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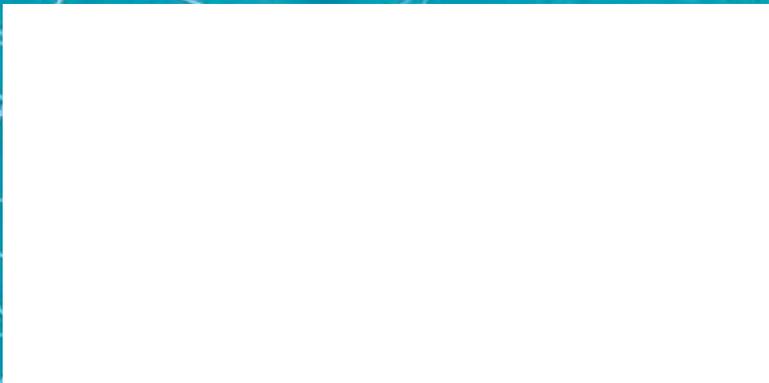
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First Glimpse >>

Downsizing

I parked myself on the floor in a nest of packing peanuts as I struggled to replace the pedestal on our flat screen television. As I worked, I couldn't help but shake my head at the growing towers of boxes around me. "Where in the world are we going to put all of this?"

After eight years in a "dream home," my family and I made the decision to downsize, and we purchased a smaller house closer to work. Six days later, we inked a contract on our current home, and the grand exodus began. Romantic notions of reduction quickly collided with reality as we reckoned with a third less square footage. One day into the move, I found myself overwhelmed, frustrated, and fuming...and we hadn't even started to load "the big truck."

Perhaps that is why I didn't react well when my wife walked into the room and pointed out I had installed the television stand backwards. After a brief moment of bickering, she joined me on the floor. We simply sat in silence, eyeing boxes skeptically and wondering what to do next. At that moment, a friendly face peeked around the edge of the back door. "Know anybody who could use some donuts, coffee, and a strong back?"

He had no idea.

Jon grabbed his tools, and we went to work. Together, we had the television repaired in minutes and turned our attention to packing, loading, and moving. As we worked, other friendly faces began to appear—coworkers, pastor, church friends, and family members. The desperate team of two turned into an army of ten... then 12. The house became a flurry of activity as we loaded and unloaded our lives into a new location.

The frustration dissolved into fun—at least as fun as moving can be. We laughed, joked, and even took a long break for pizza. A day later, the hard part was over. The Thomsen family had been relocated, with beds set up and dishes in the cupboards.

Throughout the move, my mind kept returning to Romans 12:9-13, where Paul urged the Romans to love sincerely, be devoted to one another, honor others above ourselves, be patient in difficulty, and share with other believers through good times and bad. As I watched my friends turn red-faced, with muscles bulging, sweat rolling, and veins popping, I realized I was watching God's family in action. And I was grateful.

Jon, Donnie, Sam, Terri, Jamie, Jake, Beth, Barney, Barry, Tanya, and Catherine—thanks for being God's hands and feet (not to mention strong backs, skinned knuckles, and serious sweat) to the Thomsen family. I pray your kindness will be returned a hundred times over. But, seriously, I hope no one else plans to move any time soon. **ONE**



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Letters:

Have something to say?

Say it!

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

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

I enjoyed Contact magazine for many years, and I have received and read ONE Magazine since its inception. However, this last issue was the best I have ever read. It was so truthful. It is hard to win people to the Lord, and most folks will not admit that. You always wonder if folks will stay true. I just appreciated these particular truths and the other articles as well. —*Rev. L.D. Creech, North Carolina*

Upon reading the latest issue of ONE Magazine, the piece that focused on Mr. Trymon Messer stood out the most. I am thankful to God for the steadfast, encouraging life he led. He is now rejoicing and singing praises in the presence of the Lord of Heaven and earth! How vitally important to uplift others by reminding ourselves that, “to live is Christ; to die is gain.” Our most magnificent hope in Christ is eternal life. Yet, at times, our words subconsciously mimic a society that believes death is cold and final. My heart goes out to grieving families that read articles titled, “Dead at 82,” “Dead at 76,” or “Dead at 91.”

Your writers do a great job inspiring us readers while respectfully sharing the faithful life of one who is now basking in the light of His Glory. Maybe we can, in turn, share peace and encouragement with grieving families by titling these articles, “Ministry Complete at 82” or “Ascended to Christ at 91.”—*Faith Martin, via email*

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My Best Summer... EVER

BY LORENE MILEY

Along with the dawning of the new year came the urgent desire to do something BIG before old age took over. One last adventure...but what?

The faraway places I hadn't yet visited began calling. Almost immediately, plans for Australia shaped up—and scrapped. A cruise to Norway—also scrapped because I couldn't sense God's approval. Then came a routine newsletter from the Christian Discipleship Center in Cortez, Colorado. My heart lurched, and before I opened the envelope, I knew. God had closed the other doors to open this one.

CDC offers a 90-day discipleship program for Native American men struggling with alcohol and drug addictions. My husband and I worked at the center for two years and a summer before his homegoing nine years ago. In recent years, a program for women has replaced the men's summer session. I had been invited to come, but prior commitments prevented it. But now? Perfect! This would be my big adventure. I would love Indian women to Jesus.



When I arrived at CDC, I was housed in the same three-bedroom cottage where my husband and I had lived. My duties included teaching Bible doctrines and health/hygiene.

By the first class, the six women scheduled to come had whittled down to two: Shelly, age 30 and unmarried, from the Havasupai tribe; and Denise, 49 and divorced, from the nearby Ute reservation, mother of eight and grandmother of six and counting.

No one...no one had ever spoken like that to me. Not my husband, my children, no one. Stunned and speechless, I turned and melted into the kitchen. I left the food on the table with a note saying I wasn't feeling well and had gone home.

Breakfast the next morning was strained. Later in class, before we started, I turned to Denise. "Denise, this morning I wanted to say 'Good morning' and give you a hug, but I didn't. May I do it now?"

We are all sinners saved by grace. Regardless of skin color, culture, language, or lifestyle, kneeling at His feet, we are one.

Their personalities were as different as day and night. Shelly, a loner, came from her own apartment and felt it difficult to share, although they had separate rooms. For Denise, the more the merrier. She was the leader, Shelly a follower. Shelly rarely spoke unless spoken to while Denise always had something to say.

Except for classes and counseling, our schedules were identical, and these ladies considered me an equal. We ate together, watched movies and lectures, played games (mainly Phase10™), worked puzzles, went on outings, and attended church. I didn't, however, participate in their work release program.

Though my purpose was to make a difference in the lives of these two women, the biggest change happened in me. I had always been "somebody," not a great somebody, but *somebody*—Dr. Miley's wife, missionary, editor. At CDC, I was nobody. I was a teacher but with no authority. I was just like they were. And one day, unknowingly, I offended Denise.

She became moody and unresponsive in classes, but I figured it simply was part of the change going on in her life. That is, until the day I approached her at the close of her work release to ask her about the meal we were preparing that night. Hot, tired, dirty, and angry, she let me have it—all of it!

"No!" she exploded, and Shelly, expecting confrontation, scooted from the classroom. I walked over to Denise and sat down beside her...and we loved each other again.

I've always known the ground is level at the foot of the cross, but that morning I experienced it. We are all sinners saved by grace. Regardless of skin color, culture, language, or lifestyle, kneeling at His feet, we are one. Did I help make a difference in their lives? Only God knows.

After graduation, Denise finished her jail sentence then gathered her fractured family and started loving them toward Jesus. She uses her Bible storybook and The Wordless Book to teach children in Sunday school.

Shelly regularly attends Bible studies, and her mentor keeps her occupied with other church duties. As far as I know, they're both sober, and prayerfully, will remain so.

I told them that surely I would reach Heaven before they did, and I would be watching for them to arrive. I want to take them to Jesus. "This is Shelly, and this is Denise," I will say. I can see His smile as He clasps them close, "I know...I know."

That is why I went to Cortez. **ONE**

About the Writer: Lorene Miley and her husband LaVerne began serving as pioneer missionaries in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa. When the couple returned home, she served as editor of *CoLaborer* magazine for Women Nationally Active for Christ. The couple served at Christian Discipleship Center in the Four Corners region of Colorado from 1997-1999, and again in 2004.

Safe in His Hands

(SHELLY'S STORY)

I was born into the Havasupai tribe in northwest Arizona on January 30, 1984, the oldest of seven children. When I was little, my mom took me to church a few times, but I don't remember anything about Jesus. I found my stepdad's beer in the refrigerator and began drinking at a young age.

I eventually graduated from a boarding school in California with a basketball scholarship to a college in Iowa. I was afraid to get on the plane alone, so I decided to stay home and help Mom raise my younger siblings. When my drinking got out of control, she kicked me out of the house. I had nowhere to go and nothing to do, so I just went from one friend to another, drinking until I passed out.

This continued until June 30, 2003. I was drinking at a friend's house when I became angry about something. In my stupor, I grabbed her ATV keys and took off on the back roads. That's the last I remember until I woke up five months later in a Las Vegas hospital.

I was alone and confused. I thought I had passed out at some friend's house. I yanked the tubes from my body and tried to leave but fell flat on the floor. They hadn't expected me to live, so my twisted limbs, especially the foot, had healed that way. When my mom came, she transferred me to a rehab center in Phoenix. My caseworker was a Christian, and she and her friend Cathy persuaded me to attend church. It was there I gave my heart to Jesus.

While in rehab, I went back home for a cousin's funeral. As we were leaving, my mom said there was a place we needed to go. When we got into the car, the medicine man got in, too. I wondered why he came, but I didn't ask. We drove to the place where I wrecked. We stood at the top of the hill and he said, "Your soul is still down there."

He gave me something to make my healing complete. The stuff he gave me was green like marijuana, and he told me to put it under my tongue. I didn't want to but was afraid not to. Not long after this, I became violently sick, and couldn't even hold water down. By the early morning hours, my mom and sister

began the five-hour trip back to rehab, where they hooked me up to IV. For three days my body rejected everything that went in.

Then Cathy came and took me to church. Her pastor wanted to pray for me. The charge nurse gave permission but warned, "Don't give her anything to eat." I kept throwing up while the pastor prayed. Then he requested that bread be brought. He pinched off a piece, dipped it in oil, and told me to eat it. I've never tasted anything that tasted so good. I could have eaten the whole thing! I stopped throwing up immediately, and the nausea never returned.

About a year later, I was able to return home. But the temptation to drink was so strong that I moved to Kingman, about an hour from home, and got an apartment of my own. Since I had attended church in Phoenix, I began to look for a church home. It was the Fourth of July weekend, and the first church I visited was advertising a potluck dinner. Maybe that is why I chose that church, but it is the one I still attend.

The first person I met was Debbie (the pastor's wife), and she introduced me to Audrey, who has become a real friend. She got me involved in helping at church. She knew that when I was around family and friends, I still had the strong temptation to drink, and it was becoming a problem. So, she helped me get into the Christian Discipleship Center in Cortez, Colorado, for a 90-day session.

I'm thankful I went through the program. I learned things about God and the Bible and myself. I've been baptized since returning home. I do chores around the church and help teach little boys on Wednesday nights. Audrey and I are reading *Breaking Unhealthy Soul-Ties*. I write down my questions; then we get together to talk about them. I pray that my family will come to know Jesus, too.

One verse that carries me over the bumps in the road is Psalm 139:10: "Even there your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me."

Thank You, Jesus. **ONE**

Leader Profile >>

Leadership comes in all forms and sizes, but the results are the same. Leaders influence thinking and behavior and make a difference in their culture. Profiling leaders shows a diverse combination of traits and styles, but impacting lives is always a common theme.

Paul Etterling

When reading this column (or any biography), look for the “people behind the people.” You can always spot the power of influence. Paul Etterling is a perfect example of key people cultivating his life, creating a servant leader in him.

Paul grew up under the ministry of Forrest (Tary) Chamberlin at Porter FWB Church in Portsmouth, Ohio. An entire article could be written on the influence of the 200-year-old Porter Church established in 1817. Paul’s Uncle Blaine and Pastor Tary developed in him a hunger for a deeper knowledge of God through their preaching. His mom and dad were very involved in church, and as Paul states, “They were part of the most impactful moments in my life. I never had to wonder if they would show up at school activities; they were always there. They supported me even when they did not agree with me.”

Paul was not planning to go into ministry, but when he was in his early 20s, the pastor asked various men to teach on Wednesdays and included Paul. During his preparation, God impressed on him the call to ministry. Paul and his wife Frances have been married since 1997 and continue to minister in their native state. He is lead pastor at Westerville FWB Church, where he served as youth pastor and assistant pastor under Mike Mounts from 2002-2007.

He has a desire to help people, especially the broken who need someone to love them unconditionally. Paul’s patient demeanor provides opportunities to listen, counsel, and help others with specific issues.

You would never know Paul once struggled with public speaking. He has a knack for inspiring others by casting vision carefully to inspire people toward the goal. Paul invests in others and helps nurture them, which shows him to be a healthy, unselfish leader.

Paul, You are a great leader! ONE



Do you have kids? (one-word descriptions)

Kylie Marie, age 14 – Responsible
David Nathaniel – Home with Jesus
Joel Phillip, age 9 – Rambunctious

What does your ideal date look like?

An evening alone without the kids and a quiet dinner at the Montgomery Inn, followed by an evening at a Columbus Ballet Met Performance or a movie.

What do people misunderstand about you?

I am a reserved person, so I think it is hard for people to see the passion I have for God, His Word, His Church, and lost people.

What books have you read in the last six months?

Preventing Ministry Failure by Michael Todd Wilson and Brad Hoffman
Counterfeit Gods by Timothy Keller
The People Principle by Stan Toler
East of Jerusalem by Will Beauchamp

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

Choosing to Cheat by Andy Stanley
The Book on Leadership by Dr. John MacArthur
Counterfeit Gods by Timothy Keller

What would you like to see in Free Will Baptists in five or ten years?

I would love to see Free Will Baptists become a nationally recognized voice regarding the issues of our day. I want us to be that voice that is not known for what it stands *against* but for what it stands for. Postmodernism is about relationships and wants to know that something is real and genuine. In becoming that voice, we need to become the role model by reaching people in practical ways rather than shoving our arguments in their face.

Paper or Plastic

Fiction or non-fiction? Non-fiction

Music or talk radio? Talk radio

Sushi or burger? Burger

Facebook, email, Pinterest, Twitter, or texting? Twitter

Tie or no tie? No Tie

Mac or PC? PC...although I do preach from an iPad.

THE Greatest LAYPERSON

BY JIM MARTIN

*Matthew 9:37, "Then saith he unto his disciples,
the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few."*

Jeremiah C. Lanphier was a businessman appointed missionary to help start a visitation program in a struggling New York City church. He had no knowledge of where to begin, no schooling, and no mentors—but he had a thought. He knew all people need to pray, and businesses close for lunch, so he sponsored a weekly prayer meeting on Wednesday at noon. The rest is history.

Only six individuals met the first week, but they didn't give up. Twenty men came the second week and forty the third. Before long, the weekly prayer meeting became a daily event and eventually led to the Revival of 1800, one of the greatest spiritual awakenings in American history. By the time it reached its peak, more than a million people had accepted Christ as a result of the movement. All started by a layman with no experience but a sincere heart for church ministry.

I had a thought recently, while riding to work on a wonderful Western New York February day. The sky was gray, the wind blowing like a hurricane.

The land was covered in a blanket of white like the beaches of Gulf Shores, Alabama, except the temperature was -6° degrees, with a chill factor of -32°. Instead of swimsuits and sunglasses, everyone wore their finest snow gear.

I looked to the sticks with reflectors on the sides of the highway, and on this particular day, I was glad they were there. All I could see was white. I couldn't tell if I was driving, floating, or having an out-of-body experience. I quickly realized the drivers of the snowplows, the rumble strips on the highway, the flashing warning signs, and roadside reflector sticks are the most important and often overlooked aspects of driving in bad weather. You see, the simple things that guide us safely on our journey are the ones that count that most.

Ironically, my thoughts then turned to the most important but overlooked people in church—you know, the ones who are always there, do their jobs, greet people, pick up trash, clean the church, turn on the heat, wipe runny noses, tie shoes, comfort the crying, provide snacks, decorate for big events, and so on. These are the people who count the most. I thanked God for such people in our own church.

Then I heard the Spirit softly speak: "Who is the single most important layperson of the church?" My thoughts turned to someone often overlooked, never really given credit for all she does, rarely rewarded openly because we assume she knows her value—the pastor's wife. She does her work quietly, often behind the scenes, always there.

The greatest layperson in the Landmark Church is my wife Sylvia. Like the reflector sticks along the side of a winter road, she is always there to remind me where I am, and what is really important. She finds my keys, sermon notes, Bible, and anything else I have misplaced. She reminds me of appointments, prayer needs, and who I should go see. She prepares meals for the family and the church, and the leftovers go to the needy. She prepares her lesson for children's church with the same energy I put into a sermon.

I thank the Lord for bringing Sylvia and me together to be collaborators in ministry. I am sure that if you're a pastor, the most important layperson in your church is also your wife. **ONE**





Pastors, consider just a few practical ideas to let your wife know she is appreciated:

Pray for her. Ask her what she needs.

Listen to her. (Don't try to fix her; just listen.)

Give her a break from you, from housework, and from the ministry every once in a while.

Tell her often that you appreciate her for the work she does and praise her publicly.

Remember she has sacrificed a lot to be a pastor's wife.

Treat her better than you treat anyone else. After all, she is the most important layperson you have.

The greatest thing about Sylvia is that she would do the work because of the ministry, not just because of her husband.

About the Writer: Jim Martin is pastor of Landmark Free Will Baptist Church in Clifton Springs, New York.

ARMINIAN AND BAPTIST



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—Russell Moore, *President, Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission*

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—Robert E. Picirilli, *Professor Emeritus and former Academic Dean, Welch College*



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Why Tithe?

BY ROY W. HARRIS

I tithe because my parents did.

The Sunday morning began like most. We finished breakfast. Mom was putting the final touches on her lady-like appearance. Dad, my brother Rick, and I were in the den watching *The Gospel Jubilee* with its enjoyable mix of Southern Gospel music from The Blackwood Brothers, The Goodmans, and others.

Dad leaned forward in his recliner and picked up his checkbook from an end table. He filled out a check to First FWB Church, Anderson, Indiana. He signed, folded, and placed the check in his shirt pocket. Later, he would slip it from his pocket and drop it into an offering plate during the Sunday morning worship service.

I was in my mid-teens, but I remember the Sunday morning routine well. It was not the first time I had witnessed this act. It was Dad's practice every Sunday morning for as long as I can remember.

Why do I tithe? My parents taught me to tithe. They believed in and practiced tithing when I was a boy, and 45 years later they still do. They talked about tithing in front of my brother and me. They told us why they tithed.

They described the ways God had blessed our family because they tithed. They even scared us a little by mentioning others who didn't tithe, and how those people "paid the tithe" through medical bills, car repairs, and other unforeseen expenses.

They made such a strong case for tithing that my brother and I didn't know we

couldn't tithe as boys growing up in the Albert Harris household.

I tithe because I know tithing is a good investment.

I remember reading Malachi 3 during my early days as a student at Welch College. Sure, I had read that passage before, but I was in college, away from my tithing parents, and making my own choices in life.

God spoke to my heart that day in a direct and meaningful way. Through His Word, he told me, "Roy, why not test me? If you'll be faithful in tithing, I'll take care of all your needs and give you more than you can imagine for the rest of your life. I'll take what you give me, multiply it, and give back much more than you've given me" (Malachi 3:10-12).

I made a commitment to God that day and believed in His commitment to me. I've remained faithful to my tithing commitment for more than 40 years, and I can say without hesitation that



God not only kept His commitment to me, He has given me far more than I could have imagined as an 18-year-old student.

I've made a number of good investments, which have produced good results. I can truly say, however, the *greatest* investment with the best return is the heavenly investment of the tithe and offering.

I tithe because the Bible tells me to.

God's Word is clear on tithing. God requires a tithe from every believer. Malachi 3:8-9 reinforces God's command to tithe. He instructs us in verse eight that men rob God when they do not give tithes and offerings.

It's a dangerous thing to steal from God. How dangerous? I wouldn't want to offend the One who holds my entire

financial future in His hands. Verse nine says those who rob God pay a heavy price. Instead of receiving God's favor and blessings, they are cursed and receive God's disfavor.

I tithe because it is God's plan for supporting the church.

In Malachi 3:10, God instructs us to bring the tithes into the storehouse. Obviously, the local church is God's modern day storehouse and the depository for the currency of the tithe. I give my tithe to my local church and then give my offerings God directs, from missions endeavors to Welch College.

I never have to pray about the minimum I should give, or where I should give it. God has clearly defined a minimum of 10% of all my income is to be given to my local church. From there, the sky is the limit on how much and where to give offerings.

Should you tithe?

Parents, remember your children are watching. They will do as you *do* rather than do as you say. Parents want children to enjoy the best life they can afford. Yet the most beneficial financial legacy parents can leave to their children is a faithful example of returning the tithe and making sacrificial financial offerings to the Lord.

You may wonder why I used the phrase *return* the tithe rather than give? The simple truth is the tithe already belongs to God. We actually begin giving after the tithe. Offering follows the tithe once the tithe threshold has been met and returned to God.

Want a hot tip on a sound financial investment? Learn to live on 90% of what God gives you. Put Him to the test. Cheerfully return 10% to Him and watch Him multiply it and give back to you above and beyond what you

The most beneficial financial legacy parents can leave to their children is a faithful example of returning the tithe.

thought or imagined.

Scripture teaches us that God loves a cheerful giver. Want to make God happy? Return the tithe to Him, and understand that all you receive is His gift to you. You might be surprised what a wonderful satisfying feeling you experience each time you return the tithe and give an offering.

Why do I tithe? A better question might be: why wouldn't I? What about you?

ONE

About the Writer: Roy Harris has more than 35 years of ministry experience as pastor, educator, and conference speaker, serving in leadership positions on the local, state, and national levels. He served 16 years on the staff, faculty and administration of Welch College.



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Coffee Break

BY TAMMY LANCASTER

When I think of the evangelism and edification of ladies in Uruguay, the first thing that comes to mind is coffee. Uruguay is a European culture, so teatime is an everyday event at 4:00 p.m. That seems to be the time when someone drops by to say hello, or stops in for a visit. I am always ready with chocolate, something baked, and coffee or tea ready to serve. In Uruguay, one of the first questions a good hostess asks is, “Would you like coffee or tea?” Most get-togethers are planned for 4:00-6:00 p.m., because that time is reserved for a coffee.



Sharing coffee is a typical, Uruguayan event. It is the thing to do at someone's home or in a coffee shop. Several specialty coffee shops have beautiful teacups and saucers, or you can get a coffee at any time of day in the restaurants, but it costs \$10-15. The concept of "Dutch treat" hasn't made it to Uruguay, so if you invite, you pay. Having coffee in our homes is much more practical. We reserve restaurants for special occasions like an end-of-year party or a birthday celebration.

During the coffee break, we typically enjoy a scone, a croissant, a ham and cheese toasted sandwich, or something sweet with our coffee or tea. These times of sharing usually last two hours, but it's not surprising for them to last three to four hours. You can imagine how many topics we can address in that amount of time!

In Uruguay, we use events to provide opportunities to evangelize. The ladies are interested in other cultures, and we use their curiosity to draw them to get-togethers. Valentine and Christmas card making, cookie decorating, cupcakes, craft

classes, and English classes all provide an opportunity to share. Since many of us are foreigners, we share where to buy an item or ingredient, how to make foods from scratch (not many boxes, pie crusts, or mixes here), or how to clean something. We do things for each other like sew, offer computer tips, help with projects, or share whatever we have from fabric to buttons.

Cleaning is an everyday event, and many of us have hardwood floors to wax, or mold to remove. Prices are high, so we do everything we can to keep up the things we own. As we learn more about each other, we offer advice, and we encourage one another. Each week, we enjoy the company of new ladies as we celebrate a time of the year or learn how to make something new or practice English.

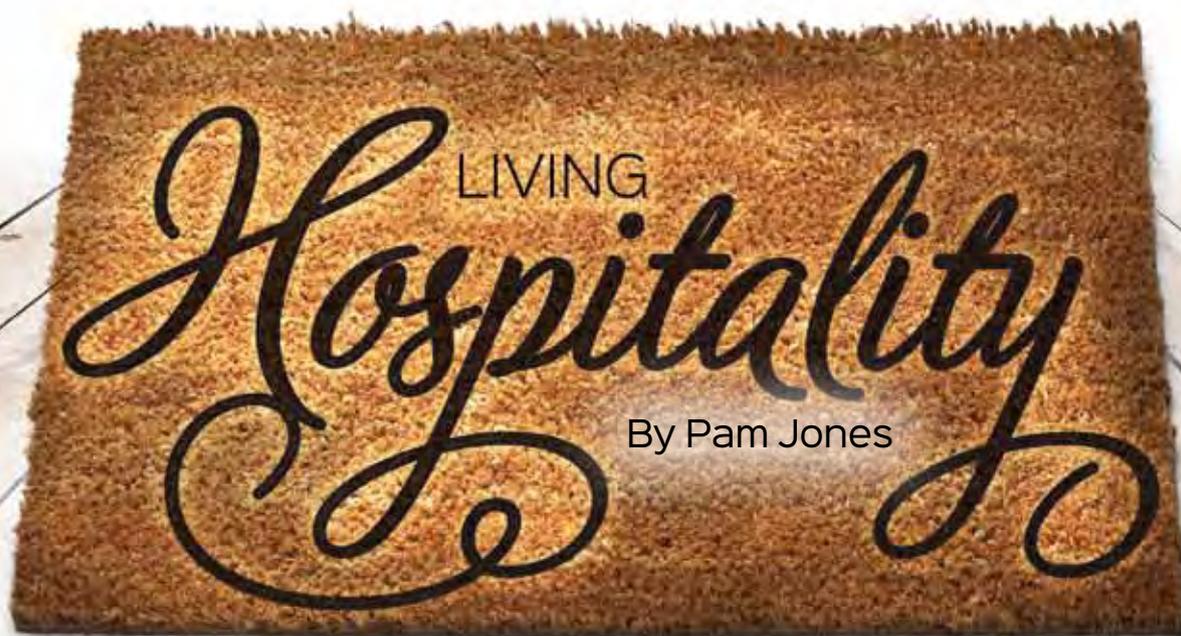
It's nice to host events in our homes. Even the small things such as paintings, books, and decorations are conversation starters that allow us to share our faith. It has been our experience that the ladies really open up in a home setting as opposed to a coffee shop or church event. I host an English class and a craft



class on Tuesdays, each lasting three hours. These events are open to anyone I meet and invite.

Pray for the ladies in Uruguay that their hearts will be opened, and they will see Christ's love for them through their interaction with Christians. Pray for wisdom and spiritual guidance to know when the door is open and when to wait and just be a friend. Pray they will want to study the Bible together and learn more about what we believe. Pray the Lord will use every opportunity to sow seed so one day my friends will see the Truth and accept Christ as their Savior. Pray a new church will be started in our neighborhood of Carrasco. **ONE**

About the writer: Tammy Lancaster and her husband Jaimie serve as missionaries to Montevideo, Uruguay. Learn more at www.fwbgo.com.



Hospitality is a forgotten art today.

Maybe it is because we are extremely busy or don't have extra money. Whatever the reason, it is time to return to a lifestyle of hospitality. It is important to remember that hospitality goes beyond entertainment, which emphasizes the host. Hospitality puts the emphasis on others and strives to meet their needs. True hospitality is not limited to our homes but takes place anywhere you encounter a need, from the homeless person on the corner to a needy family in your church. It is a ministry, and Scripture lists hospitality among the spiritual gifts (Romans 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9-10).



The most compelling motivation for hospitality is to demonstrate God's love.

While you may not have the ability to sing or teach, you may have (and develop) the gift of hospitality. Your first attempts might be a total disaster. Mine were terrible. I dumped half a saltshaker into my spaghetti sauce and fried chicken with oil that tasted like it had been out of date for years. But I quickly realized it wasn't about the food I served but the love I was showing. Soon, my whole attitude about hospitality was transformed.

The most compelling motivation for hospitality is to demonstrate God's

love. Few things make guests feel more honored than sharing a meal in your home. They will open their hearts to you as you open your home to them. One caution, however: if you do not truly care about people, do not invite them into your home. They will see right through it. Never use hospitality to get something. It is a ministry, not a pyramid scheme.

The most important reason for hospitality is that Scripture mandates it (Romans 12:13). It is listed as one of the qualifications for a pastor/elder in Titus 1:8 and 1 Timothy 3:2. Even "true wid-

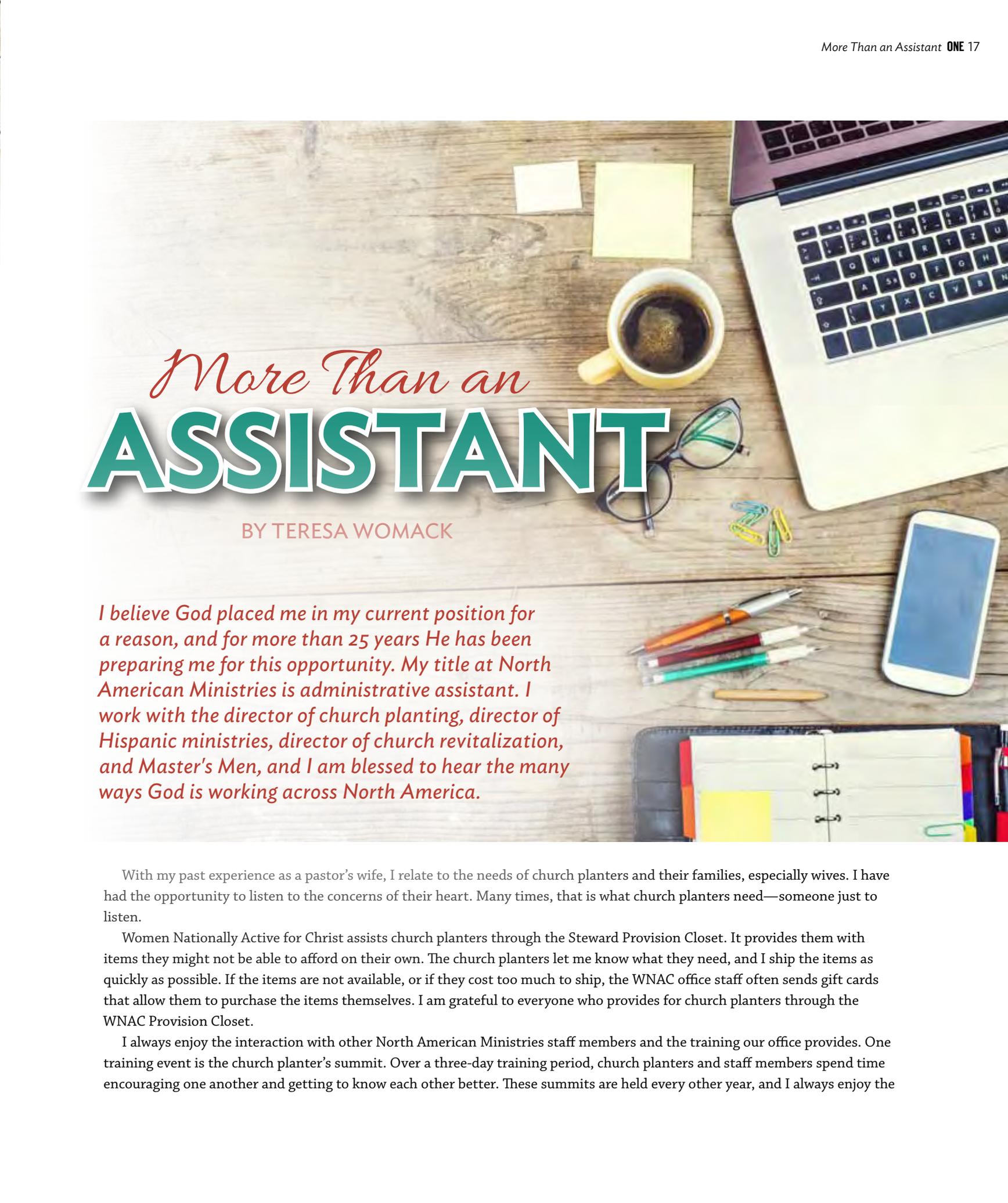
ows" in the Early Church were required to demonstrate hospitality (1 Timothy 5:10). Imagine the impact if all the widows and widowers in the worldwide Church would return to the ministry of hospitality; the world would once again be turned upside down for Christ.

My favorite Scripture about hospitality is found in Hebrews 13:2, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Be careful how you treat strangers, because God may have sent them your way for a heavenly appointment with you.

Jesus showed hospitality to everyone He met—the woman at the well (a stranger); Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (good friends); and His family. His actions remind us that the blessing of hospitality is not only found in giving and caring for people who can reciprocate but in ministering to those who cannot. When Jesus trained His disciples to be hospitable, He instructed them to invite the poor, maimed, lame, and blind to dinner because they could not pay them back.

Jesus ministered with a spiritual touch, but He also met basic human needs. This ministry was important to Him. How will we ever reach someone for Christ until they experience His love through us? We often discount the power of a loving touch, a friendly meal, or a word of encouragement to people hurting and in need. But these simple acts of hospitality have the potential to change the world. **ONE**

About the Writer: Pam Jones is serving alongside her husband Tommy as a church planter in Pennsylvania. They have three grown daughters and five grandchildren.



More Than an **ASSISTANT**

BY TERESA WOMACK

I believe God placed me in my current position for a reason, and for more than 25 years He has been preparing me for this opportunity. My title at North American Ministries is administrative assistant. I work with the director of church planting, director of Hispanic ministries, director of church revitalization, and Master's Men, and I am blessed to hear the many ways God is working across North America.

With my past experience as a pastor's wife, I relate to the needs of church planters and their families, especially wives. I have had the opportunity to listen to the concerns of their heart. Many times, that is what church planters need—someone just to listen.

Women Nationally Active for Christ assists church planters through the Steward Provision Closet. It provides them with items they might not be able to afford on their own. The church planters let me know what they need, and I ship the items as quickly as possible. If the items are not available, or if they cost too much to ship, the WNAC office staff often sends gift cards that allow them to purchase the items themselves. I am grateful to everyone who provides for church planters through the WNAC Provision Closet.

I always enjoy the interaction with other North American Ministries staff members and the training our office provides. One training event is the church planter's summit. Over a three-day training period, church planters and staff members spend time encouraging one another and getting to know each other better. These summits are held every other year, and I always enjoy the

*I want to be more than an administrative assistant;
I want to be a friend to men and women in ministry.*

chance to interact with church planters from across the nation.

Church Revitalization is becoming a big part of the mission of our department. If a church or pastor is interested in getting church growth assistance, they may contact Jim McComas, director of church revitalization. Church planters may be trained and placed in these churches to help as requested.

North American Ministries is blessed to be the endorsing agent for Free Will Baptist chaplains in the Armed Forces. I work with Kerry Steedley, director of chaplain support, to keep up-to-date contact information for each chaplain on our website. Free Will Baptist chaplains are truly dedicated and respected men serving our country and denomination.

Recently, Ken Akers and the Master's Men department have come under the umbrella of North American Ministries. This is a new area of ministry, and we look forward to partnering to serve the Lord in new and exciting ways.

My experiences as a pastor's wife have taught me how to be encouraging to others, and I am thankful for the events God has allowed in my life. I want to be more than an administrative assistant; I want to be a friend to men and women in ministry.

Each month, church planters send a report that includes prayer and praise reports. In turn, weekly emails highlight the requests of selected church planters and chaplains. If you are interested in receiving this email, please contact teresa@nafwb.org. It is a great way to stay informed.

If you would like to learn more about North American Ministries, visit our website today: www.homemissions.net. 

About the Writer: Teresa Womack has been with North American Ministries four years. She and husband, David Womack (Randall House Publications) have three daughters, Tera, Tayla (Josh Roy), and Tana, and one grandson, Trevor Roy.

Legacy of Missions...

The organized work of Free Will Baptist women can be traced to the early 1840s, when Ann Winsor of Providence, Rhode Island, formed the Freewill Baptist Women's Missionary Society in her home after hearing Missionary Eli Noyes describe needs in India. Soon, women in the North became heavily involved in the work of Freewill Baptists. They helped underwrite missions efforts in India and provided funding and teachers for Storer College, a Freewill Baptist college in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, started to educate former slaves. In addition, the Society published *The Missionary Helper*, a missionary news magazine distributed from 1878-1919. While the group eventually lost its identity when most northern Free Will Baptist churches merged with American Baptists, these early efforts set the stage for the work of today's Free Will Baptist women.

Create your own Legacy of Missions today through an endowment through the Free Will Baptist Foundation:

877-336-7575 | www.fwbgifts.org | foundation@nafwb.org

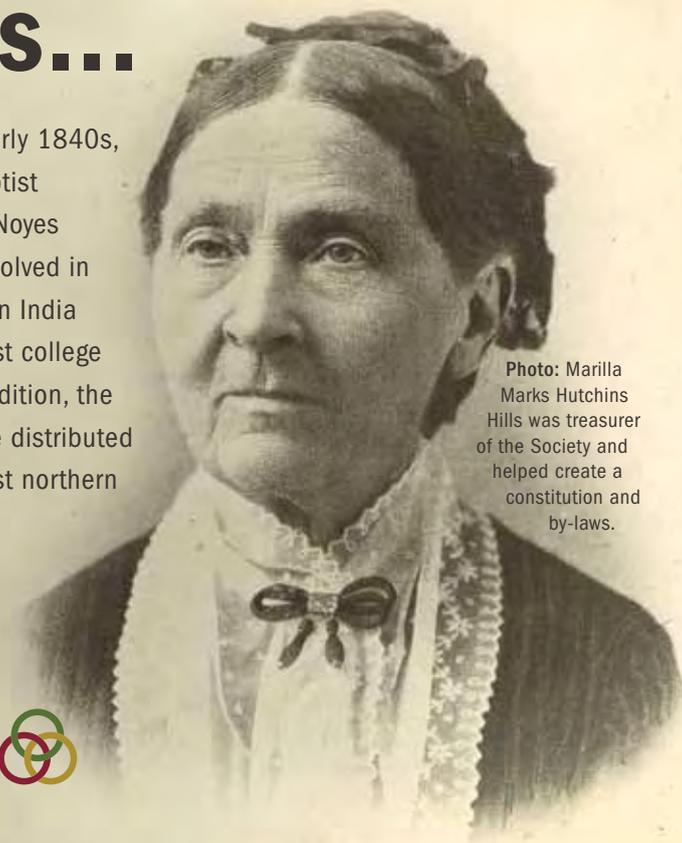


Photo: Marilla Marks Hutchins Hills was treasurer of the Society and helped create a constitution and by-laws.

The Power of CONNECTION

BY NORMA JACKSON GOLDMAN

My day started today before it officially started. Does that ever happen to you? Not being a morning person means that I usually get up, make the bed, do a little tidying, and then have coffee, breakfast, and my quiet time. I'm not really ready for "prime time" until after all that happens. If you're a morning person, you may not be able to identify, but bear with me to hear the rest of the story.



My cell phone signaled a text just as I was waking up. Normally, I do not look at my phone until after the “official” start of the day, but today was different. It was a message letting me know my sweet friend Laura’s grandfather had slipped quietly into heaven.

Laura is the daughter of a dear friend who was in my adult Bible study class for many years. God chose to put us together through Laura’s struggle with a difficult pregnancy and the subsequent loss of one of her triplets after only a few hours of life. Laura is very precious to me, and her friendship is a treasure and blessing. For someone so young, she has come face to face with much death in a short space of time. First her infant son, then a grandfather, her father, and just this past week, her remaining grandfather. I always have the impression that when I comfort Laura, she brings me comfort for personal losses I have not yet expressed.

We have shared many happy times as well—her children’s birthdays, trips, holidays, and of course, Christmas. We talk about life, good times, hardships, and family—the stuff of life. We connect at a deep level when she has decisions to make, questions about faith, and other life choices.

God, in His great compassion and mercy, has made a way for His children to comfort one another. In these cases, we are “Jesus with skin on.” We are the arms of God, embracing others, sharing their pain, and reminding them of His love. We are

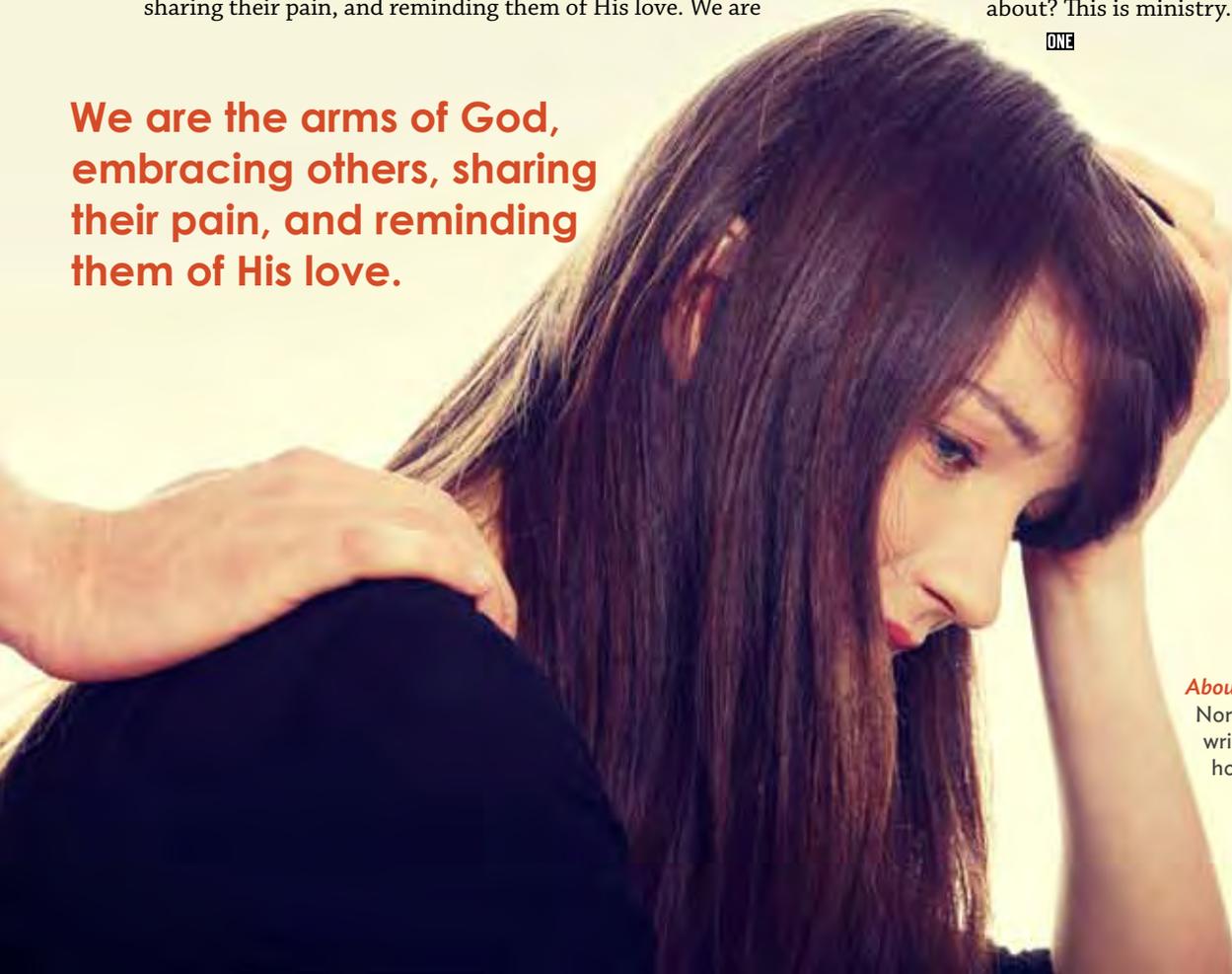
His feet when we attend funeral services, take food, mow lawns, and care for details that grieving loved ones simply cannot handle at the moment. We are the hands of God when we draw someone near, look into their faces, tell them we love them, and that we are committed to being there as long as it takes for them to stand on their own.

Have you ever observed someone who has just composed himself, only to burst into fresh tears at the sight of a friend’s arrival? It’s the power of connection—the live cord of compassion and caring that bonds us with another’s pain. You’ve seen people at the hospital cry out with relief when a close friend, pastor, or family member arrives. The connection is palpable; they know things will be better, easier with that special person close at hand. Sometimes a hug says everything that needs to be said.

So often, we long to do great things for Jesus, things that matter not only for today but eternity. We look at others with wonderful gifts and abilities and long to be used in a way that will bless others as they do. But much of life is just about “showing up.” It’s simply being there for someone else, lightening the load, sharing grief, and rejoicing over good news. Many people within your sphere of influence need a word of encouragement, a word of wise counsel, or simply an acknowledgement of their contribution to your life. Why not make it a priority every day to connect in a way that enriches the life of someone you care about? This is ministry. This is the power of connection.

ONE

**We are the arms of God,
embracing others, sharing
their pain, and reminding
them of His love.**



About the Writer: Former magazine editor Norma J. Goldman enjoys a successful writing career in her retirement from her home near Houston, Texas.

At Welch College >>

Script Writing Contest Winner Announced

The first annual Welch College Script Writing Contest has a winner, according to Drama Department Director AnnaGee Harris.



The winning script, “7x70”, was co-written by Audrey Trotter Jordan (pictured; right) and Josh Dunbar. It follows three stories where Christians are asked to forgive others in difficult circumstances.

“We weren’t sure what to expect in the way of entries for our first contest,” Ms. Harris said. “I was thrilled with the number of entries we received, and the quality of the submissions was superb. The contest was a great reminder of the many talented people working in our denomination. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to submit a play, and I urge them to do so again next year.”

The Evangel Players will perform “7x70” this summer during the group’s annual tour. ■

Gonzales, Miracle Address 2015 Welch Graduates

Judge Alberto Gonzales and Reverend Wayne Miracle challenged the 2015 Welch College graduating class May 7-8, during commencement activities.

Wayne Miracle, Pastor of New Life Fellowship FWB Church in Statesboro, Georgia, delivered the 2015 Baccalaureate address. Miracle earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies and Pastoral Training from Welch College in 1990. He pastored Pine Level FWB Church in Alma, Georgia, before accepting his current pastorate at New Life Fellowship in 1998. He has served in a number of leadership positions on the local, state, and national levels of the denomination, including moderator of the Georgia State Association and member of the Executive Committee of the National Association.

Judge Alberto Gonzales, former U.S. Attorney General, addressed the Welch College class of 2015 during commencement ceremonies. Judge Gonzales grew up in Houston, Texas. He joined the Air Force after high school and attended the U.S. Air Force Academy. He later attended Rice University, earning a bachelor’s degree in political science in 1979, and Harvard Law School, where he earned the J.D. in 1982.

After practicing law in Houston as a partner at a major firm, Judge Gonzales served in several key positions in state government, including associate justice of the Texas Supreme Court and secretary of the state of Texas. He was appointed to the position of U.S. Attorney General by former President George W. Bush, was sworn into office February 3, 2005, and served until September 2007. Judge Gonzales currently serves as dean of Belmont University College of Law, a position he began in June 2014.

President Pinson said, “We were honored to have these men speak to students, graduates, and their families. Commencement week is an important occasion for the entire college family, especially for graduating seniors. The college family comes together to honor them for years of academic rigor. This special time always brings us face-to-face with our mission as a college—to educate leaders to serve Christ, His Church, and His world through biblical thought and life.” ■



Commission for Theological Integrity Calls for Papers

The Commission for Theological Integrity invites those with an interest in Free Will Baptist doctrine, ministry, and scholarship to prepare proposals for the 2015 Theological Symposium. This year’s theme is “The Theology of Discipleship,” and the event will be held on Hillsdale FWB College campus in Moore, Oklahoma, October 26-27.

Questions, proposals, or papers should be sent to fwbtheology@gmail.com.

College Signs New Contract on Campus Sale



Welch College announced a contract on the sale of the campus on Nashville's West End Avenue in January, after reaching an agreement with Forestar Group, a real estate firm from Austin, Texas. The sale hinged on clearing several hurdles, including permission from the city to build four-story condominiums along West End Avenue. After city officials and the neighborhood association did not offer support for this type of construction, Forestar withdrew their offer.

However, a burgeoning Nashville real

estate market coupled with the attention from a major firm like Forestar put a spotlight on the campus. As a result, only a few days after losing one contract, the college signed a new contract with Mike Ford Custom Builders, LLC, a respected home building firm in Middle Tennessee. The company is well known for fine homes in the sought-after Westhaven community in nearby Franklin.

The contract puts the college in a better position than the previous agreement. It is in the same price range and

time frame as the previous deal—with a closing scheduled June 15, allowing the school to stay on the existing construction schedule. The earnest money agreement is very favorable, and this buyer, unlike the previous developer, assumes responsibility for the demolition of the carriage house behind Welch Library (necessary for construction of a planned alley).

The new contract includes all campus property except Welch Library, as new construction in this neighborhood should increase the value of this home, one of the most important historic properties in Nashville.

President Matt Pinson said, "The terms of the new contract are better than the offer we had from Aquinas two years ago or our most recent offer. We are grateful for that, because construction costs have also risen by 5% during that time, and we are going to need larger dorms as a result of the 30% growth we have experienced over the past two years. Please continue to pray for our relocation effort."

College officials are hopeful the contract will close, in light of positive feedback from city officials and the neighborhood on all plans except the four-story height on the condominiums. For ongoing updates regarding the relocation, visit www.welch.edu. ■

Welch College Ranked Among "Top 10 Affordable Online Options"

The web site onlinecolleges.net recently named Welch College one of the most affordable online programs in Tennessee. Out of 93 colleges and universities in the state that offer online programs, Welch ranked 6th in affordability.

Allan Crowson, director of Welch's Adult Degree Program, indicated, "This is not surprising to us at Welch College. We continually seek to keep costs as low as possible. We understand how difficult it is for people with families, jobs, and church responsibilities to add college education to their list of expenses. In addition to quality education from quality educators, we see affordability as one of primary elements of our ministry to our students."

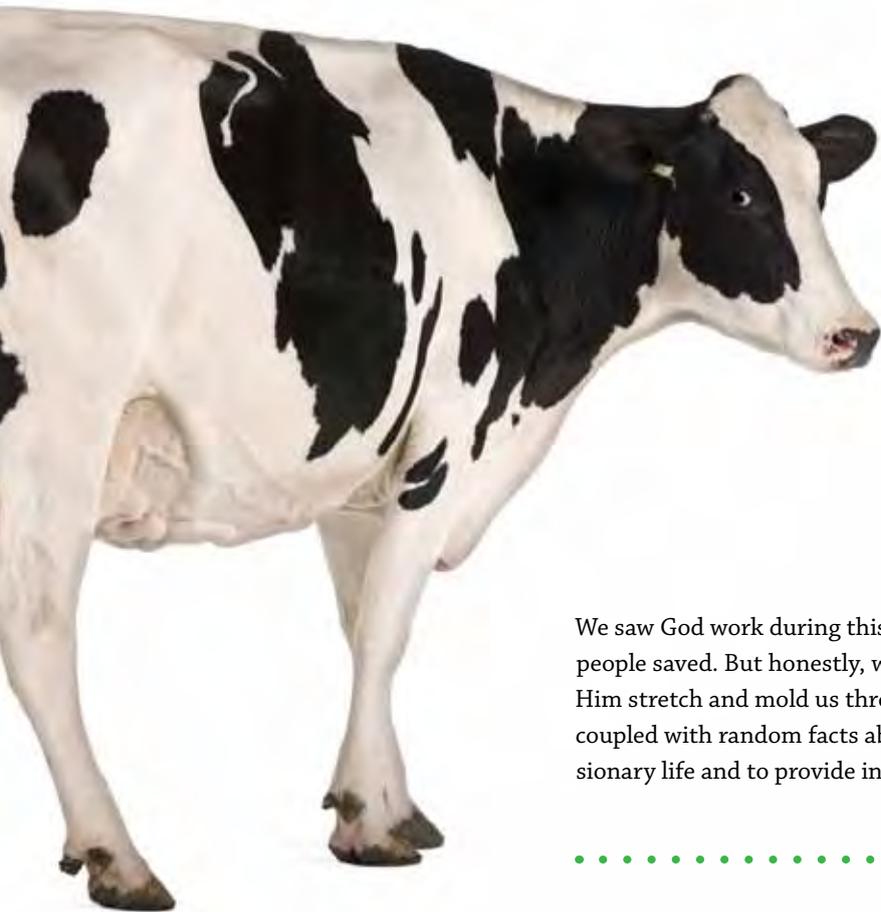
President Matt Pinson added, "Welch College is one of the most affordable accredited Christian colleges in the country. This announcement from onlinecolleges.net is just another confirmation of our commitment to provide academic and spiritual excellence while keeping tuition reasonable."

The mission of onlinecolleges.net is "to connect current and prospective students with accurate information regarding online educational options and trends." It compiles its rigorous list from a wide range of sources.

For more information about Welch College's Adult Degree program or online learning options, visit <http://www.welch.edu/adult-online-learning>. ■

Milk Comes in a Bag

BY MANDI MORGAN



My husband and I are in the United States after completing our first term of missionary service in Uruguay.

During the first term, we learned a great deal. We spent our first year in Costa Rica learning Spanish, then moved to Uruguay and spent the rest of our term learning more Spanish, Uruguayan culture, new foods, a new climate, a new way of driving, etc.

We saw God work during this first term. We saw Him work in our churches. We saw people saved. But honestly, we saw God work in us more than anything else. We felt Him stretch and mold us through many struggles. I want to share a few of our struggles, coupled with random facts about life in Uruguay, in an effort to raise awareness of missionary life and to provide insight into ways people can pray for missionaries.

STRUGGLE #1 - Everything about life in another country is different.

I expected the language to be different, the culture to be different, the food to taste different, and the people to dress differently. I didn't expect the differences I found on the mission field to extend all the way down to finding milk in a bag.

Quite literally, milk comes in a bag. When we first made it to Uruguay, we went to the grocery store to look for milk and had trouble finding it. It was strange to find milk in a bag. What do you do with it after you get home? We learned Uruguayans cut the corner of the bag and place it in a small open pitcher.

Sometimes missionaries, especially first-termers, long for something familiar. After being back in the States for a few months, we find ourselves longing for the things of Uruguay. As you reach for your milk jug each morning, pray missionaries will make smooth transitions between their home culture and their host country.

RANDOM FACT:
Milk comes in a bag.





**RANDOM
FACT:**
*They don't sell
28-pound giraffes
(at least not in
Uruguay).*

STRUGGLE # 2 - Learning a new language is humbling and hard.

We do not have central heat and air in Uruguay, and Sofia, our youngest daughter, was born in the coldest part of winter. We needed a way to keep her warm, so we purchased a small heater that used a propane tank. My husband went to the local gas station to buy the needed tank. He asked the attendant for a 13-kilo tank...or so he thought. He mistakenly used the word *jirafa* instead of the word *garrafa*. The attendant gave him a puzzled look, said the correct word, and then told Neil where to find the tank.

Neil called me a few minutes later to ask me to say the Spanish word for tank. When I told him, he realized he had just asked for a 28-pound giraffe. The slightest difference in pronunciation made a big difference in meaning. Almost all missionaries struggle with language. It is a lifelong process and is often slow and humiliating. When you meet someone whose first language is not English, be patient and remember to pray for missionaries who are learning to communicate as well.

STRUGGLE #3 - We are often uncomfortable.

I grew up on a farm in South Carolina. I believed, for most of my life, shoes were optional. If I had to wear shoes, I kicked them off as soon as the opportunity presented itself. Taking my shoes off was, for me, a way to be comfortable. When we arrived in Costa Rica, I was in for a shock. We learned that Costa Ricans believe you get sick if you walk barefoot. One day, our children were running around our house shoeless when our landlord arrived. He was there to make a repair to our house.

When he noticed our girls' bare feet, he stopped what he was doing and quickly told me I needed to put shoes on them. He explained that sickness enters the body through the pores of your feet. Since most of the floors are tile, and they stay cold, this adds to the probability you will get sick, according to Costa Ricans. We later discovered Uruguayans believe the same thing. Uruguayans do not kick their shoes off at the door either.

For most of my life, not only did I leave my shoes at the door, I also took my coat off immediately when entering a building or home. This is not done in Uruguay either. Homes are made of cement, have no central heat, and are very cold during the winter. Most Uruguayans wear jackets, along with several layers of clothes, to stay warm in their homes.

One major obstacle we had to overcome was redefining what is comfortable. For us, kicking off shoes and shedding jackets are normal, comfortable things to do, and learning not to do them is a very small example of things missionaries do that are uncomfortable. But when you are stressed, overwhelmed, and homesick, and you live constantly in a state that is uncomfortable, it is difficult.

Yes, we are missionaries, but we are also just people, and the little things sometimes add up to bad attitudes and bitter feelings. The next time you kick your shoes off, shed your coat, or adjust your thermostat, pray we will learn to be comfortable in Uruguay, or learn, as Paul said in Philippians 4:11, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Pray also that our attitudes will always be pleasing to the Lord.

**RANDOM
FACT:**
*Don't leave your
shoes at the door.*

**RANDOM
FACT:**
*Laundry takes
two and a half
hours per load.*

STRUGGLE # 4 - Everything takes longer.

Our greatest struggles have been with time. It takes two and a half hours to wash and dry one load of laundry. Top that with the fact that the washing machine only holds a quarter of the clothes as the average-size washer in the States, and you can imagine we spend hours each week just doing laundry. Though this sounds like nothing more than an inconvenience, everything is this way. Everything. Since I have to cook everything from scratch, it takes twice as long to prepare a meal and to wash all the dishes by hand afterward.

It even takes a long time to make an acquaintance. Neil went to the gym nearly four days a week at the same time, each day, for a year. After all that time, he had built enough rapport with only two people to socialize outside of the gym. The ministry is this way as well. It takes a long time to see things accomplished, whether seeing someone saved or planting a new church. Nevertheless, we have a strategy of seeing ten new churches planted over the next ten years. This is a God-sized goal only He can accomplish.

As you wash your clothes or check off the many items on your to-do list, pray we will not get discouraged with how long everything takes. Pray we will not be discouraged by slow results in the ministry, and that God will move in a mighty way in Uruguay. Pray people will know Him, and pray for us as we hope to plant a new church in the city of El Pinar.

As we have ministered in Uruguay, we have struggled with other things as well. But God is faithful, and He has used many of our struggles to draw us closer to Him. As we started our term

in Costa Rica to learn Spanish, our house was located beside the language institute we attended. From our back door, we had a beautiful view of the mountains. On many of my hard days, I stood at the back door, looked at the mountains, and quoted Psalm 121:1, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help."

Perhaps you are going through a tough time right now. Struggles are a part of every Christian's life. It doesn't matter if we live in Costa Rica, Uruguay, or the United States. If you are struggling with something, be reminded and encouraged that God has promised to be with you. Jesus didn't calm the sea as Peter began to sink; He simply reached out and took Peter's hand. Only after they were back in the ship did He command the wind to stop blowing. And it is a good reminder: as long as Peter's eyes were on Jesus, he didn't sink beneath the waves of the storm.

I pray each of us will keep our eyes fully on our Savior Jesus, and when we grow afraid, that we will hold tightly to His hand. 

About the Writer: Mandi Morgan and her husband Neil began their ministry in Uruguay in 2008. They are scheduled to return May 31. Learn more at www.fwbgo.com.

Take one (or both) for a drive!

Join golfers from across the nation for the annual **Master's Men Golf Tournament, Thursday, August 6**. Then stick around for the **National Softball Tournament, Friday, August 7, and Saturday, August 8**.

The double-elimination tournament guarantees two games per team.

Sign up today for a weekend of fun: www.fwbmastersmen.org.



My Safe Place

BY BARBARA GIBBS



Since I was a kid, I have had the habit of keeping clippings: an article that touched me, a recipe, pictures of home decorations, a beautiful or interesting picture, a nice drawing. When I was young, I wanted to be an artist; I wanted to attend art school. My parents wanted me to go to Welch College. So, I went, thinking I would stay only one year then transfer to where I really wanted to go. I ended up staying four years and graduating.

During those years, I wrestled with God's will for my life. I knew what I wanted, but I felt He wanted something else. I remember the day I finally said, "Okay God, I will do anything you want...except be a missionary or marry a pastor." I was a PK (preacher's kid), and I knew you don't get rich in that profession. As for the missionary part, my head was filled with images of life in a hut on the backside of a jungle.

I'm convinced God has a sense of humor. I met Jerry; we became friends; we fell in love. I knew he felt God's call on his life to be a pastor. Then, in the summer of 1970, he and Dennis Teague went to France as student missionaries

to work with the Joe Haas family. He saw the lack of evangelical churches in that region, and when he came back to the United States he said, “I left my heart in France. I have to go back!”

He also asked me to marry him. What to do? Not only did he want to be a pastor, he wanted to do it in France. I cried before the Lord more than once. But finally, I realized a truth that has stayed with me to this day: the safest place in the world is where God places us. It is in His will we find peace and joy. So, I said yes to God...and to Jerry.

We left for France in March 1974 and attended language school in Switzerland. We followed that with a year in language school in Albertville, France. During spring break, we, with another couple, made a whirlwind tour of neighboring countries: Germany, Luxembourg, and Austria. We had a limited budget, but we still saw many sights. One place we visited was the Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany, a home of King Ludwig. It was quite impressive.

Some time later, I spent an afternoon sorting through my clippings and pictures. I ran across a photo, a full-page magazine ad where I had written “my dream castle.” It was the castle we had visited in Austria. When I tore that page from the magazine in my high school days, I never dreamed I would actually see the castle. I was overwhelmed to realize that because I said yes to

God one of my dreams had been fulfilled.

Perhaps that is the symbol for me of our life in France, a life so rich—not financially, but in everything that counts. When we arrived at St. Nazaire to help plant a church, we thought we would stay five to ten years, like good missionaries do, and then move on. But it didn’t happen that way. Our ministry was a lot longer, a lot more laborious. The French people are stubborn. But what a blessing to be able to spend all these years in St. Nazaire! Our children grew up here; they have their roots here. They grew up with two cultures, and that has changed the way they see the world.

And now, we come to the bittersweet time of leaving. But we are firmly convinced, Jerry and I, that leaving St. Nazaire is God’s plan for us and for the church. I have always said that life with the Lord is an adventure. We don’t always know the next step, the next person we will meet. But I can assure you, there is joy, peace, and freedom in this walk with Him. **ONE**

About the Writer: Barbara Gibbs and her husband Jerry were appointed career missionaries to France in 1972, working in Rennes during their first term before turning their attention to starting a church in St. Nazaire, where they remained until they retired in 2014. They are currently on stateside assignment. If you would like to host them at your church, email jgibbs@fwbgo.com.

Dankie. Obrigado
Efharisto. Shukran
Thank You!
Xie xie. Dêkui
Gracias  Arigato

Thank you for changing lives through the World Missions Offering!



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FALL QUARTER

DAY/MONTH	OT SEPTEMBER 2015 OLD TESTAMENT				ST OCTOBER 2015 SPECIAL TOPIC				NT NOVEMBER 2015 NEW TESTAMENT				
AGE	ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT—Genesis				ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT—Demanding Questions				ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT—John				
SCRIPTURE/THEME	Developing a Relationship With our Creator				Finding Answers to the Demanding Questions of Life				Examining the Scriptural Claims of the Deity of Christ				
TAKE-AWAY	Sept. 6, 2015	Sept. 13, 2015	Sept. 20, 2015	Sept. 27, 2015	Oct. 4, 2015	Oct. 11, 2015	Oct. 18, 2015	Oct. 25, 2015	Nov. 1, 2015	Nov. 8, 2015	Nov. 15, 2015	Nov. 22, 2015	Nov. 29, 2015
AGE	PRESCHOOL—Creation				PRESCHOOL—Adam and Eve				PRESCHOOL—Jesus Heals				
ELEMENTS	SEPTEMBER ELEMENTS—CREATION				OCTOBER ELEMENTS—THE FALL				NOVEMBER ELEMENTS—GOD THE SON				

SPRING QUARTER

DAY/MONTH	NT MARCH 2016 NEW TESTAMENT				ST APRIL 2016 SPECIAL TOPIC				OT MAY 2016 OLD TESTAMENT				
AGE	ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT—John				ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT—Calling God by Name				ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT—Job				
SCRIPTURE/THEME	Examining How Jesus Fulfilled the Promises of the Messiah				Understanding the Character of God Through His Names				Trusting God When the Going Gets Tough				
TAKE-AWAY	March 6, 2016	March 13, 2016	March 20, 2016	March 27, 2016	April 3, 2016	April 10, 2016	April 17, 2016	April 24, 2016	May 1, 2016	May 8, 2016	May 15, 2016	May 22, 2016	May 29, 2016
AGE	PRESCHOOL—Easter the Last Supper				PRESCHOOL—Names of God				PRESCHOOL—Job				
ELEMENTS	MARCH ELEMENTS—JESUS THE SAVIOR				APRIL ELEMENTS—GOD THE FATHER				MAY ELEMENTS—SOVEREIGNTY				



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D6 DOORPOSTS KEY PRINCIPLES THAT FRAME A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

- The Bible is God's Word.
- God is a personal, spiritual being.
- God created everything in the universe, including the universe.
- I am a special creation of God, with an eternal soul.
- I am engaged in a spiritual warfare.
- Sin brought death and destruction into the world.
- Bad things happen because the world is a sinful place.
- I cannot save myself, I need a Savior.
- God offers salvation and forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ.
- God established the home to make disciples and transfer the faith.
- God established the church to make disciples and transfer the faith.
- Jesus Christ is the Sovereign Lord of all.

HOUSE

DISCIPLESHIP PLAN SEQUENCE

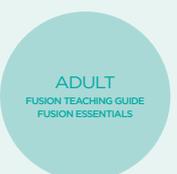


WINTER QUARTER

DAY / MONTH	ST DECEMBER 2015 SPECIAL TOPIC	OT JANUARY 2016 OLD TESTAMENT	NT FEBRUARY 2016 NEW TESTAMENT
AGE	ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT—Holy Spirit	ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT—Genesis	ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT—Acts
SCRIPTURE / THEME	Learning to Be Led by the Holy Spirit	God's Big Plan for Redemption	Understanding the Role of the Church in the Great Commission
TAKE-AWAY	The Force, the Universe, Fate, conscience, an inner voice, or departed spirits: are these reliable guides for life? How do they compare to the Holy Spirit? This study highlights the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers and examines how believers can be encouraged and strengthened by the indwelling Spirit of God.	Gradual processes over eons of time or cataclysmic events—which view best explains our world today? This study investigates the stories of people of faith and pivotal events in human history and how they shaped our world. Students are challenged to consider how God has been involved in the lives of people in the past, and recognize He is still active in their lives today and has a plan they can follow.	What is the significance of the church? This study looks at the establishment of the church, evaluates the significance of Old Testament prophecy, and examines the church's foundational role in the spread of the gospel. It identifies principles for us to follow in reaching people with the gospel today.
ELEMENTS	DECEMBER ELEMENTS— GOD THE SPIRIT	JANUARY ELEMENTS— OBEDIENCE	FEBRUARY ELEMENTS— THE GREAT COMMISSION

SUMMER QUARTER

DAY / MONTH	ST JUNE 2016 SPECIAL TOPIC	OT JULY 2016 OLD TESTAMENT	NT AUGUST 2016 NEW TESTAMENT
AGE	ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT—Cultural Issues	ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT—Genesis	ELEMENTARY THROUGH ADULT—Acts
SCRIPTURE / THEME	Scripture: There's an APP for That.	Seeing God's Work Through History and Heroes of the Faith	Investigating the Impact of Faithful Messengers of the Gospel
TAKE-AWAY	We live in a pluralistic society. The "melting pot" of our culture is more like a TV dinner with everything divided in its own little compartment. How are believers to deal with all the cultural issues of our society. Particularly, how are we to respond to teachings and behaviors that are contrary to Scripture?	What is the value of stories from ancient history? Are these accounts even reliable? This study investigates the impact of key people in history and their influence on their descendants, world history, and our lives today. Their stories provide examples for us to see how God brought His people through hardships to be a blessing for all nations.	What impact did the testimony of Stephen have on Paul? How would the world be different if Paul had not carried the gospel across the Roman Empire? This study examines how the dedicated service of faithful believers can turn the world upside down. Believers are challenged to be a faithful witness in sharing the gospel of Christ, whether to one or many.
ELEMENTS	JUNE ELEMENTS— TRUTH	JULY ELEMENTS— GRACE	AUGUST ELEMENTS— THE GOSPEL



Around the World >>

CMP (College Missions Program) Ecuador 2015

Antioch, TN—Seven students from four colleges formed CMP Ecuador 2015. Rachel Anderson (freshman, Welch College), Clayton Brixey (senior, Hillsdale FWB College), Rebekah Cash (sophomore, Southeastern FWB College), Stephen Nunnally (graduate, Hillsdale FWB College), Anne Nunnally (senior, Hillsdale FWB College), and Brittany Sanchez (freshman, Tulsa Community College) joined team leader Curt Holland, March 12-20. Traci Morris (OK) and Angie Laubach (OK) rounded out the 10-member group as team administrators.

The students, mostly education majors, had an opportunity to visit, instruct, and interact with children in four Ecuadorian schools. The team witnessed missional practices used by two private Christian schools. Montebello Academy in Quito and Antioch Christian Academy provide quality education from a biblical perspective for all socio-economic groups in both the capital city and the jungle town of Misahualli (Mee-sah-wah-YEE).

CMP students gained valuable insight and hands-on participation at Montebello Academy, a Microsoft Partners in Learning Innovator School. Not only did the college students have a chance to talk with students at the academy, they also had a face-to-face session with the school's academic director and English department coordinator.

At the small, public jungle school in Pusuno, the students shared Bible songs, led craft projects, and played with students during free time. The school's only teacher is a believer, and her passion spills over into her teaching and the concern she demonstrates for her students. The team also visited a public school in Misahualli. Though the school had never allowed a group to share Bible stories, songs, and activities before, missionaries were

pleased with the acceptance of the CMP team and the open door for future connections with the administration and teachers.

At Antioch Christian Academy, the student teachers taught English, math, and science classes for 1st-5th grades. An unexpected teacher's absence also gave them an opportunity to display flexibility and creativity as

new restrooms for the entire school.

Over 20-30 feet of rain falls in the jungle each year, and this week certainly had its portion of rain. However, the CMP students remained diligent in the hot, sticky jungle climate. Each day ended with someone exclaiming, "These are some of the cutest kids I've ever seen!"



they stepped in to help the kindergarten class for two days. After teaching in the mornings, the team contributed to various work projects during the afternoon, including completing the construction of a much-needed roof on

Partnership Agreement With Cuban FWB Association Signed

Cuba—During the recent convention of the Cuban association of Free Will Baptist Churches (February 27-March 1), Kenneth Eagleton (International Mission's regional director for Latin America) and Steve Lytle (missionary to Panama) met with the executive committee to finalize a written partnership agreement. Pastor Ramón Sanchez, president of the Cuban association, and Kenneth Eagleton, representative for FWBIM, signed the agreement.



Under discussion for a year, the partnership details an understanding of the type of aid International Missions will provide the Cuban association. The agreement acknowledges the Mission's respect for the priorities of

Cuban Free Will Baptists, recognizes the strategic position of the Cuban association's executive committee, and commits to coordinate the Mission's efforts in Cuba through the committee for the benefit of the work as a whole.

The partnership agreement covers leadership training, evangelism, church planting, assistance with church construction projects, and participation with national meetings such as retreats and camps. Assistance may take the form of sending specialized teams, teachers, and financial aid.

Those interested in supporting the Cuban church may give online at <https://fwbim.secure.agroup.com/give>, choosing Cuba Ministries under General Funds. Checks can be earmarked "Cuba Ministries." ■

Peacemakers Workshop

Uruguay—On March 6-7, 35 people from Rivera attended a workshop on "Peacemaking: a Biblical Guide for Conflict Resolution." Peacemakers Ministries provided the material. Participants learned four action steps and questions to ask to resolve conflict:

Glorify God. How can God be glorified in this conflict?

Take the beam from your own eye. What is my responsibility in this conflict?

Humbly restore them. How can I lovingly serve them and help them see their responsibility for their contribution to the conflict.

Go and be reconciled. How can I show the same forgiveness God showed me and encourage a reasonable solution to this conflict? ■

Snapshots Around the World



Panama—Efrain González was ordained to pastoral ministry March 22 at the Camino de Santidad FWB Church in Las Tablas, Panama. Efrain and his wife Carmen graduated from the FWB Bible institute in Chame and began leading this church. The ordination took place during the anniversary celebration of the church. Missionaries Steve and Lori Torrison, who formerly served in Panama, were present with a team of Hillsdale College students. Edwin Escudero, also a recent graduate of the seminary, preached.



Uruguay—After completing the study of Robert J. Morgan's discipleship book *Simple*, two candidates presented themselves for baptism in the Renacer (Rebirth) FWB Church in Melo, Uruguay. The pastor's son Brandon and an adult woman were immersed March 22.



Brazil—Sixteen people registered for a series of seminars at Second FWB Church in Araras, Brazil. Sponsored in conjunction with the Bible institute in Campinas and taught by Dr. Kenneth Eagleton, the seminars addressed the Christian life and disciplines in four Saturday sessions.



Panama—Over 100 Panamanian youth participated in a three-day youth camp on the seminary property in Chame during March. The national youth organization elected officers for another term. ■



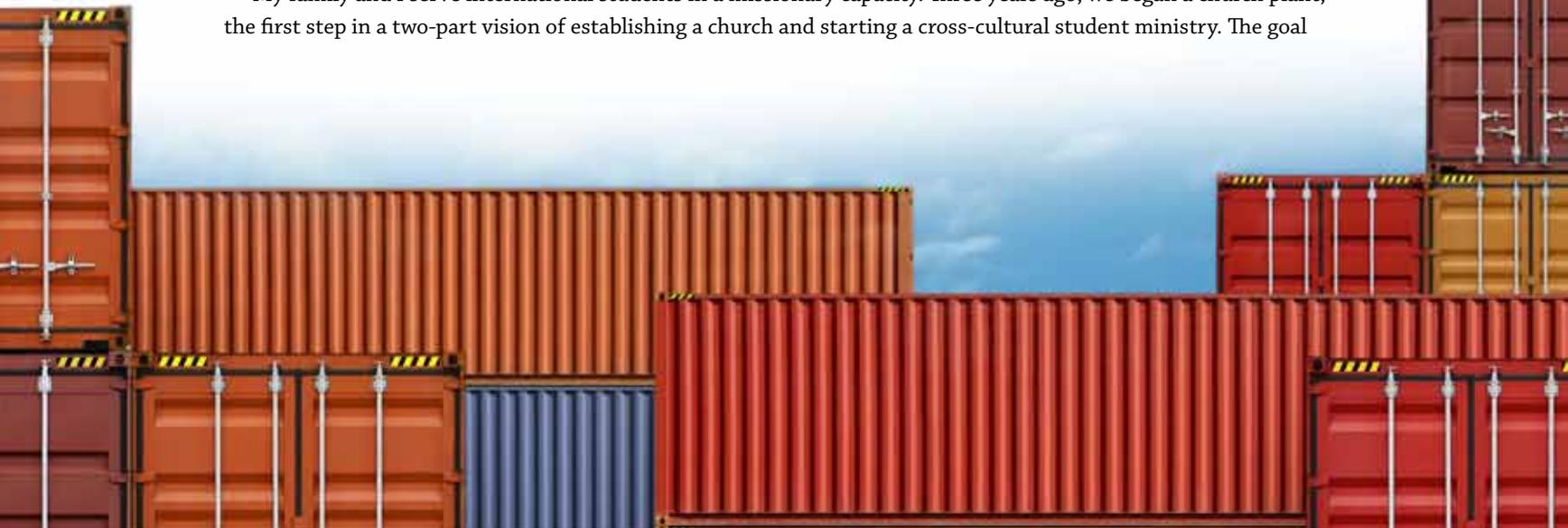
BY TYLER PENN

The Port of Shanghai is the world's largest port. It handled over 32 million TEU's (20-foot storage containers) last year alone. It is amazing to think of all the valuables that come through that one place in the course of one year.

The beginning of 2 Corinthians 4:7 says, "We have this treasure in earthen vessels." Christians, as earthen vessels, contain a great treasure within, the gospel of Jesus Christ. What if there was a place like Port of Shanghai for the kingdom of God? A place not where earthly treasures are shipped to the ends of the earth, but a place where the gospel of Jesus Christ is placed into people and sent to the ends of the earth. I believe I minister in such a place as this. It is not one of the centers of the shipping world, or one of the great cities of our planet, but a university town in the Central Illinois cornfields. Our Kingdom Port is Champaign-Urbana.

The University of Illinois is one of the leading universities in the United States for international student enrollment. In 2011, my family and I moved to Champaign to begin our ministry among international students. At that time there were 6,400 international students enrolled at the University of Illinois. Now, only a few years later, that number has ballooned to nearly 11,000 students from 100 nations. Our vision is to plant a Free Will Baptist church in this community to ship the greatest treasure in the world—the gospel of Jesus Christ—to the ends of the earth.

My family and I serve international students in a missionary capacity. Three years ago, we began a church plant, the first step in a two-part vision of establishing a church and starting a cross-cultural student ministry. The goal



WE HAVE BEEN AMAZED BY THE GOSPEL ENCOUNTERS WE HAVE EXPERIENCED WITH PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

is to reach a community, to reach a student, to reach the world. We quickly realized the students had our hearts and drove our passion, and we now focus completely on them. We have been amazed by the gospel encounters we have experienced with people from all over the world. From a visiting scholar from Turkey or a Ph.D. student from Iran, we have been able to share the good news of Jesus with people who might never hear otherwise. We never get enough of taking students to church for their first time, or having them celebrate holidays like Thanksgiving and Easter with our family, or conversing with them about the amazing grace of God found in Jesus Christ.

We see the potential of having more than one family working in this context, an entire church family. We desire to see people have the same vision we do and come to be a part of this ministry. We would love to partner with a minister who has a heart for planting and leading a church, and establish a Free Will Baptist

church among the people who live, work, and raise their families in this community.

It is our vision to build a true Kingdom Port for the glory of God. Please help us pray that the right church planter, with the right skill set needed to reach a university city, will answer the call to plant a church in Champaign-Urbana to reach a community, to reach a student, to reach the world.

I once imagined a student on an airplane coming to the States, tingling with excitement about all he would see and experience at school. I then imagined that same student, years later on a similar plane, returning to his home country. He is completely different than the one who came, not because of the degree he earned, but his faith in Jesus Christ. Once again, he is nervous and excited as he returns to his homeland with a treasure for his people—the gospel. I used to imagine it. Now, I am experiencing it. **ONE**

If you would like more information regarding the Penn's international student ministry in Champaign, Illinois, contact Tyler Penn at tylerpenn@comast.net.

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



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Reaching the World

at our DOORSTEP By Sean Fortner



A verse that has become dear is Romans 10:13, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” What an amazing truth, and I rejoice in its promise. But what about verses 14-15? Aren’t they true as well?

“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? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

Free Will Baptists have been committed to missions from earliest beginnings. This is certainly true at First FWB Church in Inman, South Carolina, where our leadership has always been passionate about supporting missions and sharing the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. At one time, we were focused primarily on sending missionaries to other countries, but now the mission field has come to us.

According to the 2013 U.S. Census Bureau, roughly 54 million Hispanics live in the United States, representing approximately 17% of the total U.S. population. Nearly half of the 2.3 million births from July 2012 to June 2013 were Hispanic.

With a rapidly growing Hispanic population, how can we continue to reach the Hispanic world while neglecting the Hispanic population in our own country? This question spurred Earl and Gwen Hendrix to establish an institute in 2002, a school dedicated to training men and women in the fundamentals of the faith and essentials of evangelism. God has added His blessings to their “grass roots” efforts.

Over 230 students have graduated from the Earl & Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Institute and serve faithfully in 47 works in the United States and 53 international locations.

On any given Sunday, over 2,800 Hispanics will assemble to worship our Lord in churches established by the graduates.

Graduates have begun works in the U.S. and every Central American country except Bolivia.

Teachers and graduates have begun several satellite institutes in Houston, Texas; Johnson City, Tennessee; and Costa Rica.

Recently, God opened yet another door for the Earl & Gwen Hendrix Hispanic Institute. After purchasing an elementary school with 40,000 square feet of space, the institute relocated to Bartlesville, Oklahoma. This will better equip the needs of the school, not only now, but as we grow in the future. Already, God has shown that He is in this work. A couple came to the dedication service and committed to enroll in the Institute. After graduation, they have a desire to go to Bolivia to start a church. To God be the glory!

Though the institute was a vision of the Inman Church, it has progressed and grown because of the faithful giving and prayers of Free Will Baptist people. The institute is not supported by outside entities, only the faithful giving of Free Will Baptist churches and people like you. We ask you to keep us in your prayers and to make us a part of your individual giving and church budget. God bless you; may we remain faithful to His cause until He returns.

ONE



Across the Nation >>

Home Missions Holds “Boot Camp” for New Recruits

By Brad Ransom, Director of Church Planting, North American Ministries

The process to become a church planter may be more difficult than you think. A question I often hear is, “Who can plant a church?” or “How can I plant a church with Home Missions?” Church planting is a ministry God calls a person to do. I do not believe every pastor can or should try to plant a church. Church planting is a unique ministry and requires a specific skill set and the calling of the Holy Spirit on a person’s life.

If you feel God calling you to plant a church, what is the process? The following is an overview that takes a person from calling to planting:

- Contact the director of church planting to discuss your calling, place of interest, and feasibility of location.
- Fill out an extensive application.
- Submit a resume.
- Complete an assessment process that identifies essentials for church planters including:
 - Church planter characteristics
 - Risk factor analysis
 - Spiritual gifts
- Ministry experience
- Transformational discipleship
- Complete an interview process with the directors.
- References checked.
- Approval.
- Orientation explains policies, procedures, and expectations.
- Boot camp includes three days of initial training.
- Itinerate (fundraising) starts.
- Training is ongoing.
- Coaching continues.

We are working to provide the best process to help church planters be successful and plant strong churches as quickly as possible. For more information, visit www.homemissions.net or call (615) 760-6132.

PICTURES FROM A RECENT BOOT CAMP TRAINING EVENT



Introducing New Missionaries



Amos and Melissa Dillard are associate missionaries to Irvine, California. They will join church planter Stephen Kimbrell in planting a new church in Irvine. Amos comes from a youth pastorate at Cramerton FWB Church, North Carolina. He attended Southeastern FWB College and earned a degree in Pastoral Theology and Practical Ministry. Melissa attended Emmanuel College and earned a degree in Music Education. The Dillard family has two daughters, Ellie Mae and Addison Grae.



David and Ashley Osborne are joint project missionaries with the Virginia State Mission Board. David pastors Faith FWB Church in Wytheville, Virginia. He obtained a degree in Pastoral Theology and Practical Ministry from Southeastern FWB College. Please pray for David and Ashley and their children Charity, Levi, and Aaron, as they continue the work in this new church.

Introducing New Missionaries (continued)



Kevin and Elizabeth Bass are associate joint project missionaries with the state of Virginia. They will work with church planter Marc Nepl to start a church in Portsmouth, Virginia. Kevin comes from youth ministry at Heritage FWB Church in Columbus, Ohio. He and Elizabeth attended Southeastern FWB College. They have two daughters, Bailee and Brynna, and a son, Kaleb.



Jonathan and Ashley McNeese recently joined the mission work in Houston, Texas, with church planter Heath Ferguson. Jonathan is a graduate of Southeastern FWB College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Pastoral Theology. He also holds a Master of Arts degree in Religion and Biblical Studies from Liberty University. Please pray for Jonathan and Ashley as they minister in Houston.



Scott and Amy Bee are joint project missionaries with the state of Tennessee. Scott recently accepted the pastorate at Oakland, Tennessee, a church begun by Home Missionary Tim Osborn, who died in May 2014. Scott and Amy attended Welch College. They are from the pastorate at First FWB Church in Decatur, Illinois. Scott and Amy have three children—Cameron, Preston, and Emily.



Stephen and Lauren Kimbrell are home missionaries to Irvine, California. Stephen is a graduate of Southeastern FWB College with a degree in Bible: Pastoral Theology and Practical Ministry. Stephen and Lauren have served Pleasant Acres FWB Church in New Bern, North Carolina, for the past six years. They have three children—Lilly Kate, Ainsley, and Carter.



Terry and Tammy Miller are associate missionaries at Snowy Ridge FWB Church in Fort Collins, Colorado, a church revitalization project. The Millers come from a pastorate at Shady Grove FWB Church in Phil Campbell, Alabama. This will be a second work by Terry and Tammy for the Home Missions Department. Terry attended Welch College and graduated from Southeastern FWB College with a degree in Biblical Studies. They have five sons: Joshua, Jonathan, Brian, Brannon, and Devan.



Jordan and Emily Ledbetter are associate missionaries with Scott and Staci Warren at Cross Point Church in Salt Lake City, Utah. Jordan follows in the footsteps of his parents, Randy and LeAnn Ledbetter, former home missionaries to Salt Lake. Jordan earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Liberty University in Worship Leadership and Music Studies. He and Emily are excited about working with the Warrens in Utah.



Marc and Casie Nepl are raising funds to start a new church in Portsmouth, Virginia. Marc has a degree in Bible from Gateway Christian College and served an internship in Bakersfield, California. He and Casie worked with David Sexton to plant Crosspointe FWB Church in Suffolk, Virginia.

A personal perspective on the need for Free Will Baptist workers in New England...

Connecticut CALLING

BY LYNN-HODEN
ARTHUR



The Northern Movement of Free Will Baptists began in New England in 1780, when Benjamin Randall and a handful of fellow believers established a Free Will Baptist church, which continues today in New Hampshire. Hundreds, then thousands of churches followed, spreading across the New England countryside and eventually into the western frontiers of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan. Even today, when driving through New England, you find towns where streets and avenues are named after famous Free Will Baptist ministers and leaders, and the Freewill Baptist name is common on historical markers.

Sadly, two centuries later, the denomination has no presence in three of the six New England states—Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut—and only one church in Maine. Why do so few Free Will Baptists remain in New England? Part of the answer is obvious. In 1910-1911, the Randall movement merged with Northern Baptists, and though a scattering of congregations refused to go along with the merger, the great majority of Free Will Baptist churches, colleges, and institutions simply disappeared into another movement. New England Free Will Baptists never recovered.

Since the National Association of Free Will Baptists formed in 1935, the Free Will Baptist population has centered in the Southeast and Midwest, in states such as Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina. New England seems a world away, and it is challenging to get workers to leave their families to minister so far out-of-the-way. It's much easier and more comfortable to stay close to "roots" and families. But in Genesis 12, God told Abraham to "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee."

I truly appreciate men like Jim and Joel Nason who have labored faithfully in New Hampshire for a quarter of a century; Jim Martin and Brian Williams who are starting churches in Rochester and Buffalo, New York; Darryl Grimes in Erie, Pennsylvania; and Bill Reynolds in Rhode Island. These states had virtually no Free Will Baptist presence, but God has blessed their efforts. I pray the same will become true in Connecticut, where our small group of Free Will Baptist believers remains isolated from the rest of the Free Will Baptist world.

I am grateful to Tennessee pastor Tim York, who graciously includes us in his Tennessee church services via Skype and Face-

Time. But worship via Internet lacks fellowship on a personal level—no conversations over coffee, no sounding board in spiritual matters, no face-to-face friendships. We need other Free Will Baptists in Connecticut!

We've been praying for *someone* to start a church here in Plantsville. We invite you, the reader, to come for a visit and get to know us. Connecticut is a small state (roughly 60 by 100 miles). Only Rhode Island and Delaware are smaller. Yet Connecticut boasts a population of nearly 4 million, making it the 29th most populated state in the U.S. What a tremendous opportunity for evangelism and church growth.

Called the Constitution State, the Nutmeg State, and The Land of Steady Habits, Connecticut played an important role in the federal government of the United States. The Fundamental Orders adopted by the Connecticut colony January 14, 1639, contain many of the principles upon which the United States government was later founded.

Much of southern and western Connecticut falls into the New York City metropolis, an area widely referred to as the Tri-State Region. Connecticut is bordered on the south by Long Island Sound, the west by New York, the north by Massachusetts, and the east by Rhode Island. Our town of Plantsville borders Cheshire and lies between Hartford, Waterbury, and New Britain.

Are you the one God is calling to Plantsville, Connecticut... or perhaps one of the other 169 towns across the state? Are you ready to answer His call? Or will you choose to ignore His still, small voice? Interestingly enough, the state motto of Connecticut is *Qui transtulit sustinet*: "He Who Transplanted Still Sustains."

For more information, please contact Cliff Arthur by email: CliffordArthur@cox.net, or by cell phone (203) 233-5712. **ONE**

About the writer: Lynn Hoden-Arthur and her husband Cliff meet with a small group of Free Will Baptist believers in Connecticut.

Are
CREDIT CARDS
HURTING
the Lord's Work?

By John Brummitt



The recession that ended almost six years ago continues to have a lasting effect on Americans' personal finances. Many workers lost jobs during the recession. Because most were unprepared, they ended up with more debt, which continues to impact their lives. A recent study by the National Endowment for Financial Education discovered that 63% of Americans incurred a major unexpected expense in the last year. These numbers are consistent with previous surveys, and should come as no surprise. Accidents, illnesses, and lost jobs are simply part of life. The problem comes, however, when people rely on credit cards to survive a financial crisis and end up with a heavy load of debt.

How does credit card debt hurt the Lord's work? Let's answer this question with a question. What is the first area you cut from your budget when financial need arises? Really think about that. Many families cut the area that has the least effect on daily lifestyle. Those areas most commonly include savings, retirement, and church tithes (although not necessarily in that order).

Currently, just over 24% of the American population has more credit card debt than savings in an emergency fund. This is a frightening statistic. If 24% of church members stop giving because of financial difficulties, how does that affect church ministry?

Realistically, we know not all members tithe on their income. That is a topic for another article, but for the sake of illustration, imagine your church loses 24% due to financial difficulty. How would that play out in your local congregation? Could you keep paying church employees? Would you have enough to pay utilities? Would it affect the church's outreach ministry? Would missionary accounts suffer? Would your church have to close its doors?

It doesn't take long to understand how credit card debt and lack of savings can have major effects on local congregations. And it doesn't stop at the local church. When local congregations struggle, "outside" ministries funded primarily by local churches also begin to struggle, and their ministries may have to downsize or even close. Financial hardship on a few eventually can have a major effect on the Lord's ministry as a whole.

Sometimes we forget that our personal finances affect more than just our lives and ministry. Misuse of credit cards and failing to establish an emergency fund can have a ripple effect on everything in our lives. We also forget we are not the only ones

dealing with financial challenges. A strong, personal financial outlook not only helps our congregations in their home lives, but it also impacts God's ministries.

What could your local church congregation do if everyone gave something to help support the Lord's work? Again, I am not necessarily talking about tithing, but *giving* something to further the gospel. Could you start new ministry opportunities in your local community? Could you open a soup kitchen or a free after school facility? Could you finally make needed repairs to the church facilities? Could your congregation become a brighter light in the community? Could you bring more people to the Lord?

MISUSE OF CREDIT CARDS
and failing to establish
an **EMERGENCY FUND**
can have a ripple effect on
everything in our lives.

If we are truly about the Lord's work here on this earth, a strong personal finance plan is a must. Struggling with debt and financial setbacks are part of life, and no "magic bullet" can protect us. But with a little forethought, we can prepare ourselves to handle financial challenges when they do arise. **ONE**

About the Writer: John Brummitt graduated in 2011 with an MBA from Tennessee Tech University. A 2004 graduate of Welch College, he has been with the Board of Retirement since the spring of 2006. John was recently selected by the board to replace outgoing General Director Ray Lewis.

Intersect >>

Trading Show for Substance:

AUTHENTIC SPIRITUALITY IN CHRIST, PART ONE

Colossians 2:6-15

*It's not every day you meet
someone who has been to Heaven.*

But there she was, walking into the coffee shop that often becomes my makeshift office when I need to avoid interruptions. She talked to the baristas as if she knew them well, made her purchase, and then turned toward my table. I suppose she asked for the time because my laptop was open, but before I knew it, I found myself in a deep conversation about spiritual things.

I don't remember what triggered the statement, but she suddenly asked, "I have actually been to Heaven; I died, went to Heaven, and came back. Would you like to hear about it?"

What else could I say but "sure"? What followed was a lengthy and scattered description of Heaven—from angels with a certain numbers of wings, to streets of gold, to the color of God's hair. Her intriguing description, however, was about Jesus. She told me, "Jesus didn't look like you might think; He had on khaki Dockers."

At that point I said, "Hmmm. That's interesting."

She quickly replied, "You know, everyone says the same thing when I tell them that."

I moved the conversation toward the gospel and the need for repentance and faith, but it was clear that the more I focused on the gospel, the more she was ready to leave the conversation. Equally clear: while we were both talking about Jesus, we were talking about two different Christs.

This woman paints a vivid illustration of the current spiritual scene in America—a smorgasboard of spirituality like the buf-

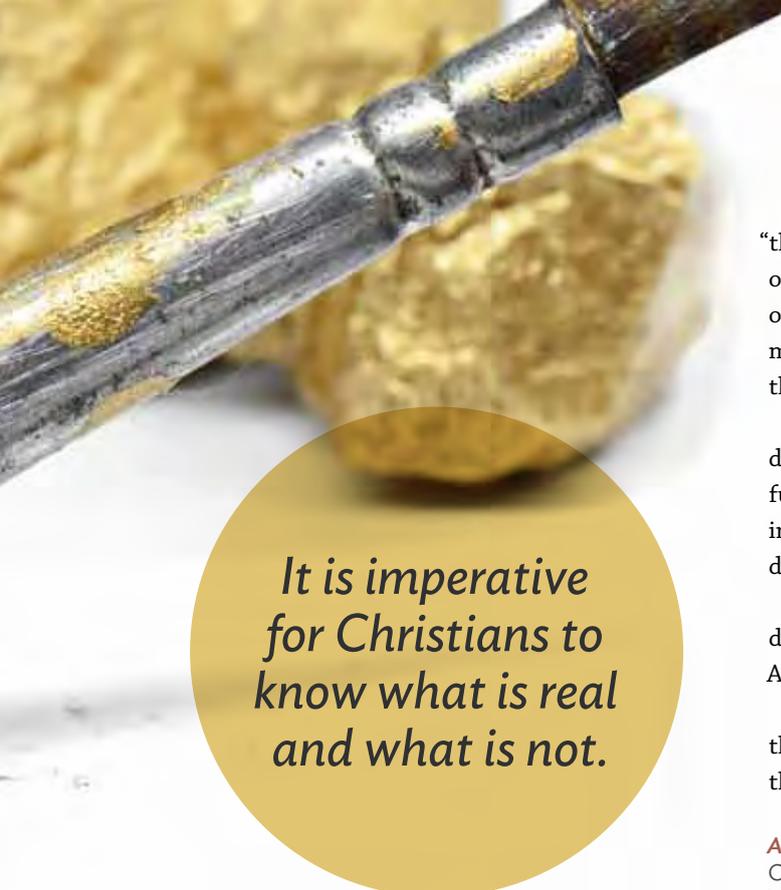
fet line at a local restaurant. Pick and choose what you like; it's your recipe, your creation. For this reason, it is imperative for Christians to know what is real and what is not. Which begs the question: what is authentic spirituality? What does it look like? How can we tell the difference between real and counterfeit?

Living in the pagan world of the first century, the Apostle Paul certainly knew what it was like to compete against false spirituality, and in Colossians 2:6-15, he shared two important truths to help us identify and define authentic spirituality.

Authentic spirituality is rooted in the person of Christ (verses 8-10). We would be hard pressed to find a more theologically compressed verse than verse 9. In succinct and stunning fashion Paul declared, "*For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.*" Of course, this doctrine echoes throughout the New Testament, from Jesus' statements about Himself to similar statements from Paul in Philippians 2 and Colossians 1. Perhaps the most familiar passage is John 1, where John began his Gospel with, "*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.*"

It is Jesus, this eternal Word, who "*became flesh and dwelt among us.*" Throughout His incarnation, He remained eternal, omnipotent, all knowing, self-sustaining, the absolutely holy Creator of the universe. At the same time, He was fully human. He attended synagogue worship, worked with His hands, ate, drank, slept when tired, wept, displayed righteous anger, cared for the spiritual and physical needs of others, sang, prayed, preached, and _____ . Fully God, fully man.





*It is imperative
for Christians to
know what is real
and what is not.*

The early creeds also stress the person of Jesus. The Nicene Creed states, “the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.”

Many accounts in the Gospels illustrate both natures at work. We find the disciples terrified by a storm that threatens their boat, while Jesus—in His full humanity—slept soundly. When the disciples awakened him, He spoke in full deity, and the wind and waves instantly obeyed His command. The disciples no longer feared the storm; instead, they were awed by the Savior.

Paul wanted his readers to understand that because fullness of deity dwells in the person of Jesus, we are filled in Him and lack nothing in Him. Authentic spirituality is rooted in His person.

In the next issue, we will explore verses 11-15, where we learn that authentic spirituality is not only rooted in the *person* of Christ but is secured by the *work* of Christ. **ONE**

About the Writer: Dr. Barry Raper pastors Bethel Free Will Baptist Church in Ashland City, Tennessee, and directs the Pastoral Program at Welch College. Learn more about Welch College: www.welch.edu.



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*A candid interview with
Ray and Lissie Turnage...*

People OF THE People



The Greek word laikos from which we get our English word laity simply means people. So it is appropriate to call Christians like Ray and Lissie Turnage people of the people because they are laity who committed themselves to serving others for 65 years. Now in their mid-80s, they still influence people for Christ. We talked with them in Edmond, Oklahoma, on a surprisingly warm February day.

By Bill and Brenda Evans

BILL: Dr. Ed Stetzer recently said that lay church folks tend to think their job is to pay, pray, and get out of the way. You two don't seem to believe in just being spectators. Have you had a special call to lay ministry?

RAY: Not a call, really, just opportunities and open doors. I never looked for positions; they seemed to find me. In college [Welch] I worked at a drugstore on West End Avenue. President Johnson came in one day and saw me running the lunch counter. He said, "Come see me, Ray." So I became the college's dietician, ran the dining hall. Master's Men the same, as well as volunteer music director at Cofer's Chapel and East Nashville Churches in Nashville.

After college, I was asked to direct the League Board and did that for seven years, then became superintendent of the Tennessee Children's Home in Greenville, Tennessee. Many times, it was just a hard situation that somebody needed to do something about, so they asked me.

BILL: Sounds as if your determination to do what you could was greater than your concern about the challenge. Did you get special leadership training for any of that?

RAY: (laughs) No. I've always just called it OJT—On the Job Training. Henry (Pop) Melvin was an influence on me, as was C. F. Bowen. I went to Peabody there in Nashville for my teaching certification then later to Middle Tennessee State University for a Masters in education. But that was the extent of it. No real mentorships.

I already knew how to work. My very first job, when I was nine, was pumping gas at a Gulf station. Then during WWII, when I was 12 or 13, I worked at a Pure station, accounting for the gas we pumped and the rationing stamps we collected. People called me Little John.

LISSIE: In League Board days he would run seven youth camps during the summer, be gone all week, and still have League work to do when he got back to Nashville on weekends.

RAY: But I had time to start a youth camp and originate the Engineers Program in White Bluff, Tennessee. Floated bonds to buy land and moved a discarded 4-H Club dining hall 100 miles to the site. That was something. Sam and Jane Johnson worked with me and later developed the camp.

BRENDA: In the middle 1960s, you were approached about heading up the Tennessee Children's Home. How did that come about?

LISSIE: Ray can tell you about that. I just want to say that I've always been amazed at the Lord's hand, how he has put us the places we needed to be. After high school, my parents, especially my father, didn't

want me to go to college in Nashville. But I had been on my knees, and I knew I must. He said, "You'll be home in two months." But he was wrong. Later, I did go home, but to get married, and Ray hitchhiked from South Carolina to Oklahoma just to marry me.

RAY: Well, that hitchhiking trip is a whole other story! The Children's Home was about need. They needed a superintendent, and they needed money. I'd been leading and raising money at the League Board, so I went.

LISSIE: Before we got there, I had a dream about paint falling off the walls. But the reality was not just paint. The home had broken windows, no screens, curtains blowing in the wind; one bathroom had a terrible odor from a rotting floor. Split couch covers. Cast-off beds. I remember praying, "Lord, what are we doing here?" But there we were, and we had to do something. There were more than 100 children, so all the staff took in children. Three lived with us, and Ray hit the road to raise money.

RAY: One week, I brought seven children from one family back in our Pontiac station wagon. Their father had been killed in a drunken brawl; their mother had cancer. Two older brothers had joined the military. The other seven, ranging in age from three to 18, came to the home.

LISSIE: In another family of five children, one had seen her father kill her mother and then shoot himself. She's now in her sixties and keeps in touch. Some still come all the way out here to Oklahoma to visit us.

RAY: When I left the home eight years later, we had done repairs, built and paid for three new buildings, had new beds and chests for the children, worked 500

acres, and ran a Grade-A dairy. We put up 5,000 bales of hay and 5,000 quarts of green beans each summer. In the fall, Rob Morgan's father brought us a truckload of apples from his orchard.

BILL: Lissie, you showed me a closet full of photo albums from your years of ministry. I counted 27. You must love people. Has that been the motivator for your work?

LISSIE: It has, and the Lord, of course. Our verse is Psalm 16:8: "I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved."

RAY: The Lord's work is always about people. You have to like them and have no hidden motives. We've just met a new couple, a lawyer and judge who live nearby. We want to influence them for the Lord.

LISSIE: We also play Rummikub with an ex-military couple once or twice a week. They're in assisted living. They told us, "We need friends; we don't have any." We still see needs and opportunities.

BILL: What did you do after the Children's Home?

RAY: I was an English teacher and high school principal. The last 25 years of employment, I was supervisor of special education in Greene County, Tennessee. Lissie taught children for 29 years, part of that with mentally handicapped children. You never know what people can do. Like the girl at the Children's Home whom we helped buy a car so she could finish nurses' training. When she finished and paid it off, she was so proud. So were we. One of the boys had an alcoholic family, but he earned three degrees and is now retired. Another was a real cut-up. One day he told me, "If I

hadn't gone to that home, I'd have been a juvenile delinquent."

BRENDA: He must have gotten his sense of humor from you, Ray. We've laughed until our sides are sore, especially when you kept talking to your suspenders and saying, "Hold on, I'll get to you in a minute." (laughter) You've also used music for the Lord. I see keyboards, a piano, and a beautiful, Seybold reed pump organ. Is music in your soul?

RAY: I guess it is, and I miss what I did for so many years—going room to room in nursing homes with my two-octave keyboard. My health won't let me. I taught myself to play. My father's sister had an old piano, so I plunked and plunked until I learned. Never had lessons. Was in the Freshman Quartet in college with James Earl Raper, Gene

Waddell, and Bobby Jackson. We still get together, and Robert Picirilli, too, of course, who came along the next year.

LISSIE: Ray's got two more pump organs that we don't have room for here. Sometimes at night, we play music together for an hour or more. I'm at the piano. He's at one of his keyboards.

BILL: I've been wondering what brought you all west to Oklahoma after all those years in East Tennessee.

RAY: Stupidity, I guess, and our daughters. One lives nearby.

LISSIE: It was not easy, but it is okay, because it's what we've always done: go where we need to be, and we need to be here. **ONE**

Summing up our conversation with Ray and Lissie is not easy, except to say that they are octogenarians who are willing, as they always have been, to be people of the people...wherever the need is.

About the Writers: Bill and Brenda Evans live in Catlettsburg, Kentucky. Bill is former director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation and Brenda is a retired English teacher. Visit www.fwbgifts.org for more information on planned giving that benefits your favorite ministry.

"What this family really needs is a good estate plan."

Let's face it...life rarely turns out like a 1950s family sitcom. Death is an inevitable part of life, and a father who really knows best will prepare his estate in such a way that it will benefit his family and the ministries he has loved and supported throughout his lifetime. **Free Will Baptist Foundation** has partnered with **Cornerstone Estate Planning** to help in this crucial area. More than 750 Free Will Baptist families have already taken advantage of this opportunity to have peace of mind about their estates. Make sure "your script" ends well. Contact Cornerstone and the Foundation today to learn more:

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Brown on Green >>

Going Down? Euro Versus Dollar

The euro has been dropping like a rock over the last several months.

How low will it go? Opinions vary, but almost everyone believes the euro will continue to fall. The euro began life January 1, 1999, as a virtual currency. The actual printing of currency and coins began January 1, 2002. It has become the second most widely circulated and reserve currency in the world. (The U.S. dollar remains number one.) The euro is the official currency of 19 of the 28 states in the European Union.

When the euro first began trading against the dollar, it was pretty much one to one, but the euro fell to around 80 cents on the dollar in the early 2000s before the central banks of Europe stepped in to support it. It soon returned to parity with the dollar, and since 2003, has been valued higher than the dollar, averaging in the \$1.20 to \$1.30 range from 2003-2006. In 2006, the euro began a climb that peaked at an all-time high, reaching \$1.60 in 2008 before falling to around \$1.25 in 2009. It traded at \$1.25 to \$1.55 from 2009 through the middle of 2014 but has since fallen to \$1.08 in early March 2015.

Many economists believe the euro will fall to parity with the dollar before the end of 2015 and believe the slide will continue into 2016. Some even believe it will drop as low as 80 or 90 cents on the dollar before the slide is over. The reasons are many but mostly center around the fact that the U.S. economy is improving while the euro zone still continues to struggle. The recent decision by the European Central Bank (ECB) to begin buying European countries' bonds is also a big factor. The ECB is now embarking on the same path the U.S. Federal Reserve followed for a few years, with quantitative easing (QE). The U.S. has concluded QE and will begin to raise interest rates as unemployment falls. In Europe they are still trying to stimulate the economy.

The implications of the falling euro are good and bad. It is great news for missionaries in countries that use the euro. Truthfully, the dollar has been strengthening against all currencies and will help missionaries in other areas as well. It is also good news if you plan to visit Europe, as the American dollar will buy more European goods. It is good news for businesses exporting goods from the euro zone to the United States, because they will be able to receive stronger dollars when the goods are sold. It is bad news, however, for U.S. businesses that rely on exports to Europe.

Currencies tend to rebalance, but I hope our missionaries can use stronger dollars now to expand the Kingdom. **ONE**



About the Writer: David Brown, CPA, became director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation in 2007. Send your questions to David at david@nafwb.org. To learn how the Foundation can help you become a more effective giver, call 877-336-7575.



Who Gets to Decide?

BY KEN AKERS

Who gets to decide?

Have you ever wondered who gets to decide what is right or wrong, what is in style, what is proper, and what is not? Who gets to decide what proper manners are? We have all been told not to put our elbows on the table, right? While watching television one night, I came across a special program from Miss Manners. Hosting the show was an elegant gentleman, Larry the Cable Guy. According to Miss Manners (and Larry), it is okay to place your elbows on the table...as long as you are not eating. What about all that silverware? Why doesn't everyone just use a spork? I don't need three forks, two spoons, and two knives; just give me one spork. But that is just me.

The real question is what God says about manners. Ephesians commands us to be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving. Why? For Christ's sake, because He has forgiven us.

Who gets to decide what words are proper to say? From childhood, we are taught there are good words and bad words. Our parents make the decisions when we are young, but where did they get their opinion? Have you ever considered that we can describe the same thing using many different words? Some are acceptable; others definitely are not.

Maybe this says a lot about me, but I watch the television show *Dog the Bounty Hunter*. I find it entertaining to see them chase down criminals. Many times on

the show, either before the manhunt or after their capture, they stop and pray in Jesus name. However, during the hunt, they use language I certainly wouldn't use, nor would any of the people I associate with. Thankfully, the show producers have a beep button, and they use it often. I am always surprised by what some people think is appropriate language.

But what does God say about words? James says to let yes be yes and no be no; anything else may be too much. It also challenges us to be swift to hear and slow to speak. Paul told Timothy to be an example in his words.

Who gets to decide what is in fashion? By default, I sometimes watch HGTV with my wife. Some styles people

choose really confuse me. While I have to admit, I enjoy the home improvement shows, I draw the line at the clothing shows. I think everyone wants to be stylish enough not to be awkward, but I am always happy to see people who have their own style.

style, and the combinations I see would never make the runways in Paris. For the most part, however, the Haitians are modest and clean.

What does God say about fashion? First John 2 says that the pride of life is not of the Father but of the world.

tom line? Be modest and a good example to the next generation.

While there are many other areas we could cover—how many pillows on the bed are too many; the correct height to hang pictures; and so on—I know these things are not that important. But I believe the most important question is this: who gets to decide who goes to Heaven? The Bible tells us plainly that it is God’s will that none should perish, that all should come to repentance. In His sovereignty, God gave man the decision. It’s ours. It’s up to us.

I figured out a long time ago that people do what they want. So the question is: what are you going to do with Jesus? You decide. 

I FIGURED OUT A LONG TIME AGO THAT PEOPLE DO WHAT THEY WANT.

My oldest granddaughter is about to turn ten. Her mother lets her pick her own outfits to wear to school. Needless to say, she has unique style. I go to Haiti a couple times a year, and it is quickly obvious that they don’t care much about

Deuteronomy 22:5 states that women shouldn’t wear men’s clothes and men shouldn’t wear women’s, and it is an abomination to do so. And 1 Corinthians 10 tells us that whatever we do, we should do it to the glory of God. The bot-

About the Writer: Ken Akers is director of Free Will Baptist Master’s Men. Learn more: www.fwbmastersmen.org.

About the Denomination >>

Barry Simpson to Join Free Will Baptist Foundation



Antioch, TN—The Free Will Baptist Foundation will add Barry Simpson to its staff as a regional field representative serving Arkansas and Tennessee, according to David Brown, director. Simpson will act as a liaison between the Foundation, Cornerstone Estate Planning, and individuals who wish to safeguard their estates for their heirs and the ministries they love.

The 55-year-old Kansas native was saved at age 19 while serving the U.S. Marine Corps in North Carolina. After four years of active duty, he attended Welch College in Nashville, Tennessee, graduating with a B.A. in pastoral studies in 1986.

Simpson served on the staff of New Hope FWB Church in Joelton, Tennessee, for 22 years. Under his 16-year tenure as pastor, the church experienced significant growth. In 2007, Simpson accepted a position as director of development for Free Will Baptist International Missions where he remained through 2010. Most recently he pastored Heads Free Will Baptist Church in Woodlawn, Tennessee.

“We are pleased to add such a quality individual to our staff,” said Brown. “Barry is passionate about serving the Lord through helping others, and he brings a wealth of experience to our staff.”

To learn more about the ministry of the Free Will Baptist Foundation, or to schedule a service with a Foundation representative, visit www.FWBGifts.org or call 877-336-7575. ■

WNAC Update >>

WNAC to Sponsor Seminars and Events at the National Convention

Although WNAC will no longer host an independent convention after becoming a department of the National Association in 2014, the organization will sponsor two events at this year's meeting, along with a series of seminars and workshops.

Events

During this year's *Celebration Service* on Tuesday morning, we will rejoice in what God has accomplished through WNAC during the past year. Sarah Malone, a representative of ELIC, will bless and challenge us as she shares her story. Sarah has served more than 20 years as an English teacher. She is vice president of Asia operations and member care for ELIC.

On Monday evening, make plans to enjoy the informal atmosphere of *Laughter & Latte*, an event scheduled at a time to avoid conflicting activities. The scheduling, combined with a lower cost, has made this a popular event. This year, enjoy a "game show" setting designed to help you meet missionaries. The casual atmosphere is also perfect for catching up with old friends and making new ones. Refreshments will be served, followed by numerous door prizes. Tickets are only \$15. Contact WNAC: (877) 767-7662 to reserve your place today.

Seminars and Workshops

I Surrender My Expectations. Lynette Morgan, former missionary to West Africa and France, will share from her personal experience of realizing and accepting that God had another plan. Lynette and her husband Clint, live in Nashville, Tennessee, where he serves as General Director of International Missions.

I Surrender My Family. David and Angie will share about surrendering your family to serve wherever God may call. The

couple, along with their five children, serve as Creative Access missionaries. Currently, they are living in Nashville, Tennessee.

I Surrender the Status Quo. WNAC Board Chairwoman Diana Bryant will share leadership principles for times when



"what's always worked doesn't seem to be working anymore." A pastor's wife from Vero Beach, Florida, Diana and her husband Randy have two adult children and two grandchildren.

Ideas to Surrender? This year's brainstorming session will be divided into creative writers, YWAC leaders, retreat coordinators, and local officers. Network with counterparts from other states. Learn and share.

On the WNAC Horizon

In the coming year, WNAC will host two regional conferences geared to 12-18 year olds, along with mothers and youth leaders. "SHINE: Realizing Your Worth" will reinforce principles of biblical womanhood in a culture of moral decline. Enjoy a sneak preview of these upcoming events at the convention. ■

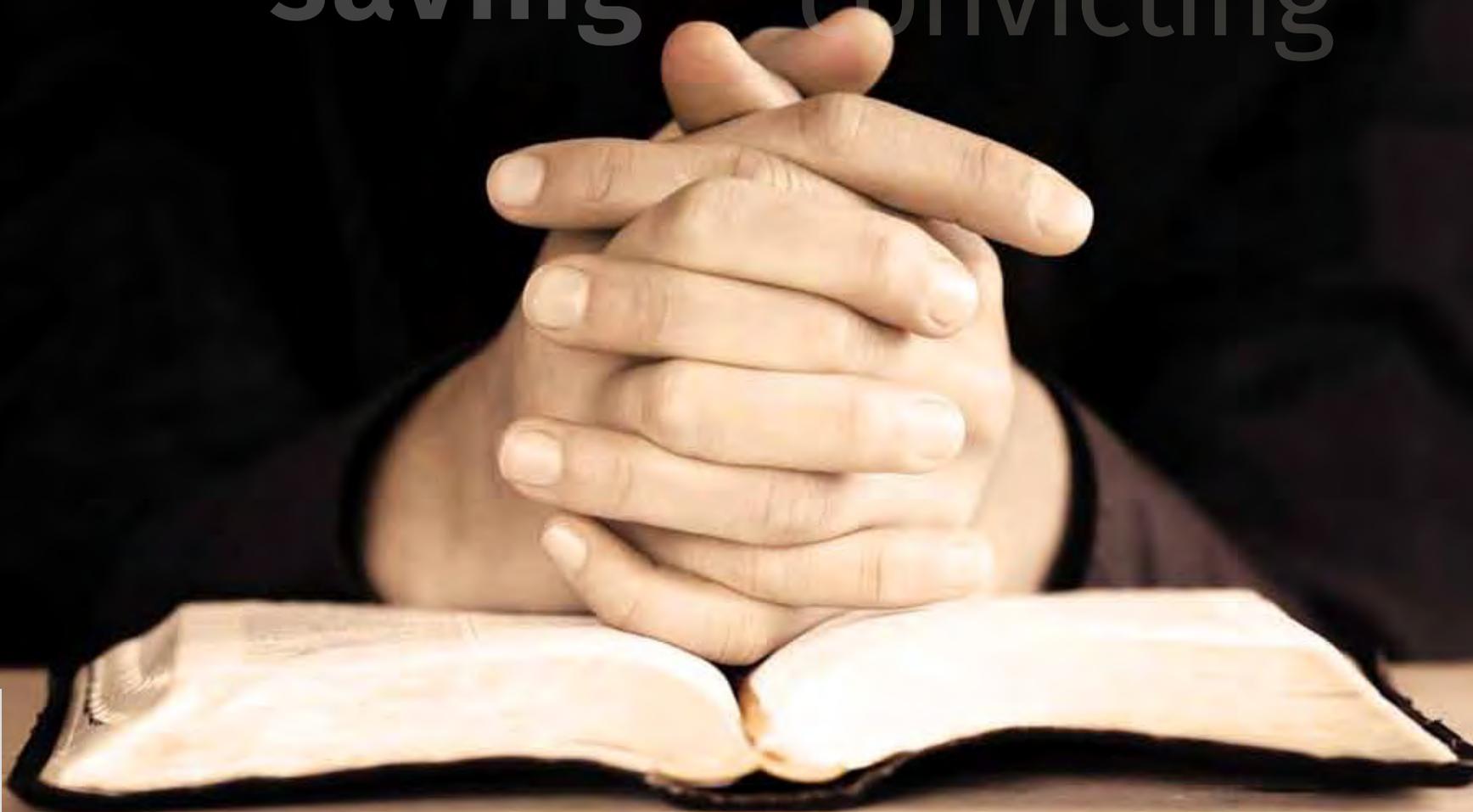


Speakers (from left): Sarah Malone; Lynette Morgan; Diana Bryant; David, Angie, and their five children.

Need more information? Visit www.WNAC.org

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WORD
of **GOD**

true inspired
eternal
saving convicting



79th National Association of Free Will Baptists
Grand Rapids, Michigan | July 19-22, 2015



PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

National Association of Free Will Baptists | Grand Rapids, Michigan | July 19-22, 2015

Saturday, July 18

Registration Open
3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
DeVos Place, Grand Gallery

Sunday, July 19

Registration (Open Daily)
8:00 am - 7:00 pm
DeVos Place, Grand Gallery

Sunday School*
10:00 am - 10:45 am
DeVos Place, Hall BC

Morning Worship*
11:00 am - 12:00 Noon
DeVos Place, Hall BC

Evening Worship*
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
DeVos Place, Hall BC

Monday, July 20

General Board Meeting
8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Amway Grand
Ambassador Ballroom

Reach That Guy Service Projects
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Various Locations

NYC Competitive Activities
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
DeVos Place, Various Locations

Convention Seminars
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
DeVos Place, Various Locations

Theological Integrity Seminar
2:00 pm
Amway Grand
Ambassador Ballroom

Exhibit Hall Open
3:00 pm - 10:00 pm
DeVos Place, Hall A

ENGAGE Children's Ministry Panel
4:00 pm
DeVos Place, River Overlook E

North American Ministries
Appreciation Dinner
5:15 pm - 6:30 pm
Amway Grand

Evening Worship
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
DeVos Place, Hall BC

WNAC Laughter & Latté
(Ticketed Event)
8:30 pm
Amway Grand
Pantliind Ballroom

National Youth Evangelistic Team
(Y.E.T.) Program
9:00 pm
DeVos Place, Performance Hall

Tuesday, July 21

NYC Competitive Activities
8:30 am - 4:30 pm
DeVos Place, Various Locations

Convention Seminars
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
DeVos Place, Various Locations

WNAC Celebration Service
10:00 am
Amway Grand
Ambassador Ballroom

Preaching Conference
10:00 am - 11:30 am
DeVos Place, Performance Hall

Exhibit Hall Open
10:00 am - 10:00 pm
DeVos Place, Hall A

Convention Business Session
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm
DeVos Place, Hall BC

ENGAGE Student Ministry Panel
4:00 pm
DeVos Place, River Overlook C

Evening Worship
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
DeVos Place, Hall BC

The Skit Guys (Ticketed Event)
9:00 pm
DeVos Place, Performance Hall

Wednesday, July 22

NYC Competition Finals
8:00 am - 11:00 am
DeVos Place, Ballroom A

Convention Business Session
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
DeVos Place, Hall BC

GPS Experience
9:00 am - 11:30 am
DeVos Place, Ballroom C

Exhibit Hall Open
10:00 am - 9:30 pm
DeVos Place, Hall A

Welch College Alumni
and Friends Luncheon
12:00 noon - 1:15 pm
Amway Grand
Pantliind Ballroom

Evening Worship
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
DeVos Place, Hall BC

NYC Awards Ceremony
9:00 pm - 11:00 pm
DeVos Place, Hall BC

*Teen services will be held in the
DeVos Place, Performance Hall.

The National Association of Free Will Baptists will visit Grand Rapids, Michigan, “River City,” for the first time when it meets July 19-22, for the 79th annual session. Convention Manager Ryan Lewis expects nearly 5,000 delegates and visitors to converge on DeVos Place (convention center) at the heart of the city.

Grand Rapids promises to be a comfortable meeting location, with convenient hotels (Amway Grand Plaza, JW Marriott, and Courtyard by Marriott Downtown) connected by an enclosed skywalk. Many shops and restaurants are centrally located, with great family-friendly attractions within a walk or short drive. Visit www.experiencegr.com for more city information.

Speakers Paul Harrison (TN), Gary Fry (TN), Rick Locklear (MI), Frank Woods (TN), Steve Lytle (Panama), and Tom McCullough (MI) will address the theme, *The Word of God*, while Brian Williams (NY) and Danny Baer (NC) will headline the annual Tuesday preaching conference.

The FWB Media Commission will stream convention services on www.nafwb.org, according to Media Commission Chairman Travis Penn, making it possible for Free Will Baptists across the world to join

the meeting remotely.

In convention business, Moderator Tim York will guide delegates through the election of new and returning board members, general officers, and commission appointees. Delegates are expected to approve denominational budgets of nearly \$25 million. In addition, all national agencies and commissions will submit annual reports.

National Youth Conference

The 48th annual National Youth Conference, which meets simultaneously, expects more than 3,500 registrants. This year’s program includes national competitive finals in Bible and fine arts, a wide range of seminars and workshops, and services designed especially for youth. Speakers Corey Minter (TN), Charles Jackson (OK), Joe Wilson (MI), and Mark Mittelburg (CO) will address the NYC theme *#Truth* based on John 8:32. Tommy Woodard and Eddie James, the comedy duo better known as The Skit Guys, will bring side-splitting comedy to the conference on Tuesday night. (Be sure to pre-register to take advantage of \$10 tickets.) Learn more about NYC on page 54.

Throughout the week, students and sponsors will take part in *Reach That Guy* projects, serving Grand Rapids through kindness. On the final evening of the conference, students will join adults for a combined worship service. Get more information at www.fwbnyc.com or www.verticalthree.com.

Delayed Impact

Since 2005, the one-day evangelistic campaign referred to as Impact has partnered with local Free Will Baptist churches to provide outreach and service



Paul Harrison (TN)
Sunday School



Gary Fry (TN)
Sunday Morning



Rick Locklear (MI)
Sunday Evening



Frank Woods (TN)
Monday Evening



Steve Lytle (Panama)
Tuesday Evening



Tom McCullough (MI)
Wednesday Evening



Brian Williams (NY)
Preaching Conference



Danny Baer (NC)
Preaching Conference

Convention Speakers

opportunities to convention attendees. However, Grand Rapids has no local Free Will Baptist churches, creating serious logistical challenges.

After searching unsuccessfully for project alternatives and partners, Impact Coordinator Ken Akers, along with convention officials, made the decision to cancel Impact for 2015. Attendees are encouraged to make plans to serve local Free Will Baptist churches during Impact Kansas City in 2016.

WNAC Events

Although Women Nationally Active for Christ will no longer host an independent convention after becoming a department of the National Association in 2014, the organization will sponsor several events. See page 48 for more information.

Convention Musicians Needed

The 2015 Mass Choir and Orchestra, sponsored by the Music Commission, needs vocalists and instrumentalists (age 15 and above, with at least third-year skill level) to participate in the convention music program. The ensemble will accompany congregational and choir selections during each service. If you would like to be involved or have questions, contact the commission: music@nafwb.org or visit [facebook.com/fwbmusiccommission](https://www.facebook.com/fwbmusiccommission). 

Five great attractions to visit...

- #5 Ride the **Swan Boats** at John Ball Zoo, located two miles west of downtown just off the I-96 expressway.
- #4 Take a selfie at **La Grande Vitesse**. The large sculpture by Alexander Calder is located across from Devos Place.
- #3 Make the half-hour drive to beautiful **Lake Michigan**. Condé Nast *Traveler* recently listed the shoreline among the 25 best in the world.
- #2 Be swarmed by butterflies at **Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park**, among the top 100 most-visited art museums worldwide, featuring more than 200 sculptures.
- #1 Visit **Gerald R. Ford Museum** to learn more about the 38th President (and Grand Rapids native). Return to the 1970s through interactive displays, holograms, and a peek into the Oval Office.

GRAND RAPIDS MICHIGAN



-  A. Amway Grand Hotel
-  B. JW Marriott Grand Rapids
-  C. Courtyard by Marriott
-  D. DeVos Place (Convention Center)
-  E. Performance Hall
-  F. Gerald Ford Museum
-  G. Ah-Nab-Awen Park
-  H. Calder Plaza
-  I. Rosa Parks Circle
-  J. Fish Ladder Park
-  K. Sixth Street Bridge Park
-  Skywalk



Rooms are still available at convention hotels!
 Visit www.nafwb.org to book yours today!

NYC News >>

ENGAGE

Network Opportunities

Don't miss these opportunities to learn and connect!

ENGAGE

Student Ministry Luncheon

(Limited seating. Must RSVP at engageleaders.net)

Time: 12:30 p.m. **Place:** Chase Boardroom

ENGAGE

Panel Discussion

Monday @ 9:00 p.m.

TOPIC: CEO or Shepherd?

A Pastor's Role in the Local Church

Children's Ministry Panel

Monday @ 4:00 p.m.

Student Ministry Panel

Tuesday @ 4:00 p.m.



Know any students who have exhibited leadership qualities and are passionate about serving Christ and His Church?

Be sure to have them apply for the Truth & Peace Student Leadership Conference. Deadline to apply is October 31.

WWW.VERTICALTHREE.COM

Global Purpose Seekers Returns

Be sure to join your students for a Global Missions Experience on Wednesday from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. Meet current missionaries, hear about the new Buck-A-Week Small Group Curriculum, and be inspired to help our FWB missionaries take the gospel to the ends of the earth.



Buck-A-Week

Don't forget to support our missionaries through Buck-A-Week.

Feel free to send gifts directly to Randall House or bring them to the National Youth Conference for the Tuesday evening service.

Elliot Family (Quebec, Canada)

Riggs Family (France)



Be sure to checkout the **Vertical Three Event Guide** for more than 60 seminars available from the **ENGAGE Leadership Network. Opportunities for all ages!**

NYC Wednesday Fun

We know many groups look for a way to relax and unplug on Wednesday afternoon during the National Youth Conference. As an option, the NYC is partnering with AJ's Family Fun Center (www.ajsfamilyfun.com). Look for an ad in the NYC Directory for free adult mini golf with the purchase of a children's round.



Photo: Mark Cowart



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

ONE to ONE >>

POTHoles

I am a resident of Nashville, Tennessee. During the time I've lived here I have experienced 13 winters. Most have been relatively mild. This year was the harshest by far. Thick layers of ice blanketed Music City on more than one occasion.

One of the greatest challenges Nashville faced during these storms was keeping the roadways clear. Snow plows and salt trucks worked feverishly to keep highways and city streets passable.

An unfortunate byproduct of the street crew's work was the toll it took on concrete and asphalt surfaces. The combination of frozen water in the cracks and crevices, the relentless scraping by the plows, and the deteriorating effects of salt wreaked havoc on the roadways. The end result was the formation of potholes.

During this time I had to make a trip across our fair city. One particular stretch of an interstate bypass was especially rough. So rough, in fact, that electronic messaging signs flashed a warning to motorists—"Expect Pot Holes."

Potholes happen. We have no reason to look for someone to blame. In most cases, they are not the result of carelessness or gross negligence. They happen as a natural consequence of winter weather and the wear and tear of traffic.

Potholes are expensive. Annually, motorists spend a great deal of money repairing damage to their vehicles because of craters in the road. This cost includes replacing tires and bent wheels and realignment of the front end. Not to mention the added expense to city and state governments for road repairs.

Potholes are dangerous. According to news reports, numerous fender-benders resulted from drivers attempting to dodge these rough spots. One motorcyclist hit a pothole, lost control of his bike, collided with a car, and was killed as a result. Tragic!

Expect potholes. You know they are coming... not only on the highway, but also in life. You have probably encountered some potholes in your journey down life's pathway. If you haven't, you will. So allow me to give you some advice... don't waste your time blaming God or trying to explain why. It will only make you bitter and frustrated. Sometimes, bad things happen. Christians aren't exempt from life's potholes.

Instead of looking in the rearview mirror and getting angry at the potholes behind you, keep your eyes and attention focused on the road ahead. Slow down, be alert, and try to avoid those teeth-jarring cavities whenever possible. "Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path" (Psalm 27:11a). **ONE**



Will you share your skill?

The Music Commission invites musicians (age 15+)

to participate in the convention choir and orchestra in Grand Rapids this July. Those of at least third-year skill level will enjoy playing with musicians from all over the country. If you'd like to be involved or have questions, contact the commission:

music@nafwb.org.

**We look forward to
worshiping with you
in **Grand Rapids!****



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