

ONE LORD ONE VOICE ONE VISION

ONE

MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2011

www.onemag.org

**Bumpy Road
to Tuxtepec**

**LABOR
OF LOVE**

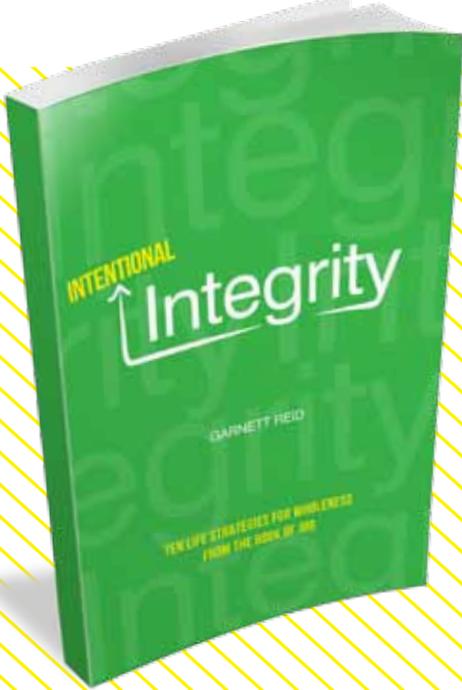
STUCK IN A RUT

**A Modern Day
Miracle**

SHIFT:

A Change of Direction

**Witness in
KANDAHAR**



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In response to the requests, the Executive Office will release a second printing of the book. The volume will be blue and imprinted on the spine only. The purchase price is \$30 due to a limited press run. Contact the Executive Office no later than **November 16** to place your order.

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ONE MAGAZINE

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UNIFYING VISION OF OUR
ROLE IN THE EXTENSION
OF GOD'S KINGDOM.

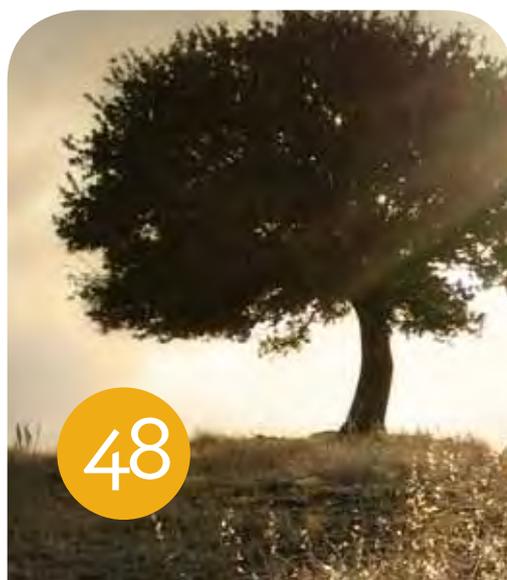
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First Glimpse >>>>

The Intersection

I CAUGHT MY BREATH WHEN I SAW HIM START BOLDLY INTO THE BUSY INTERSECTION where six lanes of rush hour traffic whizzed along without slowing. A funny-looking old codger—graying, grizzled, and scarred, with a big nose—he seemed to move at a snail’s pace into a veritable no-man’s land. I flinched as the first car swerved to miss him, narrowly averting a catastrophe.

“Surely he will turn back,” I thought.

No! Heedless of the imminent danger, he kept moving—directly into the path of another speeding car. I closed my eyes. I couldn’t watch. Tires squealed, and I waited for the inevitable thump.

When it didn’t come, I peeked. An angry driver shook his head as he circled the interloper warily, honking his horn.

The old fellow paused and slowly followed the noise with his head as if listening intently. That’s when it hit me. “He’s blind! He doesn’t know where he is. He has no idea how much danger he is in.”

For a moment, I considered dashing out into traffic myself to pull him from danger. “But then,” I pondered, “is it worth risking life and limb to save a mole?”

With images of unsightly molehills running through my imagination, I settled back into the safety of my seat to watch the drama unfold.

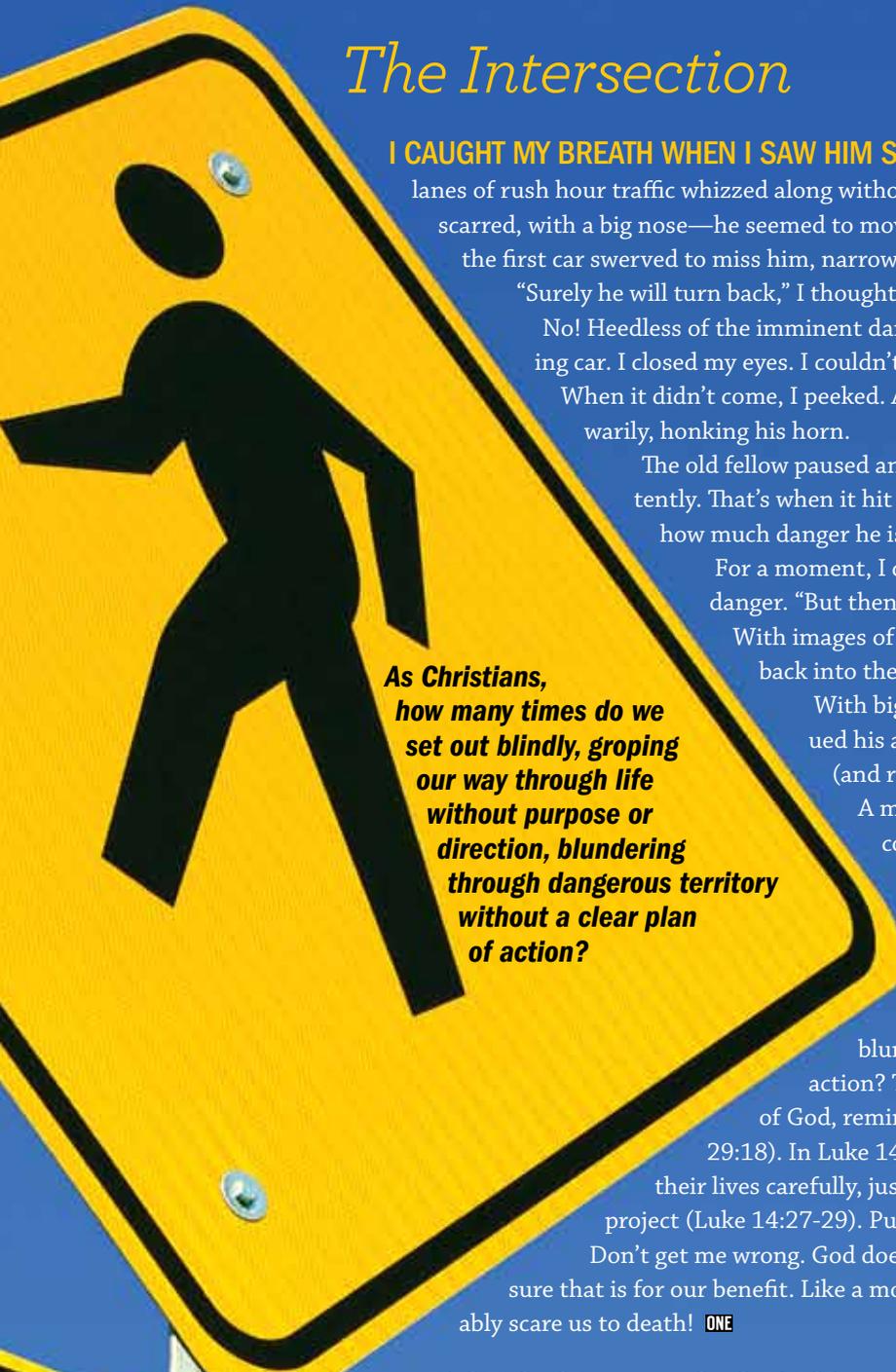
With big, ungainly front feet thrashing the blacktop, the mole continued his arduous death march across the intersection. To my surprise (and relief) he avoided death by tire, eventually reaching the far curb.

A moment later, he disappeared into fresh sod at the edge of a construction site where I am sure he happily continues to terrorize the new homeowners. The light turned green, and I drove on with a chuckle. But the picture of that risk-taking rodent stayed with me in the days that followed.

As Christians, how many times do we set out blindly, groping our way through life without purpose or direction, blundering through dangerous territory without a clear plan of action? The writer of Proverbs frowned on lives not guided by the Word of God, reminding us, “where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18). In Luke 14, Jesus encouraged His disciples to consider the direction of their lives carefully, just as they would pore over plans for an upcoming construction project (Luke 14:27-29). Put simply—it pays to have a plan!

Don’t get me wrong. God doesn’t always reveal the minute details of His specific will, and I’m sure that is for our benefit. Like a mole in rush-hour traffic, the reality of our situation would probably scare us to death! **ONE**

ERIC THOMSEN, MANAGING EDITOR



**As Christians,
how many times do we
set out blindly, groping
our way through life
without purpose or
direction, blundering
through dangerous territory
without a clear plan
of action?**

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Letters:

Have something to say?

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

Email editor@nafwb.org or send correspondence to:

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Letters to the Editor
PO Box 5002
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ONE Magazine reserves the right to edit published letters for length and content.

As you flip through the pages of the October-November issue of *ONE Magazine*, you will discover the following design changes, the first since 2008:



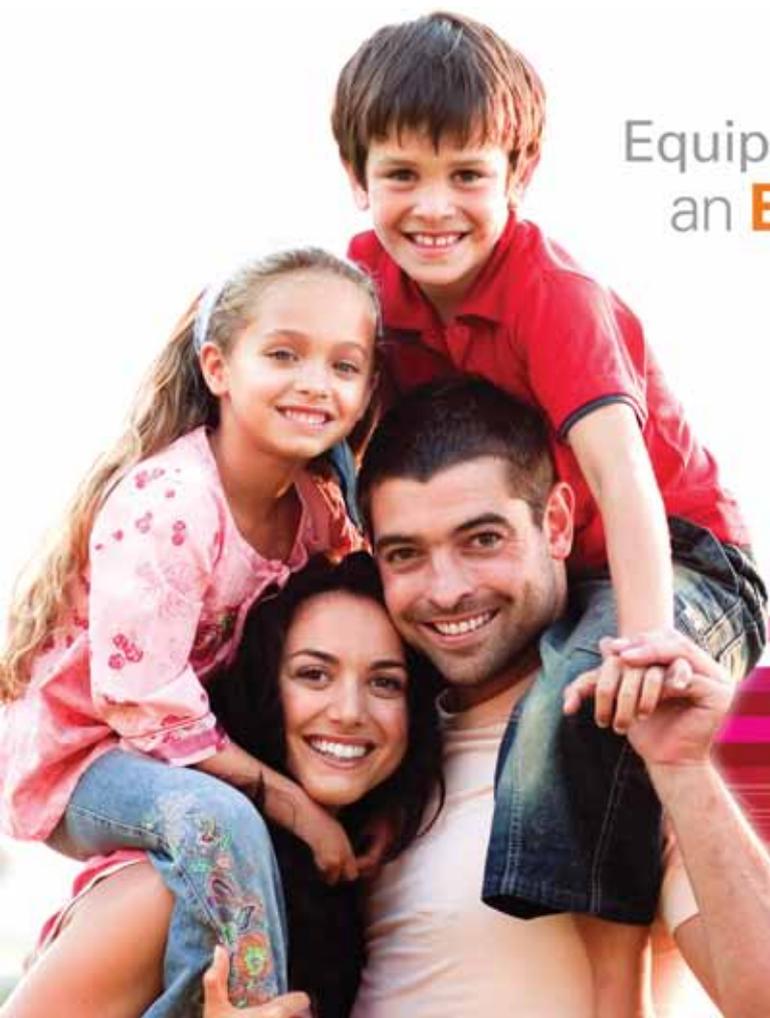
TYPE. Magazine text has been adjusted to provide optimum readability. Space has been added between lines, and both the news and sidebar fonts have been tweaked for easy reading.



NAVIGATION. The revised Table of Contents page will steer you in the right direction while new headers on editorial and news pages will make it easy to find your favorite monthly column.

LAYOUT. Although designers have maintained the clean, simple layout to which *ONE* readers have become accustomed, news pages have been adjusted to provide maximum content.

As always, the editors of *ONE Magazine* welcome your input and suggestions. Email editor@nafwb.org with comments and criticism regarding the changes.



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GENERATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

Home missionaries embrace the challenge of taking the gospel to...

THOSE WHO CANNOT



By Timothy York

One day, a young shoemaker-turned-preacher announced at a local minister's meeting that God desired for the gospel to be spread to all nations, and that he was willing to go. We would expect the response to be a resounding amen or heartfelt prayer on behalf of the young missionary. Unfortunately, the announcement from young William Carey was met with, "Young man, sit down; when God pleases to convert the heathen, He will do it without your aid or mine."

Thankfully, Carey did not allow naysayers to squelch his spirit but formed "The Particular Baptist Society for the Propagation of the Gospel Amongst the Heathen" and spent many years of his life as a missionary to India.

On May 30, 1792, in Nottingham, England, William Carey preached from Isaiah 54:2-3, "Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited."

Carey told the audience that the tent of the gospel must be enlarged so all nations might have room under its canopy of safety. This sermon launched the modern missions movement that continues striving to "lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes."

My wife Amanda and I are attempting to enlarge the tent of the gospel to make room for the Deaf. According to *The Hands of Christ Deaf Ministry*, 93% of all deaf Americans are completely unchurched. Although there are many fac-

tors that contribute to this sad statistic, the primary reason is the language barrier. *Deaf Missions* (www.deafmissions.org) states, "English is often a second language to deaf people, who therefore find it difficult to read a printed Bible or Sunday School lesson. Deaf people want and need the Bible and other Christian teaching aids in their first language. They need ministers and teachers who understand their language and culture." Romans 10:14 says it best: "How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?"

My wife and I have been tasked with planting LifePoint FWB Deaf Church in Buffalo, New York, a part of Team Buffalo headed by Brian Williams. This will be a church where all preaching, praying, and singing will be administered in the preferred and natural language of the Deaf—American Sign Language. Our prayer is that God will call some deaf men to preach, so we can train them to pastor and send them out as missionaries to the Deaf.

Perhaps you would like to join us as we "lengthen the cords, and strengthen the stakes" for the deaf.

Pray that God will tear down cultural barriers that exist between the hearing culture and the deaf culture.

Pray that God will call some deaf men to preach, and that they will surrender to His call.

Learn American Sign Language and begin a deaf ministry in your own church.

Support the work of LifePoint FWB Church financially through the Missions: North America offering. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Tim York and his wife Amanda are Home Missions church planters to Buffalo, New York. To learn more about LifePoint Church, visit www.homemissions.net.



Home Missions Director
Larry Powell points the way for
Mission: North America.



People have attributed to that great philosopher **Yogi Berra** the saying, "If you don't know where you are going, you will wind up somewhere else." He also said, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it."

I remember our first experience with a GPS

(Global Positioning System). We were visiting Sapelo Sound along Georgia's beautiful coast, with its multitude of rivers, islands, and vast salt marshes. I enjoyed the long summer day shrimping and fishing. It is easy to get lost in that huge sound, however, so we programmed the GPS with the address of the dock in order to return safely every time.

THE RIGHT DIRECTION

At Home Missions, we don't want to lose our direction. Our church planters are driven by the urgency of Jesus' final command. Where are they going? Hometown, USA. What are they preaching? Repentance and faith for salvation.

Our home missionaries speak with passion so people in the pew will be convicted and convinced that Jesus is the *only* way to forgiveness of sins and a relationship with God the Father. They use their unique gifts to bring families to the Lord Jesus. They major on strong pulpit ministry and inspiring worship while they build loving and lasting relationships with people.

Missionaries across North America pour their vision into core groups as Jesus did with His disciples for approximately 42 months. They build teams and teamwork in an all-out effort to saturate new communities with the message of peace and safety in Christ.

MY GPS TALKS!

My GPS unit talks to me. Sometimes it says, "Recalculating" or "Make a U-turn!" I didn't follow its prompting once when driving in the islands. I found myself high in the mountains on a narrow and dangerous road that was nearly impassable. As believers, our GPS is the Holy Scriptures, and when they speak to us, we must listen.

Jeremiah (6:16) had no GPS, but he had the sure Word of God. As Judah reached the milestone of a thousand years as a nation, they asked him which way they should go. Jeremiah advised them to stand still and observe the broad way many were following. He then admonished Judah to choose the old paths of holiness and purity.

The old path is the narrow road that leads to the cross of Christ. Our church planters are preaching the old paths of the Word of God. They will never lose their direction as long as they follow God's prescribed way. They will arrive at their final destination, bringing many precious people for that grand and glorious celebration. **ONE**



ABOUT THE WRITER: Larry A. Powell is general director of Home Missions. Learn more about church-planting efforts at www.homemissions.net.





Mission: North America Offering

Sunday, November 20, 2011

Let me begin by saying, "Thank you, thank you, and thank you!"

We never want to take your generous and gracious support of Home Missions for granted. We are grateful for the continued support of our annual offering. The Mission: North America Offering in 2010 set a record for our department at \$400,000! We never cease to be amazed at how God provides, even in the midst of difficult and trying economic times.

We not only want to thank you for your financial support but also for your prayers for our missionaries, chaplains, and office staff. We want you to know how much we value the friendship and fellowship of so many across this great denomination. We would not exist and cannot survive without faithful supporters. **ONE**

Please remember our annual offering in November, and we will be thankful for whatever God enables you to give.

David Crowe is director of development for Home Missions.
Learn more at www.homemissions.net.

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BUMPY ROAD TO TUXTEPEC

The Remarkable Life and Ministry of Howard T. Munsey

By Eric K. Thomsen



"IT WAS THE WORST ROAD I EVER REMEMBER TRAVELING. MANY PLACES WERE WASHED OUT, and basketball-sized boulders were partially exposed. Riding in the back of an old pick-up, we were compelled to hang on for dear life for fear of bouncing off into the road during the trip."

The terse description of his 2003 visit to a small church in a remote Mexican village seems fitting when you realize the writer was Howard Munsey, the no-nonsense, often outspoken Tennessee pastor who became a catalyst for Free Will Baptist missions work in Mexico. Rough roads? Business as usual.

Howard Thurman "Preacher" Munsey was born June 27, 1926, in the hills of Hawkins County, Tennessee. At age 17, Howard exchanged those peaceful hills for the bloody waters of the Pacific when he left high school to join the Navy, serving in World War II and later in Korea. By the time he left the Navy, Howard had achieved the rank of petty officer first class.

He often recalled how God spared his life during his time at sea. While stationed on deck during a stormy November night in 1943, an enormous wave swept Howard over the side of the ship. With a desperate grab, he caught the lifeline and hung suspended until another sailor came to his aid. "If it hadn't been for that officer," he often repeated, "I would be kickin' chunks in Hell."

With the military behind him, Howard and his new bride Mildred returned home to Greeneville. Howard began a career at the Magnavox Corporation, and the couple settled into a comfortable routine. That is, until God intervened again—this time at "Black Harry's" shoeshine stand in the local barbershop. The gentleman in the next chair introduced himself as M.L. Bowman, pastor of a nearby Free Will Baptist church. As the conversation developed, Howard heard the gospel.

The following Wednesday night he made his way to the "Little Block Church" for prayer meeting. In the pastor's absence, a deacon was attempting to lead the service. Out of a heart of conviction, Howard suggested, "Somebody ought to pray." Assigned to the task, he knelt over the heat register in the center aisle and prayed the only way he knew how. He cried out to the Lord for mercy, asking to be saved then and there. It was the spring of 1952.

With Howard's new faith came an insatiable appetite to know more about God. Under the guidance of Reverend

Bowman, he pored over the Scripture, soaking up the Bible like a dry sponge. Within two years, Howard answered the call to preach. He was ordained in August 1955 and began his ministry as bivocational pastor of Lowe's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Newport, Tennessee. It was there, he often joked, that he received "his real education." He continued to work for the Magnavox Corporation until a deacon told him he was a hypocrite for preaching against television. In spite of a \$25 weekly salary, he quit immediately, trusting God to provide for his family.

As he prepared sermons each week, a burden began to grow in Howard that stretched far beyond the boundaries of his East Tennessee home. "Free Will Baptists in that day had a deep concern for those we knew personally," he once noted to friend, "but little thought was given to the vast multitudes of the world perishing without knowledge of the Savior."

When home missionary Arturo Villalobos spoke at the annual meeting of the Union Association in 1958,

Howard's burden for the lost suddenly had a face—a Mexican face. “Since that day,” he later wrote, “I have been an ardent supporter of missions, both home and foreign.” It was the beginning of a 50-year quest to take the gospel to the people of Mexico.

Howard quickly forged a partnership with Villalobos, and for 14 years he raised funds, sent supplies, handled itineraries, and mobilized others to the Mexico missions cause while staying busy with pastorates in East Tennessee and Western North Carolina. He also established himself as a reliable homebuilder and started a construction company. God was preparing him for a new and daunting challenge.

In 1971, when missionary resignations threatened to slow the growth

building. The process would be repeated time and time again.

East Tennessee pastor Hal Kirk was among the volunteers who joined Munsey on his early trips. He remembers the experience vividly. “Although Howard was an excellent carpenter, it was difficult work. He brought his own tools and used whatever supplies he could find—a few warped two by fours for framing and concrete mixed right on the ground. The work wasn't fancy. Sometimes a single bulb hanging from the ceiling was the only light in the church. Still, it was more than they had, and the Mexicans loved him for it.”

On his first trip, Howard's lifelong friend Van Johnson remembers feeling guilty about the abject poverty they encountered. “I thought they needed

Howard stayed busy at home as well, starting two churches and guiding two others into full-time pastorates. Leading an international ministry while maintaining a full-time pastorate was not easy, but Howard never expected it to be. He endured disappointments, setbacks, personality conflicts, and the deep grief caused by losing his son James to cancer in 2001. Through it all, he never wavered.

“Nowhere is it written that missions outreach was cheap,” he reflected in a 2007 letter to supporters. “It was not cheap for Jesus, who came all the way from Heaven and condescended to earth to die, rejected and refused on a old rugged cross. It cost William Carey, Adoniram Judson, Thomas Willely, Volena Wilson, and Laura Belle

“No single person contributed more years of service, more financial support, or more hours of volunteer labor than this man.” —Charles Thigpen

of the work in Mexico, Howard made a trip to visit his old friend Villalobos. After assessing the situation firsthand, he decided to take a personal role in the ministry. He returned home and founded Berea Ministries, first chartered as the missions arm of a North Carolina radio ministry called “Cross Beams.” Howard's goal was to help Mexican Christians evangelize their own people by providing training, building materials, supplies, equipment, and volunteers to help establish churches.

The ministry flourished. Working with Pastor Villalobos, a new church was established 130 miles south of the border. Howard worked feverishly to raise funds for a building, traveling with the Mexican Pastors Quartet and speaking at churches and conferences. As money came in, he made trips to Mexico with teams of volunteers to help with construction. Soon, the new congregation had their own church

food more than a building,” he recalls. “Howard set me straight right quick. He told me, ‘If we feed them, and they die lost, they will go to Hell. But if we tell them about Jesus, He will take care of them, even if they die of starvation.’”

Berea Ministries received a boost in 1980, when Howard's son James and his wife Mitzi joined the ministry as full-time missionaries. Working together, they set a goal of building 10 new churches in 10 years. It only took six! The churches formed an association and united with the Texas Association of Free Will Baptists.

Howard's burden grew along with his ministry. He began to ask God to let him see 50,000 Mexicans come to Christ before he died, and he poured his life, including the assets of his thriving log-home business, into reaching that goal. Before long, the name Howard Munsey became synonymous with missions work in Mexico.

Barnard great sacrifice to reach the lost for Christ. And we will not escape with little effort of our own if we expect to do a credible work for God in our day.”

And what a work! When Howard traveled the rough road back to Tuxtepec in 2008, on his last trip to Mexico, 55 churches stood as a result of his efforts, along with churches in Chile and Costa Rica, a seminary in Reynosa, a Christian camp, and a children's home in Oaxaca. Did Preacher Munsey see 50,000 Mexicans come to Christ before his death in 2009? We may never know, but the words of his friend Charles Thigpen put his efforts in perspective. “No single person contributed more years of service, more financial support, or more hours of volunteer labor than this man.” ONE

About the Writer: Eric Thomsen is managing editor of *ONE Magazine*. Learn more about Berea ministries: www.bereaministries.com.

An update from the Hispanic ministry director.

NORTH

of the Border By Rick Bowling



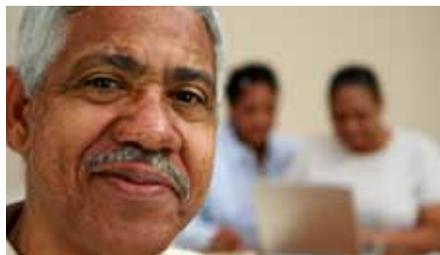
With millions of Hispanics living in the United States, it was important for Free Will Baptists to launch a Hispanic ministry. Before Trymon Messer retired from his position as director of the Home Missions Department, he addressed this problem and began the ministry. When Larry Powell followed him as director, he continued the strong support of Hispanic ministry.

God began to open doors and touch the hearts of Hispanic pastors from different Latin American countries, leading these men to help. At the same time, we felt a great need to open a Bible institute to train men and women to work in the churches. Pastor Earl Hendrix of Inman, South Carolina, offered the facilities of First FWB Church as a home for the institute. Today, the Gwen Hendrix FWB Hispanic Bible Institute honors his wife, who gave faithfully to missions around the world through her church and WNAC.



To date, the institute has 130 graduates working in Free Will Baptist ministries. Twenty-five missionaries have returned to their homelands to begin Free Will Baptist churches while 17 others are hard at work in the States. God has been good, with an average of 3.5 mission works and 1.5 missionaries added to the ministry each year.

The work continues, and God is opening new doors of opportunity. Thousands have heard the gospel and received Christ as Savior. While many things have been accomplished, much remains to be done. Many of you have seen the Lord open doors to start Hispanic churches and have celebrated as souls are saved.



Pray for Hispanic pastors, their families, and their churches. Ask God to bless the Gwen Hendrix FWB Hispanic Institute as a correspondence program is started to make training available throughout the Americas. ☞

ABOUT THE WRITER: Rick Bowling is director of Hispanic ministries for Home Missions. Learn more at www.homemissions.net.

Repetition

IS THE RIGHT
TEACHER

By Clint Morgan

A NUGGET OF TRUTH IS FOUND IN THE ADAGE “REPETITION IS THE BEST TEACHER.”

Many Free Will Baptists continue to ask for clarification about the not-so-new funding system. Though fully engaged in world evangelization and supportive of the Mission’s activities and programs, they simply are unsure how the system works.



Why the Change?

Several years ago the Mission saw troubling patterns develop in our fundraising efforts. Basically,

1. One missionary account had \$225,000 in excess funds;
2. Other missionaries were forced to leave struggling or young ministries mid-term because accounts were in the red;
3. New missionaries found it more and more difficult to obtain funding in a diversified fundraising landscape;
4. Missionaries on stateside assignment struggled to secure services and assure ongoing income;
5. Pastors and missionaries alike pled with the board and Mission leadership to find a way to keep missionaries from having to run all over the country to raise funds.

In reality, we had enough income to meet budgets, but much of it was sitting in restricted accounts. Many individuals or programs were operating in the red while others were greatly overfunded.

One of our basic tasks is to ensure that missionaries get to their country of service and stay there to fulfill their ministries. It came down to a fundamental question: *How can we keep our income up and distribute available funds to ensure that all IM missionaries, activities, and programs are fully funded?*

According to the Mission’s lawyer, from a legal perspective we had the right to distribute the funds as needed. However, we wanted the denomination to have full knowledge and support of the change in internal accounting practices.

The Snag

We set about to establish a funding program that strategically and tactically aligned with the Mission’s purpose of winning souls, training leaders, and planting churches.

When presented to the 2008 convention in West Virginia, a resounding 87% of delegates voted for the changes. With this vote of confidence, we gratefully pressed forward to execute the plan. The system was put into action on January 1, 2010.

Shortly thereafter, we ran into a snag. Negative feedback

concerning the limitations presented by Strategic Ministry Partners (SMPs) occurred. Basically, this concept sought four to eight donors to cover the ministry aspect of each missionary’s approved budget. The rest of their needs were covered by the general fund. Donors could designate to the ministry budget of the missionary of their choice. By doing so they became “Strategic Ministry Partners.”

Some found this restricting and controlling. Once a missionary had his “quota” of partners, others wishing to donate to him were directed to another missionary or the general fund. Although purely motivated and seemingly solid, it was evident that SMPs were not working as anticipated.

However, we did see a significant shift from 17% undesignated income in 2009 to 50% undesignated in 2010—an encouraging sign of overall support.

The Adjustment

With SMPs seeming to hinder the progress of the new system, the board decided to make an adjustment. SMPs were eliminated. At the same time, the board affirmed their intent to stay the course on the other aspects of the system.

Where We Are

Earlier this year, at the national association meeting in Charlotte, I summed up our present funding system as follows:

- Strategic Ministry Partnerships no longer exist. Every donor is a partner.
- You can designate to the missionary(ies) or ministry(ies) of your choice.
- Your designated funds will be directed as designated.
- You can give undesignated, and we hope you will.
- At the end of the fiscal year, all individual missionary funds will be zeroed out, eliminating deficit funds. (Note: no project funds will be zeroed out.)
- And, you may always call at any time to check on the actual balance in the fund(s) you support.

I hope this answers your pressing questions about the funding system. Please, feel free to contact us if things still aren't clear. At this point, we are strongly convinced the best course has been taken. We, as a Mission, are fully focused on obeying the Great Commission by winning souls, training leaders, and planting churches.

Where Do We Go From Here?

For IM to fulfill its mandate as the international missions branch of the National Association, it is imperative for the Free Will Baptist community to accept ownership of this entity by fully backing International Missions with time, talents, and treasures.

Mark Twain famously stated, "It ain't those parts of the

Bible that I can't understand that bother me; it is the parts that I do understand." This should resonate with Free Will Baptists. From a doctrinal point of view, we are thrust into a head-on collision with the lostness of man. Theologically, we stand on the position that each individual must decide to follow Christ or to reject Him. The Apostle Paul smacks us with an irrefutable thread of logic when he states that the lost cannot believe what they have not heard, and they cannot hear without a preacher (Romans 10:14).

I believe that, together, we can fulfill Free Will Baptists' God-designed role in taking the light of His Word to the darkest corners of this planet. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Clint Morgan is interim general director of Free Will Baptist International Missions.

Members of the new Free Will Baptist churches share what God is doing in their lives.

We're **GLAD** You Came

Thanks to The Springs FWB Church and pastors Jeff and Josh, I have come to Christ. By preaching and teaching the Word of God, they explained the sacrifice Jesus made for my salvation and the worth I have as His child. The pastors are very accessible and always willing to help in any matter that arises—not only on an individual basis but also when it comes to the community. These pastors are loving people, welcoming all to their church and reaching out specifically to the people who are broken and in need of love.

Through these incredible people, I have been able to positively change as a person. I have seen Christ work in my life, and I have been able to notice the Fruit of the Spirit working within me. The Springs FWB Church and its pastors have been a true blessing to me and to our community.

Jessica

(Jeff Goodman and Josh Bennett pastor The Springs FWB Church in Marana, Arizona.)



We are Ildemaro and Glenda Atencio. We are part of the Church Comunidad Hispana de Fe, Esperanza y Amor since two years ago under the authority of Pastor Alfredo. He and his family are remarkable people God has used to spread the gospel in this community. Our own lives were a mess before we were introduced to the Lord. Our home was in chaos to the point of separation. We began to study the Word of God and receive marriage counseling from our pastor, his wife, and children, who were still teenagers but preached the Word of God in an incredible way.

Today, we can say with all assurance that God restored our home. Thanks to Him, we overcame the obstacles and He changed our way of thinking and our perspective on life. Now, my husband serves God by driving the church van and helping with the sound controls. He is now a respectful and godly man. We have two wonderful sons and a beautiful family. This is the way we want to stay until the last days of our lives, as a close family walking God's ways and holding His hand.

Ildemaro and Glenda Atencio (Alfredo Botello ministers in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.) **ONE**

Simple is being translated into American Sign Language (ASL) and going to help 70,000 deaf people around Buffalo, NY, and other places where people have similar needs.

AccessBibleStudies.com is being translated into Spanish and going to North America and internationally.

Randall House curriculum outlines and Bible study resources are being translated into French and going to Free Will Baptist missionaries in Africa.

AccessBibleStudies.com is being translated into French to be used by Free Will Baptist missionaries in France.

AccessBibleStudies.com is being translated into Portuguese and going to Free Will Baptist missionaries in Brazil.

Training at the **D6 Conference** went to seven countries and 40 states with biblical, church, and the family model of discipleship.

Visionary Parenting translated and going to Mandarin China, and portions of Russia.

First Aid for Emotional Hurts

books and training to National Association of Psychological Studies, Christian Association of Psychological Studies, King of Prussia, PA, Montreal Canada; Association of Moral Education at both Harvard Graduate School and Notre Dame, as well going to Cedars of Lebanon Seminary, and University of Havana in Cuba.

Where is RANDALL HOUSE Going?

By Ron Hunter Jr.

People sometimes ask, "Where is Randall House going?" We could rephrase the question and ask who is using our Free Will Baptist curriculum, books, and training? Our conservative theology, using a biblical, family model, teaching Free Will Baptist doctrine, is being read and used in more places than most may imagine.

22 theological, historical, and reference works are going to Logos Bible Software (including the Randall House Bible commentaries).

Over 60 Randall House book titles are going around the world as eBooks available on Amazon, Apple's iBooks, and other popular platforms.

Church + Home DVD

(joint project with Focus on the Family) going to South Africa along with **Impress Faith on Your Kids**, both in larger quantities.

Randall House curriculum and books are going to your church as well.

ID6 CURRICULUM and books are going to Canada.

220 **Fusion** magazines going to Free Will Baptist chaplains and soldiers in Afghanistan.

FUSION

STRONGER TOGETHER



+Intersect >>>



Mr. Independent, Neighbors, and the Joy of “Othering”

“Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself”
(Leviticus 19:18).

“He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth”
(Proverbs 14:21).

God has much to say to me about my neighbor. And I have much to learn on that subject. I realize that Jesus portrays a “neighbor” as anyone we know or meet who needs our help, but many times those are indeed the people who live near us or next door to us. After all, it is a “neighbor-hood.”

Meet Mr. Independent

That’s the case with my story. We have lived in the same house 23 years, mostly with the same people around us. I’ll spare you the details, but one of those neighbors and I have sometimes not seen eye-to-eye on things. He would tell you that, too. I’ll just refer to him as “Mr. Independent.”

Fast-forward from 1988 when we moved in, to some 10 years ago when I faced some serious health issues. Several neighbors—not Mr. Independent—graciously pitched in to help with our yard work. The same thing happened three years back when once more I wasn’t able to take care of my lawn for

a brief time. Again, they were so kind to do what I could not.

Just a few days ago we came home to find one of those neighbors pressure washing our front sidewalk for us. He just decided to do it, he told us.

That gives you an idea of the kind of people who live around us—caring, quick to meet a need, giving of their time and energy to help. Admittedly, Mr. Independent and I had never really treated each other that way. Oh, our wives have always exchanged small gifts at Christmas; but that sort of thing has never happened between him and me. A wave and a “hi” was about as far as it has gotten, and that was on a good day.

Cranking Up Some Grace

But over this past week or so I noticed that Mr. Independent’s truck had not moved out of its spot on his driveway. That’s very strange, I thought, because he always parks it in his garage when he gets home from work in the evenings. Sure enough, we learned from Mrs. Independent that her husband had a serious kidney infection and was in the hospital.

Now, I admit I’m not the quickest guy to spot a need, but even I couldn’t miss this one. Mr. Independent’s yard needed mowing. His wife had struggled to mow the front portion; my wife had seen her trying and mentioned it to me. I asked

the lady, with a bit of insistence, to let me do the back. She agreed, and the next afternoon I cranked up “The Red Runner,” my faithful 6.75 torque Troy-Bilt.

I was trying to finish the job before the Independents got home, but just before I was done they drove in; she was bringing him home from the hospital. Mr. Independent—typically—said he felt bad that I had to do what he should be doing. “Please let me pay you for your time and gasoline,” he insisted. I insisted that he not!

“Now I feel indebted to you,” he came back. I assured him I was glad to do it as a neighbor, and that he didn’t owe me a thing.

Junk on the Patio

We parted, closer—I hope—than we have ever been. Maybe I can follow up with a more direct explanation of grace and how God’s grace in Christ can change his life. At any rate, I did learn at least five lessons from it all: helping, failing, needing, seeing, and “othering.”

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

Helping someone who needs it always comes bundled with a deep-seated pleasure for the one giving the help.

Failing to understand grace is common to all of us. We don’t know how to appreciate no-strings-attached gifts.

Needing help is not something to deny or to be ashamed of. Part of being human is admitting we depend on others.

Seeing ourselves and our needs is impossible until we get beyond ourselves and look at what other people see. As I mowed Mr. Independent’s yard, I looked over at mine and saw things I really hadn’t seen before: junk on the patio, carport gutters with strange plants growing in them, stuff like that. It helps to leave your place, then look back at it the way other people do—seeing ourselves as others see us, as Bobby Burns’ verse puts it.

I once heard noted preacher Fred Craddock call this “othering.” Go to the “other,” see from the “other’s” perspective, live for those “other” than yourself. To me that is trying to be a neighbor, and I’m just beginning to learn that. **ONE**



Lizzie’s Legacy

Fiery woman preacher Lizzie McAdams may be most well known for the motion that led to the formation of the National Association in 1935. During the early years of Free Will Baptist Home Missions, however, when the department was limited by lack of funds, she and her husband Hiram set the standard by planting churches in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri, a legacy that remains today.

Today, you too can have a legacy beyond this life by establishing an endowment for Home Missions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Labor of *Love* By D. Ray Lewis

At the very heart of the Board of Retirement is the motto, "Serving those who serve others."

For more than 40 years we have been doing that by offering retirement and life insurance benefits to Free Will Baptist ministers, missionaries, and lay employees.

In spite of efforts to help those who serve us to have sufficient retirement income for daily needs, many participants retire with barely enough income to pay mortgage or rent, buy groceries, pay utilities, purchase prescriptions, or receive proper medical care.

Many retirees are like the first-century Christians in Jerusalem who were facing a severe famine. Paul did not sit idly by when he saw the poverty of those early believers. He called on fellow Christians to join with him by sharing generously on their behalf. He said, "For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God" (2 Corinthians 9:12).

Paul knew that every gift would meet a particular need for food or other essentials. Even more, he was sure those on the receiving end would give back something in return—words of thanks to God for caring for them and for using others as His instruments of blessing.

At this year's national convention in

Charlotte, North Carolina, the Board of Retirement launched the *Labor of Love Campaign* with the long-range goal of providing supplemental retirement benefits to retired Free Will Baptist ministers and lay employees who need assistance to meet daily needs.

Many retired ministers pastored small, rural churches that provided only a modest salary and little, if any, retirement contributions. These men stood before their congregations Sunday after Sunday proclaiming God's Word. They were there when members of their congregation were saved, were married, lost loved ones, or were suffering.

Others served Free Will Baptists in non-pastoral roles—men and women who taught in Christian schools, served as church secretaries, cleaned churches, etc. Often, these positions are not highly compensated and seldom provide retirement benefits, yet these faithful servants dedicated their careers to serving Free Will Baptists.

We love and appreciate these men and women and want to provide extra retirement benefits for them and their families. Like the Apostle Paul, we're calling on you, asking you to join us in helping the men and women who have served us faithfully.

In the first phase of our campaign

we are looking for 1,000 generous individuals, churches, WNAC and Master's Men chapters, Sunday School classes, or other groups who will pledge at least \$10 per month for one year or make a one-time gift of at least \$120 to fund an endowment with the Free Will Baptist Foundation. Every dollar will go directly to the endowment to assist those who have dedicated their lives to serving us. No gift is too small.

I invite you to honor these precious men and women with your gift to the *Labor of Love* endowment fund. Then thank God for the privilege of being Christ's arms extended to those who have dedicated their lives to serving the Free Will Baptist family.

For everyone who pledges at least \$10 per month for a year or makes a one-time gift of \$120, we will send your choice of a cassette or CD of Herman Hersey's *Golden Bells* or the Christmas album, *Joy to the World*.

Each gift will be permanently recorded in our Book of Remembrance to be displayed in Board of Retirement office. May God bless you as you share your blessings with those who have served us so faithfully.

Yes, I want to contribute to the

LABOR OF LOVE ENDOWMENT FUND

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Address _____

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\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100

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I'm enclosing a blank check so a monthly draft can be set up.

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Joy to the World CD Cassette

What can a pastor do to get his church moving in the right direction?

STUCK

IN A RUT

BY HOWARD GWARTNEY

Did you ever get stuck in the snow or the mud in your vehicle? It's never a fun thing and not an easy thing to get "un-stuck."

Pastor, did you ever feel like you were "stuck" in your ministry? (Notice I didn't say "stuck in the ministry." If you feel that way, you probably shouldn't be in the ministry in the first place.) What I mean is have you ever felt that your ministry has stalled or plateaued?

Well, all kinds of things can happen to make church planters feel that way. It could be low attendance, dwindling offerings, a missionary account in the red, or even the lack of spiritual development in your fledgling congregation.

Can you do anything to get "un-stuck," to gain some momentum? How can a pastor get things moving again—positively and in the right direction—for the kingdom?

I've been in that situation more times than I care to admit. In fact, we

had a recent occurrence that took the wind out of our sails as a church, and I found myself in this dilemma. I immediately thought of the words of Jesus to the church at Ephesus. Jesus told them that the way to get their "first love" back was to:

Remember. Repent. Repeat (the "first works," Revelation 2:5).

We started Christ's Church Free Will Baptist by serving the community where we wanted to plant the church. I became a chaplain for the Pinal County Sheriff's Office and tried to serve both deputies and the public on the darkest days of their lives.

Many times I have prayed with families who lost their homes due to fire. Forty times in the past four years I have prayed with families who lost a loved one to suicide. I personally have distributed hundreds of bottles of water and walked home to home, giving out batteries for smoke detectors as a way to show Christ's love to people in our community.

As I considered our situation, however, I realized that we had not served the community as a congregation since our launch. Though small groups had assisted in a water giveaway, I had failed to lead our congregation as a whole into this type of outreach. After repenting, I scheduled a service event for our whole church. The project hasn't happened, but the preparations have generated excitement in our church, and things are moving again.

Doesn't it feel great to get out of the rut and try something new for the kingdom? Why not give it a try! For some great ideas about how to share Christ's love with others, check out www.servantevangelism.com or email me: hrgwartney@aol.com. 

ABOUT THE WRITER: Howard Gwartney is a Home Missions church planter to Pinal County, Arizona. Learn more about his church at www.christschurchfwb.org.



God rules and overrules technology to assist a cell-phone-unfriendly saint.

Unlocking a Modern-Day MIRACLE

BY LORENE MILEY

I AM NOT CELL PHONE FRIENDLY. I can make and receive calls. Period. All that other stuff merely frustrates this 83-year-old brain. So when I traveled to France in January to help care for my daughter Lynette, who had suffered a physical collapse, I happily packed away the cell phone.



Aix-en-Provence is a walker's paradise. If there's a road, there's a walkway. And pedestrians have the right-of-way on the roundabouts (no intersections). That first day as I bundled up to explore this walking adventure, Lynette crammed her cell phone down into my pocket. "I don't want that," I resisted. I was sure I would never use it. She was most persistent. Each day she made certain I left equipped with a cell phone, money, ID, and shopping bag.

True to expectations, I did not use the cell phone...until the last day. I was scheduled to leave the next morning and had no gift for my youngest grandson. Earlier in the month, I had ridden a bus outside of town to a store similar to Walmart. Although some items interested me, I left empty-handed. I would return for those things, I decided, and announced to my family that I was riding the bus back to the Carrefour.

"Clint's going out that way, and he can drop you off." Lynette is good at volunteering her husband. "And he can even come back and pick you up," she added.

"No, no," I insisted, "I can ride the bus back." With that, I headed out the door.

I was familiar with the store and knew what I wanted, so shopping went fairly quickly. Since no pick-up plans had been firmed up when we parted, I headed for the bus stop—just as the phone rang. I frantically sifted through pockets, but the device stopped ringing before I located it. "Oh well, I didn't know how to answer it anyway," I silently reasoned and dismissed it back to its hiding place.

I boarded the same bus as before and prepared for an interesting return trip to town. But instead of heading back, the vehicle turned in the opposite direction down a narrow road and through a small village with winding lanes no wider than the bus itself. We twisted between buildings with inches to spare until we came to the edge of another town, and the bus slowed to a stop. The driver waited, then turning to me, said, "Madame, this is where you descend."

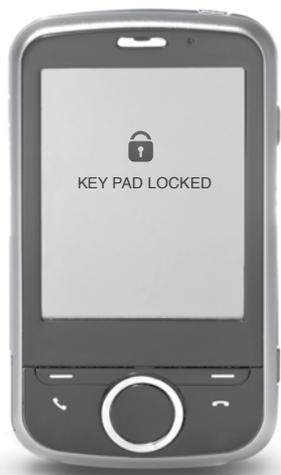
African French I can handle; French-French is like a cell phone. But I understood enough to know that his route continued away from town, and I must cross the road and wait for the next bus.

"Only the Lord knows where I am right now," I thought as I sank to the bench.

I had just begun to admire the picturesque countryside when the phone rang. I grabbed it on the first ring, prepared my desperate "Hello"—but how does one open this thing?

The ringing stopped as I stared helplessly into a seemingly solid piece of metal. I couldn't open it. It didn't flip, slide or pop open. I twisted, turned, poked, and shook. I peered intently through the screen and very faintly read the words: KEY PAD LOCKED. Please press ON. No matter how closely I squinted, I saw absolutely nothing to clue me to the ON button.

I had watched kids text messages with both thumbs, so I pressed both thumbs to that thing and danced a little tune up and down the black screen. Then suddenly from far off, I heard a voice, "Mom?"



ABOUT THE WRITER: Former missionary to Africa, Lorene Miley continues her walking adventures in Nashville, TN, where she now resides. A well-loved communicator, Mrs. Miley worked as WNAC editor for many years.

“Clint!” I yelled.

As close as if he were sitting next to me, he said, “Where are you? I’m almost to the Carrefour to pick you up.”

“Oh, Clint, I don’t know where I am.” Sounding as pitiful as I could, I explained how the bus took off the wrong way and abandoned me at the edge of a tiny village.

He didn’t seem concerned. “I’m not sure where you are,” he said, “but I think I can find you. Just sit tight.”

I breathed a big sigh of relief then turned to *hang up* the phone. The screen still read: KEY PAD LOCKED. Please press ON. So, call completed, I pocketed the phone.

In hardly any time at all, Clint’s Honda Caffat emerged from an alleyway. I hadn’t even buckled up before the phone rang again. I handed it to him, saying, “You’ll have to answer it,” then gasped in amazement as he one-handedly pushed the screen up, and colors and lights and buttons sprang to life.

Lynette waited at the door, seething. “Mom! Why didn’t you answer the phone? I must have called you nine times.”

“I didn’t know how to use the phone.”

“You talked to Clint. How did you talk to him?”

“Just like this” I said, stacking my two palms together.

She gazed in disbelief. “It won’t work unless you open it.”

“Oh?”

Reality dawned on us both at the same time. A miracle! God is a very present help in time of need, even if it involves activating a locked cell phone. **ONE**



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Age	Rate	Ages	Rate
65	5.5%	65/65	5.1%
70	5.8%	70/70	5.4%
75	6.4%	75/75	5.7%
80	7.2%	80/80	6.3%
85	8.1%	85/85	7.1%
90	9.5%	90/90	8.3%

★★★ A missionary to Japan shares the gospel in an unlikely place.

Tennessee:

LAND OF THE RISING SON

★★★ By Shannon Little ★★★

WHEN I ANSWERED THE PHONE ON A COLD, JANUARY MORNING, I had no idea God was inviting me to be part of an amazing event He'd planned since before the world began. On the other end of the line was my friend Darvin Oakes, pastor of Hardin Valley Free Will Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. As we talked, he told me about a young family who had been visiting the church for several months. Recently, they had shown interest in following Christ. The reason he was telling me about them? The family is Japanese.

I'm ashamed to admit that my immediate thoughts were skeptical. Six years in Japan, as well as mission studies, taught me that several years usually pass between the time a Japanese person first hears about Christ and the time he is ready to make a decision to become a Christian. But I wasn't taking into account the power of God's love and the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Ichitsubo family came to Knoxville in March 2010. Mr. Ichitsubo, a professor at Kyoto University, was participating in metallic glass research at the University of Tennessee. His wife, also quite talented, is the first chair violinist for the Kyoto symphony. They have two children—a son and a daughter.

Upon arriving in Knoxville, their first order of business was to find a place to live. They met with a kind realtor who just "happened" to be a Christian. She showed them a house that perfectly met their needs. At the end of the transaction, this Christian realtor invited the family to attend church with her. To be polite and to repay her for

★★★
SIX YEARS IN JAPAN, AS WELL AS MISSION STUDIES, TAUGHT ME THAT SEVERAL YEARS USUALLY PASS BETWEEN THE TIME A JAPANESE PERSON FIRST HEARS ABOUT CHRIST AND THE TIME HE IS READY TO MAKE A DECISION TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN.



her kindness, they attended church for the first time. The family enjoyed the services so much and felt such love from the church members that they began to attend faithfully every Sunday morning.

A few months later, Brandon Presley, a young man from the Hardin Valley Church and a gifted pianist, knocked on the door of the Ichitsubo home. He was selling pizza coupons to raise money for Bible and arts competitors to attend the national convention. Mr. Ichitsubo invited the young man inside and asked him to play his piano competition piece. In return, Brandon invited the Ichitsubo family to church. Soon, a new family was attending Hardin Valley. The Ichitsubos continued to attend services faithfully at two churches for several months. All the while, they were exposed to the gospel and received the love of Christ through church members.

I had returned from Japan for my first home assignment only two months before Pastor Darvin called. I was still trying to figure out how to live in America after spending four years struggling to fit into Japanese culture and understand one of the most difficult languages for an English-speaker to learn. I hung up the phone and immediately prayed, "Please, God, help me remember enough Japa-

nese to be able to explain Your love to this family!"

One week later, I found myself on my way to Knoxville to meet the Ichitsubo family and use my newly acquired Japanese language skills to explain the gospel to them and answer any questions they might have. To say I was nervous would be the understatement of the year. My prayer was that God would use my stumbling speech to share His love with this family.

The Hardin Valley FWB Church is one of the friendliest I've visited. Although over four years had passed since I walked through their doors, the warmth and love of the church family made me feel like I was coming home after a short time away. Over lunch, the Ichitsubo family and I got to know each other. I was thankful my prayers were answered, and I had not totally forgotten the Japanese language. Ron and Jane Franks graciously hosted our lunch. As conversation around the table wound down, Ron sat next to Mr. Ichitsubo and, starting with Creation, explained the concepts of sin and separation from God and God's great love for us as shown in the plan of salvation. Mrs. Ichitsubo does not speak English very well, so I shared with her, in her own language, that the God who made the world loved her and made a way to forgive her sins and allow her to live in Heaven forever. After about an hour of talking, Ron asked the question, "Do you want to become a Christian?" Mr. Ichitsubo quickly answered "yes." His wife was a little slower to answer and looked a little less certain. She and I talked a little more. I answered a few more questions, and she said she was ready to believe. We prayed together, and two precious people joined the family of God.



MY PRAYER WAS THAT GOD WOULD USE MY STUMBLING SPEECH TO SHARE HIS LOVE WITH THIS FAMILY.



Two weeks later I was on the road to Knoxville again—this time to attend the baptism of the Ichitsubos. I met with them at their house, and this talented couple treated me to a private piano and violin concert. We then went to a nearby Japanese restaurant—by far the most authentic of any Japanese restaurant I’ve been to in America. As we sat and ate in an environment that felt authentically Japanese, Mrs. Ichitsubo opened up and asked questions that had been rumbling around in her mind and heart. “Why do bad things happen to good people?” “What happens to people who die before they hear about Jesus?”

My mind raced as I simultaneously prayed for wisdom to answer the questions and begged for the ability to remember the Japanese words to explain the answers! As we talked, tears filled her eyes. She explained that since praying that simple prayer two short weeks earlier, she knew something was different in her heart. And, even though she didn’t understand all of the details, she was confident God loved her.

The next day, I watched in amazement as this couple was baptized before a church full of people who loved them. It was bittersweet as I told them “see you soon” and made plans to visit them in Kyoto when I return to Japan.

Two days after the Ichitsubos arrived back in Japan, the massive earthquake and tsunami heaped devastation on an area that, while not physically near to their home, is dear to their hearts. Through Facebook, I have watched as Mr. Ichitsubo has worked through the questions of “why” and “how.” I have been thrilled that, even in the midst of tragedy and sadness, hope and peace beyond explanation continue to be evidenced. **ONE**



ABOUT THE WRITER: Shannon Little is a missionary to Japan, currently on stateside assignment. Read more about Free Will Baptist ministry in Japan at www.fwbgo.com.

IMPACT

MEMPHIS

Saturday, July 14, 2012 | Memphis, TN

MAKE PLANS NOW to join hundreds of other Free Will Baptists for the annual, one-day outreach campaign throughout the Memphis area. For more information, visit www.fwbmastersmen.org or call toll-free: **877-767-8039**.

News Around the World



Marincek's New Building, New Growth

BRAZIL—The congregation in Marincek, a suburb of Ribeirão Preto, São Paulo, Brazil, worked diligently for several years to save the money to build a new auditorium. Once they accumulated enough funds to start the project, they dealt with almost three years of red tape to receive government approval of the plans. They hoped a new building would lead more of their neighbors to enter the church and hear the gospel. The building was dedicated in a two-day celebration July 9-10.

Two hundred twenty people attended the Saturday events. The choir from Ribeirão Preto's First Free Will Baptist Church sang, Marincek youth presented a choral reading, a young mother delivered a monologue, and John Poole (the pastor of the First FWB Church) preached.

The Sunday service attracted well over 100 people, with many visitors attending from the community. Geneva Poole directed the play, "The Challenge of The Cross," that confronted people with the need to take up their cross and follow the Lord. Two men responded to the invitation, accepting Christ as Savior.

On August 28, the new baptistry was used for the first time as five young people demonstrated their commitment to Christ. "Praise the Lord with us," encouraged Bobby Poole. "The building is just a building, yet it stands as a testament of God's faithfulness to our church people and to the community." ■

THP Meets Needs in Japan, Brazil

ANTIOCH, TN—THP recently engaged 14 people in service on two different continents. An eight-member team composed of Curt Holland (TN), Matthew and Halie Deckard (SC), David Gibson (TN), Gaëlle Deperrier (France), Bettye Kimbrough (TN), Brooklin Holland (TN), and Samantha Jones (OK) departed Friday, August 19, 2011, for 11 days in Araras, Brazil.

Lar Nova Vida (New Life), a home for children who have nowhere else to go, received the team's focused efforts. The workers painted building exterior and repaired and painted trim and gutters. They played with, listened to, and hugged children. The team returned safely on August 30.

THP Japan (Joe Wilson, TN; Justin Banks, TX; Andrew Gentuso, TN; Tammy Gentuso, TN; David Helms, NC; Crystal Hodges, CA) spent 10 days providing disaster relief for victims of the devastating March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Projects ranged from cleaning mud-filled homes to delivering basic supplies to refugees, from simple remodeling projects to listening to those whose lives were ravaged by the disaster, from cleaning and salvaging photos retrieved from the debris to cleaning and weeding an elementary school. The team left the States on July 1 and returned July 13.

Additional projects are planned for Kazakhstan, Panama, Cuba, and Côte d'Ivoire in 2011. These projects still need funds to cover costs of supplies. Currently, two trips are planned for 2012: Bulgaria and Côte d'Ivoire. To explore hands-on opportunities for overseas short-term service or to donate to any of these projects, visit www.hannaproject.com. ■



Côte d'Ivoire: Pastor Jérôme Kambou successfully presented and defended his Master's thesis on Saturday, August 13. The three-year effort is especially noteworthy due to the extended political unrest the country has endured. ■



Bulgaria: Eight children from the Svishtov Church joined almost 60 other kids from across Bulgaria—many unsaved—in church camp in early August. Many kids heard of Jesus' love for them for the first time. ■



Brazil: The Third FWB Church in Uberlândia, Brazil—a mission effort of the First FWB Church—organized and became self-supporting on August 6. ■



Uruguay: Neil and Mandi Morgan completed language school in Costa Rica in August. After two weeks of vacation in the States, they joined the Lancasters in Uruguay on September 5. ■



Japan: The Good News Kids Club continues to attract young mothers and their children to the Good News Chapel in Tokyo. Ruth McDonald plans to begin a parenting class in the fall with hopes to deepen opportunities with these women. ■



The Hanna Project: Heath and Joni, Mick and Rachel, and Jenny began three months of intercultural training (September, October, and November) in preparation for their January departure for Spain. ■



Panama: Two people were saved in the new work in Santiago, Panama, in early August—a young girl and a policeman. Both participate in weekly Bible studies. ■



India: Members of the militant Hindu group, Bharati Janta Party, destroyed a new Free Will Baptist church building on August 6. They instructed Christians to not rebuild. The police directed the marauders to return the building supplies they carted off. However, as of the end of August, the group not only had refused to return the church's materials but also had filed a civil lawsuit to discourage and intimidate the Christian community. ■



Brazil: Marcelo Baço was ordained for the pastorate on July 9. He is working as a pastoral assistant to Pastor Lucas at First FWB Church in Campinas. ■

Ivorian National Association Held

CÔTE D'IVOIRE—The Free Will Baptist National Association of Côte d'Ivoire met in Gouméré August 23-26, following an encouraging three-day pastor's retreat at the same location. The convention session speaker, Pastor Paul Amiezi, spoke on "Bearing Fruit." A spirit of encouragement, joy, and perseverance permeated the week, despite the great political upheaval experienced the past year.

Business sessions bore the good fruit of well-informed decisions:

- The Bible Institute welcomes a new class of pastors-in-training this fall. The prior class was recognized, having completed their one-year internships with the majority staying on to pastor the churches.
- The house under construction for the academic director of the Bible Institute, funded by IM, now has its walls up.
- The assembly unanimously reapproved the national project to build their first Christian school. Forty-two percent of their \$22,000.00 goal is raised, and all were encouraged to give sacrificially to make up the difference. Hopefully, doors will open the fall of 2012.
- The recommendation that pastors be appointed by committee rather than chosen by congregations was again rejected. Our congregational heritage holds firmly to the local church's autonomous right to choose her leaders.
- BERECA, the Ivorian FWB NGO, reported on Saturday. The nationwide ambition is to minister to AIDS patients and improve literacy. In the city of Agnibilekrou, BERECA ministry has touched 10,000 people. Of the pregnant women tested, 3.2% were seropositive for AIDS.
- Verlin and Debbie Anderson continue to serve as FWB missionaries, supporting the partnership between IM and the Ivorian church, and engaging in Community Health Evangelism translation, training, and endeavors. ■

A busy wife, mother, and employee signs up for Free Will Baptist Bible College's online program and keeps a promise made 30 years earlier.

I went Back to College

BY JENA SIMPSON

It was August 1981, and I was just out of high school when I stepped onto the Free Will Baptist Bible College campus as a freshman. I met my husband at FWBBC later that fall, and we were married before our sophomore year. After completing another year and a half of studies, our first child was born. I put college on hold to be a mom and help supplement family finances by working at a Nashville bank while my husband finished his degree.

We began attending and working in nearby New Hope Free Will Baptist Church after our August 1982 wedding. My husband and I served seven years as children's church leaders and youth pastor. As the busyness of life took hold, thoughts of going back to college faded from mind. I continued to work outside the home until our second son was born in 1988.

When the senior pastor of New Hope resigned in 1990, the church promoted us to the pastoral position. While in the pastorate, we decided to homeschool, and I taught our boys at home for 10 years. For most of those years, I also cared for other children in our home to supplement our income. I continued various church ministries, serving as librarian, Wednesday night children's teacher, women's Bible study leader, and one of the church pianists.

A New Opportunity

Time passed quickly, and suddenly our boys were teenagers graduating from high school. The nest was empty, and change was coming. In 2005, FWBBC offered me a part-time position in the Lifetime Learning and Teacher Education Departments. Since my job as a homeschool mom was complete, I decided to accept the position. I had no idea the college planned to add an online degree. It was exciting to be part of this program from the ground up.

As I talked with potential online students, helping them navigate admission and enrollment procedures, my own desire to complete a degree surfaced again, and I saw an opportunity that would work for me. I realized the online program

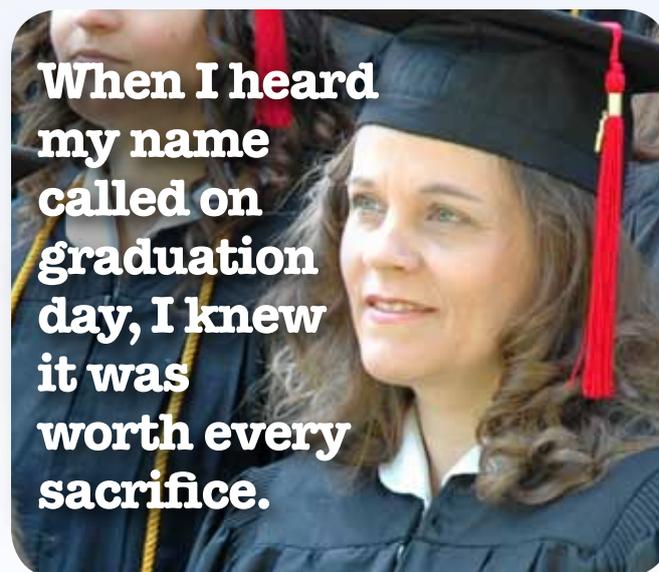
would help me obtain a degree and let me experience the program from the student's point of view.

I felt this knowledge would be invaluable in assisting potential online students. Everything came together in a rush. My husband had begun traveling extensively for Free Will Baptist International Missions at the time, and I could pour myself into my studies.

For me, the online program was an ideal degree path while working full time and continuing my current ministries. It provided an opportunity to finish what I started in 1981. As an online student, I learned many principles, facts, and truths that are valuable to my local church teaching ministry, plus it was a time of great personal growth.

The Surprise

When my husband and I married, we promised my parents that I would finish college. When our two children came along, I thought I would be unable to fulfill that promise. But when I began taking online classes, I decided not to tell my parents. I thought it would be neat to surprise them with an invitation to graduation. However, in late fall before gradu-



The online program was an ideal way to obtain a degree while working a job and continuing my current ministries.

ation, I felt it was time to tell Mom and Dad, since they were talking of possibly taking a trip in the spring, and many of our friends already knew I had gone back to college.

I told Mom not to plan anything the first weekend in May, that I needed them to be available because something was in the works. Their 50th wedding anniversary was Christmas Eve 2010, so I decided to tell them on their anniversary. They were both surprised and pleased that I had made a commitment to finish what I started 30 years earlier. I'm still amazed that I was able to keep the secret for a year.

Rewarded Effort

On May 6, 2011, I was privileged to be part of the first online graduating class at Free Will Baptist Bible College. We had five online graduates, with three participating in the commencement ceremony. It was great to meet my classmates in person. We had shared several classes, communicated through emails, and spoken on the phone a few times, but it was quite special to share graduation activities with them and meet their families. I wish the others' schedules had permitted them to be there with us.

I'm delighted that I chose to take online classes and finish the Associate of Science in Ministry degree. It was hard work, requiring a lot of time and effort. But when I heard my name called on graduation day and walked across the stage in Memorial Auditorium to receive my degree from President Matt Pinson, I knew it was worth every sacrifice. Looking back on the past three decades, I would gladly pursue online studies again, since I was unable to finish a traditional degree with my husband in the mid-1980s.

My favorite aspect of the program was that I could do it from home. I did take a couple of classes on campus, and while I thoroughly enjoyed them, the online environment was much more convenient for me.

The Online Program

So take it from one who just finished an online degree, FWBBC's online program is geared for adult students bal-



ancing busy lives with ministry. Many online students serve as pastors, youth pastors, or lay leaders and are raising a family. The program is competitively priced and affordable. Scholarships are available; federal financial aid and veteran's benefits are accepted. The online program is an ideal way to obtain a college degree from the convenience of home.

For me, the online environment was a positive experience, providing exchanges with professors and fellow students through threaded emails. This interactive program allows students to discuss not only academic subjects, but also share personal concerns and ideas for ministry. Students are challenged to apply what is learned in the virtual classroom to current ministry settings.

I learned first-hand that students are not just numbers—they are part of the family. Students in the online program receive one-on-one help with the application and enrollment procedures. The process has been streamlined to be as convenient as possible for students. With three sessions each semester, students can choose when to begin.

The adult-friendly program fits well into an already busy schedule. An online orientation prepares each student for online classes with training for computer program set-up and application. For more information, contact the Online Program at online@fwbbc.edu or visit the website www.fwbbc.edu or <http://online.fwbbc.edu>.  



ABOUT THE WRITER: Jena Simpson serves as Teacher Education associate and assistant to the director of Adult Studies at Free Will Baptist Bible College. She is a member of New Hope FWB Church where she teaches a children's Bible class and directs the Wednesday night program.

What do survey results tell us about the proposed name change at Free Will Baptist Bible College?

SURVEYING THE CHANGE



As part of the FWBBC Board of Trustees' initiation of a name-change feasibility study, President Matt Pinson appointed staffers Greg Kettelman and David Williford, along with Clark Dickerson of the consulting firm Dickerson and Associates in Littleton, Colorado, to develop a survey regarding the proposed name change for FWBBC stakeholders.

The development team designed the survey to examine attitudes and opinions to help determine the feasibility of a name change.

Recipients of the survey included every Free Will Baptist pastor listed in the National Association database, as well as all FWBBC alumni and donors (who have given any amount to the college within the past three years). Current FWBBC students and all faculty and staff were also included among those surveyed. Prospective students within the college database were also surveyed. The prospective student population was drawn from database information of more than 1,500 student inquiries about FWBBC in 2010 or 2011.

SURVEY PURPOSES

The name change survey engaged FWBBC stakeholders in deliberations about changing the name of the college by inviting and receiving feedback about the proposed change.

This interaction helps gauge the impact of the proposed name change on financial support and willingness of stakeholders to recommend the college to prospective students. The survey also gauges the impact of the proposed change on current and prospective students.

SURVEY ADMINISTRATION

President Pinson encouraged stakeholders to participate in the survey in a letter accompanying the initial mailing, which included a reprint of his *ONE Magazine* interview ("A College by Any Other Name," February-March 2011). He explained the Board's decision to conduct a feasibility study. Prospective students also received this information.

Next, a printed version of the survey and a post-paid, return envelope were mailed to all stakeholders who did not have an email address on file with the college. The survey was emailed to all stakeholders who have an email address listed

in a college database. The paper/pencil version of the survey was administered to all FWBCC students, faculty and staff, and a digital survey was emailed to all prospective students.

The Provost’s Office collected, tabulated, and recorded results of the survey. A review of survey results was provided to the President and the FWBCC Board of Trustees.

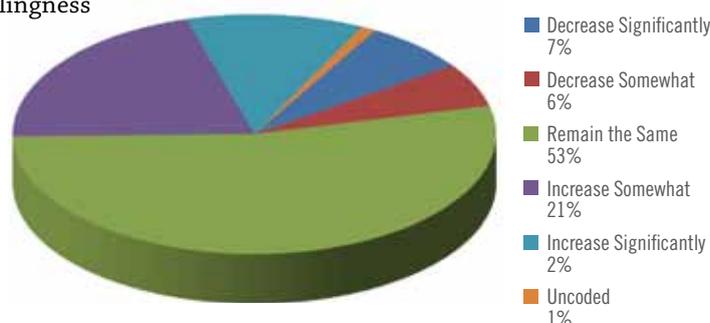
TOTAL SURVEYS

Four hundred sixty-eight surveys were emailed to stakeholders; 775 surveys were emailed to prospective students; and 8,739 paper surveys were mailed. A total of 9,982 surveys were delivered either by email or U.S. Mail. A total of 1,019 surveys were returned by April 21, 2011. This is a strong response rate of 10.2% for the name-change survey.

SURVEY QUESTIONS & RESPONSE*

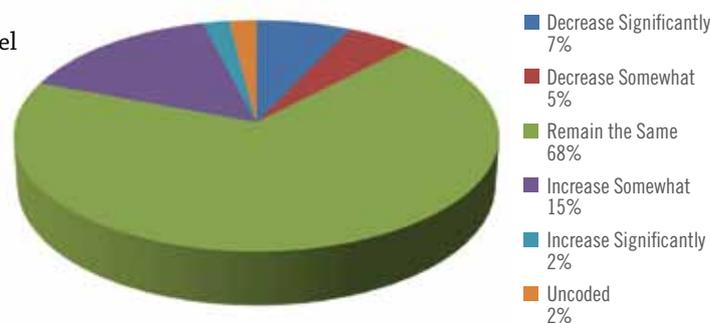
If the College were renamed *Welch College*, would your willingness to recommend the school to potential students:

Decrease Significantly	7%
Decrease Somewhat	6%
Remain the Same	53%
Increase Somewhat	21%
Increase Significantly	12%
Uncoded	1%



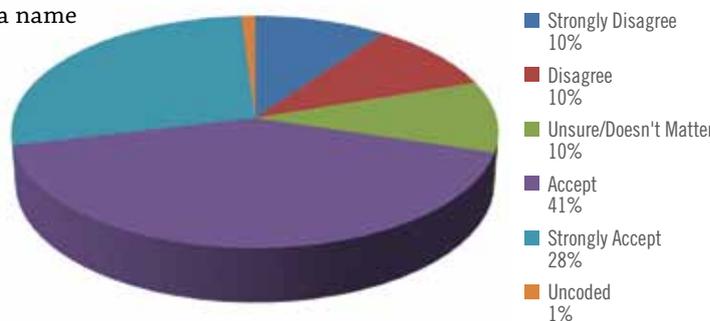
If the College were renamed *Welch College*, would your level of financial support:

Decrease Significantly	7%
Decrease Somewhat	5%
Remain the Same	68%
Increase Somewhat	15%
Increase Significantly	2%
Uncoded	2%



Which of the following best describes your acceptance of a name change for the College?

Strongly Disagree	10%
Disagree	10%
Unsure/Doesn't Matter	10%
Accept	41%
Strongly Accept	28%
Uncoded	1%



*Percentage totals throughout may be > or < 100% due to rounding.

COMPARISON: ALUMNI RESPONSES / NON-ALUMNI RESPONSES

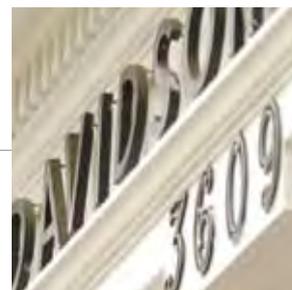
If the College were renamed *Welch College*, would your willingness to recommend the school to potential students:

	Alumni Supporters*	Non-Alumni Supporters
Decrease Significantly	2%	7%
Decrease Somewhat	1%	4%
Remain the Same	53%	62%
Increase Somewhat	31%	10%
Increase Significantly	12%	14%
Uncoded	1%	2%



If the College were renamed *Welch College*, would your level of financial support:

	Alumni Supporters	Non-Alumni Supporters
Decrease Significantly	2%	6%
Decrease Somewhat	2%	7%
Remain the Same	68%	78%
Increase Somewhat	25%	4%
Increase Significantly	2%	.6%
Uncoded	1%	4%



Which of the following best describes your acceptance of a name change for the College:

	Alumni Supporters	Non-Alumni Supporters
Strongly Disagree	3%	9%
Disagree	6%	7%
Unsure/Doesn't Matter	6%	7%
Accept	44%	50%
Strongly Accept	41%	24%
Uncoded	.5%	2%



*The word *supporters* refers to recent donors to the college.

SURVEY NOTES

1. In some households both members of a married couple are college alumni. In other households, only one member of the marriage is a college alumnus. In this study, one survey was sent to each household.
2. Survey recipients were instructed that surveys not postmarked on or before April 14, 2011, were not included in the data collection. The Provost's Office included surveys received through Thursday, April 21, 2011, in this data, regardless of the postmark date.
3. Surveys were sent to every household or individual on the college's mailing list with a current mailing address or current email address.

RESPONSES FROM PASTORS



If the College were renamed *Welch College*, would your willingness to recommend the school to potential students:

	All Pastors	Pastors Sending Students
Decrease Significantly	11%	5%
Decrease Somewhat	10%	5%
Remain the Same	51%	49%
Increase Somewhat	22%	30%
Increase Significantly	4%	8%
Uncoded	1%	2%



If the College were renamed *Welch College*, would your level of financial support:

	All Pastors	Pastors Sending Students
Decrease Significantly	11%	2%
Decrease Somewhat	7%	2%
Remain the Same	63%	59%
Increase Somewhat	14%	27%
Increase Significantly	2%	5%
Uncoded	3%	2%



Which of the following best describes your acceptance of a name change for the College:

	All Pastors	Pastors Sending Students
Strongly Disagree	14%	5%
Disagree	16%	19%
Unsure/Doesn't Matter	11%	5%
Accept	36%	41%
Strongly Accept	22%	30%
Uncoded	.04%	0%



WHAT DOES THIS SURVEY TELL US?

The 10.2% response rate is robust and a good indicator of the attitudes and thinking of the entire survey population of nearly 11,000 stakeholders. Younger responders, college alumni, and college supporters were most favorable toward the name change. Alumni supporters indicated they would be more likely to recommend students and will not change in their support of the college. Pastors who send students to the college indicate they will be more likely to send students and more likely to increase financial support.

The highest number of responses came from Tennessee (246), North Carolina (116), Alabama (54), Arkansas and Georgia (51 each), Oklahoma (49), and South Carolina (47). These responses (563) represent 58% of all survey responses. If survey responses materialize in actions, there will be a gain in recommendation of students to the college among stakeholders. The survey results support the conclusion that a clear and significant majority of supporters of the college favor the name change and that they will be more likely to recommend students as well as to increase their financial support.

News at FWBBC

Leroy Forlines Passes Systematic Theology Torch



Reverend Leroy Forlines, Systematic Theology professor at Free Will Baptist Bible College for almost six decades, in-

formed the administration that effective fall 2011 he would pass the denomination-shaping course to others. An icon among Free Will Baptists and the broader community of Christian scholars, Forlines has taught Systematic Theology at FWBBC since 1954, except two years when he pursued graduate studies and a semester while on mission in Russia.

Dr. Kevin Hester, a 1993 FWBBC graduate who chairs the Theological Studies Department, will teach the fall semester of Systematic Theology. The spring semester will be taught by Reverend Matthew McAfee, Biblical and Theological Studies coordinator and a 1999 FWBBC graduate completing doctoral studies at University of Chicago. Both men are former students of Professor Forlines.

Forlines will continue as Professor Emeritus at FWBBC, teaching Eschatology and serving as occasional guest lecturer in Systematic Theology. His major goal this year is to complete a book manuscript on secularism in

America.

“I feel confident knowing that Systematic Theology at FWBBC will be in good hands,” Forlines said. “I think the course will be enriched by this transfer of responsibilities to Dr. Hester and Mr. McAfee. Both understand my approach to theology, plus they both furthered their education in other theological institutions. I hope their names will be mentioned with favor as theology instructors in the Free Will Baptist denomination.”

Forlines has been a member of the denomination’s Commission for Theological Integrity since 1962, serving as chairman most of that time. He has written six books, including *The Quest for Truth*, *Classical Arminianism*, *Romans*, the first volume in the Randall House Bible Commentary, and *Biblical Ethics*. The college named its premier theological emphasis, the “Forlines Lecture Series,” in his honor.

President Matt Pinson considers Forlines a mentor and friend: “I never wanted this day to arrive—when Brother Forlines would lay aside his incredible legacy as Systematic Theology professor at FWBBC. But we are here in God’s timing and in His will. This man’s teachings and writings shaped the denomination I love. He influenced me as an FWBBC student and as presi-

SACS Reaffirms FWBBC Regional Accreditation

NASHVILLE, TN—The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) notified Free Will Baptist Bible College that its regional accreditation has been reaffirmed for 10 years, according to Provost Greg Ketteman. SACS is the regional accrediting agency in the southeast and authorizes colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees.

The reaffirmation came after a fall 2010 evaluation when a 10-member, on-site team from SACS spent three days on campus reviewing FWBBC’s academic programs, faculty and staff qualifications, finances, physical plant, library, board and governance, strategic planning, student life, and other dimensions of the college’s operations. Over a period of three years, more than 2,600 supporting documents were prepared for the reaffirmation visit. After the on-site visit, the SACS Commission on Colleges reviewed the teams’ reports and reaffirmed the college’s accreditation.

“SACS accreditation reaffirmation visits leave no stone unturned,” said Provost Greg Ketteman. “The reaffirmation is conducted by professionals who recognize quality higher education. It signals that FWBBC is a high-quality, wisely managed institution of higher education.”

The process of gaining *initial* regional and/or national accreditation, like the process of accreditation *reaffirmation*, puts the entire college under scrutiny. Few organizations reach the level of self-examination and peer-evaluation required by SACS. Every decision, plan, and action is a legitimate area of examination for accrediting association representatives who are selected by SACS from among other southern colleges and universities to serve as team members who review academics, finance, administration, and student services.

President Matt Pinson said, "This is a great day for FWBBC. I salute our dedicated faculty, staff, and student body for a job well done. I hope the SACS accreditation reaffirmation provides yet another reason for Free Will Baptist parents to send their children here. We have an excellent program, and the broader community of professional educators has confirmed what we have known all along—Free Will Baptist Bible College provides top quality education for our students." ■

FWBBC Vice President Retires After 17 Years



Dr. Milton Fields, vice president for institutional planning at Free Will Baptist Bible College, announced his retirement at the close of

the 2010-2011 academic year, according to Provost Greg Ketteman. The Board of Trustees cited Dr. Fields' innovative leadership during their spring 2011 meeting. President Pinson presented Dr. Fields with a plaque recognizing 17 years of service to the college during commencement, and a dinner in his honor was held May 26.

Dr. Ketteman said, "You can't replace professional, creative leaders like Milton Fields. His incredible work legacy and influence at the college set him apart as one of those rare individuals who change the entire educational landscape."

Dr. Fields joined the college faculty in 1994 as chairman of the Teacher Education Department after pastoring

Free Will Baptist churches 29 years in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi, and serving as a respected teacher and principal in a number of schools (1976-1994). He was named academic dean (1998-2006) and then vice president for institutional planning (2006-2011), during which time he also served on the President's Cabinet.

Converted at age 12 in a Vernon, Alabama, tent revival conducted by his father and FWBBC alumnus Malone Cobb, Fields enrolled at Mississippi State University to become an aeronautical engineer, then transferred to FWBBC in 1964 where he answered the call to preach. Led to home missions and church restoration work, he spent almost 30 years rescuing struggling churches.

"I have often said that each of the churches where I served as pastor was dead, dying, or dead broke when I arrived," Dr. Fields said. "But the churches grew, paid off debts, and one of them became a full-time pastorate. Then came the call to FWBBC, and for 17 years I have had the privilege of serving with some of the finest Christian leaders anywhere."

Dr. Fields graduated from FWBBC with a B.A. degree in 1967. He subsequently earned a B.S. degree at the University of Alabama (1976), the M.Ed. degree at the University of South Alabama (1980), and the Ph.D. at the University of Southern Mississippi (1983). He served with the Mississippi State Department of Education, the Tennessee State Department of Education, and as an evaluator and team chair for both the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). He also served on the Commission on Accreditation for ABHE and frequently conducted seminars at their annual meetings.

President Matt Pinson said, "When I came to FWBBC as president, Dr. Fields was one of my mentors as I transitioned from the pastorate to college administration. He understood what was happening and let me lean on his vast experience as a professional educator, providing time for me to catch up with the learning curve."

Milton and Helen Fields have been married 46 years. They relocated to Ethelsville, Alabama. ■



FISHERS *of* MEN

By Richard Atwood

A FEW YEARS AGO, MY BROTHER-IN-LAW TOOK ME FISHING

on a lake in Alabama. Several hours passed, and we caught no fish. I finally threw my pole down and said, “That’s it. I quit! There aren’t any fish in this lake.” (What I really said was, “There ain’t no fish in this stupid lake!”)

A week later, while flipping through the channels on my TV, I stopped at a fishing tournament. They were fishing from the same lake and pulling out boatloads of big fish. Obviously, the problem wasn’t the lack of fish in the lake.

In a similar way, it is easy to blame the state of the world today for the reason we aren’t seeing baptisms and church growth. It’s true the religious atmosphere has changed in America during the past 20 years, but some fishermen are still catching fish. The truth is more fish than ever are waiting to be caught.

The analogy is a good one because Jesus called some of His disciples by saying, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). One of the worst things that can happen is to give in to discouragement that leads to despair—to throw down the pole and quit fishing. I encourage you to keep trying. Try small steps to reach out to those people to whom God is speaking.

**HERE ARE
A FEW
IDEAS THAT
CHURCH
PLANTERS
ARE TRYING:**

Facebook Ads.

Where do people congregate today? Facebook. Nate Altom in Pennsylvania told me that their church has been purchasing ads on Facebook. They have a link to their church website that comes up for everyone in their geographical area. Jeff Goodman has begun trying this in Arizona, too. An average of six people a day visit their site. So far, it has only cost \$35 to purchase the ads, and a recent visitor attended services as a direct result of the ad.

Invite Cards.

Several church planters create cards for their congregation to use when inviting others to church. It includes the church name, service times, a map, web address, etc. The card makes it easier for your people to invite others to come to church and makes it easier for those invited to visit.

**JOIN US
FOR FELLOWSHIP THIS SUNDAY!**

CHURCH SERVICES: 10:00 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 11:00 AM

Local Fairs and Festivals. Tim Riggs in Alabama hosts a booth at the local Azalea Festival. David Sexton and Marc Nepl in Suffolk, Virginia, have a booth at the Peanut Festival. They give away prizes that people have to sign up for and give away information about their church.

Do Good in your Community. James Kilgore in California recently told his people that Jesus went about doing good, so they should, too. Eighteen people showed up at the church the following Saturday and went throughout the neighborhood mowing lawns for free and giving flyers offering to help in other ways. It snows a lot in Marquette, Michigan. Greg Floars and his church members clear driveways for free. While a volunteer from the church plows the snow, Greg talks to the people at the house.

Seminars and Ministries Meet Specific Needs. Several church planters like Scott Warren in Utah have hosted Financial Peace University in their church. Brian Williams in Buffalo, New York, recently started a Divorce Care Ministry.

OF COURSE, TEACHING THE TRUTH AND LOVING PEOPLE ARE OUR MAIN OBJECTIVES.

People all around us need the truth about Jesus and someone to care for them. Recently, I was sitting in a restaurant with Len and Lynda Blanchard in Alabama. He told the waitress that we were getting ready to pray and wanted to know if she had anything we could pray about. She did have a request, which led to a spiritual conversation and invitation to church.

Please pick up that pole and get back to fishing! You never know when you will get the next bite. **ONE**



ABOUT THE WRITER: Richard Atwood is director of missionary assistance for Home Missions. To learn more about Free Will Baptist church planting efforts, visit www.homemissions.net.

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Contact Free Will Baptist Foundation for a free Wills Guide today:
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An urgent plea for today's parents...

DON'T LEAVE OUR

CHILDREN

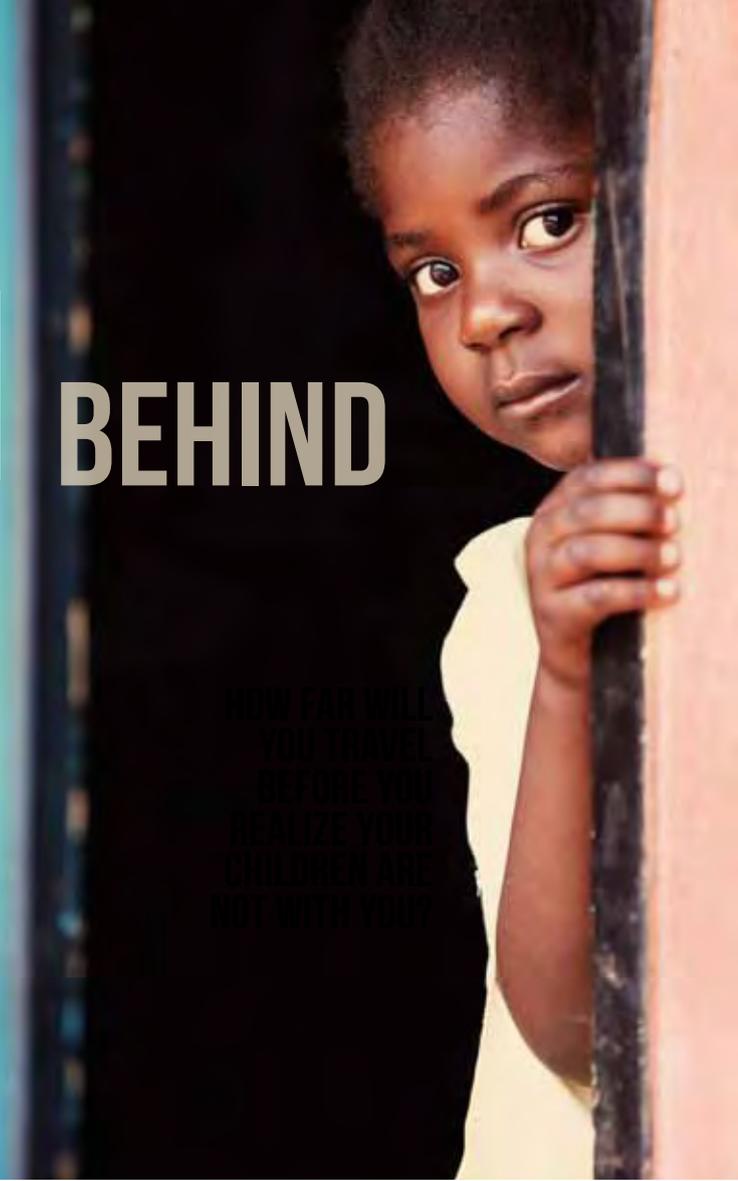
BEHIND

By Bishop Raymond Captville

IN MY PRESIDENTIAL SERMON DURING THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL General Conference, I attempted to show parents how God is reuniting the family. This observation was given to me by God from the gospel according to Luke 2:46. "And it came to pass, that after three days, they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them and asking them questions."

Recently, during more extensive study in this chapter of the Bible, another thought came to me—how quickly we leave our children behind. Three times a year, Jewish men were required to go to Jerusalem to worship (Deuteronomy 16:16), but not all of them could afford to make the trip. If they chose one feast, it was usually the Passover; and they tried to take their family with them, since it was the most important feast on the Jewish calendar.

People traveled to the feast in caravans, with women and children leading the way and setting the pace, while men and young men fol-



Because every life stage matters—

Brink

Young adult

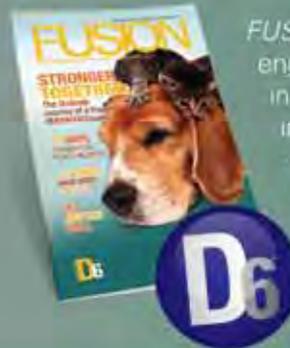


The Brink curriculum challenges young adults to look at the world with a biblical worldview. *The Brink* magazine is a devotional magazine that focuses on "knowing God, discerning culture, and impacting the world." It wants to do this by taking young adults on a journey to seek a deeper relationship with God, whether it's through a challenging devotion or a relevant column.

FUSION

Adult line in D6 Curriculum

Adults



FUSION curriculum leads adults in an engaging study of Scripture while remaining culturally relevant. Its purpose is to integrate truth, faith, and life. *FUSION* magazine is a cutting-edge, award-winning devotional magazine that helps adults connect with God on a personal level while spending time in His Word.

lowed behind. Relatives and entire villages often traveled together and kept an eye on each other's children. Jesus easily could have gone from one group to another and not been missed. Joseph might have thought Jesus was with Mary and the other children, while Mary supposed He was with Joseph and the men, or perhaps with one of their relatives.

They had gone a day's journey from Jerusalem when they discovered Jesus was missing. How quickly we leave our children behind! As is often the case, perhaps Mary and Joseph were caught up in the lingering excitement of the Passover. Perhaps they were tired and exhausted from the activities at the feast. Or perhaps they just took for granted that Jesus knew to leave when they left.

HOW FAR WILL YOU TRAVEL BEFORE YOU REALIZE YOUR CHILDREN ARE NOT WITH YOU?

Whatever the circumstance, the child was not with them, and a day's journey passed before He was missed. Joseph and Mary placed no blame on family members or friends. They knew Jesus was their child, and it was their responsibility to make sure He was with them when they departed

Jerusalem to return home. Because of their failure, both parents went back to look for Him. They didn't send anyone else; they returned themselves.

How far will we travel before we realize our children are not with us? When will we realize they are a gift from God and require special attention? When will we realize that failure to give them attention allows the enemy (Satan) to do so?

So many things distract us and cause us to leave our children behind—simple things such as a favorite television show. Because we do not want to be interrupted, we offer them the computer for the next hour.

Our jobs become our priority instead of our families, when it should be God first, family second, and job last. How often we convince ourselves we've had a long day at work, and because we are exhausted we need to unwind and relax.

When will we stop trying to convince ourselves we cannot afford to take our children to our conventions and small vacations, while we faithfully pay for selfish day-to-day habits?

When will you return to look for your child? Each precious day God allows us is an opportunity to return and look for our children. The time is now. Don't leave our children behind. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Raymond Captville, is serving a third term as general bishop of the Western Division of Free Will Baptists. A native of Abbeville, Louisiana, he currently resides in Baton Rouge with his wife Jenniver.

Heritage Bible Series

Adults



Heritage curriculum series is the newest line of D6 curriculum for adults written by Dale Burden. This in-depth, lecture-style study is designed to take empty-nesters on a journey through the Bible in seven years while incorporating D6 themes.



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is My Family

BY DAVID WOMACK

Many different thoughts and emotions come to mind at the mention of the word *family*. We are shaped by the influence of our families, and many life lessons are learned through family interaction. Our concept of how to live and work together is one of these lessons. In my family, we were taught as children to help each other. To this day, I know I have a network of support in my family regardless of the miles that separate us.

Just as our family shares names and genealogies, we can have families that share faith and heritage. Many of the most influential memories from my childhood and adolescence are connected to my parents' faith and my family's church life. I had the privilege of growing up in a local church family that included multiple generations and branches of my family tree. This afforded a unique perspective on how to live and work together. The dynamics in our church relationships can be interesting at times, but we still can learn valuable lessons in how to support each other.

I have an even larger family in my denomination. I was introduced to Free Will Baptists as a child and came to embrace the denomination and doctrine as my own when I became a child of God and began growing in my own faith. Free Will Baptists have been my family ever since. And yes, there are interesting dynamics in our denominational family as well. However, we are still family and share too much in common not to support each other.

Family life on every level is educational and impacts us deeply. It is no wonder God had so much to say about family. The biblical model of family life implores us to encourage each other, to honor God in all we do, and to support each other in doing so. The experiences and interactions in my home, church, and denomination encouraged me to embrace biblical values and principles in my life. The integrity of my faith compels me to reciprocate that encouragement and support.

Family values are best communicated as we work together toward common goals. Historically, Free Will Baptists have shared a heart for evangelism and missions, as well as deep appreciation for our heritage. Randall House shares these values and supports our denominational family with Bible-based, distinctively Free Will Baptist curriculum and books.

In support of our sister agency, Randall House provides free and discounted resources for home mission churches and chaplains. Home Missions reciprocates this support through involvement in several Randall House initiatives including the National Youth Conference and the National Youth Evangelistic Team.

Free Will Baptist faith and heritage are being propagated through the combined efforts of Randall House and Home Missions—family supporting family as God intended it to be. Regardless of your age, where you live, or the ministry to which you are called, you can be part of this living legacy. Just as you need your family, your family needs you. 

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: David Womack is customer service and sales manager at Randall House. He lives in Hendersonville, TN, with Teresa, his wife of 30 years, and youngest daughter Tana.



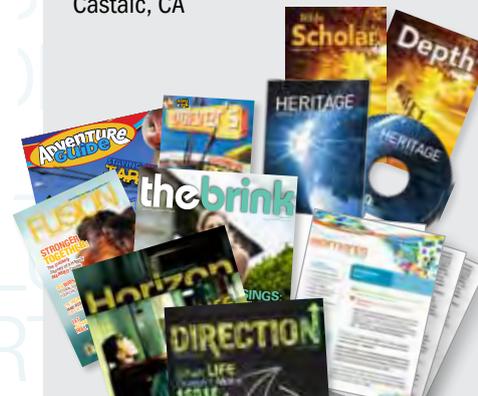
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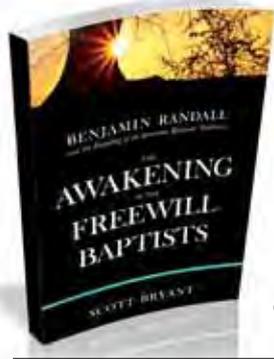
As a Home Missionary needing to develop teachers from people who are young in the Lord and new to Free Will Baptist, I'm truly thankful to have a solid curriculum that I know to be true to God's Word and Free Will Baptist doctrine. I can give it to my young teachers with confidence and not worry about what they may be teaching. It's working well, and we have developed several excellent teachers! The discount for Home Missionaries helps too. Thanks!

Pastor D Keith Bartlett
Sloan Canyon FWBC
Castaic, CA



HISTORIAN DAVID CROWE REVIEWS A NEW WORK ON EARLY FREE WILL BAPTISTS IN NEW ENGLAND.

Awakening of the Freewill Baptists By David Crowe



A few months ago as I was searching American Booksellers Exchange, I came across a volume that really caught my attention. The book was titled *The Awakening of the Freewill Baptists* and was listed by a bookstore in London. While I've bought many old Free Will Baptist books and historical items online, this was a new volume published in 2011. The book was written by Dr. Scott Bryant as his dissertation for a Ph.D. in Church History, and published by Mercer University Press. Dr. Bryant attended Boston University and Baylor University and is an ordained Baptist minister living in Waco, Texas.

I must confess that even though I purchased the book, I expected Dr. Bryant to approach the subject from a critical viewpoint, especially since he's not a Free Will Baptist. When the book arrived I quickly read it, curious about his perspective on this aspect of Free Will Baptist history.

The Foreword was written by Dr. William H. Brackney, professor at Acadia University and director of the Acadia Center for Baptist and Anabaptist Studies, and mentor to Dr. Bryant. In his statements, he reminds readers that 2011 is the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin, and he described the profound impact the "Reformed Tradition" had upon western civilization and Protestant and evangelical thought. He also commented on the more recent resurgence of Five-Point Calvinism among mainstream Baptists.

Dr. Brackney further states that Bryant's work is important to this discussion because many Baptist historians would have you to believe that the Calvinistic tendency has numerically outdistanced and theologically swamped mainstream and *come-outer* Baptist groups. Dr. Bryant's book looks at what Dr. Brackney calls, "arguably the most successful and interesting break with the Calvinistic Baptist camp in early American religious history."

This article is not intended to be a full book review, but simply records my observations about Bryant's work that might encourage and motivate other Free Will Baptists to find and read this book. I don't agree with every conclusion made by Dr. Bryant, but he makes a powerful case that Benjamin Randall was a genuine religious hero and the founder of an American religious tradition.

He takes exception to the view widely held among Free Will Baptists in the southern states that Benjamin Randall had a Calvinistic stage in his development, and I tend to agree with Dr. Bryant on that point. He places Randall in the same company as other heroic men in American religious life such as Francis Asbury, John Henry Hobart, and Henry Muhlenburg. He even calls him the leader among "lesser known" Baptists such as Isaac Case, Morgan Edwards, and Shubal Stearns, placing him on level ground with Baptist dissidents Isaac Backus, Elhanan Winchester, and Elias Smith.

One of the conclusions that Dr. Bryant reaches is this:

"Historians of American religious history often draw a sharp distinction between the First Great Awakening of the eighteenth century and the Second Great Awakening that occurred a century later. The first wave of revivals challenged the authority of and the practice of the established churches while the second wave was dominated by the rise of the common man. The Freewill Baptists serve as a unique religious movement that bridges the supposed gap between the two revivals, as they began as a result of the eighteenth century revivals and developed and matured during the revivals of the nineteenth century."

I had never heard a Free Will Baptist historian come to that conclusion, much less a Baptist historian! I hope this article will stir your interest, and that you will not only read this book, but you will begin a journey into the rich and wonderful history and heritage of the people called Free Will Baptists. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: David Crowe is director of development for Home Missions. A member of the Free Will Baptist Historical Commission, David is a student of Free Will Baptist history and has accumulated a large library of historic Free Will Baptist books and memorabilia.

A Free Will Baptist chaplain encourages readers to “encounter the Holy” on the way to a new beginning.

Plane on a STICK

BY CHAPLAIN (LT.COL) TIM STURGILL



Plane on a stick...
that's what we call the static display of airplanes you see at most Air Force bases located somewhere near the front gate or at a memorial park.

The planes are placed on a concrete or steel structure that holds them up as if in flight. Aircrafts that once roared and soared through the sky at supersonic speed fly no more. They are stuck on a stick, no longer dynamic. They are static—impressive to look at but earthbound.

God, the immutable yet dynamic God, designed my life to roar and soar. He never intended for me to retire from the good works of the gospel. I may retire from the Air Force someday, but I must never become static in my Christian experience. Psalm 92:14 makes it clear that we are to live a dynamic Christian life until the end. “They shall bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing.”

God, the immutable God, the dynamic God, always has something up His sleeve. He is always moving. Even in moments when He appears to be silent, He is always working. The question for me is, am I aware of His movement in my life, ministry, and community? Am I tuned in to what God is doing? Isaiah 43:19 says, “Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it?”

Stuck in Place?

Is God trying to give you a fresh start, a new beginning? Are you stuck on the stick of tradition, unbelief, or any other thing that keeps you from perceiving the fresh things God wants to do in your life? I believe most of us truly want to know what God desires for our lives, but often we are simply too busy to listen.

ter count. We have exchanged intimacy for immediacy.

A friend’s mother died the other day, and the social media produced a flurry of condolences and prayers. This is a good thing, but I can’t help but wonder how many of her “friends” actually called to ask “How are you doing?” or “May we pray together?” My guess is very few.

Encounter the Holy

New beginnings always spring from an encounter with the Holy. When was the last time you had a real encounter with the Holy? I’m not talking about a 15-minute quiet time squeezed between busy events of the day, or petitions tossed toward God when in need. When is the last time you set aside time, blocked out the pressure of the day, and locked yourself in a

into being, whispers! A whisper is intimate, and God desires intimacy with His children. One of the most intimate things you can do for your spouse is to listen to him or her—with your heart as well as your ears. God wants us to listen to Him, but we can’t listen to Him if we are not listening *for* Him, if we can’t hear Him above the din of our lives. We must seek solitude, time alone with Him.

What God speaks to you will always be confirmed in Scripture. The immutable God does not change His character or His message as already outlined in the Bible. However, He may bring to mind new ideas or new methods for your circumstance.

Contemplative prayer goes beyond a wish list of petitions and intercessions. Contemplative prayer requires an open heart and unclenched hand. After a session of contemplative prayer, it is easier to accept God’s reply of wait or no because I have allowed Him to be part of the conversation of my prayer. I can honestly say, “Nevertheless, thy will be done.” I am also reassured that God has only the best in mind for my situation, and the best may not be what I am praying for.

Please know that an encounter with the Holy cannot be fabricated or forced. God cannot be conjured. Practicing spiritual disciplines does not guarantee an encounter with the Holy, but it does soften the soil of the heart to be receptive when God chooses to speak.

Want a fresh start, a new beginning? Want to clear your vision? Want your life freshened? Want to get off the stick and return to soaring? Get alone with God, practice the spiritual disciplines, and encounter the Holy! **ONE**

most of us truly want to know what God desires for our lives, but often we are simply too busy to listen.

Our society contributes to this problem as the social network generation loses its concept of intimate relationships. That, in turn, erodes our ability to have a closer relationship with God. Here’s what I mean. Internet, social media, text messaging, and instant communication have relegated us to a society with many friends and followers but few confidantes. Friends are a dime a dozen on the social media outlets, but quality, close relationships are few and far between. We become satisfied with a tweet, an update, or a text. Relationships become trivial, and conversations are limited by a charac-

place where you could hear from the Holy? How long since you visited a place where no one can get in but the Holy—a place where even the busyness of doing the Father’s work does not interfere?

An encounter with the Holy that results in a new beginning requires a return to old-fashioned spiritual disciplines such as silence, solitude, Scripture reading, and contemplative prayer.

Silence means just that. Turn off the radio, shut the laptop, pull the plug on the television, and listen to the quiet. God, the great God who spoke creation

ABOUT THE WRITER: Lieutenant Colonel Timothy M. Sturgill is chaplain for the 436 Airlift Wing, stationed at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware. To learn more about the Free Will Baptist chaplaincy, visit www.homemissions.net.

A chaplain shares his faith in the unlikelyst of places.

witness in **KANDAHAR**

BY CHAPLAIN (CPT) KEVIN TRIMBLE

FOR A CHAPLAIN IN THE U.S. ARMY, EVERY DAY PROVIDES NEW opportunities to witness for God. From an impromptu “Chaplain, can we talk?” to soldiers waiting to talk as I leave my quarters for an early morning run, opportunities abound to witness for Christ. Regardless of where we are in our lives or ministries, God always sees fit to bring someone to us. The benefit is often mutual, for as we help others, we often realize they are helping us learn as well.

One such person for me was Tom Jenkins*. He is definitely not an avid church-attende. Can I say he is a Christian or even a man of God? Maybe. And if not now, perhaps down the road.

When the 101st CAB (Combat Aviation Brigade) encountered its latest “rendezvous with destiny,” I deployed with nearly 700 soldiers as my congregation and mission field.

My battalion, the 6th 101 Aviation Regiment (AVN RGT), had a primary mission that was three-

*Not his real name.



fold: (1) support ground troops with aviation assets for delivery, air assaults, and medevac, (2) be the primary platform for VIPs in country, and (3) provide the needed lift assets for Kandahar city and the surrounding provinces.

After we entered the country, our battalion was joined by attachments from 13 separate companies from Germany, Alaska, and Hawaii. Truly God provided a great opportunity for ministry. My days were long, with

REGARDLESS OF WHERE WE ARE IN OUR LIVES OR MINISTRIES, GOD ALWAYS SEES FIT TO BRING SOMEONE TO US.

a 12-hour day minimum, filled with counseling, training, speaking, briefing, teaching, flying to minister to others, and working beside our soldiers. Many days were filled with sadness and loss as I performed numerous memorial ceremonies. Toward the end of deployment I was often enlisted by the military police to provide care after a soldier had committed suicide. I would travel to the scene to pray over the loss, minister to the friends, and provide grief counseling.

In the middle of such trying days, everyone needs a friend, and that's where Major Tom Jenkins stepped in. Jenkins is a father of two, a fantastic athlete, a consummate encourager, and the commander of our company of Medevac, (the historic and famed *Dustoff Unit* that dates back to Korea). In spite of his demanding schedule, this commander whose company successfully carried out over 3,500 missions, took time to ask, "How are you doing, Chaplain?"

Often, Major Jenkins spoke of what it meant to have a friend like me, but I felt like the recipient of grace through him. Knowing his faith background, I did not ask, "Are you a Christian?" I still haven't. But on morning runs or in lengthy conversations, we discussed our work, our family, our futures, and our dreams and desires. On days of death and loss, we both needed a friend, and I am certain God placed us together for a significant reason.

On one occasion, we talked about

church, and how his faith had been tainted by his experiences. I listened. On another occasion, during a long run, he worked through leadership issues in the company. Again, I listened. At other times we spoke openly of his soldiers, their needs, and how I could minister to them. I listened. When we returned to the States, we spoke of the needs of families, changes in our command, and once again, I listened.

His friendship was a blessing to me during these days. A chaplain can share a burden with few people, but Major Jenkins listened. Have I shared the gospel? In small services in the command post, my friend has heard the gospel, but he hasn't personally attended my organized chapel services. During the many times he has heard me speak on a variety of topics, he has heard my heart. In prayers of faith, loss, death, hope, and victory, he has felt the passion of a man who loves God deeply.

As believers, part of our ministry

is to build friendships. Repeatedly, we are reminded by church growth experts that people are drawn to the faith by friends far more effectively than through fiery preaching, huge campaigns, multi-million dollar buildings, and flashy programs. Have I, through the reciprocal friendship, drawn my friend to Christ? Only eternity will tell, but as of today, he knows a chaplain who loves God foremost.

Will my friend come to know Christ as a devoted follower? It is my prayer he will. I am ever thankful for his help, care, and encouragement to me, and for all that I have received from him. The rest is up to God. His Word tells us that as He is lifted up, He will draw all men to Himself (John 12:32). I pray that I have successfully fulfilled my role as an Army chaplain to lift up Christ, while being the friend of Major Jenkins, yet living the life of a witness daily and ever learning from the witnesses and soldiers that He puts in my path.

In serving my soldiers, I find that Jehovah is at work through me every day, in each situation of my life. He longs to use me at chapel services or working beside other soldiers. As I melt into the world of those I'm called to serve, I'm confident God will use me to be His witness of compassion and love for a world in need. I pray that He will change my friend as He is changing me. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Captain Kevin Trimble serves as battalion chaplain of the 6th 101st CAB (Combat Aviation Brigade) stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. To learn more about Free Will Baptist chaplains, visit www.homemissions.net.

Brown on Green >>>>

Don't Buy the Wrong End of the Car

Automobile manufacturers have made many advances over the last two decades. Twenty years ago, a car with 100,000 miles was considered to have had a good life and was ready to be junked. Today, most cars easily surpass 150,000 miles with regular maintenance. Many Americans, however, continue to buy new cars, drive them for five years, and trade them for another when they reach 75,000 miles. This raises the question, "Are we buying the wrong end of the car?"

Purchasing a car with 75,000 miles and selling it when it reaches 150,000 miles is a better financial move. The potential savings is staggering. According to the Wall Street Journal, the average new car in 2011 costs \$29,817. A five-year-old used model with average mileage can be purchased for 36% of the original price tag, resulting in savings of more than \$19,000. While it is true a used car will require more repairs than a new car, if you

allow \$3,000 in repairs during the second half of the car's lifespan, the initial savings remains over \$16,000.

If you keep the vehicle for five years and sell it as a 10-year-old car with normal mileage, it will sell for 11% of its original value, or \$3,300. That means the total cost of the car is only \$10,500, even with repairs. Compared to more than \$19,000 for a new car, you will save nearly \$9,000.

For those saving for retirement, diverting the money you save by buying used vehicles will make a big difference. The savings are even more dramatic if you purchase a best-selling car, because high supply means less demand and pushes prices down. A recent search for a five-year-old Ford Taurus on the internet quickly revealed eight cars that could be purchased for less than 25% of the new car price.

Don't buy the wrong end of the car. Buy used and save. ONE

Many Americans, however, continue to buy new cars, drive them for five years, and trade them for another when they reach 75,000 miles.

BUYING THE FRONT END OF THE CAR

Sales price	\$30,000
Value at the end of 5 years	\$10,800
Net cost of car for 5 years	\$19,200

BUYING THE BACK END OF THE CAR

Sales Price	\$10,800
Value at the end of 5 years	\$ 3,300
Net cost of car for 5 years	\$ 7,500
Estimated repair cost	\$ 3,000
Total 5 year cost	\$10,500

Difference between buying the front end versus the back end \$ 8,700



Success cannot be measured by the quantity—or quality—of one's possessions.

Pearl's Stuff

BY BRENDA EVANS



I WAS UP TO MY ARMPITS IN STUFF...PEARL'S STUFF.

Two blenders, three food choppers, Santa collections, craft supplies, crock pots and electric skillets, racks of clothing, shoes, three sewing machines, hundreds of yards of fabric, four garbage bags of yarn, 80 spools of thread, two refrigerators, two freezers, one antique icebox, piles of assorted dishes, four radios, a half dozen boxes of documents and letters to sort. **And that was just one end of the basement.**

On the other end stood a 12-foot storage wall packed with silver-plated platters, trays, tea sets, and glass doo-dads. The facing wall housed shelves and cupboards loaded with gadgets and gizmos. Out back, three storage buildings overflowed with rusty tools, horse collars, pressure canners, picture frames, costume jewelry, bedpans, hats, old rugs, and scores of objects I couldn't even name.

After three 30-cubic-yard roll-off containers, dozens of pick-up loads, a 24-foot U-Haul, and endless boxes, the house and outbuildings were finally emptied. All Pearl ever really wanted was everything—in multiples. But when she died, she left it all behind.

That's when I stepped in. I was appointed to give usable items to relatives or charities; sort and preserve important papers, pictures, letters, and legal documents; make house repairs and put it on the market; work with the lawyer; go to court, pay bills, sell stocks, file for insurance, settle bank accounts, and keep records of every dime.

Simple purpose—monumental process! I handled, sorted, packed, tossed, and gave away thousands of items. Pearl's financial mish-mash was equally difficult. The Pearl Project, as I called it, became a five-month, five-day-a-week ordeal. I wept, rejoiced, ranted, raved, and was overwhelmed.

But the project taught me important lessons about money and possessions. My friend was not wealthy, but she was comfortable. She had traveled across the United States, toured Europe, and basked in the Caribbean sun. She had a nice home, invested well, retired early, bought lots of stuff, and gave away—sadly—almost nothing.

Having money is a good thing. For Christians, it is a really good thing because it puts resources in the hands of people who should know how to use it well. Pearl had money, but she did not use it well. What did Pearl's stuff teach me? Two things—self-indulgence is bad; frugality is good.

Self-Indulgence is bad.

When I first began work on the Pearl Project, I assumed most of her things were salvageable, that her stuff, though excessive, would end up benefiting Christian ministries, the poor, the fatherless, the widows of her community.

It didn't happen. Most of Pearl's stuff was unusable—molded, mildewed, ruined, rusted, corroded, broken, and moth or rodent-damaged. Her possessions made huge mounds of debris at the local landfill, not contributions to charities. Once good and usable, Pearl's stuff was utterly wasted.

Like gluttony and drunkenness, the unbridled pursuit of things is soundly condemned in Scripture, especially in Old Testament poetry. David pledged faithfulness to the Lord in Psalm 101, saying he would not set worthless things before his eyes (101:3). Then in 119:37, the writer explicitly connects worthless things to material possessions. Repeatedly throughout the chapter, he urges us to identify true value and set our hearts and hands to the pursuit of "better" things.

In contrast, however, neither Old

nor New Testament condemns extravagance for the Lord's sake. Remember the interchange between Mary, Judas, and Jesus in John 12? Mary poured costly oil over Jesus' feet. Judas whined about the waste. Jesus quickly rebuked him because she had given her best for the right reason.

Deuteronomy 14:22-29 puts lavish use of money in practical perspective. An annual tithe celebrated the Lord's blessings. If participants lived far away, they were encouraged to convert their products to money, spend the money for whatever their heart desired, then eat it in the sanctuary before the Lord with great rejoicing (Deuteronomy 14:26).

The passage repeats the phrase "whatever your heart desires." Certainly, this was an exercise in abundance, extravagance. So, what's the difference between Pearl's stuff and the extravagance in Deuteronomy?

The "whatever" in Deuteronomy referred to food eaten in celebration to God. The lavishness was practical and usable, both as an act of worship and a model for the family. The extravagance was performed before an audience of God and family.

I can't help but wonder if it would change my buying and spending habits if I had an audience for my purchases? Or what if long-term spiritual good guided everything I purchased? How would it affect my use of credit? Would I buy fewer non-essentials? Would I continue to spend just because I could?

What hurt most during the Pearl Project was that my dear friend did not consider other people—only herself. Checkbooks and tax returns revealed that she

gave a pittance to her church, about \$200 each year when an annual tithe would have neared \$7,000. She also gave \$100 to a local charity once a year. I had to face it. Pearl was not a generous person.

That's another issue Deuteronomy 14 addresses. We are commanded to use our money beyond our own needs and desires. We must consider others, including Christian ministries. At the end of every third year, God required a tithe to benefit two groups: God's men, the Levites who owned no land on which to make a living, and "the stranger and the fatherless and the widow" (14:29). In our buying, acquiring, and spending, God says we must never forget people, and Deuteronomy is clear that "people" does not only refer to family.

What's the point? We need to look beyond family, friends, and the ends of our own noses. Jesus asked even more than Moses. Share the cloak off your back, He said, even if it is your last one.

Frugality is good.

The Pearl Project also taught me that frugality takes discipline. I honestly don't like the word frugal. I'm quick to associate frugality with stinginess, certainly not what Scripture teaches. So, let me be clear. By frugality I mean being cautious, economical, prudent, resourceful, not wasteful. The Latin root suggests fruitfulness, enjoyment, and virtue, indicating an origin in richness not miserliness.

Frugality is a good thing, but it isn't easy. Prosperity tends to breed foolishness, at least in me. In Deuteronomy 8 the Lord described a time when his people would become prosperous, lack nothing, become presumptuous, and forget Him (8:9-17). He bluntly warned them, "you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get

wealth" (8:18).

Prosperity is from the hand and heart of God. Frugality is from mine. It is a skill, a discipline I can train my hand and heart to live out, as Paul urged Timothy. "Exercise yourself toward godliness" (1 Timothy 4:8).

HERE ARE SOME THINGS TO HELP ME WITH THAT TRAINING:

- Admit the difference between real and artificial needs. Be satisfied with less than everything. Recognize need. Recognize want. Practice saying no to wants and yes to the needs of others.
- Restrain the bent toward self-indulgence.
- Suppress the urge for instant gratification. Be willing to wait.
- Don't spend leisure time looking for a "great deal" on something I don't really need. Malls, discount stores, car dealerships, flea markets, even online shopping sites can be bad places to hang out.

I know. I know. This advice about how to use money seems contradictory. Be lavish but frugal, extravagant but economical. But that is how I see it. You might think I'm judgmental because I describe Pearl's spending as self-indulgent rather than lavish. Because I judged her abundance as about want, not need. Because her sparse gifts to ministry and charity seemed stingy. Perhaps I am, and so I offer the Pearl Project as a cautionary tale—mostly for myself.

All she ever really wanted was everything—like me. That's what I learned while standing up to my armpits in Pearl's stuff. **ONE**



ABOUT THE WRITER: Brenda Evans is a retired English teacher. She and her husband Bill (former director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation) live in Cattlettsburg, KY. They are proud grandparents of seven.

LeaderProfile >>>>

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

Jeff Cates



>>>> The last issue featured a leader in New York, but this leader finds himself in completely different setting...the Texas Panhandle. Scripture often describes Jesus meeting people at the point of their needs. He did the extraordinary, from feeding the crowd to healing the lame, but every action served as a way to bring glory to God while forming a connection to the people He served.

Jeff Cates is following this example in Canyon, Texas, located on the outskirts of Amarillo. He is connecting to people through methods centered on the Texan way of life, building a church that is uniquely Texan. For example: rather than building a gymnasium, The Canyon Country Church built an arena where the church hosts team horse training and play days where local kids enjoy their horses, their families, and great moments together.

Jeff's no-nonsense approach meets people where they are and shares the gospel without apology. The Texans are thankful for his refreshing approach to ministry and respect this cowboy preacher for his work ethic, his love for families, and for preaching God's Word. Born in Colorado, Jeff lived for many years in Missouri before he and Sondra (his wife of 29 years) hung their hats in Canyon.

With both daughters married and serving God, Jeff and Sondra enjoy the "pursuit of each other" (His words exactly) while enjoying an empty nest. Jeff emphasizes the importance of future generations serving God. Jeff is praying that the church plant will provide a place for them to grow in their walk for Christ.

Jeff, you are a great leader! 

Describe your quiet time. Jeff often climbs on his horse for a ride to think, pray, and listen to God. He spends his late nights in the Word studying and praying.

What is the goal of your church? To reach families not touched by the gospel through a comfortable setting that makes it easier for families to belong. In time, each new believer sees the church as more than a rodeo arena but a place to "climb up on" God's Word to lead him or her through life's pastures.

Describe an ideal date for you and Sondra. Going to Sonic (They enjoyed their first date at the drive-in restaurant at age 16, and it has been their favorite since).

What is your biggest failure? "Arguing with God about the call on my life for two years and trying to fill the void inside me with toys and distractions."

What is your one indulgence? Horses, handmade tack, and saddles.

What are the top three books you have ever read (other than the Bible)?

Disappointment with God by Philip Yancey
The Samson Syndrome by Mark Atteberry
Western Horseman magazine

Favorite Authors?

Peter Hathaway Capstick
Baxter Black
Philip Yancey

Paper or Plastic Questions

>> *Mountains or Ocean?* Mountains
>> *Music or Talk Radio?* Music
>> *Coke or Pepsi?* Teal
>> *Email or Texting?* Texting
>> *Mac or PC?* PC

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OAKS of righteousness

BY NORMA JACKSON GOLDMAN

In a recent sermon from Deuteronomy 4 and Isaiah 61, my pastor made a powerful and intriguing analogy that lodged in my heart. After wrestling with it for more than two weeks, I came to the conclusion that the vision must be shared. He spoke of the urgency of a generation sharing its faith with the next, using powerful images of fathers and sons, mothers and daughters, children and grandchildren who pass down their beliefs and life experiences to a generation waiting to hear.

TELL STORIES WITH THE BIG PICTURE IN MIND.

In life, we teach in bits and pieces, providing instruction and information needed for the job at hand. Both at home and church, we teach behaviors and emphasize character traits to fit specific situations. However, we must also be intentional in teaching our children and grandchildren the “big picture” Scripture provides—the great over-arching story of God’s redemptive plan for the world and our role in it. A lack of this big picture may be why so many people, despite being in church and Bible study most of their lives, still do not understand God’s purpose for them as individuals or their role in His plan to bring a lost world to Christ.

God laid out a beautiful plan for grandparents and parents to use in passing faith to succeeding generations in Deuteronomy 6:4-9. It begins with the most critical and essential truth: the Lord our God is one. We must communicate clearly that God alone

is creator, sustainer, and sovereign source—past, present, and future. Because of who He is, we are to love Him with all we have and all we are. His teachings, precepts, and commandments should be vital topics of everyday activity and conversation, at home or away, from morning until night.

SHARE UNFAILINGLY WITH THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD.

Above all, we must share the good news of His love and concern for the poor, the brokenhearted, the captives, and those who mourn with those who have never heard. Changed by His love, He describes His children as “oaks of righteousness” who will “display His splendor” (Isaiah 61:3b).

Do your children and grandchildren, neighbors and friends know this story? Do they understand what could

happen if the present generation fails to pass it to the next? The next time your family gathers to celebrate a holiday or other important occasion, use the event as an opportunity to create a powerful experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

TEACHING THE NEXT GENERATION.

Three generations will gather to celebrate my grandson’s graduation. We will choose a good location to plant an oak tree and read these passages from Deuteronomy and Isaiah. Each one will share a personal word about how he or she came to faith when someone shared Christ’s gift of salvation made possible through His death on the cross.

We’ll place Scripture verses on a card and cover them with fresh soil as we plant the tree, symbolizing our sure

foundation. We will talk about how the entire landscape will change when the oak matures, just as the “landscape” of our world changes as we mature, becoming oaks of righteousness. We’ll talk about future generations who will take shelter under the oak, finding comfort and safety under its branches, just as we find comfort and safety in the shelter of God’s loving presence.

As the tree grows, it will serve as a visible reminder of our faith, of the next generation, and of our opportunity to share in God’s redemptive purpose for His world by telling others. 

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

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News From WNAC and MM

WNAC Approves New Scholarship

Delegates to the 2011 WNAC Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, approved guidelines for the Dr. Mary R. Wisheart Scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded annually to one female student at each Free Will Baptist college.

WNAC established the Memorial Student Loan Fund in 1957, offering low-interest loans to students at Free Will Baptist Bible College. The fund grew consistently through the years as women contributed, and borrowers paid their debts. In recent years, however, due to increased availability of Pell Grants and other government loans, the fund saw little use. In 2010, women voted to convert the money into a scholarship fund.

Guidelines include the following stipulations:

1. Recipient must be a female student enrolled full-time.
2. Recipient must be a member in good standing of a Free Will Baptist church or mission.
3. Recipient must be enrolled in one of these Free Will Baptist colleges:
 - Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, TN
 - Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, Moore, OK
 - California Christian College, Fresno, CA
 - Southeastern Free Will Baptist College, Wendell, NC
 - Gateway Free Will Baptist College, Virginia Beach, VA.
4. Recipient must be a sophomore, junior, or senior.
5. Recipient must maintain a grade point average of a "C" or above.
6. Recipient must exemplify Christian qualities and display continuing spiritual growth.
7. Recipient will be chosen by the scholarship committee of the designated college.
8. Recipient will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.
9. Recipient may apply annually.

"This is really good," remarked one convention attendee. Leaders see this as a step forward in educational assistance and a means for modeling WNAC ministry objectives. ■



National Golf and Softball Tournaments a Success

Antioch, TN—Fifty-two golfers participated in the annual Master's Men golf tournament on August 4. Great scores reflected perfect golf weather, with slightly overcast skies and top temperatures in the 80s. Ronnie Dunn and Paul Ballard captured the top spot, shooting an eight-under 64. Ronnie Anderson and Byron Ross placed second with a six-under round of 66, finishing just ahead of Mike Gladson and Jerry Hall, who also scored 66 but placed third after

a scorecard playoff. Other winners included Roger Cooper and Charles Harris, first place-first flight; Keith Burden and Randy Wilson, second place-first flight; Glenn Poston and Dave Thomas, first place-second flight; and Eric Thomsen and Manuel Lopes, second place-second flight.

At the National Softball Tournament, two rain delays halted play for more than three hours, but the cooler temperatures were worth the wait. Twenty-two teams from

eight states rolled into Nashville, August 5-6, seeking a trophy. When the last game had been played, Mt. Olive FWB Church (Guin, AL) walked away with the first place trophy. After losing to First FWB Church (Seffner, FL) in the final game of the winners' bracket, Mt. Olive had to win two games in the final round to be declared overall champions.

Seffner did not lose a game until playing Mt. Olive for the championship, and finished in second place. Zion Hill Orange (Millwood, GA), last year's champs, finished third with newcomers Forrest Valley FWB Church (Springfield,

OH) finishing fourth.

In the consolation tournament, Donelson FWB Church (Nashville, TN) won first place by outitting fellow Tennessee team, Two Rivers FWB Church, from Clarksville.

Master's Men expresses appreciation to all players and golfers who participated in the tournaments. "We have a great time," said director Ken Akers, "but we also raise money for the ministry of Master's Men in the process. It is a fun way to contribute to the Lord's work."

Operation Saturation Extends to Buffalo

Buffalo, NY—Twenty people traveled to Buffalo, NY, to promote the new Free Will Baptist church recently started there. Volunteers from Tennessee, Ohio, and Pennsylvania joined Home Missionaries Brian and Emily Williams, Darin and Joy Alvis, and Timothy and Amanda York on Saturday, August 27. They visited a thousand homes, distributing door hangers to promote the new work.

In addition to planting NorthPoint FWB Church, the Yorks will start LifePoint FWB Church, a deaf congregation that will meet in the same building. For more information about Team Buffalo, visit www.homemissions.net.



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“Concerning the collection for the saints . . .” (1 Corinthians 16:1-3). Since the early days of Christianity, believers have been instructed to set aside money each week to help support those in need. That is what Buck-A-Week is about—developing the habit of consistent, planned giving to promote missions at home and around the world.

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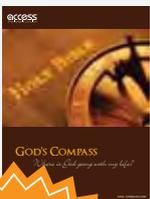
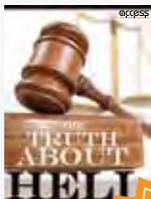
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News About the Denomination

David F. Wells to Address Leadership Conference

Antioch, TN—Dr. David F. Wells, author of the book, *The Courage to Be Protestant*, has been named keynote speaker for the 2011 Free Will Baptist Leadership Conference to be held December 5-6, at Marriott Nashville Airport Hotel, according to Executive Secretary Keith Burden.

The annual event, a meeting venue for denominational boards and agencies, is open to any Free Will Baptist minister or leader. The two-day meeting features nightly worship services, a full slate of workshops, and free time for fellowship and networking.

Dr. Wells is Distinguished Senior Research Professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Wells received his B.D. from the University of London; Th.M. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; Ph.D. from Manchester University (England); and was a post-doctoral Research Fellow at Yale Divinity School. He is a council member of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals. The Cambridge Declaration came about in 1996 as a result of his book *No Place for Truth, or Whatever Happened to Evangelical Theology?*

To register for Leadership Conference, contact the Executive Office: 877-767-7659. ■

2012 Nominees Requested

Antioch, TN—The 2011-2012 Nominating Committee, which will serve through the national convention in Memphis, Tennessee, is prepared to receive nominees for the 2012 convention election, according to Tim Campbell (AR), committee chairman.

The committee will meet December 6, 2011, at the annual Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, to consider nominations and compile a report with one nomination for each position to be filled. The report will be presented to the General Board and delegates at the 2012 convention.

The following board and commission positions will be filled in 2012: Free Will Baptist Bible College (3), International Missions (3), Randall House Publications (3), Commission for Theological Integrity (1), Historical Commission (1), Media Commission (1), Music Commission (1), General Board (10), Executive Committee (3), and General Officers (4).

Nominations, accompanied by a brief resume, must be submitted in writing exclusively to the chairman on or before November 30. Contact Chairman Tim Campbell (AR):

**Nominating Committee, Tim Campbell
2105 Harkrider, Conway, AR 72032
tim@arfbw.org • 501-329-8193 ■**

Executive Secretary Participates in National Prayer Event

Houston, TX—Executive Secretary Keith Burden joined a crowd of thousands who gathered to pray at Reliant Stadium in Houston, Texas, on August 6. The event, organized by Texas Governor Rick Perry and American Family Association President Don Wildmon among others, encouraged believers to participate in a day of fasting and prayer for the nation.

At the request of event organizers, Reverend Burden joined other pastors and leaders on the platform, leading

more than 30,000 participants in a prayer of repentance for the nation's shedding of innocent blood.

In addition to the crowd at Reliant Stadium, more than 1,000 churches and groups participated via live web stream, and over 80,000 individuals streamed the event live to their homes.

For more information, or to watch archived video, visit <http://theresponseusa.com/>. ■

Photo: Mark Cowart



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

One to ONE >>>>

Separated and Sent

It probably would not have made the front page of the local newspaper or appeared on the six o'clock evening news. Quietly, almost inconspicuously, the church at Antioch followed the instructions of the Holy Spirit and "separated" Barnabas and Saul as the first missionaries. If you are not familiar with this event, read Acts 13 for the rest of the story.

According to verse 3, "When they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away." That, of course, was the first commissioning service for Christian missionaries. From that time until this, an army of men and women has been "sent" by the church of Jesus Christ to share the Good News with a lost world.

Last Sunday, I had the privilege of participating in another commissioning service. A young couple stood before the church surrounded by family and friends, while we laid hands on them and I led in a prayer of commitment. As I prayed, I heard the muffled sound of their parents weeping. They shed tears of sorrow because they knew the hardships that lay ahead. They shed tears of joy because their children were obediently responding to God's call on their lives.

Once again, the event went virtually unnoticed by the world. There were no reporters or television cameras present. It did not make headline news. But Heaven took note. You see, those parents weren't the only ones filled with pride. Nothing pleases God more than servants who leave familiar surroundings and go to the regions beyond to share the gospel of Christ.

It's pretty amazing when you stop and think about it. The plan God instituted for



It did not make headline news. But Heaven took note.

world evangelism in Acts 13 hasn't been altered, suspended, or discontinued in almost 2,000 years. Although methods have changed, the basic approach remains the same. The Holy Spirit does the separating. The church does the sending.

I am thankful men and women still respond to God's call, but more workers are needed.

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:38).

"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?" (Romans 10:14, 15b).

I am proud to be part of a denomination that takes the "responsibility of sending" seriously. Free Will Baptists are doing a good job in this area. We can do better. We must do better. And by His grace, I believe we shall. **ONE**

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75	6.4%	75/75	5.7%
80	7.2%	80/80	6.3%
85	8.1%	85/85	7.1%
90	9.5%	90/90	8.3%



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