tempted to withdraw your investments early, be encouraged. If your

retirement plans are set up right, your investments will balance out in the end.

Researchers tell us that people who set their retirement allocation based on their age and only check it occasionally usually fair much better than those who watch the stock ticker minute by minute. The reason is simple. When you watch day-by-day losses, your gut instinct screams a little louder with each loss, “Get out!” On the other hand, those who invest for the long haul stay calmer about the financial future.

The problem is most Americans do not follow a long-term approach when it comes to financial gains. The average 401(K) account in the U.S. has a balance of \$22,000 (according to the April/08 issue of Money). That is certainly not enough for retirement.

Most Americans wait until the last possible moment to begin saving for retirement, cramming their investments into the last few years of their career. As a result, they look for the highest rate of return they can find. The result? Risky investing! Risk is not so bad when you are in your twenties, but it is a big deal for older investors. Stop! Think it through. Stop trusting your gut. Find a happy medium, a low-risk plan designed for long-term investment. Then stop letting the market run your life. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: A 2004 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Business Manager John Brummitt began working for the Board of Retirement in the spring of 2006. To learn more about Free Will Baptist retirement options, visit [www.boardofretirement.com](http://www.boardofretirement.com).





# giving with Simplicity!

BY DAVID CROWE

**IN ROMANS 12:8, WE READ, “HE THAT GIVETH, LET him do it with simplicity.”** It is my understanding that this could also be translated “let him give with generosity.” The context of Romans 12 is stated in the first two verses when God begs us to present our bodies as living sacrifices, our reasonable service to Him.

In verse two, he gets to the matter at hand, the need to become less and less like the world and more and more like Christ. The remainder of Romans 12 contains a discourse on how to accomplish what He begs us to do in the first two verses. This article looks closer at verse eight and the command to give with simplicity.

I grew up in a Christian home and have attended church all my life. I have vivid memories of my parents sitting at the kitchen table on Saturday morning after payday on Friday, writing checks to pay the bills. It always amazed me that their first check was always for tithes to our church. After that check was written, the other bills were paid.

Frequently, they didn’t know how they were going to pay all the bills. Yet even when the figures just wouldn’t work out on paper, they always paid their tithes first. Many times they put money into the offering plate for Free Will Baptist colleges, children’s homes, missionaries, and other needs. I knew there was never money left after the bills were paid,



“...give to God and the church because it’s the right thing to do.

**Not for recognition.  
Not for reward.  
Just to be pleasing to God!”**

but that never kept my parents from “giving with simplicity.”

I didn’t realize at the time what an impact that had on my life.

My parents instilled in me that you give to God and the church because it’s the right thing to do. Not for recognition. Not for reward. Just to be pleasing to God!

My wife Kathey, was raised the same way. For nearly 32 years, we have paid our tithes and shared our offerings, doing our best to “give with simplicity.” When God has impressed us to give, we have tried to be obedient. Many times, we didn’t know where the money would come from or what the outcome would be, but we always tried to be faithful and God has been faithful to us.

As director of development for the Home Missions Department, I serve as the primary fundraiser for the department. I don’t enjoy fundraising, and I don’t feel as though it is one of my gifts. I don’t like to ask anyone for anything. I don’t want to be known as “the guy with his hand out.”

I would rather be known as the guy who wants to give you something—my time, my energy, my prayers, my possessions, or anything else God tells me to give. At Home Missions, we believe God has placed us here to serve others, not to be served.

Sometimes we are questioned about the trips and gifts we give to those who contribute to our department. While I have already expressed my philosophy of giving—faithful, generous, “simple” giving—I see nothing wrong with giv-

ing back to those who listen and respond when God tells them to give. We have been able to do some nice things for pastors, their wives, and others who have given generously over the years.

I have answered many questions about where the money comes from to pay for these gifts and trips. Home Missions established a Promotions Fund using money from interest earned by the Church Extension Loan Fund (CELF). Not one penny has been taken from any offering, investment, or gift to Home Missions.

Each month, a portion of the money earned from CELF loans is placed into the Promotion Fund. Every gift and every trip is underwritten by this fund. You can rest assured that every penny you give to Home Missions will be used to support missionaries and the general fund. At the same time, thanks to the Promotional Fund, I am glad to offer Heritage Trips and other gifts of gratitude to our pastors and their wives, many lay couples, and individuals.

Let me be clear. I believe God commands us to “give with simplicity.” Yet I am also happy to provide trips and gifts to those willing to give to the Lord’s work. It is my prayer that each of us will always give for the right reasons and the right motives, because God will always bless that kind of giving. May we all become less and less like the world in our giving and more and more like Christ! **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: David Crowe is director of development for the Home Missions Department. To learn more about the ministry of Home Missions, visit [www.homemissions.net](http://www.homemissions.net).

# LIFECYCLE

# of GIVING

BY  
JIM PUCKETT



*[Editor's Note: At the December 2008 Home Missions Board meeting, Jim Puckett presented a recommendation to establish a Perpetual Land Fund similar to the one established in Oklahoma a few years ago. The board and the staff felt this was a tremendous opportunity to provide interest-free money to home missionaries, allowing them to buy land and build sooner, cutting down the time required to reach self-supporting status. The following article explains the fund in more detail.]*

**THERE'S NO MORE JOYOUS EVENT** than the birth of a new baby. Someone has said that a new baby is God's way of saying the world should continue. Children bring happiness and hope to a family like nothing else. In the spiritual realm, the birth of a new church is a time of great rejoicing, bringing new life and hope that God's work will continue.

Physical death is also a natural part of the cycle of life. As much as we dread it, we must accept it. However, we are less likely to accept the decline and death of a church as natural. Yet

changing circumstances, demographics, job market, technology, and the local economy can all negatively affect a church, making it impossible to maintain a local congregation.

One church in Oklahoma faced such a dilemma: How to keep the witness of a once-vibrant church alive? The church had been a growing, thriving group with a reputation for outreach and its love for worldwide missions. Visitors heard the gospel and experienced the love and fellowship of God's people.

In more recent years, things had



changed dramatically. The community around the church had declined, and the congregation was no longer growing. In fact, decreasing attendance and declining finances made it impractical, if not impossible, to keep the doors open.

In desperation, the church called the Oklahoma State Missions Director, saying, "We must close our doors, but we still want to reach souls for Christ. Help us find a way to perpetuate our love for the Lord and evangelize the world."

This gift gave birth to Oklahoma's Perpetual Land Fund. Any funds received from the sale of church properties are placed in a Perpetual Land Fund and used to help buy properties and build new church buildings. A mission church, often too small to handle a large debt, can borrow from the fund to buy property and build a building. No payment or interest is charged to the mission church for five years.

On the fifth anniversary of the loan, the mission (which by then should be a thriving church) obtains a mortgage

on its property to repay the loan to the Perpetual Land Fund. The process is then repeated with another mission church.

Since its small beginning, with only one church contributing, several churches have become donors to the Perpetual Land Fund, giving life, hope, and a new witness to God's love in another place. Four churches that were forced to close their doors now live on through another congregation.

Other churches and individuals have contributed to the fund, enabling two new mission churches to receive funds without a financial burden as they focus on growing a new congregation.

In December 2008, the Home Missions Board adopted this program in hope of speeding up the process of giving birth to a church. The Perpetual Land Fund is now open for contributions from anyone who wishes to be a part of a gift that keeps on giving new life and hope for the unreached world.

This fund will be managed by the Church Extension Loan Fund and can be a blessing to mission churches for many years to come. If you have an interest in this program, please contact the Home Missions Department, and we will work and watch together to see what great things God will accomplish.

#### ONE

ABOUT THE WRITER: Jim Puckett has been a Free Will Baptist pastor for many years. An avid supporter of Home Missions, he served for 12 years on the Home Mission Board and several years as missions director for the Oklahoma State Association.

# NEWS

around the nation



## Missionaries Gather for Home Missions Summit

**NASHVILLE, TN**—Church Planters across the nation gathered in February for three days of training, fellowship, and prayer.

Dr. Troy Bush trained church planters in how to “Love Your Neighbor; Tell Your Story” and shared about his experiences while supervising Southern Baptist church planters in Maryland. Jay Baines, pastor of Townsend FWB Church in Delaware, spoke on organization and practical matters in the church.

The ladies held a separate meeting for a day, enjoying fellowship and feasting on God’s Word. Missionary wives shared their priceless experiences and provided insight into how to work with others and become essential to missions ministry.

Dennise Guin, from Colorado Springs, CO, spoke on “Building Your Relationship and Encouraging Your Husband.” Pam Jones, of Greensburg, PA, shared her field experiences and provided suggestions on “Helping Your Children Survive.” Betty Booth, Rochester, NY, gave her listeners insight into how to “Build Relationships with Others.” Patsy Gwartney of Florence, AZ, taught attendees how to “Build Relationships With the Unlovely.” Donna Crabtree spoke on the topic, “Building Your Relationship with God.”

The ladies enjoyed their time together, especially the open discussions about building relationships and churches for the Lord. ■

Here are a few quotes from people who attended the summit:

“Everything was on target. The fellowship was wonderful and encouraging, and the teaching this year was practical, as well as applicable to every pastor, regardless of the stage of his mission work.”

—*Dexter Guin, Colorado*

“Thank you for having this meeting for us! It helped me keep from slipping into a ‘maintenance mode’ mentality.”

—*Howard Gwartney, Arizona*

“The food was delicious, the accommodations were extraordinary, and the information we received was helpful. I love being around other missionaries. The fellowship we had with them was refreshing.”

—*Tom Jones, Pennsylvania*

“Do it again.” —*Dana Booth, New York*



## Planting Churches Across America

BY LARRY A. POWELL

Free Will Baptist church planters are connecting with families across the nation. They are preaching repentance and faith for salvation in Christ alone. Enjoy the following accounts of their success.

### **CLAYTON AND TAMMY HAMPTON** in Clarksville, Tennessee

Recently, I stood on a hill overlooking several new subdivisions in Clarksville, Tennessee—five acres recently purchased by Two Rivers FWB Church. Individuals and churches have given with enthusiasm to pay for this property and to support the Hampton's mission.

I enjoyed the morning worship and fellowship with the Hampton family. After the service, we looked over the plans for a new house of worship. Brother Clayton is working to secure permits and city approval. We are thankful that soon we will have a beautiful, new church in this rapidly-expanding city.

### **MARK AND KHRISTI SHORES** in Albuquerque, New Mexico

New Mexico has often been called the Land of Enchantment. The mission has wonderful property and facilities along one of the main thoroughfares of this sprawling city. When I visited the mission, the service was inspiring with good music and great preaching from Mark.

The church has experienced growth in recent months with several new families coming into the fellowship. The city of Albuquerque has a tremendous need for evangelical witness, and the Shores and their church are meeting that need. Their sons John and Josh have been instrumental in church growth. Pray for the Shores as they minister in this isolated location, far from Free Will Baptist fellowship.

### **SCOTT AND DAWN REAL** in Overland Park, Kansas

This project is now completed! The Overland Park mission has become a self-supporting FWB church. Scott and Dawn have built on the solid foundation laid by Mark and Shelley Braisher. This beautiful facility has a great location, and the congregation is growing under Scott's capable leadership.

### **DON AND SONYA BAILEY** in San Antonio, Texas

The Baileys are making a mark for Christ between the two interstate loops that surround this great Texas City. The church has purchased 10 acres in a great location and has secured permits to build. Free Will Baptists from several states are going to help Don and his mission pour the foundation and construct a beautiful building. Let's pray that God will continue to help Don and Sonya connect with people in the Alamo City.

Thank you, faithful Free Will Baptists, for your consistent monthly prayer and financial support of our labors in North America.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Larry A. Powell is general director of the Home Missions Department. To learn more about the ministry of FWB Home Missions, visit [www.homemissions.net](http://www.homemissions.net).

# + INTERSECT

where the BIBLE meets life



Photo: Mark Cowart

**DR. GARNETT REID**  
chairs the Bible Department at  
Free Will Baptist Bible College.

## Under the Rabbi's Microscope: Literally Living the Law

LET ME SEE IF I GET THIS RIGHT. IF I TAKE THE BIBLE'S commands literally, I cannot wear a poly-wool blend sport coat, but I am to wear white—always white! Catfish is off my menu. I can't shave, and depressed friends should expect a bottle of wine from me.

That's the idea behind *The Year of Living Biblically*, a book subtitled *One Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible*. The author, A. J. Jacobs, an editor for *Esquire* magazine, sets out to examine why the Bible is still such a major force in our culture. His strategy? For one year, he decides to, as he puts it, "follow the Bible literally."

### The 700 Rule Club

Even though his wife, friends, and co-workers suspect that he's off the deep end, Jacobs, a self-confessed Jewish agnostic, begins his quest by compiling every biblical rule, guideline, or suggestion he can find. The resulting list—over 700 rules—comes to more than 72 pages.

After 12 months of trying to live the law, he offers a few "dos and don'ts" about how to read and practice Scripture. Some are side-splitting, hilarious. Others are heart-breaking.

For example, he wrestles with:

Winking (Prov. 16:30), cursing (Eph. 5:4), dancing (2 Sam. 6:14), and movie going (Prov. 11:6).

Disciplining his son with the rod (Prov. 13:24); he resolves the dilemma with a Nerf bat.

Blowing the ram's horn to begin a new month (Ps. 81:3).

Bringing home a rabbi who specializes in finding "mixed fibers" (Lev. 19:19) in his wardrobe—with a microscope, even!

Learning to play the harp (Deut. 33:2).

Eating insects (Lev. 11:22); he finds a website where you can buy "micro-livestock"—edible insects!

Stoning an adulterer (Lev. 20:27); he does!

### Not So Fast, My Friend

In contrast to the many obscure biblical laws he bumps

into, Jacobs also struggles with serious issues: coveting, stealing, lying, tithing, gossip, lust, and anger. He unfortunately defends homosexuality, saying, "God and humans are in a quest to reveal new meanings of the Bible...We don't have to sit back and passively accept that Leviticus bans [homosexuality]... if other convincing ways of reading can be found."

Serious flaws such as this one tend to negate the more positive lessons he explores, such as:

The high moral standards of the Old Testament prophets.

His sense of "feeling God's pleasure" as he—Jacobs—gives to others' needs.

The significance life would take on if creation were true (he's an evolutionist).

A hunger for "spirituality."

The beauty of the law's structure and order versus the "fetish" of too much focus on the individual.

Saddest of all is his refusal to confess Jesus as Messiah as the end result of the law (Rom. 10:4). "I should accept Jesus as Lord," Jacobs admits, "but I just can't do it...though I do think of Jesus as a great man, I don't come away from the experience accepting him as savior."

*The Year of Living Biblically* doesn't offer many helpful solutions, but it does raise one of the most vital yet difficult questions in the Christian life: What does a New Testament Christian do with Old Testament law? What role, if any, does the law have for Christ's followers? Since we are under grace, do we forget it? Ignore it? Keep some of it? If so, what parts? Why is the law even there in the first place since some of it seems so strange (just take a look at Deut. 21:4!)?

One friend of Jacobs offers a nugget of wisdom about these seemingly odd orders: "You can't know the mind of God. There may be benefits beyond what we can know or imagine" as we bend our wills to His, even in the areas we don't understand.

In the next column, I will answer these concerns. After all, living biblically is not just a clever marketing idea for a book. It's why we're here on planet Earth. **ONE**

# KINDLING THE FLAME IN IOWA

BY KEVIN LANNAN



## A Brief History

It was unseasonably warm Easter Sunday, April 2, 1961, when 16 people gathered in a rented building at the corner of 12th and Grant Streets in Bettendorf, Iowa. They took part in the first Free Will Baptist service in the metropolitan area along the Mississippi River now known as the Quad Cities. With Bettendorf and Davenport, Iowa, on the north side of the river and Moline and Rock Island, Illinois, on the south, the area had become a thriving agricultural manufacturing area. Corporations like Caterpillar, Case, and International Harvester were major employers, and a flood of people migrated from southern states for jobs. Many of the transplants were Free Will Baptists, with no church to attend.

For months, Mr. and Mrs. Ebert Franks of Winfield, Alabama, felt God leading them to establish a church in the growing area, and they held that first service just 10 days before Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space.

Although Iowa is not quite outer space (contrary to popular belief), the mission of the Franks family—traveling halfway across the United States to establish a church in an unknown part of the country—was just as pioneering and courageous.

One month later, Harvey Hill and Dale Skiles arrived from Berkeley City, Missouri, ready to organize the mission into a church. On May 28, 1961, this handful of people established the first FWB mission church in Iowa. They broke ground for the Riverview FWB Church in Bettendorf on June 10, 1962, six blocks up the hill from the original meeting site. The church served as a springboard to estab-

lish three other Free Will Baptist churches on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River: Green Rock FWB Church in Colona, Faith FWB Church in Milan, and First FWB Church in Moline.

These churches were, in turn, instrumental in calling Cliff and Kathy Donoho, assisted by Dale and Lana Mitchell of Nashville, Tennessee, to establish a second missionary church in Iowa 30 years later. Heritage FWB Church was founded in Davenport in October 1992. Land was purchased and ground was broken for the new building on August 22, 1993, and the Heritage FWB Church became self-supporting in 1999.

## Serving the Community

Many souls have been saved through the efforts of the Quad-City churches. In addition, the Iowa churches developed a heart for serving the community. Heritage Church created a puppet ministry with shows and skits based on the gospel message. They took it to the streets, doing shows in nursing homes and any other place that invited them. The teens and dedicated adults spent hours in prop building, rehearsals, and performances.

Pastor Wayne Martin of the Riverview Church heads a bi-weekly prison ministry and sends sermons to inmates who are transferred to other facilities. Heritage Church provides emergency supply baskets for the local women and children's shelter. The ladies of the church also prepare baskets for the local right-to-life organization that helps unwed mothers who opt to keep their babies. Church members rotate in volunteer teams to operate a weekly food pantry out of the church.

Recently, area Free Will Baptist churches sponsored a

non-denominational, “Share the Faith” evangelism seminar attended by representatives of churches throughout the city. Both Iowa churches hold a summer Vacation Bible School that is open to the public.

**IOWA MAY NOT BE AN EXOTIC LOCATION LIKE MANY INTERNATIONAL MISSION FIELDS, BUT THE NEED IS JUST AS GREAT AND JUST AS URGENT.**

### Fields of Opportunity

Originally, the Iowa churches were member congregations of the Illinois Association of Free Will Baptists. Because the numbers of Free Will Baptists in the state were so few, it seemed best to join the Illinois group for representation at the national conference.

In 2006, however, Pastor Jim Martin of the Heritage Church introduced the idea of creating a new Iowa conference. Why? If Iowa churches were truly planted as missions to Iowa, then they should be recognized as such.

The intent was not to break fellowship with churches on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River but to establish an Iowa denominational presence, a vanguard for future churches in the state. The move put Iowa on the Free Will Baptist “map,” no longer hidden under the Illinois banner.

Denominational leaders were excited about the idea, and all necessary preparations were completed. The Eastern Iowa Association of Free Will Baptists was officially recognized as a separate district at the 2007 national convention, and was honored by the denomination at their first meeting in November 2007.

### Next Steps

So what is next for Iowa? Why all the fuss? In his article titled, “Running the Numbers,” in the February-March 2008 issue of *ONE Magazine*, Tom Jones made a point that bears repeating. Eighty-one percent of Free Will Baptist churches are located in 12 states. Unfortunately, Iowa is not one of the “big” states.

Forty-seven years after that first Easter service in 1961, there are still only two Free Will Baptist churches in Iowa.

Both are in the same area, perched precariously on the far eastern tip of a state that is home to three million people.

The Eastern Iowa Association had a booth at the 2007 national convention. The theme was “Iowa: Fields of Opportunity.” Iowa has several large cities, an Indian reservation, and thousands of small communities between. It is home to three major state colleges: the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa State in Ames, and the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. Davenport is home to the renowned Palmer Chiropractic College, which draws students from around the world.

The state has changed in those 47 years as well. The jobs that brought many Free Will Baptists up from the southern states are gone. The Caterpillar, Case, and International Harvester factories closed or moved their facilities elsewhere. The flood of workers has receded back to their home states. A growing casino and gaming industry has filled the employment void left by manufacturing industry, bringing with it a host of social, moral, and economic problems.

The Iowa churches are aging. Pastor Jim Martin likes to remind his congregation that he is not getting any younger. Yet the opportunities are endless. After Heritage held their ceremonial mortgage burning in June 2005, both Iowa churches now stand debt-free, ready to continue the missionary vision in Iowa.

The only question is: who will join us? Iowa may not be an exotic location like many international mission fields, but the need is just as great and just as urgent. In the absence of sound biblical teaching, the young people of Iowa have turned to the internet, radio, and television talk shows for spiritual guidance; they are influenced heavily by movie and music celebrities touting their latest spiritual discoveries. Cults are flourishing, and new age books routinely sell like hotcakes...yes, in Iowa!

Romans 10:14-15 comes to mind: “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach, except they be sent?”

We are praying that the 50th anniversary of Iowa will be a celebration because Free Will Baptists from across the nation—that’s you—have taken the challenge to kindle the flame in Iowa. **ONE**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Kevin Lannan is deacon and treasurer of Heritage Free Will Baptist Church in Davenport, Iowa. To learn more about the ministry in Iowa, visit [www.heritagefwbchurch.com](http://www.heritagefwbchurch.com).



The church caters to the consumer preferences of attendees, meeting their “felt needs,” which, in reality, detract from real spiritual needs.

*A new book that could change the way we think about church.*

# Franchising McChurch

BY MATT PINSON

## MY STUDENTS AT FREE WILL BAPTIST

Bible College get a big kick out of my love for Big Macs. Some of them even made a film about it. It all dates back to an illustration I gave in a chapel sermon about how our immersion in pop culture and its superficiality isn’t good for us. I illustrated this principle with Big Macs. I love them, but I have to put severe limits on my intake of them because they’re bad for my health!

So my interest was piqued when I came across a red book with a white (greasy) fast-food bag on the front and the captivating title *Franchising McChurch: Feeding Our Obsession with Easy Christianity*. In this book, Thomas White and John M. Yeats of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary provide readers with a wonderful assessment of the “McDonaldization” of the church.

## Marks of McDonaldization

White and Yeats have as their starting point George Ritzer’s famous sociological theory by the same name. It argues that modern life has become dominated by the same principles of mass culture and consumerism that fast-food restaurants operate on. So, the authors say, churches—consciously or unconsciously—are increasingly making themselves over in the image of the corporate world of efficiency and mass production. Like modern secular fast-food chains, they prize efficiency, calculability (numbers), predictability,

and control.

The first part of the book discusses those four marks of McDonaldization. The authors convincingly point out that efficiency values processes over people. The church becomes a dispenser of religious goods and services marketed to religious consumers. So, as at McDonald’s, the customer is always right. The church caters to the consumer preferences of attendees, meeting their “felt needs,” which, in reality, detract from real spiritual needs. This often leads to segregation of congregations along the lines of age or consumer preference, niche marketing to appeal to all sorts of end consumers.

The bottom line—numbers, whether head count or money—becomes the driving force. Churches fail to realize that short-term inflation of numbers leads to the long-term lack of spiritual growth and church health. This leaves congregations large but anemic, failing to fulfill the full-orbed purpose of the Great Commission. Finally, to achieve this mass-market vision of success, pastors must exert more control over congregations, becoming CEOs rather than shepherds.

Part two of the book discusses the theological and practical ramifications of McChurch. The authors skillfully point readers back to the New Testament doctrine of the church—the vision of Christ and the apostles for the gathered body of believers. They do this in a way that discusses practical ways

forward for pastors and their churches. They discuss pressing by-products of McDonaldization such as “sharing sermons;” replacing worship with entertainment techniques so as to appeal more effectively to consumers; and a move away from the preached Word toward therapeutic talks, drama, and clever illustration techniques where style outweighs substance.

## Multi-Site Churches

Worth the price of the book is the authors’ penetrating discussion of the new multi-site or multi-campus church movement, whereby megachurches, not content simply to plant new churches out of their congregation, spawn additional “campuses,” with the preaching provided via satellite from the senior pastor of the “main campus.” These congregations are controlled by the “main” congregation, give all their offerings to the main congregation, etc.

Thomas and White even share actual stories of “mergers and acquisitions.” It is now commonplace for megachurches to “acquire” congregations in other neighborhoods—and even other cities and states—to become one of their sites, just as larger corporations gobble up smaller firms.

The authors persuasively argue that this approach diverges from the New Testament model of self-governing local churches to which Baptists and other free-church movements have subscribed for centuries. They are right in saying that, for all intents and purposes, multi-site churches are episcopal dioceses with a centralized bishop that oversees pastors of local churches have little control over their own church lives but are controlled by the diocese instead.

I would add that, sadly, the episcopal model is superior to the multi-site model. Like the multi-site approach,

episcopal church government removes decision-making authority from the local congregation. But in the episcopal system, each local congregation has its own pastor (shepherd) who feeds the Word to the flock. Multi-site set-ups don’t even have this basic function of the New Testament church.

## New Testament Model

The authors correctly emphasize that the multi-site model, like the episcopal approach, differs from the New Testament model of self-governing local congregations of gathered believers. According to this approach, these self-governing flocks call their own pastors who shepherd and feed the flock the Word of God. They call their own deacons, who serve the flock and assist the pastors in the administration of ordinances to the people of God.

These gathered people are a holy priesthood covenanted with each other in the flock’s mission, vision, and government. While they maintain strong ties of accountability and fellowship with sister congregations, they maintain control of their own internal affairs, including their finances and property ownership.

Christians from Baptist and other free-church movements have historically affirmed this biblical vision of church government. Yet, as White and Yeats clearly show, the new multi-site movement is at odds with this biblical-historical model.

This is the first book I’ve read that sizes up the multi-site church movement from the vantage point of a thorough biblical theology of the church. The authors, who have extensive pastoral experience themselves, strive to make the book practical and easy to read for everyday church leaders seek-

ing to build authentic churches in a maelstrom of consumerism, marketing, and entertainment.

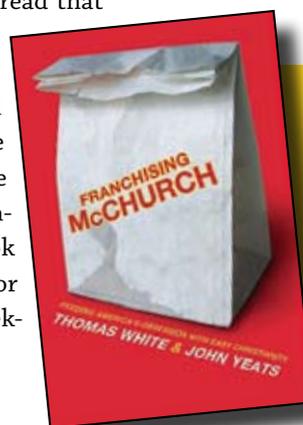
## Get It. Read It.

While I disagree with a few of the points in the book, its broad thrust is desperately needed in our consumer-driven church world with its temptation to exchange New Testament principles of church health, growth, and replication for marketing, entertainment, big business, and psychotherapy—modern concepts that didn’t even exist prior to the twentieth century.

*Franchising McChurch* calls churches away from the world’s definition of success. It challenges us to free ourselves from the spirit of the age and tap into the Kingdom and let it transform our world. It is a book that drinks deeply from the well of Scripture and reconnects its readers back to Jesus’s vision of the church and away from the techniques of modern corporate visioneers.

If you are a pastor or church leader, I encourage you to read this book. Think deeply about it. Pray about it. Study the Scripture passages it discusses. Be self-critical. Be open to change. If you do—even if you don’t agree with everything the authors say—I predict that it will help stimulate growth in your ministry and encourage a truly biblical approach to church life, health, and growth. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Matt Pinson is president of Free Will Baptist Bible College.



Order  
*Franchising McChurch*  
from Randall House  
Publications:  
**800-877-7030** or  
**[www.randallhouse.com](http://www.randallhouse.com)**.

## NEWS at FWBBC



### FWBBC President Edits Book on Worship

**NASHVILLE, TN**—*Perspectives on Christian Worship*, a new book edited by Free Will Baptist Bible College president Matt Pinson is now available from the B&H Publishing Group. Sale price for the 360-page volume is \$24.99.

The well-written chapters present in counterpoint form five basic common beliefs on Christian worship that have developed over the course of church history, with a view toward determining which is most faithful to Scripture. The chapters are written by a prominent person within each tradition, and each writer has the opportunity to respond to each differing view.

President Pinson said, “Evangelicals, including Free Will Baptists, need to develop a theology of worship that’s thoroughly scriptural and rooted in our tradition. We haven’t done that yet, and I hope this book will help us move toward formulating a worship theology.”

*Perspectives on Christian Worship* allows readers to see the various views on worship that emerge from five traditions. The chapters present a clear analysis on where the traditions agree as well as points of divergence and conflict.

Pinson said, “I want to get us thinking theologically about worship. I fear we as Free Will Baptists—on all sides of the worship debate—sometimes verge on basing our worship practice on current trends rather than theology, being naïve about the way culture is transforming our life together as Christians. Free Will Baptists who are steeped in their own theological presuppositions will immediately pick up on the problems with some of the views in this book. I hope the book can help us put together a rich theology of worship that emerges from sound theology, not just trendiness.”

This marks the second volume written in counterpoint style that Dr. Pinson has edited. His first effort, *Four Views on Eternal Security*, was published in 2002 by Zondervan.

Other books published by Pinson include *A Free Will Baptist Handbook* (1998) and *The Washing of the Saints’ Feet* (2006), both printed by Randall House Publications. ■

### FWBBC Students Listed in Who’s Who

The 2009 edition of *Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* will include the names of 11 students from Free Will Baptist Bible College who have been selected as national outstanding campus leaders, according to Provost Greg Ketteman.

Campus nominating committees and editors of the annual directory have included the names of these students based on their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities, and potential for continued success.

They join an elite group of students from more than 2,000 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and several foreign nations. Outstanding students have been honored in the annual directory since it was first published in 1934.

Students named this year from Free Will Baptist Bible College are:

Clint Adams (Kentucky)

Teddie Collier (Missouri)

Jacob Conner (Virginia)

Ashley Gladson (Tennessee)

Melanie Hawkins (Illinois)

Derek Lewis (Illinois)

Chad Mishler (Illinois)

Lindsey Parks (Tennessee)

Hannah Postlewaite (South Carolina)

Kyle Saunders (North Carolina)

Mallory White (Virginia)



## NEWS at FWBBC



PHOTO: (L) Dr. James Stevens, chair, Music Department; President Matt Pinson; Dr. Linda Shipley.

### FWBBC Establishes 'Linda Shipley Music Scholarship'

Free Will Baptist Bible College announced the establishment of the Linda Shipley Music Scholarship during a special chapel presentation February 11, according to Dr. James Stevens, chair of the Music Department. The scholarship is named in honor of Dr. Linda Shipley, a member of the college faculty since 2001.

Dr. Stevens said, "Thanks to Dr. Shipley's efforts, the college

secured a one-time \$4,000 gift from the A. Louis Scarmolin Trust, a foundation that supports promotion of the composer, Anthony Louis Scarmolin. The funds will be placed in an endowment for music scholarships. We hope this encourages gifts from others interested in making specific donations to music students."

One of the conditions of the grant is that FWBBC students perform some of Scarmolin's works in recitals and performances. During the February 11 chapel presentation titled "The Music of A. Louis Scarmolin," students and faculty performed 14 works by the composer.

President Pinson said, "We are so pleased that Dr. Shipley is a member of the college music faculty, and even more pleased to honor her by establishing the Linda Shipley Music Scholarship. She is one of the most gifted instrumentalists I've ever known. Her commitment to the mission of FWBBC and her love for the students is an encouragement to all of us."

Anthony Louis Scarmolin (1890-1969) moved with his family from Italy to New Jersey in 1900, enrolled in the German Conservatory of Music in New York City, and planned a career as a concert pianist. A hand injury resulted in him focusing his attention on composing and arranging. During World War I, he played the clarinet and piano with the 320th Field Artillery Band. He later served 30 years as band/orchestra leader at Emerson High School in Union City, New Jersey. ■

### Nine Students Attend Senior Days

Nine students from four states and the Virgin Islands participated in the fourth "Senior Days" of the 2008-2009 academic year at Free Will Baptist Bible College, according to Jeff Caudill, director of enrollment services. The February 12-14 event brought high school seniors from Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, and Tennessee to the Nashville campus.

Mr. Caudill said, "This makes 45 high school seniors who have visited the FWBBC campus in four Senior Days during the current academic year to share in a series of special seniors-only events. While a number of seniors and other interested students attend Welcome Days each semester, our Senior Days focus is exclusively on those students who will graduate in the spring and enroll in college this fall."

The nine visiting seniors attended classes and chapel, met with advisors in their fields of interest, enjoyed an informative lunch with President Matt Pinson, attended a Valentine's party hosted by two FWBBC student societies, and had personal guides to answer questions about the college.

Michigan senior Sarah Norris said, "I enjoyed Senior Days. I'm glad I came down." ■

## ★ LEADER profile

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



### Mike Trimble

Mike sees people differently than most ministers I know. When he sees people who are having trouble, homeless, or addicted, he sees what God can do with their lives.

Mike has been a leader since early childhood. At age five, he asked his parents if they would take him to church. His parents later accepted Christ as a result of a pastoral visit. At nine, Mike felt the call to preach and did not wait. He used a nightstand from his parents' bedroom for a pulpit and preached to his friends. He even had altar calls!

It only takes seconds to know Mike never meets a stranger. This gift helps him connect with people who have never been to church, and his simple explanation of the gospel attracts people to Christianity.

His wife Kathy works close to his office. They often share lunch together or meet at Starbucks on breaks. Their solid relationship is obvious by the notes they drop to each other on facebook. When Mike talks about their three daughters, you can't miss how proud he is, and how much he cares about their future.

After 18 years as pastor at Harvest FWB Church in American Canyon, CA, Mike wants to see more churches established in the region. He wants to bring church to the homeless rather than expect them to find their way. He continues to see people through God's lenses. **Mike Trimble you are a great leader!**

### ★ About Mike:

**Quiet Time Routine:** Mike's quiet time revolves around his Bible, his journal, and a cup of coffee. He records his thoughts in the journal after reading the same verses from several translations.

**Ideal date:** Each week, Mike and his wife enjoy coffee, sushi, and a movie.

**Kids and a one-word description:** (three daughters)  
Elizabeth (20) contemplative; Alyssa (17) passionate;  
Michaela (14) balanced

#### **Favorite books:**

*The Power of the Call*, by Henry Blackaby

*Be a People Person*, by John Maxwell

*Well-Intentioned Dragons - Ministering to Problem People in the Church*, by Marshall Shelley

**Favorite author:** Mark Driscoll

**Currently reading:** *Crazy Love*, by Francis Chan and *Quest for Truth*, by Leroy Forlines

**Biggest Failure:** Not being able to delegate and let go.

**One Indulgence:** Coffee (especially from The Blue Bottle Café in San Francisco)

#### **Paper or Plastic Questions:**

*Mountains or ocean?* Ocean

*Music or talk radio?* Music

*Coke or Pepsi?* Coke

*Email or texting?* Email

*Socks or house shoes?* Socks

*Mac or PC?* Mac



There will be nearly 40 different service projects for Reach That Guy participants in Cincinnati.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS EVENT ON FACEBOOK.

### HERE IS A SAMPLE LIST OF THE PROJECTS AND TYPES OF WORK TO BE EXPECTED.

**SALVATION ARMY:** Sorting and distributing clothing

**RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE:** General cleaning and landscaping

**MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY:** General volunteer work

**MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION:** Stuffing mailers & cleaning a storage facility

**CAIN (CHURCHES ACTIVE IN NORTHSIDE):** Food pantry grocery store

**OUR DAILY BREAD:** Soup Kitchen and making deviled eggs

**CITY GOSPEL MISSION:** General volunteer work

**BLOOD DRIVE:** Wednesday, July 22

**elements**  
kids worship

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**  
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# NEWS

## about the denomination



**Media Commission to Give Away Video Projector**  
**CINCINNATI, OH**—The Media Commission invites all national convention attendees to stop by its booth and register to win a new digital multimedia projector for their church. The projector, a \$600 value, will be given away at the end of the convention. The commission hopes to use entries from this drawing to build its contact database. The database will be used to communicate more effectively with Free Will Baptists involved with electronic media.

The Media Commission, whose new motto is “Providing Tools for Excellence in Media,” launched its website ([www.fwbmedia.com](http://www.fwbmedia.com)) in January. The new, interactive, blog-style site frequently publishes short articles about church multimedia, sound systems, church websites, etc. The articles are written by pastors and laymen with first-hand knowledge about electronic media in ministry. The website is becoming a clearinghouse of media information, vendors, and resources. The commission continues to use free or low-cost resources such as email and online technology to improve communication among media producers and users across the denomination. ■



### Deep South Golf Tournament Winners Announced

**FT. GAINES, GA**—After rain threatened the first two days of the Master’s Men Deep South Golf Tournament, March 23-25, it finally brought a halt to the tournament early in the third round.

Shane and Rodney Stidham (pictured), Hamilton, AL, were crowned tournament champions. Last year’s defending champions, Matt and Andy Walkley, Millington, TN, came in second. The Master’s Men Department wishes to thank all golfers for their participation. ■



### Oklahoma Politicians Embrace FWB Ties

**OKLAHOMA CITY, OK**—A bipartisan team of Oklahoma House Representatives recently put their political differences aside to stand firm in their religious faith. State Representative David Derby, State Representative Eric Proctor, and State Representative Wes Hilliard (left to right) are Free Will Baptists serving in the Oklahoma State House. These men have been public about their commitment to preserving the faith of the Free Will Baptist denomination. ■



### Director of Communication and Development Employed

**Eldridge, AL**—The Board of Directors of the Alabama FWB Children’s Home recently announced the hiring of Danny Williams as director of communication and development. He will serve as an official representative to churches, associations, government organizations, and supporting groups. Other duties will include overseeing promotional activities, providing spiritual help to children and their families, developing future ministry plans, and assisting in daily operations of the Home.

“We are delighted to have a man of Danny’s character and accomplishment ministering at the Children’s Home,” said Rodney Yerby, chairman of the Board. “Danny is well known throughout the state and denomination, and he adds decades of pastoral experience and strong communication skills to the staff of the home.”

A 1983 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Williams has been in ministry for 26 years. He most recently served 17 years as pastor of Winfield FWB Church. He is chairman of the Free Will Baptist International Missions Board and secretary of the Alabama FWB Mission Board.

“I am excited about what God is going to do through this ministry,” commented Williams.

The Children’s Home is a ministry of the Alabama State Association of Free Will Baptists. More information is available by calling (205) 924-9751 or visiting the website at [www.eldridgefwbchildrenshome.org](http://www.eldridgefwbchildrenshome.org). ■



# Great & Precious **PROMISES**

**2009 Free Will Baptist Convention**  
**CINCINNATI, OHIO | JULY 19-22**

## Preliminary Convention Schedule

### **SATURDAY, JULY 18**

#### **Impact Cincinnati**

Various Locations  
10:00 am – 6:00 pm

#### **Registration Opens**

3:00 pm – 6:00 pm  
Duke Energy Center  
Lobby Lower Level

### **SUNDAY, JULY 19**

#### **Registration (Open Daily)**

8:00 am – 7:00 pm

#### **Sunday School\***

10:00 am – 10:45 am  
Duke Energy Center

#### **Morning Worship\***

11:00 am – 12:00 Noon  
Duke Energy Center

#### **Evening Worship\***

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
Duke Energy Center

### **MONDAY, JULY 20**

#### **General Board Meeting**

8:00 am – 2:30 pm  
Millennium, Grand Ballroom

#### **NYC Competitive Activities**

8:30 am – 4:30 pm  
Duke Energy Center

#### **Theological Trends Seminar**

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm  
Millennium, Bronze

#### **WNAC Seminar**

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm  
Hyatt Regency, Ballroom

#### **NYC Seminars**

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Duke Energy Center

#### **Missions Rally**

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm  
Millennium, Bronze

#### **Exhibits Open**

3:00 pm – 10:30 pm  
Duke Energy Center

#### **Benjamin Randall Appreciation Dinner**

5:15 pm – 6:30 pm

#### **Evening Worship**

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
Duke Energy Center

### **TUESDAY, JULY 21**

#### **Randall House Seminar**

8:00 am – 9:30 am  
Duke Energy Center  
Exhibit Hall A

#### **NYC Competitive Activities**

8:30 am – 4:30 pm  
Duke Energy Center

#### **WNAC Convention**

8:30 am – 10:30 am  
Hyatt Regency, Ballroom

#### **Pastors/Laymen Conference**

10:00 am – 11:45 am  
Duke Energy Center  
Exhibit Hall A

#### **NYC Seminars**

10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Duke Energy Center

#### **Exhibits Open**

10:00 am – 10:30 pm  
Duke Energy Center

#### **WNAC Missionary Service**

10:30 am – 11:30 am  
Hyatt Regency, Ballroom

#### **WNAC Fellowship Luncheon**

12:00 noon – 2:00 pm  
Millennium, Bronze

#### **Convention Business Session**

1:30 pm – 4:00 pm  
Duke Energy Center  
Exhibit Hall A

#### **Evening Worship**

7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
Duke Energy Center

### **WEDNESDAY, JULY 22**

#### **NYC Competition Finals**

8:00 am – 11:00 am  
Duke Energy Center

#### **Convention Business Session**

9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Duke Energy Center

#### **NYC Seminars**

10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Duke Energy Center

#### **Exhibits Open**

10:00 am – 9:30 pm  
Duke Energy Center

#### **FWBBC Alumni Luncheon**

12:00 noon – 1:15 pm

#### **Evening Worship**

6:45 pm – 8:30 pm  
Duke Energy Center

#### **NYC Awards Ceremony**

8:50 pm – 11:00 pm  
Duke Energy Center

\* Teen services will be held in the Hyatt Regency, Ballroom

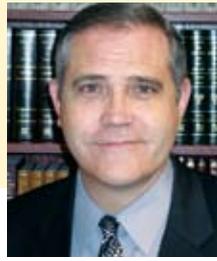
## CONVENTION SPEAKERS



**Sunday School**  
Bob Bouts  
(OH)



**Sunday Morning**  
Mark Price  
(OH)



**Sunday Evening**  
Jeff Sloan  
(OK)



**Monday**  
Paul Harrison  
(TN)



**Tuesday**  
Henry Horne  
(NC)



**Wednesday**  
Fred Warner  
(AR)

The 2009 convention speakers will address passages centered on the convention theme, “Great and Precious Promises.” Each passage, taken from 2 Peter 3, will focus on a different aspect of God’s promises to mankind: The promise of eternal life; the promise of God’s faithfulness; the promise of sufficient grace; the promise of His coming; and the promise of His power.

## ANNUAL “PREACHING CONFERENCE” SET FOR TUESDAY MORNING

Each year, convention-goers are encouraged to attend the conference for pastors and laymen on Tuesday. The word “conference” may be a bit misleading since each *service* features great music and high-impact preaching. One attendee at last year’s conference said, “I like the wide variety of preachers and revival atmosphere. You never know what to expect.”

This year’s conference features Steve Berry (FL) and Ken Simpson (MO). Berry graduated from Southeastern FWB College in 1998 and has served churches in Oklahoma, Virginia, and Florida. He currently pastors First FWB Church in Melbourne (FL).

A 1992 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Simpson earned his M.A. in Theology from Covenant Theological Seminary. Current pastor of Calvary Fellowship FWB Church, Ken has pastored in Missouri since 1998. Enjoy the service Tuesday, July 21, 10:00 a.m. in the convention hall.



Steve Berry  
(FL)



Ken Simpson  
(MO)

## MAKE AN IMPACT ON CINCY

Make plans to arrive a day early and participate in Impact Cincinnati. The one-day outreach event will be held Saturday, July 18, throughout the Greater Cincinnati area. According to Chairman Roland Luthy, “We just don’t want to meet in a city, do our business, spend our money, and go home. We want to help local FWB churches through evangelism, service projects, construction and more. This is our opportunity to leave a spiritual impact—not just a financial impact—on our target area.”

Volunteers should contact Roland Luthy: (home) 513-797-4859; (church) 513-752-4882; or (cell) 513-238-2009. Email: luthyjd@fuse.net

## MISSIONS RALLY ON MONDAY

**The 2009 Joint Missions Rally will take place on Monday, July 20, from 3:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m. in the Bronze Ballroom of the Millennium Hotel.**

According to Deborah St. Lawrence, communications manager of International Missions, “The rally is a joint effort between Home Missions and International Missions to educate, inform, and inspire Free Will Baptists about evangelistic efforts in North America and around the world.”

This year’s rally will feature home missionaries Greg Floars (MI), John Reed (WI), and Howard Gwartney (AZ).

# 2009 Nominations for Standing Boards and Commissions

## HOME MISSIONS BOARD

**Earl Hanna (SC)** replacing Loyd Locklear (MI) who is ineligible for re-election

**Ron Parker (LA)** replacing himself

**Frank Wiley (OK)** replacing James Puckett (OK) who is ineligible for re-election

## BOARD OF RETIREMENT

**Jack Daniel (GA)** replacing himself

**Rick Dement (MO)** replacing William Ferguson (MI) who is ineligible for re-election

**Mark Ousley (TN)** replacing James Lowe (OH) who is ineligible for re-election

## MASTER'S MEN BOARD

**Eddie Hodges (TN)** replacing Cliff Donoho (TN) who is ineligible for re-election

**Johnny Fowlkes (AR)** replacing himself

**Rick Stone (KY)** replacing himself

## RANDALL HOUSE BOARD

**Joe D. Wilson (MO)** replacing Michael Waddell (AL), resigned

## FWB FOUNDATION BOARD

**Len Blanchard (GA)** replacing himself

**Rick Locklear (MI)** replacing himself

**Phil Whitaker (AR)** replacing himself

## COMMISSIONS

### Commission for Theological Integrity

**Steve Ashby (OK)** replacing himself

### Historical Commission

**Robert Picirilli (TN)** replacing himself

### Music Commission

**Daron Dwyer (NC)** replacing himself

## Media Commission

**Keith Fletcher (TN)** replacing himself

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Mike Wade (OK)** replacing himself

**Glen Johnson (VA)** replacing himself

**Keith Woody (TX)** replacing himself

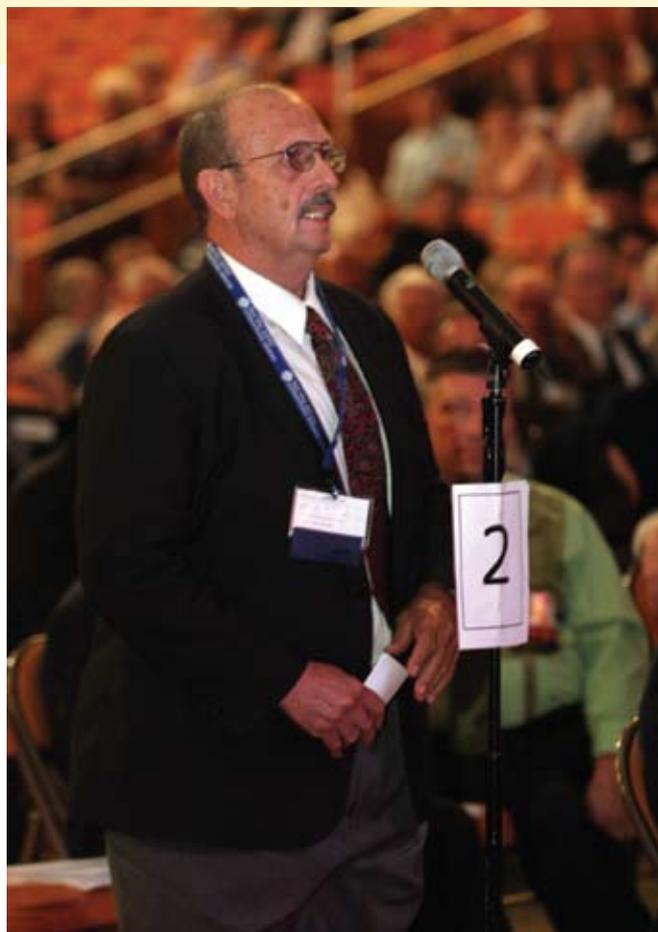
## GENERAL OFFICERS

**Moderator: Tim York (TN)** replacing himself

**Assistant Moderator: William Smith (GA)** replacing himself

**Clerk: Randy Bryant (FL)** replacing himself

**Assistant Clerk: Ernie Lewis (IL)** replacing himself



## Meet the Nominees\*

**Earl Hanna** pastors Bethany FWB Church, Timmonsville, South Carolina. Earl is a 1974 graduate of FWB Bible College.

**Frank Wiley** pastors Sunnyslane FWB Church, Del City, Oklahoma. He is a 1975 graduate of Hillsdale FWB College.

**Rick Dement** pastors First FWB Church, O'Fallon, Missouri.

**Mark Ousley** pastors Forest Grove FWB Church, Knoxville, Tennessee.

**Eddie Hodges** pastors Hendersonville FWB Church, Hendersonville, Tennessee.

**Joe D. Wilson** pastors First FWB Church, Lebanon, Missouri. A 1990 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, he has taken graduate courses at Southeastern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia.

\*New nominees only.

## Orchestra Members Needed

The 2009 Convention Orchestra needs instrumentalists to sign up as soon as possible, according to Convention Music Coordinator Chris Truett. "We invite anyone from ninth grade up to participate in the ensemble, although we would like to have as many adults to participate as possible."

The ensemble will accompany the congregational and choir selections each night of the convention and practice Sunday through Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. and after each evening service on the main stage of the Duke Energy Center.

Anyone who wishes to participate should send name, address, phone number, and church name to:

Bethel FWB Church

**Attention: Chris Truett**

1936 Banks School Rd.

Kinston, NC 28504

Volunteers may call Chris at (252) 522-2451 or email [ctruett@bethelfwb.com](mailto:ctruett@bethelfwb.com). Please specify instrument(s) and how many years of experience in playing the instrument. Notify Chris Truett by June 15 to receive music prior to the convention.

The Convention Choir will also sing each night of the convention. All singers are invited to attend the first practice on the convention stage, Sunday afternoon, July 19, at 5:00 p.m.



## THAT YOU MAY KNOW HIM

### 2009 WNAC Convention—July 20, 21

*WNAC 2009 is all about knowing—knowing Christ, making Him known, and getting to know His daughters.*

Monday afternoon's special presentation, *WNAC: We're Not Just Your Mother's Auxiliary*, takes a closer look at current Free Will Baptist women's ministries and unveils WNAC's vision for the future. Women will gain inside knowledge as WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Danita High presents her first official report during the Tuesday business session.

Tuesday morning's service will focus on worship as Donna Crabtree, missionary to New Brunswick, Canada, shares from God's Word and from her heart. Later that same day, Carol Pinkerton, veteran missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, will bring her wealth of knowledge and experience to the tables of the WNAC Fellowship Luncheon.\* Join WNAC for two unforgettable days.

\*Luncheon is a ticketed event—\$25 per person. All other sessions are free and open to all women.



Donna Crabtree  
Tuesday Worship



Carol Pinkerton  
Fellowship Luncheon

# ONETOONE

## An Unusual Request

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



Photo: Mark Cowart

**I WAS DETERMINED TO BE A GOOD PASTOR.** My top priority was spending time with God and studying His Word. Seldom, if ever, did I go to the pulpit unprepared. In addition to my other pastoral duties, I regularly carved out time to visit the shut-ins and elderly in my congregation.

The church where I ministered had an unusually large number of these golden agers, and I devoted a few mornings each week to call on these folks in their homes. I will never forget one particular visit with an elderly member who was in poor health and unable to attend church services.

Joyce, another member of the congregation, greeted me at the door. She too had come to visit Martha, doing some light housework and preparing lunch for this precious saint. Later, I learned this humble, servant-hearted woman routinely performed this act of kindness in relative obscurity. Needless to say, I was impressed.

As the white-haired octogenarian ate lunch, I asked if she had a favorite verse of Scripture. After pausing to swallow her food and wipe the corners of her mouth, she replied, “I especially like the 46th Psalm.” She proceeded to quote the entire chapter from memory...word-perfect...all 11 verses!

We continued our conversation until she finished her meal when I told her I needed to be on my way; there were a few more calls I needed to make. In my customary manner I asked, “Is there anything I can do for you before I leave?” Without a moment’s hesitation Sister Martha said matter-of-factly, “Yes, you can wash my teeth.”

I stood there dumbfounded as she removed her dentures—

lower and upper plates—and dropped them into my hand. Struggling to regain my composure, I walked over to the kitchen sink and proceeded to comply with her request. I remember thinking, “They never taught me this in college!”

When the task was finished, I dried the dentures and returned them to their owner. That awkward moment was further compounded when she laid the teeth aside and planted a big, toothless kiss on my cheek. I breathed a sigh of relief, offered a brief prayer, and excused myself. Thankfully, that has been a once and only experience for me!

As I recall that incident, I am reminded of the countless individuals who, like Joyce, go about serving others in anonymity. I salute the laymen and women who labor behind the scenes without recognition or applause. This has always been, and continues to be, the driving force behind our denomination.

That experience also forced me to take a long, hard look at my motivation for ministry. Do I really mean it when I ask, “Is there anything I can do for you?” Or is it just a polite gesture? Do I honestly want to serve my fellow man? Am I genuinely happy to do something as lowly as washing another person’s teeth?

Today, Sister Martha is in Heaven. And me? Well, I’m in a lot better position to understand and appreciate what Jesus meant when He said, “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” **ONE**

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- + **The Build-a-House Program** helps to underwrite funding for ministry by building and selling homes for a profit.
- + **The Ridge Church Renovation Project** preserves FWB heritage.
- + **Operation Saturation** partners with Home Missions churches across the nation to tell their community about the “new church in town.”
- + **Impact Cincinnati** volunteers will take part in a one-day evangelistic campaign in Ohio on July 18.

