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ONE

MAGAZINE

The Magazine for Free Will Baptists

DECEMBER-JANUARY 2012-13

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FirstG-



Follow the Leader

THE ADVENTURE STARTED AT THE MONKEY BARS—six kids swinging hand-over-hand to the other side. Only five made it without falling. In tight, single-file formation, the survivors marched purposefully across the playground to the high slide. After a quick glance to make sure the teachers weren't watching, we scooted “up the down way,” clambered down the ladder, and headed for the dome climber. “You have to climb it upside down,” shouted our leader, “and if your feet touch the ground, you're out!”

I groaned. Hanging and climbing were not my forte (still aren't, for that matter). Gathering all my strength, I gripped and flipped, hugging the underside of the metal framework. One hand and toehold at a time, I slowly pulled myself to the top of the climber and down the opposite side, head spinning as I viewed the world upside down and then backwards. To my surprise, I didn't fall—one of only three left in the game.

The leader darted off, arms flailing. We followed close behind, flapping like a flock of startled wood ducks. We floundered through the sandbox before coming to an abrupt stop at the ultimate test—the teeter-totter. After flashing a big grin, our intrepid leader stepped onto one end, gained his balance, and began to walk slowly toward the center, placing one foot carefully in front of the other. The rest of us held our breaths and glanced uneasily toward our teachers. Walking the teeter-totter was a big no-no!

We soon found out why...our leader teetered, and the apparatus tottered. As he fell forward, he encountered the bar moving upward, and our game of Follow the Leader came to an abrupt end. The last time I saw Walt as a high school student, he still carried the scar on his upper lip.

Who would have thought that three decades later, I would still enjoy one of my favorite childhood pastimes? Today, however, Follow the Leader is much more than a game. It is a calling. The Bible refers to it as “making disciples,” and it is a lifelong pursuit.

The Apostle Paul's words to the church in Corinth echo through time, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” That's the key. Pick the right leader and follow as closely as possible. You will discover that others fall in behind, following you as you follow Him. **ONE**

**ERIC THOMSEN,
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Letters to the Editor

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

I truly appreciate *ONE Magazine*. It typically provides at least one article for a good discussion with friends. In the August-September edition, there were two: “No One Writes Apostasy Hymns Anymore” and “Paulitics.”

The latter article, however, stirred me in a manner that is rare when reading the magazine. If our founders adhered to “Paulitics” and its call of obedience to good or bad government, the United States of America would not exist. We would still be paying tribute to the crown of England.

The premise of the article was spot on; where there is good government, we have a civic responsibility to be obedient to it. An enemy to good government is an enemy not only to his country but also to all mankind.

The article, however, has a supportive tone (although not mentioned) for the doctrine of non-

resistance and unlimited passive obedience, which is antithetical to the laws of nature God ordained. The same principles that oblige us to submit to government equally oblige us to resist tyranny; for where tyranny begins, government ends. Therefore, if tyranny presides, it is our right, it is our duty to resist tyrannical powers not ordained by God.

The author is correct; Christians do change hearts, but we also have a right and an obligation to change government structures. Whenever any form of government becomes destructive to the unalienable rights of man endowed by our Creator, it is also the right of the people to alter or abolish that government.

I do truly thank you for your insightful articles. It makes my day whenever I see the magazine in my mailbox.

Lee Frankhouse, *Flat Rock, Michigan*

I really enjoyed reading "Changed Lives" by Richard Atwood in the October-November issue of *ONE Magazine*. We often hear numerical reports from our Home Mission churches, but it was great to read of individuals whose lives God changed because of our faithful missionaries and their supporters.

Judy Puckett, *Oklahoma*

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Two Perspectives on Discipleship

DISCIPLESHIP. What does it look like, what does it require—particularly for those involved in Great Commission work? Two seasoned missionaries offer their perspectives.

1 Obey God. Love People.

BY PAM JONES

What do evangelism and discipleship look like in a new church plant?

Over the years, my ideas have changed drastically from those I once held as a child bride in an established Free Will Baptist church. Discipleship looked much different to me then.

As a young pastor's wife, I was intimidated by the thought of evangelism and discipleship. I thought if I did not do everything perfectly and memorize every verse in the *Romans Road*, I could never be an effective witness. Convinced it would be my fault if someone with whom I shared Christ did not accept Him, I found it easier to stay quiet.

A couple years into my pastor's wife role, however, God placed a burden on my heart to go and witness to a man I had dated in high school. At age 28, he was yet unsaved. Through his family, I learned he was very sick and wouldn't live much longer. I fought with God about this burden until my heart could take no more. As I headed to the home he shared with his mom and dad, Satan whispered over and over that he wouldn't listen and would probably laugh at me.



I arrived at his house, and his mom led me to the room where she had set up his hospital bed. Fearing rejection, I started with small talk. Then I told him I had come to ask his forgiveness for not telling him in high school about the wonderful Christ I knew personally. I told him I wanted to see him in Heaven and shared with him how to get there.

When I asked him if he would like to receive Christ as

his Savior, he said yes. No pomp and circumstance, no fancy words, but Shane prayed and asked Christ into his heart. I went home feeling victorious, knowing I had been obedient to God, and sobered at the thought that I, because of our friendship, might have been the only one who could have reached him for Christ.

Two weeks after the visit, the young man called for his mom to come into the room. He asked her to hold him, and as she did, he told her, “I’m not afraid to die anymore.” With that, he passed away in his mother’s arms. She told me this story at his funeral, praising God that she had the hope of seeing her son again in Heaven.

I shudder to think what would have happened if I had not gone to see him. That experience taught me a valuable lesson. It isn’t saying fancy words or holding a degree in theology; rather, the most important keys to evangelism and discipleship are simply obeying God and loving people.

Fast-forward a few years. Two kids from Arkansas sensed a burden to plant a Free Will Baptist church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. At the time, there were only two other Free Will Baptist churches in the entire state, and they were hours away. We had no idea how to plant a church but knew God said go. And we were just crazy enough to believe if God said, “Do it,” we had no option. Pittsburgh is not a Baptist-friendly area, and my intimidation factor returned. I was so afraid of letting down not only the people who sent us, but also my God.

Where would we start in planting a church? I did the only things I knew—obey God and love people. It took a solid year of work to get anyone interested in the church, but eventually people started coming. I greeted everyone with a hug and made each one feel loved. We also began inviting new Christians and new families who attended our church into our home to share a meal.

I’ve found people will listen and respond if they feel loved and important. It’s a slow process, but we have seen amazing results by doing these things. We’ve also discovered an additional tool—hospital and funeral visitations. People in our area are amazed that someone other than family cares enough to come see them in their greatest hours of pain and need.

During most of our years in Pittsburgh, I have worked a full-time job. This provides many opportunities to witness. Many times I have walked into my office to find a woman waiting for me to pray with her. People at my workplace, whom I thought we would never reach, have come to know the Lord through an invite to a special service.

Though I’ve often complained about my busy life—balancing a full-time job with the responsibilities of a church planter’s wife—God has accomplished wonderful things through my work.

Women’s Bible studies also serve as a wonderful discipleship tool. We have seen great growth and positive responses in those who’ve participated in the different studies we’ve offered.

First Corinthians 13:13 concludes, “And now abide faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” I am not against discipleship programs or trying new things to implement growth in people, but nothing will talk to the heart as much as love.

Obey God. Love people. There’s no replacement for a genuine love for others when communicating the truth of God’s Word. We share because we love them, and in doing what the Bible says, we find abundant life. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Pam Jones serves with her husband Tom at Keystone FWB Church, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, a church planting effort of the Free Will Baptist Home Missions Department.

Modeling Christ

BY SHARON FERGUSON

Discipleship.

What a sobering responsibility.

What a great reward.

What a neglected area.

The Christian’s model for discipleship is Jesus Himself. After the wedding in Cana of Galilee, Jesus began to put together the group He would disciple. Among those chosen men, He modeled at least three aspects of discipleship.

Jesus disciplined by instruction. The Gospels are filled with accounts of His teaching. When we envision discipleship, our first thought is usually about teaching in a structured setting. But Jesus took advantage of every opportunity to teach, whether by the Sea of Galilee, on the top of a mountain, or along a traveled road.

Jesus disciplined by example. This may be the most neglected aspect of discipleship. I became especially aware of this

as a missionary in Ivory Coast. People with whom we came in contact were constantly watching our lives.

Because tribal languages are difficult and time consuming to learn, preaching or teaching is often done through interpreters. This tedious necessity became an opportunity to disciple. Veteran Free Will Baptist missionary Archie Mayhew often took a young Ivorian “preacher boy” with him to the villages. As they traveled, Archie was teaching.

When they arrived at a preaching point, Jean Baptist, one of our first African pastors, interpreted. Jean interpreted not only the words, but also every gesture Brother Archie made. And sometimes he was very animated. Yet, Jean was watching every aspect of Brother Archie’s life.

Rebeccah, a young girl who interpreted for me in children’s classes, soon began teaching on her own. Today she is the wife of the Ivorian ambassador to a South American country.

You may have a Jean Baptist or Rebeccah in your life. It may be your own child or a new convert who has no close Christian example. Younger Christians are watching every move we make, every word we say. Seize these opportunities for discipleship, and when others model you, may they know you are modeling Christ.

Jesus disciplined by delegation. He provided opportunities for His disciples to put learning into practice at every stage of their maturity. As a denomination, Free Will Baptists offer several opportunities for young people to get involved in ministry. Programs like YET, E-TEAM, Truth and Peace, college internship programs for pastoral or missions students, and even assistant positions of leadership within our local churches allow individuals to put learning into practice. Giving responsibility to a young convert and increasing his responsibility as he matures instills trust and builds confidence. Following your example, this person begins to disciple someone less mature, and the cycle continues (2 Timothy 2:2).

Jesus commanded, “Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations.” Who are you discipling? Whether it’s someone in your household or someone in a distant land, take advantage of every opportunity. Using the model of our Savior, and under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, we can find and fulfill our God-designed role in this Great Commission. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Sharon Ferguson and her husband Ledgel served as missionaries for many years, first in Côte d’Ivoire and later in France. Gifted in discipleship, the Fergusons continue to minister within their home state of Kentucky.

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Back to the basics of discipleship...

Discipleship Defined

By Todd Smith

The word **disciple**(s) occurs 270 times in the Bible, and with the exception of one instance, all in the New Testament. The Greek word simply means “**a learner.**” Discipleship includes three parts: **communication, demonstration,** and **application.** The greatest model of discipleship is the Lord Jesus Christ who taught the Apostles by word and example.

Communication

The first part of discipleship involves communication. We must communicate the truths of God’s Word. Learning is a part of growing. We learn by communication and by experimentation, and we have all experienced failure. Someone once said, “Experience is a good teacher,” but I might add, “Communication is a better teacher.”

It is a joy to see others come to know the Lord Jesus Christ, but we must not stop there. We must disciple them in the truths of God’s Word, communicating to them the way a Christian should live so they can grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Consider a small group or personal discipleship study like *First Steps* or *Guide for New Believers*, both published by Randall House.

The communication level of discipleship is best carried out in small groups. This was the example of Christ. He poured His life into 12 men, teaching them so they might teach others also. One of the greatest ways to grow a Sunday School or small group ministry is to multiply by dividing. When a class or group reaches approximately 20-30 students, divide it and continue the process of discipleship within the smaller groups or classes.



Demonstration

The second aspect of discipleship is demonstration. This is the relational aspect of discipleship. While Jesus took time to teach His Apostles, the Apostles learned just as much, if not more, through their relationship with Jesus. This is the level of discipleship in which the mentor must have wisdom regarding his students. No two people are alike, and everyone learns differently. It should not be our goal to change the new believer, but to teach him the truth of Scripture and allow the Holy Spirit to bring about needed changes.

It is much easier to motivate people to change once we build a relationship with them. Motivation without relationship often results in hesitation, but direction with relationship results in cooperation. Simply put, people are more willing to listen when we have a relationship with them.

Application

The last aspect of discipleship is application. The student must apply what has been communicated and demonstrated to him. Christ illustrated this after the Parable of the Good Samaritan when He told His listeners, “Go and do thou likewise” (Luke 10:37). He expected them to apply the truth in their daily lives by doing what they had been taught.

Communication with application results in proliferation. We multiply by applying the truth of what we have learned. Discipleship of a new believer is a great opportunity. Jesus died for the world, but He discipled a small group. How can Christ depend upon you to be involved in discipleship today? **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Todd Smith became the executive secretary of the South Carolina State Association of Free Will Baptists in 2007.

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STORIES OF DISCIPLESHIP

From Home Missions Churches



PENNSYLVANIA

The first time I met Tim was when he and his girlfriend attended the annual Valentine's Day Banquet. I remember the same thing everyone else remembers about his first visit to our church. "Look at all that hair!" A professional Elvis impersonator, he had retired a few years earlier from performing...but not from the hair.

Tim grew up in a Roman Catholic home, but many people knew he was angry with God and wanted nothing to do with church. Years earlier, Tim's dad barely survived a surgery that went bad. The emotional rollercoaster the family experienced that day was more than most of them, including Tim, could handle. The final straw came an hour later while his dad was in recovery. Something went wrong again, and Tim's dad died. Soon after, Tim found his way to the

hospital chapel where he told God he was done with Him, that he hated Him. It was a miracle he even came to church this particular Sunday. But even more miraculous, he came back. We watched God deal with Tim's heart each week as he returned again and again, under the guise that he was there because his girlfriend Marina needed to be back in church. One night, Tim was sitting on his couch thinking about the Sunday morning sermon and suddenly decided he wanted to learn more. He drove to the church and attended his first ever mid-week Bible study.

Tim began to feel more and more conviction regarding his spiritual condition. He remembered walking into that hospital chapel years earlier and telling God he hated Him. After a Sunday sermon, Tim said, "My hands began to sweat, and I felt more conviction than I had ever felt before. I wanted to go tell God I was sorry for that day in the chapel."



“It felt like the heaviest weight had been lifted from my shoulders.”

Tim came forward and asked Jesus to forgive him. He made Him his Lord and Savior. Tim admits, “It felt like the heaviest weight had been lifted from my shoulders.” Tim asked if he could host a “Salvation Celebration.” Tim invited all his friends and family members to the church, promising to feed them and then have a gospel concert. We did not expect too much out of it, but did not want to squelch his excitement, so we just let him go.

To our shock, 67 of Tim’s friends and family members came to hear his testimony at the Saturday evening celebration. It was the largest service our church had enjoyed to that point. Bob, an atheist of 62 years, attended that night. After 62 years of not believing, and then losing his wife, Bob witnessed Tim’s new faith and began to wonder if something was missing. Three months later, he also gave his heart to the Lord.

That was a year ago. Tim just celebrated with a second Salvation Celebration a few weeks ago. Every week, in our services, we find people Tim has invited to church. They have their own questions, and they have come for answers.

When you meet Tim today, you immediately know there is something different about him. Before, it was because of his Elvis hair, and he was always putting on a show. Now, he is different because he wants to share the wonderful story of the day God forgave him for his sins, and Jesus became his Savior.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Nate Altom is planting Keystone FWB Church in Greensburg, Pennsylvania

COLORADO

I met Steve about five years ago when we first investigated the prospects of building a new church auditorium. As a Home Missions church, we knew we had to build as economically as possible. We began to pray for the Lord’s wisdom and direction. Through much searching, we found a structural engineer who donated his labor. He then introduced me to a draftsman who would be reasonable in cost. That draftsman was Steve.

Steve caught my attention when he walked in with a long braided ponytail that cleared his beltline in the back. I have worked with many people in the construction business that had foul mouths, but Steve was polite and kind. He seemed to want to help us and not take advantage. Although he was not a Christian, he seemed respectful of the church and God.

We hired Steve as draftsman. A friendship developed as we battled four long years to obtain a building permit. Steve was willing to talk about God and listened carefully as I witnessed to him. I didn’t go straight to the *Romans Road* with Steve. I had to take time to teach him basic truths and lay the proper foundation. We continued to pray for him.

One afternoon, Steve called and asked if I was in my office. I could tell by his tone of voice that something was bothering him. We met, and I finally had the opportunity to lead him to Christ. At his request, Steve was the first person to be baptized in our new church auditorium. A year later, he got his ponytail cut off. It had been 17 years since he’d had a haircut, but he said he didn’t want *anything* to hinder his testimony for Christ.

The Lord continues to work in Steve’s life. Since his conversion, his wife and an adult son have also been saved. He is an usher, fills in to teach and preach when needed, and witnesses to others. Steve is a faithful servant in the church. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dexter Guin is planting Woodmen Road FWB Church in Colorado Springs, CO.

A note from Richard Atwood, director of missionary assistance for Free Will Baptist Home Missions: I am encouraged by these stories. It is wonderful that good things are happening in home mission churches. God is still working...and He is still working where you live. I’m sure you can find a Tim or a Steve in your town.



By Ken Akers

Let me be up-front. I hate being late.

If I am on time, I think I am late. After years of constant travel, I still arrive at the airport two hours early, even for domestic flights. One of my pet peeves is people who constantly run behind. When I lead an event, I start on time and end on time. In my opinion, being courteous of people's time is the right thing to do. It has been difficult for me to learn to be more tolerant of those who are not as uptight about time as I am.

In 1999, I made my first trip to Haiti. Upon arriving, the missionary instructed me to remove my watch and tape a calendar to my arm. It seems time on the islands runs slower than any place I had ever experienced. (And I was raised in the mountains of eastern Kentucky where time also seems to run slowly.)

In 2000, I began working for Free Will Baptist Master's Men. Soon, I was contacted by home missionaries in Puerto Rico about bringing a group of volunteers down to help. When I arrived, I discovered the same mindset as Haiti. Don't get in a hurry!

The Wednesday night service was scheduled for 7:00. When we arrived with the preacher at 7:30, I was anxious

about being so late...but we were the first ones to arrive. While I expected to get into the church and get started, upon arriving we met a homeless man. I say homeless in the sense he had a small shack and no one to share it with. While he was hoping for money or food, God had bigger plans. After talking to the gentleman and hearing his story and seeing his needs, we were able to minister to his physical needs *and* his spiritual needs. That night God saved this man...on His time, not mine.

If we had been "on time," we might have missed a divine appointment directed by God. Over the years, I have experienced many other divine appointments God arranged for me. I have learned to concentrate on being *where* God wants *when* He wants me there. While I still don't like being late, I have learned to relax, understand there may be a reason I'm there, and look for what God wants me to do.

In Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, God reminds us there is a time for everything. And Isaiah 40:31 says if we wait on the Lord, He will renew our strength. We will run and not be weary and walk and not faint. What are you waiting for? Get on God's time. **ONE**



HONK IF YOU NEED ENCOURAGEMENT!

By Norma Jackson Goldman

In his powerful book on leadership, Gene Getz describes the lessons learned from a flock of geese flying in formation. “As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the birds that follow. By flying in a ‘V’ formation, the flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone. When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front. When the lead bird tires, it rotates back into the formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front of it. The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.”¹

As we move through the challenging experience of life, it is encouraging to know we are not alone. Not only do we have the presence of a loving Savior, we are part of a great body of believers, a “flock” if you will. Flying along the path God has chosen for us, we are motivated and encouraged by the lift of fellow believers as they join us on the journey.

The story of the geese highlights a spiritual truth—we are stronger in community. Our range of ministry is greatly extended when we partner together at home, in our communities, our work, and our churches. You cannot know what impact your affirmation of a job well done will have on another believer, or how your hard work will spur him to excellence.

Dropping out of the lead for a period of refreshment is a good thing as well. How blessed we are that God has a vast army at His disposal—others ready to step in for a time

while we catch our breath and regroup after an especially rough period.

Who could measure the value of the honk of encouraging words? I’m not referring to the impatient driver behind you, but to the “honk” of someone who notices your work and tells you what a difference it made in his life. To give an encouraging word, a pat on the shoulder, a public word of approval, or a brief note provides the spiritual lift to press on.

We are not alone, though sometimes we feel so. Henry Lyte wrote in his hymn *Abide With Me*, “When other helpers fail and comforts flee, Help of the helpless, O, abide with me.”² Because God designed us to live (and fly) in community, it is by His design that we feel a “drag” as geese do when flying out of formation. How like our Father to create circumstances that bring us back into line when we’ve lost sight of the goal.

GOD DESIGNED US TO LIVE (AND FLY) IN COMMUNITY. IT IS BY HIS DESIGN THAT WE FEEL A "DRAG" AS GEESE DO WHEN FLYING OUT OF FORMATION.



Scripture is filled with examples that point us to nature for spiritual truths: "Consider the lilies...how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin, yet...even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (Matthew 7:28, 29). "Fear ye not... ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:31).

God knows our path and our present position. Perhaps you are not in a good place right now. Whatever your specific challenges—family, work, finances, health, discouragement—God knows. He has placed someone in front of you and someone behind you to ease the burden of your journey. Take note of the one who shares your load and rejoice in God's provision, "strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow" as one songwriter said. **ONE**

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

¹Getz, Gene A., *Elders and Leaders*, Moody Publishers, Chicago, IL, 2003, pp. 23-24.

²Lyte, Henry F., 1793–1847, *Abide With Me*



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The Trouble with Jesus

BY JUDITH PUCKETT

The pastor of Trinity Episcopal Church in New York, the oldest protestant church in America, tells about a man who visited the church. After the service, the man shook his hand and said, “I love this church, but I could never join.” When asked why, the man said, “It’s because of the J-Word.” The man was offended by the pastor’s many references to Jesus.

When we read the Bible, we may get the idea that everyone (except the scribes and Pharisees) loved Jesus. But many people in His day didn’t appreciate His teaching or follow Him. Remember the rich young ruler? He followed Jesus for a while, but turned and went away sad when he learned the cost involved. Despite the fact that Jesus gave away food and was a free source of badly needed medical care, not everyone accepted Him.


People today are still offended by Jesus...just as they were when He was on earth. In the Upper Room, before facing the agony of Gethsemane and the cross, Jesus told His disciples, “All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad” (Matthew 26:31). Peter protested that he would not be offended—even if everyone else was offended—

that he would even die for Jesus. Jesus knew better and predicted Peter’s upcoming denial.

It is common to hear discussions about religion today, but loving Jesus and talking about Him are not always socially acceptable. Schools and many other public places have essentially become Jesus-free zones. Many religious leaders and icons are acceptable, but not Him. Everywhere we turn, we find new rules about what we can and cannot say regarding Jesus and Christianity. Even Free Will Baptist church planters encounter unexpected roadblocks in the form of individuals, organizations, and government officials.

Why are people so offended by Jesus? A few reasons come to mind when you consider His life and ministry. Rather than recommending long-standing religious rituals, Jesus spoke of having a relationship with God. His teachings were radically different than those of popular religious leaders. His standards went beyond the law, and what He taught reminded people of their shortcomings. That was then. Why do people *today* find Jesus so offensive?

Jesus is exclusive. He never minced words about those accepted into God’s kingdom. He proclaimed Himself to be not one way, but *the* way to Heaven. If you trust Him, you cannot acknowledge any other way. Other religions are just that—religions. They are not other roads to Heaven.



Loving Jesus and talking about Him are not always socially acceptable.

It has always been hard to accept that good, moral people will miss Heaven, but that's exactly what Jesus taught. We want to believe that everyone who is sincere is saved, but Jesus taught that many good people are sincerely lost. If sincerity could save us, Jesus would not have had to die. Acts 4:12 says, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Jesus taught that truth is absolute. When standing before His accusers, Jesus said, "Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice" (John 18:37b). At His trial, Pilate asked Jesus, "What is truth?" At least he acknowledged that there was such a thing. Many people reject the very concept of absolute truth today—both the educated and ignorant. They ridicule Christians for clinging to such an outdated idea. They agree on your truth or my truth, but not on *the* truth that applies to everyone.

Truth is not always pleasant or convenient, but it is *always* absolute. Jesus didn't stand around arguing the case for truth. He simply said, "I am the Truth." No relativism, no situational ethics. He didn't try to convince people of truth. He simply exposed them to truth and expected them to recognize it.

Jesus doesn't fit the status quo. He didn't fit into the paradigm of organized religion but stood it upside down. His circle of friends included not only the religious, but renegades—fishermen, tax collectors, and zealots—all unwelcome in the inner courts of the temple. The common people were intimidated by the religious rhetoric of the Pharisees, but they were empowered by Jesus' radical statements about God. With a marked contrast in doctrine and lifestyle, He had the power to evoke chaos on the temple mount simply by showing up.

Jesus holds all life sacred. He also proclaimed Himself "the Life." Life is a sacred gift not to be taken lightly. Jesus recognized the value of every person He met and treated everyone with respect. His life demonstrated how He valued the common people He fed and healed. He honored His parents and even paid respect to those in authority.

Not all people are pro-life, but Jesus is. The Bible clearly teaches that life in the womb is just as valuable as any other human life. "If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine. And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life" (Exodus 21:22-23). Jesus cared so much about life that He was willing to give His to save ours. This is certainly not a popular message in American culture today.

Jesus expects us to follow Him. We all like the idea of following when the way is easy and without sacrifice. But following Him means more than just the perks and glowing in the glory. Jesus said, "I am the door to the sheepfold." Not everyone is looking for the way out of sin or the way into God's light. Some love the darkness too much to give it up.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." Not everyone hungers after righteousness. We are often more hungry for power, recognition, and wealth. We are too comfortable with our own way of living to make drastic changes.

We are too comfortable with our own way of living to make drastic changes.

The trouble with accepting Jesus is that we face some ugly things. We must admit failures and sins—our wretched condition without Him. We must acknowledge we are wicked, weak, worthless, and helpless to change on our own.

Following Jesus involves self-denial, sacrifice, blood, and death, topics the average person does not want to discuss.

"Leave the slaughterhouse religion for the uncouth, and give us the beautiful. We'd rather talk about good works, love, brotherhood, and angels." Yet we cannot deny that following Jesus requires applying His blood to our sinful hearts (Titus 3:4-7).

Accepting Jesus mandates change. When confronted by Jesus, change is a given. Change is sometimes unpleasant, and it doesn't come easily to most of us mortals. Sometimes, we are dragged into change kicking and screaming. The Bible teaches that we are completely changed when we meet Jesus. "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). By accepting Jesus as Lord, we willingly submit to change and to being changed.

Jesus tells it like it is. He said, "If you deny me, I will deny you before my father which is in Heaven." The choice is up to us. We can accept Him, or we can reject Him. With Jesus, there is no sitting on the fence, no middle ground, no compromise. We either accept Him, or we deny Him. We love Him or we hate Him. We're His friend or His enemy. We are with Him or we're against Him. It's up to us, but He demands that we choose.

And that's the trouble with Jesus!

ABOUT THE WRITER: Judith Puckett is a happily married, 60-something freelance writer with kids and grandkids. She loves writing, surfing the web, reading, photography, antiques, genealogy, and spending time with friends. Find her book *Living by Faith* on www.amazon.com.

THREE MEN NAMED BOAZ

BY JACOB RIGGS



BIBLICAL BOAZ

I'm sure you are familiar with the story of Boaz in Scripture. A woman named Ruth married into a family headed for disaster. Her husband, father-in-law, and brothers-in-law all died during a famine. Ruth came to a point where her mother-in-law Naomi urged her to leave, to marry someone else. Ruth refused. Her high character wouldn't let her leave her mother-in-law who, like her, had nothing.

They returned to the land Ruth's husband had owned but forfeited at his death. Ruth eked out an existence by gleaning scraps of grain left behind by harvesters from a wealthy man's field. One day she met the owner, a man named Boaz. He informed his hired hands not to touch Ruth but to protect her. Not all owners or workers were so kind with vulnerable single women trespassing on their property. But Boaz had heard about how Ruth had stayed with her mother-in-law, and he wanted to honor her.

Ruth and Naomi still had nothing. They were without a home, future, or livelihood. They had no land, and they couldn't own any because there were no men in their family—the custom of their day. There was only one chance to regain all they had lost. They needed someone to “redeem” them. This person had to meet four qualifications: (1) He had to be in the

same family, (2) he had to be wealthy enough to purchase the forfeited inheritance, (3) he had to be willing to buy it back, and (4) he had to marry Ruth since it was her husband's land.

Naomi took notice of how gracious Boaz was to Ruth. And it just so happened that Boaz was from the same family line. She “put a bug” in Ruth's ear, suggesting Ruth go to Boaz's house and—in the manner of their culture—propose marriage. Ruth needed someone to redeem her and her family. Boaz was her only hope.

Boaz took Ruth up on her offer. He paid the price to redeem Ruth and Naomi. He was the person God had prepared to buy back Ruth's land, marry her, and provide for their family.

A MODERN EXAMPLE

Another, more recent story is incredibly similar—the story of Pearl and James Stack. In this story, Pearl was a 46-year-old Tennessean. She had a husband and a son. Then her husband died and her son left home, leaving behind his daughter Cathy for her to raise. She had no job, no property, no car, little education, and a nine-year-old granddaughter turned daughter for whom she was responsible. She prayed, “Lord, I need your help. I have got to feed Cathy, and I don't

know what to do.” The Lord answered her clearly: “Write James.”

Pearl had known James growing up, but he enlisted in the army after high school and served several years in Iran as a train engineer. After his military service, he moved back to Clarksville, Tennessee, and bought a nearby farm. His mother had died in his infancy, he didn’t know his father, and had been raised by family friends. Like Pearl, he was alone.

Pearl’s letter was simple and to the point. “I’m alone. I have no money. I need help. And I have to take care of Cathy.” She sent the letter to the farm some 15 miles down the road and waited...I’m sure she prayed.

James got the letter and put it in his front pocket on his way down to the barn to finish some work. After he read it, he was so excited he ran out of the barn and through the field, tripping over farm equipment left and right. He had his eye on the young widow and was hoping something like this might happen. James had all the characteristics Pearl needed to redeem her. He was nearby, he had the land and money, and he was willing. He wanted to take Pearl as his wife.

James immediately went to get Pearl and Cathy. He brought them to his farmhouse where Pearl cooked them all dinner. They sat and talked at the kitchen table, and it didn’t take long for them to make the decision to get married. He chose to redeem Cathy. He gave them hope, life, security, and a future when they had none. And until the day he died, Pearl Stack (affectionately called Ma-maw) and Cathy called James Stack (Pa-paw) “our Boaz.”

A THIRD BOAZ

You might read this story and think like I did, “Wow, that is amazing. I want to live a life like Pa-paw with that kind of character and grace. That’s right and true.” His life is worth emulating, and we should do that.

But if you’re like me, you’re often not gracious or of high character. I often respond to people in need with indifference, even disgust. I am often the opposite of Boaz or Pa-paw Stack. I am more like Ruth and Ma-maw—lost, alone, hopeless, needing someone to redeem me.

The good news is there is One even greater than Pa-paw and even greater than Boaz. This third Boaz fulfilled all the characteristics Ruth and Ma-maw needed in a redeemer. He was the right person. God sent His Son into the world to become one of us so that we might be saved. And because Jesus is God, He had the wealth needed to pay the price of sin we owe the Father. While Pa-paw and Boaz sacrificed their livelihood to care for their needy ones, the True Boaz gave His life to redeem us. He gave of Himself willingly, not forcefully. He took the forgotten people we are and made us His bride.

As great as Boaz and Pa-paw were, they are both gone. Boaz has been dead for centuries. James Pa-paw Stack, “our Boaz,” died March 25, 2012. The True Boaz, our Redeemer, also died. But he rose again, defeating death. And one day, death will be no more and all who have come to Christ will live forever when the True Boaz, our Lord, returns. **ONE**



Pearl and James Stack

ABOUT THE WRITER: In addition to his amazing biological family, Jacob Riggs was also blessed to have James and Pearl Stack as his adopted grandparents—faithful followers of the True Boaz.

+ Intersect >>>>.....

The Long Line Marked “Teachers

Walt Kaiser said once that when you come to Christ’s judgment seat, and there are two lines—one shorter and the other very long—get in the shorter line because the other one is the line for teachers. It will take a while to get through that one!

No wonder James (3:1) cautions us not to jump at the chance to be a teacher. The role carries great responsibility and demands high expectations. It’s a risky role, yet the rewards are through the roof. What is a teacher like, really? Or better, who is a teacher?

- **A teacher is a clue-tracker.** I mean as in a detective story—investigating clues. Teachers track down leads until they figure out the mystery or solve the puzzle. Real teachers have an insatiable thirst to know. They will turn over every rock to see what’s under it. A teacher never stops learning.

Teachers are like perpetual five-year-olds ceaselessly asking, “Why?” And they will investigate until they find an answer if one is possible. Teachers spend their lives researching life.

- **A teacher is a storyteller.** Tell me a story, and you’ve got me hooked. We love stories because they are constructed from the DNA of real life. It’s not just that everyone has a story; everyone is a story. Life is a story. The Bible itself is an amazing narrative that unfolds with a “very good” beginning, a “bad news/good news” middle, and the most fantastic ending imaginable. It really is “the greatest story ever told.” A teacher looks for stories because they are everywhere. He can connect the dots by explaining why “this is like that,” as Jesus did in His parables.

- **A teacher is a lift-spotter.** Here’s what I mean. In weightlifting, a coach or trainer is often responsible to stand close by so the lifter doesn’t drop the bar and injure himself. The same is true in gymnastics when the spotter stands under the gymnast to prevent him or her from falling.

Students aren’t perfect. While the teacher wants them to spread their wings and take off, he also knows that bumps and bruises happen. So he stands near his student, ready to break a fall or grab a falling weight. One day he’ll turn the student loose—but not yet.

- **A teacher is a hurt-healer.** Sometimes a student needs a challenge, sometimes a rebuke. But he always needs to know his teacher cares. Teacher, he needs to know that you are vulnerable, too; your transparency needs to be clear to him (pun intended).

Pray. Spend time. Empathize. Listen, and look your student in the eye while you listen. Though there will and should be distance between you and your student, he will not invite you into his life unless you are a friend.



- **A teacher is a risk-taker.**

True, you must be yourself. A teacher with a Christian worldview must not abandon that commitment. But you miss opportunities if you don’t venture out and consider the grid through which your students interpret your teaching. To some extent, you need to live in their world and see through their eyes.

Never rule out the possibilities of what may come through the process of learning. Go to bat with your student even though you may not be sure what pitch is coming next!

- **A teacher is a passion-igniter.**

Author David McCullough pinpointed the key to effective teaching: “Let your students see what you love.” Burn with passion, and they will feel the heat. That doesn’t necessarily mean that your passion will become theirs. But there’s a good chance they will catch fire with their passion when they sense the heat of yours. A love for learning is contagious.

..... ● **A teacher is a witness.** When we teach, it is not so much what we are doing but what our students are seeing in and through us. Annie Dillard reminds us:

We are here to witness . . . We can stage our own act on the planet—build our own cities on its plains, dam its rivers, plant its topsoils—but our meaningful activity scarcely covers the terrain. We do not use songbirds, for instance. We do not eat many of them; we cannot befriend them; we cannot persuade them to eat more mosquitoes or plant fewer weed seeds. We can only witness them (*Teaching a Stone to Talk*).

So we help our students by bearing witness to what is all around us.

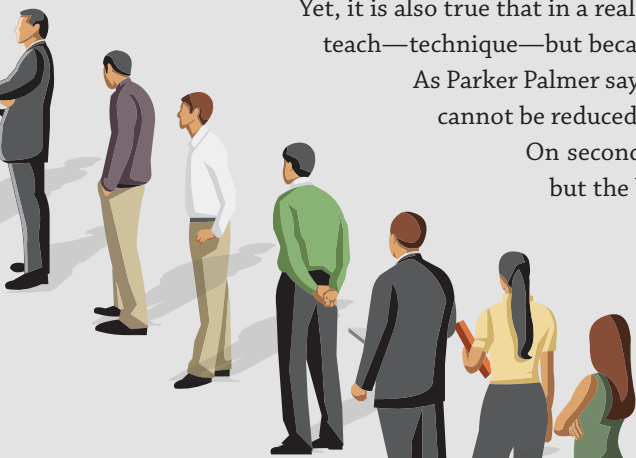
Yet, it is also true that in a real sense we teach ourselves to our students. We are effective not because of what we teach—technique—but because of who we are—character.

As Parker Palmer says, “Technique is what teachers use until the real teacher arrives . . . Good teaching cannot be reduced to technique; good teaching comes from the identity and integrity of the teacher.”

On second thought, you may want to stand in that line after all. The wait may take awhile, but the benefits are fabulous. **ONE**

[An abridged version of a presentation to the Welch College faculty on August 24, 2012]

Intersect:



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DISCIPLESHIP: *Mongolian* S • T • Y • L • E BY KELLY BASTOW-COX



A young woman thinks through her schedule. A full-time student at two different schools, she manages to cram a practicum into a schedule already overloaded with homework and tests. She spends every spare minute with her church congregation, to which she is equally committed. She finds little time for herself, let alone time to learn more about her faith. She sighs, disappointed by the time she wasted merely thinking.



A young man walks into a sanctuary on a Sunday morning, bright-eyed with interest and nearly pale with hunger for something he can't describe. The words of Truth rolling from the speaker's mouth strike his heart in a deeply appealing and unsettling way. But one glance around the room assures him he will never return. The room is full of women with hardly a single man other than himself—making his discomfort stronger than any pull he might feel.



A mother with a young family answers a knock at her door. She opens it and feels obligated to welcome two strangers. They ask her questions about the Book she studies on Sundays. They assure her they will teach her the real meaning of that Book and give her one of their own. They notice her children nearby and hint at a possibility of scholarships for them in the future. The mother's inability to answer questions about her own faith and her desire for the wealth they possess cause her to abandon her previous loyalties.



These stories may have a haunting sense of familiarity about them, as though they were taking place just down the street. Perhaps you know someone like the people in them. These people, however, don't speak your language; they don't share your traditions or your food. They are Mongolians, living in the capital of their country—a city named Ulaanbaatar.

Joshua and Jennifer Detherage have made that city their home for the past three years, teaching English with English Language Institute/China (ELIC). They are teaching and living among people very different from themselves, experiencing first hand the challenges and blessings of cross-cultural living. They arrived in Mongolia with fistfuls of expectations; now they serve with empty hands.

"We came and saw the situation, saw the need for further training in the faith, and we saw it with American eyes...but Mongolia is a country with only about 25 years of faithful witness. There is so much we don't understand."

Why not just meet with people and start teaching from the Word? Why not start a small group that meets for that purpose weekly? Why not ask older men to teach the young men and older women to teach the younger ones? Isn't it obvious how to build believers in truth?

Expectations are quickly shattered at the feet of Mongolian cultural norms. A history of societal submission to Buddhism, animism, and social vices sets up unforeseen barriers in a land of spiritual darkness. Training in the faith and reinforcement of the truth look different in this land. The Detherages are among several ELIC families on the front lines of the struggle raging for Mongolian souls.

"Our most successful attempts at spiritual training are among the national students and teachers we see every day. We live with them, eat lunches with them, see them in the halls and in the offices," says Joshua as he describes a typical day. Confident that such openness leads to mutual encouragement, opportunities for thoughtful questions, and honest exchange of ideas, he and Jennifer remain hopeful and alert to further influential development in their relationships. Despite the lack of curriculum, set times for meeting, or orderly approach, they trust the Father to weave effective training out of every opportunity, using all the gifts He's given them and filling in Himself where they lack.

This type of training doesn't require the young woman to add another thing to her schedule; but, instead, meets her in the midst of it, in her classroom hallway. Spiritual reinforcement isn't found only in the building where the young man felt uncomfortable, but in the home of his friend or teacher. The mother's foundation in her faith could be strengthened by a shared meal with her neighbor while her children are at school, rather than another event that takes her away from her family.

And maybe, just maybe, the Creator is honored by the opportunity to create depth, relationship, and shared knowledge through those willing to leave their land and live in a different one entirely.

Perhaps, you also have a role to play in Mongolia, building in a way that looks nothing like anything you could have imagined, but exactly like what the Father had in mind. **ONE**



For more information about English Language Institute/China, visit www.elic.org.

That's a GOOD BOY

BY NEIL GILLILAND



I was packing the last few things in my suitcase for the 2003 National Association of Free Will Baptists in Tampa, Florida, when the phone rang. A dear family friend told me my 93-year-old dad had fallen and broken his hip. Things were not looking good. My family encouraged me to go on to the convention, promising to call if anything changed.

Each day, I called to check on my hero. On Thursday morning, as I packed to leave Tampa, my family called and said to come to Ohio immediately. Dad had taken a serious turn for the worse. His death seemed imminent.

I caught the quickest flight available. A kind friend picked me up at the airport and drove to the hospital. Dad was still alive, calling my name when I walked into the room. I was so tired. I needed rest and sleep, but I asked the family if I could spend the night with Dad. They were tired, too, and had been caring for him all week. I thought, “I can be with Dad and still get some much needed sleep.”

I was awake all night. It seemed he needed something every five minutes. He would whisper for me to move him, sometimes just a half-inch would do, rub his back and feet, scratch his head, or give him another shave. He had always had an aversion to whiskers.

He asked me to soak a little sponge attached to the end of a stick in some cold water so he could suck on it. It was the only way he could get a drink. I rubbed the sponge around his dry lips. Though my eyes were heavy, I wanted to do everything I could for my dad. He had done so many things for me. In that hospital bed, my hero looked extremely weak and vulnerable.

At one point in the wee hours of the morning, as I rubbed his back, Dad said the most powerful words he ever spoke to me. My hands, chilled by the air conditioning vent on the other side of the room, were cool against his hot back. In that moment he whispered, “Oh, that’s a good boy; that’s a real good boy.”

I don’t suppose those words will go down in the annals of great hero speeches, but as his son, I wouldn’t trade them for anything. You see, he identified two simple things: I was his son, and I had done something well. I didn’t have to hit a homerun, score a touchdown, or make the winning basket. I didn’t have to have a high-paying job, prestige, or popularity. I just had to rub his back in the middle of the night.

I have to be honest: I would miss a hundred nights’ sleep to hear those words. I would have walked from Florida to have those words echo in

my mind. Not one day has passed that I have not thought about them.

Dad died a day later. As I stood in front of his casket with my wife, I whispered, "All I ever wanted was for him to be proud of me." At that moment, I realized death emphasizes what little time we have to attend to things that really matter.

We spend much of our lives trying to accomplish something meaningful, to hear someone say we have done well. We all want affirmation. We all want to believe our lives matter, that we have done something significant.

We need to live. I don't mean to be alive but to really live. I need to affirm my wife, my daughter, my friends, and anyone whose life intersects with mine.

I need to be kinder and gentler. I need to be more pleasant and less surly. I wonder how many times each day I fail to say "good job" to people who do little things for me. Yet, I am always ready to point out when they don't live up to my expectations.

DEATH EMPHASIZES WHAT LITTLE TIME WE HAVE TO ATTEND TO THINGS THAT REALLY MATTER.

When we wake each morning, perhaps we should ask ourselves, "Who needs a cool hand on a hot back in the middle of the night?" My guess is far more people need a cool hand than a sharp tongue.

One of the things of which I am most

proud is that I work for International Missions, an organization with people across the globe armed with Truth, cool hands, and a wet sponge.

All of us who are true followers of the Lamb have spent our lives to hear our eternal Father say, "Well done." You

know, I think maybe—just maybe—He will say to me, "That's a good boy... that's a real good boy." **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Neil Gilliland is director of member care for Free Will Baptist International Missions: www.fwbgo.com.

GLOBAL Training Resources

Free Will Baptist agencies receive frequent requests from around the world for teachers and training materials from an Arminian perspective. This need, along with a shared passion for biblical discipleship and leadership development, led to the formation of **Global Training Resources**. The current team includes Jeff Turnbough, team leader and director of field operations; Kenneth Eagleton, Brazil; Steve Lytle, Panama; Dale Bishop, Japan; and Clint Morgan, general director, Free Will Baptist International Missions.

"We exist to facilitate the pooling and distribution of Arminian training materials for Christian leaders, churches, and organizations around the world," Turnbough explained. Director Morgan added, "Our goal is not to control, dictate, or duplicate what any group already provides, but to fill voids and provide supplementary resources."

Because working together will facilitate distribution of the training materials, the group wants to include other qualified leaders on the team. "Our goal is to stimulate the sharing of ideas, materials, and other resources for the express purpose of discipleship, training, and leadership development," Jeff said, "giving priority to materials that can be used as they are or easily adapted for various cultures. We do not want to reinvent the wheel, nor do we believe it is good stewardship for many workers to invest time doing the exact same things. Sharing facilitates the distribution and production of better materials."

Visit www.globaltrainingresources.net for more information and to offer suggestions, help, and resources.



News Around the World



Mott Chosen for Student Missions Role

ANTIOCH, TN—Mark McPeak, director of advancement for International Missions, introduced Hanna (McCuin) Mott as the student missions coordinator on Monday, October 1, 2012. “We are excited about Hanna’s addition to our team at IM,” McPeak said. “She has a passion for impacting young people and engaging them in missions.” Her role incorporates recruiting and processing applicants for high school and college cross-cultural ministry trips, working with overseas missionaries and workers to ensure a successful ministry experience, and recruiting mentors and leaders for teams.

Hanna comes to the Mission from LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, Tennessee. A 2012 magna cum laude graduate of Welch College, Hanna has a B.S. in Psychology.

“I am so excited to start this journey as part of the IM family,” Hanna declared. “Serving Jesus in such a capacity while rubbing shoulders with missionaries who have dedicated their lives to pouring out the compassion of Jesus all over the world is a true blessing and honor. The opportunity to nurture students’ passion for serving Christ and others is a great privilege.”

Read the full release at www.fwbgo.com/news ■



Jaboticabal Church Celebrates 50 Years

JABOTICABAL, SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL—The Jaboticabal Free Will Baptist Church celebrated its 50th anniversary October 19-21, with events commemorating the church’s past and community outreach efforts.

Approximately 70 church members participated in three performances of an evangelistic, musical dramatic presentation, “Circle of Forgiveness.” A 700-seat, rented municipal theater was filled to capacity on Saturday evening. Following the production, Pastor Jeancarilo Ache (pictured, left) briefly spoke on forgiveness and invited those needing forgiveness to stand for prayer. About 50 people responded.

The church was begun by missionaries Sam and June Wilkinson and organized in 1962. It was the second Free Will Baptist church organized in Brazil. Read more information and view photos at www.fwbgo.com/missionaries/eagleton. ■



"Tarde Deportiva" Highlights Spiritual Need

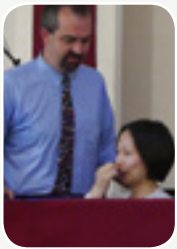
CHAME, PANAMA—Saturday, October 13, 2012, students and administrators of the Chame Seminary in Panama hosted a “Tarde Deportiva” (afternoon of sports and recreation) for the community. About 70 people attended.

Missionary Steve Lytle said, “I do believe it went better for not having an impossibly large group we couldn’t manage. As it was, with our students helping, the young people were divided according to age, and were able to have age-appropriate activities, refreshments, and a devotional time.”

The majority of the kids were from non-churched families. One lady and her young son went to church the following Sunday. “I think our students were touched by the great need in this town and community, as a party was going on three straight nights to around 5:00 a.m. with continuous drinking and loud music” Steve stated. “There is great spiritual darkness here, and we’d ask everyone to continue to lift Chame up in prayer.” ■



Brazil: A meeting of Brazilian pastors September 28-29, resulted in Brazilian leadership determining to develop a structure for regular, cooperative efforts. They elected three people to work throughout the next year to develop a plan for organization. The women present also met to work on a plan for encouraging pastors' wives and planning an annual women's retreat. ■



France: About 75 Chinese businessmen and students attended a banquet at the Nantes FWB Church on Saturday, October 6. They heard two testimonies and a brief message in Chinese. Around 25 students returned the following day to hear Shuang's testimony and witness her baptism. Shuang attended Bible studies for almost three years before committing to Christ. Several students who attended these weekend events have continued to attend church. ■



Spain: The Villalba Church has finally received the last of their approvals and their occupancy permit! They will now be able to put up a church sign. ■



Bulgaria: The New Life FWB Church in Svishtov hosted an annual back-to-school party with the start of the new school year mid-September. The party served as an introduction to the church for local shopkeepers and youth. Several people with whom they interact on a business level entered the church for the first time. ■



Spain: The Johnsons and Edgmons hosted a back-to-school party at the Alpedrete Outreach Center Saturday, September 22. Thirty-six children and 29 parents and siblings filled the space. ■



The Hanna Project: Participants in Save-A-Life VII were in Côte d'Ivoire August 31-September 9. Workers completed the roof of an Ivorian-built Christian elementary school on Friday, September 7, while the medical team visited 10 villages and treated over 1,000 people. Twenty-two people accepted Christ. ■



Japan: Fifty-three people attended a charity concert at the Good News Chapel in Tokyo on September 1. Several unsaved people from the neighborhood were among the attendees. ■



Panama: The Penonomé mission work celebrated the baptism of two believers on Sunday, September 9. The Santiago mission work celebrated the baptism of four believers, Sunday, September 2. ■

World Missions Offering Tops \$1 Million!

ANTIOCH, TN—"Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory..." (Ephesians 3:20-21a). International Missions has experienced the reality of this promise.

In December 2011, the International Missions Board made the decision to keep missionaries stateside due to financial shortfalls. For missionaries to return to their fields of ministry required a significant increase in monthly giving as well as a record-breaking World Missions Offering (WMO). A goal was set to enlist 650 churches to participate in the WMO, based on previous years' average of approximately \$1,000 per church. "A \$650,000 offering was what we were thinking, but God had exceeding abundantly more in mind for us," explained Mark McPeak, director of advancement for the Mission.

On Monday, October 15, while at the Oklahoma state meeting, General Director Clint Morgan received a report that the WMO total had reached \$999,131.00. When Brad Ransom, missions director for Oklahoma, was informed of this he committed to challenge the Oklahoma Mission Board to close the gap and reach this historic total. The Oklahoma Mission Board committed to \$1,000. Another \$1,000 came from a local church. God has done exceeding abundantly above all we asked or thought, and the 2012 World Missions Offering has topped \$1 million!

"We give the Lord all the glory, honor, and praise," Morgan stressed, "and want to express our heart-felt gratitude to all our Free Will Baptist people who were obedient to give faithfully and sacrificially!"

A full news release can be found at www.fwbgo.com/news ■

The exciting 70-year path from FWBBC to Welch College.

NEW NAME, SAME COLLEGE

BY GARY FRY

THE HISTORIC MEETING BEGAN TUESDAY EVENING with singing and prayer. It was November 5, 1935. Delegates and visitors had gathered from 13 states, along with representatives from the Methodists and General Baptists. They had come to see if the two Free Will Baptist groups could unite into one body. After the first service ended, out-of-town attendees were assigned to homes of those willing to provide lodging during the meeting.

Two days later when the business session convened on Thursday morning, it was obvious that unification would be successful. The National Association of Free Will Baptists was organized. Plans were laid for work with Sunday School, women's ministries, League, missions, and more.

• • • HOW IT STARTED • • •

One of the reports given that Thursday at Cofer's Chapel in Nashville came from the Education Committee. The group agreed there must be some type of educational work in the new Free Will Baptist denomination. The committee recommended that a school be launched in Nashville in September 1935. The work was to include a "Bible course and...other courses as the Lord prospers us."

Yet the educational dream of this new Free Will Baptist denomination did not become a reality until September 1942. From that first student body of eight to the more than 300 students currently enrolled at Welch College (formerly Free Will

Baptist Bible College), the dream of our founders is being realized. They wanted a school that would educate young people to serve the Lord in their world. The first school catalog set forth the standard of "the highest quality of scholastic attainment."

The first FWBBC emblem declared: "Send out thy light and thy truth." While many mottos and goals have been stated through the years, we have never wavered from the first two—high scholastic attainment and the task Jesus set forth in the Great Commission. We are still sending out the truth and light of Jesus Christ.

• • • WHEN IT CHANGED • • •

July 2012 marks another milestone. During the 2012 national convention in Memphis, Tennessee, delegates voted overwhelmingly to change the name of Free Will Baptist Bible College to Welch College. While the name has changed, our pur-

pose and goals have not. Our standards and convictions remain the same. We are still anchored to the principles that brought the college into existence 70 years ago.



• • • THE SEVEN 'SAMIES' • • •

We have the same dedicated professors. It's a great comfort to know that when you send your sons and daughters to Welch College, you don't have to worry about what they are taught. Our professors are outstanding Free Will Baptists scholars. They have practical experience in their respective fields. Their goal is not to subvert student beliefs but to instill solid biblical understanding.

We have the same high-quality students. They choose to attend Welch College because they desire the best preparation for service to Christ. They realize that education is vital to their future, and they are serious about their studies. Our students achieve higher than the national average in every area of study.

Our goal is to instill a solid, biblical worldview in every student to prepare them for whatever situation may arise. Being able to defend their faith and make it the basis for their lives is key to surviving in an increasingly hostile world. Welch College emphasizes right thinking based on the infallible Word of God.

Along with a biblical worldview comes a life lived by the moral principles of the Bible. In stark contrast to the world, our students are equipped to follow the principles of the Word in their daily walk.

We have the same commitment to the truth. Truth has one source. The Word of God is our only guide to that eternal truth. Our students are instilled with a love for and a hunger to grasp its meaning. They desire to know how God's will can be applied to their daily lives. In a world where it is in vogue to critically examine God's Word in an effort to make it fit our lives, we stand by the principle that our lives ought to fit the Word of God.

We have the same high standing in the Nashville community. Our students are in demand in the work places of the city. They have long been recognized as dependable and competent workers. Everywhere you go, people know about the college. Some recognize it as "the beautiful old campus on West End Avenue." Others have attended our seasonal programs or are part of our online community. Still others are familiar with our community involvement.

We have the same high dedication to quality. We want to make sure that Welch College graduates represent Free Will Baptists and the Lord with excellence. There should be no doubt that our graduates are followers of Jesus Christ and dedicated to living for Him.

We have the same high accreditation. Welch College continues to be accredited by the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). These two agencies represent the best in accreditation, both nationally and regionally. This insures that the education received at Welch College is a solid foundation for graduate work anywhere in the world. Students find that credits from Welch College transfer to other institutions with ease.

Welch College has been recognized the past four years as an outstanding college in the South by *U.S. News & World Report*. Much of the competition for this honor arises from larger public and private institutions that are better endowed financially than Welch College.

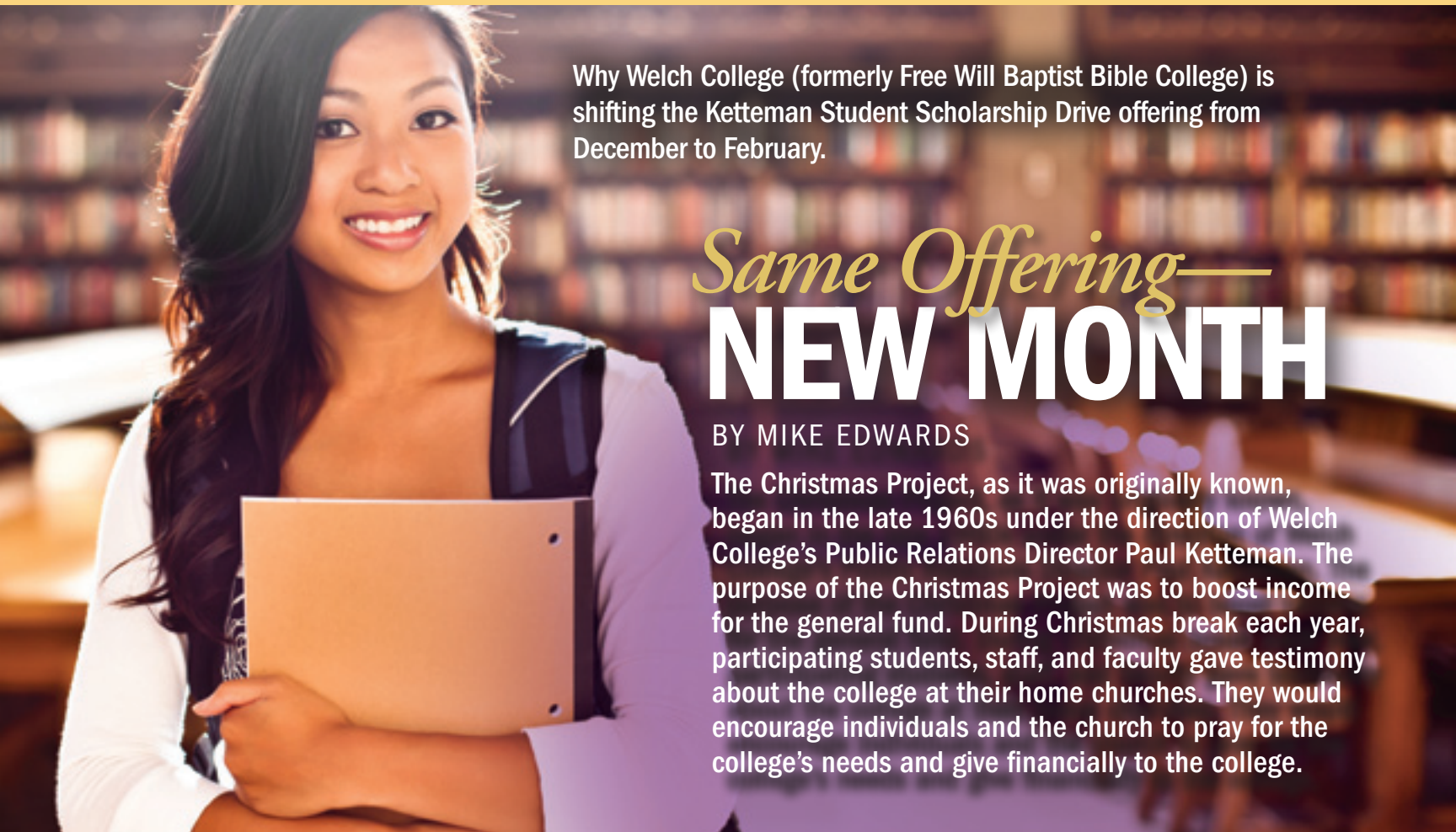
We are still owned and operated by the National Association of Free Will Baptists. We are your college. We answer to the Board of Trustees you elect at National Association meetings. It is our mandate to serve Free Will Baptists. We seek to train our young people to serve the Lord in whatever life they have chosen.

• • • BUILDING FOR TOMORROW • • •

Would we look different to those delegates who met on that cool fall morning in Nashville 78 years ago? Certainly. Have the goals they set as guiding principles for the college changed? Absolutely not. Will they change? Not if we and you can help it. Our dedication is to serve the Lord and Free Will Baptists through quality, biblically-based, higher education.

Yes, we have a new name, but we are the same college. Come visit us, and see for yourself! **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Gary Fry is vice president for church relations at Welch College.



Why Welch College (formerly Free Will Baptist Bible College) is shifting the Ketteman Student Scholarship Drive offering from December to February.

Same Offering— **NEW MONTH**

BY MIKE EDWARDS

The Christmas Project, as it was originally known, began in the late 1960s under the direction of Welch College's Public Relations Director Paul Ketteman. The purpose of the Christmas Project was to boost income for the general fund. During Christmas break each year, participating students, staff, and faculty gave testimony about the college at their home churches. They would encourage individuals and the church to pray for the college's needs and give financially to the college.

It was during this era that the checkbook method of giving was highlighted. Anyone (student, faculty, staff member) who brought back a signed checkbook was rewarded with a steak dinner. During Mr. Ketteman's 25-year tenure as public relations director, the Christmas Project became an annual event and a major fundraiser for the college.

••• **PROJECT TRANSITIONS** •••

After Ketteman's death in 1987, the college administration named the annual Christmas Project offering the Paul Ketteman Memorial Christmas Fund Drive. In 1992, the National Association of Free Will Baptists adopted The Together Way stewardship plan that recognizes specific months for national agencies to make major appeals. Following the Ketteman tradition, The Together Way plan officially designated December as Welch College's month.

In recent years, the college has referred to the December offering as the Ketteman Student Scholarship Drive. The rationale was to focus on the purpose of the offering, to reduce tuition costs, and to emphasize Brother Ketteman's love for students. In other words, any Ketteman Student Scholarship Drive raises funds to underwrite institutional scholarships.

Gifts to the scholarship drive are vital. Last year, denominational giving provided every student with a \$173 per semester hour scholarship. We thank you!

••• **FIVE CHANGE REASONS** •••

During the 2012 national convention in Memphis, delegates approved changing the college's emphasis month from December to February. Why, after more than four decades, would such a change be necessary? Here are five reasons for a new emphasis month.

The Home Missions Benjamin Randall Offering occurs in November. It has become increasingly difficult for churches to participate in two major offerings in successive months. Shifting the college emphasis month to February will spread out the appeals to our churches.

We traditionally refrain from distributing promotional materials about the Kettelman Student Scholarship Drive until after the Benjamin Randall Offering, which means the time we have to promote the offering is quite limited.

Churches now sponsor more activities in December than they did a few years ago. This makes it difficult for pastors to adequately promote the college offering.

Other agencies have expressed a desire to make end-of-the-year appeals in December, but have been hampered because it is our emphasis month. This change will give them more flexibility as their fiscal year ends.

For the past four years, we have conducted a call-a-thon in February to raise funds for the college. We have had good success with this project and feel that moving our emphasis month to February will enhance fundraising efforts.

Choosing February as Welch College's emphasis month will permit other national agencies opportunity for year-end appeals (the college is on a June-May fiscal year). It provides more promotional time and lightens the load of back-to-back appeals on our churches. This new emphasis month will align

other fundraising efforts for the college as well.

Of course, this does not mean that churches cannot receive a Welch College Christmas offering. What it does mean is that the college will now use the month of February for major fundraising appeals to our denomination.

• • • WHAT KSSD DOES • • •

The Kettelman Student Scholarship Drive provides funds for institutional scholarships. Welch College awarded students over \$1 million in institutional scholarships during the 2011-2012 school year. These scholarships include: Legacy Award (for children of Free Will Baptist pastors), NYC Competition Winners' Scholarship, Merit Scholarships, Lifetime Learning/Online Scholarships, Transfer Scholarships, and other institutional scholarships.

Every local church and each individual's participation make a difference. You can help students fund their future by supporting the Kettelman Student Scholarship Drive. Make plans now to participate in the scholarship drive. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Mike Edwards serves as director of the Kettelman Student Scholarship Drive at Welch College.

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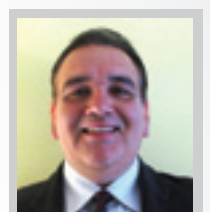
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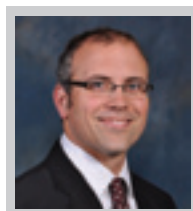
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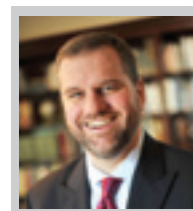
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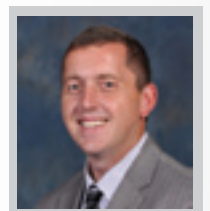
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AVERAGE

JOE

BY CHAD KIVETTE

EVANGELISM

Perhaps you have watched the popular television program “Pros Versus Joes.” The show matches professional athletes against “Average Joes,” making recliner athletes think they too could play with the big boys. To their credit, sometimes the Average Joes nearly beat the pros. What makes Average Joes suddenly look like professionals? How do they play so well? The answer to these questions is simple. The Average Joes train long and hard, and in the process, they suddenly find themselves no longer average.

The Average Joe on the show may not be a professional athlete, but he is definitely not a couch potato kicked back in his recliner. He may not be seven feet tall, have a 36-inch vertical leap, or take bites out of the rim of the basketball goal on his way down, but he does his best with what he has.

MEET JOE CHRISTIAN

The same should be true of “Average Joe Christian.” You know him as the guy next door—just like you and me—who struggles daily with how to share his faith. Let’s face it. Christians are born to do something much greater than be a 350-pound lineman for the Green Bay Packers. We are born the second time to win people to Jesus. Jesus’ Great Commission makes it crystal clear that all Christians should be witnesses. But when it comes to sharing their faith, many (if not most) Christians still feel like Average Joes.

It’s not for lack of training. They know the *Romans Road to Salvation* and can quote it backwards and forwards. They have attended outreach seminars and have certificates hanging on their walls to prove it. They go visiting with the

pastor every time he calls. They have mastered the ABCs of soul winning, F.A.I.T.H., Evangelism Explosion, Personal Evangelism 101, and every other training program designed to help Christians share the gospel, but they are still Average Joes. Why?

FROM JOE TO PRO

While training is important, it is not enough. Sometimes the most effective soul winner is the one who hasn't had all the training. Remember Peter and John in the Book of Acts? When they preached before the Sanhedrin, the religious pros were astonished at their boldness because they were uneducated and ordinary men.

Have you ever noticed that God often uses Average Joes to do his work? Don't misunderstand; He also uses the highly educated and wealthy as well. (Think Paul and Abraham.) But Peter and John were Average Joes who understood what made them different. The Holy Spirit was with them, and they were obedient to His leading.

The Average Joe needs to let the Holy Spirit lead him. On many occasions, a friend has said, "Go ahead and do your thing," encouraging me to share Christ with someone. I have shared my faith everywhere from WalMart to What-A-Burger. But sharing my faith is not just something I do. It starts by asking God to open my eyes to people I encounter throughout the day who need someone (that's me) to speak with them about salvation. In this busy life, it is far too easy to forget to let the Holy Spirit lead the way.

The Average Joe needs to let others see him following Jesus. Maybe you recall the words Jesus spoke to Peter while they were walking together at the Sea of Galilee. Jesus told Peter to follow Him, that He would make him a "fisher of men." The best way to start evangelizing the world is simply to follow Jesus faithfully. It is impossible to be led

by the Spirit of God without following the Son of God.

Do you remember what it was like when you played "Follow the Leader" as a child? You did exactly what the person in front of you did—exactly. Christians should implement what they have seen Jesus complete. We must follow His example, interacting with and meeting the needs of a lost world. As we follow Him, they will follow us to Him.

John Wesley often referred to the world as his "parish." What an impact the Average Joe could have with this philosophy. My wife recently told me I couldn't win the world, that I should slow down and not try to help everyone in

every place. She was right. I had been in seven states and three countries in a few short months. But the world is mine to win. God gave His only Son because He loved the world, and the longer we follow Him, the more we will want others to know His love.

The Average Joe must learn he is vital to the work of God. Too many Christians don't understand their importance to the work of God's Kingdom. The Great Commis-

sion is still great. It still says go. It still says preach (literally, *proclaim* the gospel). It doesn't take a preacher to tell people about Jesus. God can use any Average Joe who is fully surrendered to Him. The sad fact is that many Average Joes enjoy sitting on the sidelines when it is time to get in the game.

Not every Joe sees the same results, but Scripture tells us God is the One who gives the increase. It is simply our job to deliver the message of what God has done for us. Sure, you may get rejected, but don't take it personally. You are just the messenger. Sharing your faith is not easy, but it is worth all the effort.

Learn to love the "game." Love people. While this is not always easy, as an Average Joe, you must be willing to give up a little in order for others to gain eternity. What are you willing to do for the gospel's sake? You are vital to the Kingdom. **ONE**



What would Free Will Baptist Bible College's first student think about the college's new name, new location, national accreditation, and broader curriculum?

What Would DAD THINK?

BY GREG KETTEMAN



I've tried to imagine what it was like for my dad (Paul J. Ketteman) in 1942 when he came from Illinois to Free Will Baptist Bible College (now Welch College) as an 18-year-old freshman. The first in his family to attend college, he left rural farm life for the big city of Nashville during World War II when many young men his age left home—not for college but for military service. But Dad was convinced of God's special call on his life, the call to the Christian ministry of the gospel. After two years at the college (all that was offered at the time), Dad finished his degree at Columbia Bible College, pastoring a church while he completed his studies.

Pastor and Leader

Dad was an enthusiastic, effective pastor who went into his community to carry the gospel to the unsaved. What happened on Sunday was a product of sharing his Lord and life with people Monday through Saturday. Dad pastored 17 years in three states, then spent the next 25 years as public relations director for Welch College.

I've never completely understood Dad's motor. It was always running! He never seemed to tire of whatever his hand found to do. The trait that stands out most in my mind is how he never tired of being a friend to others. He'd go out of his way to maintain a friendship because friendships meant so much to him. As time has passed since his death (1987), many people have said to me, "Your dad was my best friend." Truth is, he was my best friend, too.

I often think of Dad and wish I could get his take on a number of things. His opinions and advice came from the purest motivations I ever knew. I trusted him to speak the truth in love. I always knew that underneath Dad's optimism, humor, and gregariousness was a deep love and respect for the Lord and His Word, and a passionate desire to live out the gospel.

The best I can do now is speculate what he would think about Welch College today. But regardless of the details, I believe he'd be cheering on the college God used so greatly in his life and in which Dad invested his life.

Name Change

I've wondered what Dad would think about the college's name change. He loved FWBBC, and this love was second only to his love for his Lord, his wife, and his family. I believe Dad would have some concerns about the name change, combined with a little sadness.

However, I believe he'd want what's best for the college he loved and, if the name change resulted in more Free Will Baptist students coming to the college and an expanded influence, he'd be all for it. I believe Dad's love for the college's ministry would lead him to embrace the name change, in spite of his long history and emotional ties.

New Campus

I know Dad would be in favor of the new campus. Over the years as a pastor, board member, and public relations director, he worked tirelessly to raise friends and funds for the college. Many of the miles Dad traveled were in his



DAD WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE COLLEGE SHOULD EMBRACE THESE MEASURES OF EXCELLENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION BECAUSE

“THERE’S JUST ONE WAY TO DO BUSINESS—THE RIGHT WAY.”

own vehicle and he spent many nights in the homes of generous Free Will Baptist people. He understood the value of every dime for the college and worked hard to do his job with excellence without being an extravagant spender.

One reason for this was his belief that the money raised was God’s money. He understood the sacrifice made by God’s people. My point is that Dad knew the difference between wise and unwise spending. Seeing the high cost of maintaining our aging campus, I’m confident Dad would conclude we were throwing away our money, that it’s time to relocate.

Expanded Curriculum

I know from personal experience that Dad would support the expanded curriculum the college has pursued. I was among the college’s first teacher education graduates, and he proudly announced to everyone that I had received a teacher education degree along with my Bible major, and that I had already landed a teaching job.

In fact, the first time I heard about the concept of the “Bible college umbrella” was when Dad explained it to me. He was committed to this important, broader role of our denomina-

tional Bible college. He understood the importance of educating Christian pastors and missionaries as well as Christian teachers and business leaders (For many years, Mom taught in the college’s Business Department).

Advanced Technology

Interestingly, I believe Dad would be among those who employ today’s advanced technology to advance the college mission. There were no cell phones and the personal computer was just a novel idea when he worked at the college. Still, I remember Dad embracing existing technologies like bank draft processing, mini-recorders (so he could dictate letters while driving), and long-distance phone deals that saved the college money.

Dad was among the early users of statistical data to track giving, and I expect he’d quickly embrace any tool that would improve the process. I’m not sure Dad would be a Facebook fanatic, because he felt face-to-face, in-person, eye-to-eye relationships were vital. However, I can’t imagine that a people-person like Dad could resist the opportunities to network afforded by today’s social media.

College Accreditation

Dad always told me, “There’s just one way to do business—the right way.” This reminder most often followed our handshake when I’d borrowed a few dollars from him. Although he was as generous as the day is long, he’d expect me to pay it back in full because of the principle of the thing, family ties notwithstanding. He understood best business practices and wholeheartedly supported them.

I believe this illustrates the reason Dad would embrace the college’s regional accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and national accreditation with the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). Dad would understand that the college should embrace these measures of excellence in higher education because “There’s just one way to do business—the right way.”

Thanks, Dad!

Thanks, Dad, for your still-shining example of encouragement, enthusiasm, and your tireless efforts on behalf of our alma mater! We’ll take it from here. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: Greg Kettelman serves as provost at Welch College.

News at WELCH COLLEGE

Fall Full-Time-Equivalent Enrollment Increases 5%

For the first time since 2007, fall enrollment numbers at Welch College rose two consecutive years, according to Provost Greg Ketteman. College administrators reported a five percent rise in student full-time-equivalency (FTE) to 235. Total enrollment statistics indicate 315 students from 22 states and five international countries enrolled for the fall semester. Rebounding from a nine-year low of 283 students in 2010, enrollment climbed to 290 in 2011 and increased another 8.6% to 315 in 2012.

The most significant enrollment rise came in two areas—the state of Tennessee and international students. The Tennessee student population jumped 40% from 95 in 2011 to 136 in 2012, while international students increased 20% from 46 to 57. The rise among international students is due in large part to the warm and growing Welch College partnerships in Cuba and Panama.

Dr. Ketteman said, “We may have turned the corner with student enrollment. Numbers are up for the second consecutive year. Thank God for our students! They have a sense of optimism in spite of uncertainty about the national economy and worldwide political unrest. They’re serious about serving God, and we’re eager to prepare them for ministry in local churches, schools, medical and science fields, and the business community.”

At press time, the college reported 157 dormitory students, 55 commuter students, 18 Adult Degree Program students, 74 Life-time Learning students, and 17 online students. Almost one-third of the students are enrolled in ministry-related fields.

By classes, they include 40 seniors, 42 juniors, 77 sophomores, 80 freshmen, 57 non-degree/part-time students, and 19 special students. There are 161 women and 154 men in the student body. Enrollment personnel were pleased that, in spite of a harsh economic climate, the number of new students (both first time and transfer) increased nine percent from last fall, while dormitory student numbers registered a slight increase with a 1.2% rise.

“Enrollment for our Adult Degree Program will continue through mid-semester,” Dr. Ketteman said. “We are still enrolling new students, since enrollment takes place throughout the fall term due to multiple modules. We project a total enrollment of 325 students for the fall term.”

By states, students number:

Alabama12	Georgia.....6	Kentucky.....6	Missouri.....7	South Dakota1	West Virginia3
Arkansas13	Illinois3	Louisiana1	North Carolina..17	Tennessee..... 136	Wisconsin1
California4	Indiana.....1	Michigan13	Ohio8	Texas1	International57
Florida.....8	Kansas.....1	Mississippi.....7	South Carolina....4	Virginia3	(Canada, Cuba, France, Kazakhstan, Panama)

To contact Welch College for more information:

Email recruit@welch.edu or visit the college’s website at www.welch.edu.

Enrollment Posts Filled

Mrs. Deborah Mouser and **Mr. Corey Minter** have been named to positions in the Department of Enrollment Services at Welch College as the institution takes a pro-active role following the resignation of Rusty Campbell, director of enrollment services.

Mrs. Mouser, who served two years as enrollment office manager and enrollment counselor, will now provide leadership as interim director of enrollment services. Mr. Minter, student pastor at New Hope FWB Church (Joelton) since 2009, joins the enrollment staff as a part-time volunteer and will serve as recruitment ambassador and event host.

President Matt Pinson said, “We are delighted these gifted individuals are bringing their energy, creativity, and vision to the college’s Enrollment Services.”

Mouser, a 1985 graduate of Welch College, is pursuing her Certified Enrollment Professional certification through ABHE (Association for Biblical Higher Education). Well known for her musical skills, she tours annually with the College Choir as pianist. As an independent sales director for 15 years with Mary Kay Cosmetics, she developed a sales team of 50 women, oversaw regional and local events, and was responsible for monthly newsletters and correspondence. She previously served



five years with The Mathews Company, a Middle Tennessee construction firm.

She and husband Marvin have been married 26 years and have three children—Matt, Amanda, and Megan. Two of their children (Matt and Amanda) are enrolled at Welch College.

“I want to do more than recruit students,” Mrs. Mouser said. “I also want to recruit their parents. When I sit down with students and their parents, I want them to know their child will receive a top quality education based on godly principles.”

Corey Minter, a 2008 graduate of Gateway Christian College, was converted at age five, answered the call to preach at age 12, and was ordained in 2008. He married



Rachel, his high school sweetheart, and they have one child.

“God has placed a burden on my heart for Free Will Baptist students to ‘own their faith,’” Minter said. “I believe that Christian higher education plays a vital role in maturing students for Christian service. I look forward to working with Welch College in this capacity, and I feel that the college’s success will impact the future of our movement like none other.”

The landscape for recruiting students has shifted in recent years. Today’s parents are more active in the college selection process and eager to participate in students’ ongoing educational experience.



Ralph Hampton, Free Will Baptist Educator and Leader, Dies

Reverend Ralph Hampton, former chairman of the Biblical and Ministry Studies Department at Welch College, and a member of the college faculty for 50 years, died September 7, 2012, after a two-year battle with cancer. He was 77. The Oklahoma native was converted at age 12 during a youth camp and ordained to preach in 1960.

President Matt Pinson said, “Ralph Hampton was a rock of stability on campus for five decades—a man of prayer, a scholar with a warm heart, and a teacher who challenged students to give their best. He demonstrated spiritual and intellectual leadership as a faculty member, and faithfulness in his local church. We thank God for the influence of this great man.”

Hampton's ministry to the broader denomination included six pastorates in Tennessee and Missouri, articles for *Contact* and *ONE Magazine*, and writing curriculum for Randall House Publications. His signature leadership role came during a 15-year span when the National Association of Free Will Baptists elected him moderator nine times (1987-1996) and assistant moderator six times (1981-1987).

Ralph began his 50-year tenure at Welch College in 1958 at age 23. Like most young educators, he wore several hats, which meant that he taught 15 hours per semester, served as Christian Service director, and was the dormitory supervisor.

The son of a Free Will Baptist preacher and oldest of four brothers, he spent half a century changing the landscape of denominational education, preparing students for ministry in a world-wide community, and raising a family of three children with his wife Margaret. All three children graduated from Welch College.

He pushed himself hard as an educator, earning five degrees—A.A. degree from East Contra Costa Junior College (1955), B.A. degree from Welch College (1958), M.A. degree from Winona Lake School of Theology (1961), M.Div. from Covenant Theological Seminary (1970), and the D.Min. (ABD) from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

Dr. Robert Picirilli, Professor Emeritus and retired academic dean at Welch College, said, "Ralph graced the campus with a lifetime of quiet, dependable service. We could always count on him to be there, to do what was needed, and to do it without making a fuss. He was dedicated to keeping the school true to its founding mission, and he never swerved in his thinking from that ideal."

Two of Ralph's brothers (Charles and Larry) eventually joined him on the faculty at Welch College. His younger brother Larry said, "Ralph had a profound influence on my life. I came to the college as a student because of him. He was my teacher—one of the best I ever had. I am convinced there has been no better man who has taught here. I once told a young lady I dated that I wished I were more like Ralph. She asked why, and I replied, 'Because he's more like Jesus than I am.'"

Ralph Hampton is survived by his wife of 54 years, Mrs. Margaret Evans Hampton, who served 37 years at Welch College as manager of Welch Library; daughter Mrs. Laura Fleming; sons Reverend Clayton Hampton and Mr. Kenny Hampton; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and one brother, Reverend Larry D. Hampton. ■

Lila Thompson Retires

Mrs. Lila Thompson, versatile member of the Welch College staff since 2004, retired September 28, 2012. Mrs. Thompson worked two years in the college's Financial Aid Office (2004-2006) before shifting to receptionist duties (2006-2010), and on to her part-time role as Business Office Associate in 2010. She developed neuropathy in her hands and feet three years ago, a diagnosis that influenced her decision to pursue early retirement.

While delivering professional service in the Business Office, Lila has also been a surrogate mother to many students, inviting them to her home for weekends and special events, and providing a welcome haven for weary students away from mom and dad.

"My most enjoyable moments at the college have been reaching out to students as needs arose in their lives," Mrs. Thompson said. "Sometimes a home-cooked meal or a quiet talk is what a student needs to cope with homesickness or



write that next term paper. These young men and women are like family to us, and we love them."

The Kirksville, Missouri, native enrolled at Welch College in 1965, transferred to Truman State University, and returned to Welch College where both she

and her husband Ernie graduated in 1970. She worked briefly at Randall House Publications (1969-1970) as a proofreader and typesetter.

Lila and Ernie spent the next 32 years in Missouri raising their family (three sons—Brent, Bryan, Bryce). Lila worked 20 years as a bookkeeper at a public high school. For 15 years, the Thompsons led Child Evangelism Fellowship clubs and camps, and served on the Adair County Board of Directors. Lila impacted the local church and community for 30 years as she taught teen Sunday School at Hazel Creek Free Will Baptist Church (Kirksville).

Since returning to Nashville in 2002, the Thompsons have been members of Cross Timbers FWB Church (Nashville) where Lila served five years as secretary. She and her husband became involved in prison outreach, and Lila wrote an article about their prison ministry titled "The Razor-Wire Church" (*ONE Magazine*, June-July 2007). ■

STUDENT LOANS

for Life? BY
JOHN
BRUMMITT



I have been asked time and time again to write an article on student loans.

After some research, I decided to write an article on how to *survive* student loans rather than acquire student loans.

According to the New York Federal Reserve, more than seven million people over age 50 are still paying for student loans. Americans have cut back on consumer debt since borrowing reached its peak in 2008 before the market crash, the one exception is student loans, which have increased by 56%. Student loans now eclipse both auto loans and credit cards, making student loan debt the largest form of consumer debt outside of home mortgages. In the first quarter of 2012, outstanding student loan debt reached \$902 billion, up from \$323 billion in 2008.

While student loans have increased, payback of these loans has slowed. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the delinquency rate on student loans is 27%, \$244 billion for those doing the math. That means 27% of student loans are increasing rather than decreasing. The average student loan balance in the United States is \$24,301, requires an average monthly payment of approximately \$280, and costs \$9,257 in interest fees based on a 6.8% interest rate.

So, what can be done to help students avoid this ever-increasing debt of student loans? Most people have no regrets about pursuing an education, but many have regrets about taking out unwise loans when pursuing their education. College tuition and expenses continue to grow, and loans become more and more necessary. Most students do not have enough money set aside for college, and they simply cannot earn enough to cover the complete cost of their secondary education.

While many parents help children with college bills, often they have not saved enough or do not earn enough to cover the cost. Loans are necessary in order for students complete their degrees.

Many times students take out loans without doing the proper amount of research on the loan itself or how the payback works. Most students simply need money for school, and they take a loan and spend the funds without considering the consequences. This is a serious mistake. Students need to consider several things carefully before seeking a loan:

Find the money somewhere else. Is there another way to receive funds for school (grants, scholarships, savings, etc.)? If you can avoid a loan—even if it takes more work on your part up front—do it! It will be worth it when you graduate, because payment on student loans is required whether you have a job or not. Exhaust all options before considering a loan.

If a loan is your only option, take time to research before you sign the dotted line. Consider several loan options before settling on one. Yes, research requires more work, but it is better to do a little work now rather than continue paying off student loans until your children begin college (and you start over again). If you acquire \$6,500 per year in student loan debt (about half of the yearly costs at a state school), you will leave college with a school debt

of \$26,000 after four years.

Take a hard look at your career path. Before taking out a large loan, consider the pay scale. If your career of choice pays an average rate of \$26,000 per year, you should avoid school loans so large you cannot make the minimum monthly payments. This does not mean you should choose only a high-paying career, but you should use wisdom when acquiring student loans. You don't want to finish your education, owe \$60,000 in student loans, and face a career path with an average annual salary of \$26,000. The longer you struggle to pay off student loans, the longer it will take to build other important financial investments such as an emergency fund, retirement savings, and a home mortgage.

Start saving early. Parents have options to help their children avoid student loans. Start saving for college early; the IRS has established funds called 529 Plans with distinct tax advantages. These plans allow you to set aside funds for

secondary education for your children over a longer time period to help reduce the financial impact.

Like retirement, starting early with college savings is the easiest way to accumulate assets, even with a small monthly deposit. Time is your friend. Keep in mind: while you may not be able to set funds aside every month for your children's education, it doesn't hurt your credit score if you miss a deposit in your 529 Plan. But missing a student loan payment certainly damages your credit.

Student loans are a helpful tool to help you or your children receive higher education. Use wisdom, however, before seeking a loan, and borrow only a minimal amount. Student loan debt is the one area where you want to finish college ranked well below the national average. College is a great experience. Don't let your student loans ruin your memories or your financial future. **ONE**

ABOUT THE WRITER: John Brummitt graduated in 2011 with an MBA from Tennessee Tech University. A 2004 graduate of Welch College, he has been with the Board of Retirement since the spring of 2006.

Thanks to the Mabel Willey Auxiliary, Hyde Park Free Will Baptist Church, Norfolk, Virginia, for the donation to the Labor of Love Campaign. Learn more at www.boardofretirement.com.

Are you looking for a plan for
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BY TIM KIMMEL

Available February 19, 2013
at Amazon.com and D6Family.com



Tim Kimmel

Brown on



Will Interest Rates Ever Rise?


Interest rates are at historic lows. Many individuals depend on interest income, and with rates this low, their income is getting squeezed. Certificates of Deposit (CDs) first came into existence as a financial instrument in the 1960s but did not become popular until the 1970s when inflation was rampant. Following that period, individuals began to develop portfolios of CDs that would keep pace with inflation. CD rates today make that goal impossible.

In 2008, the Federal Reserve began cutting interest rates to stimulate the economy. It did not stop cutting rates until December 2008 when it set the Federal Funds Rate (the rate banks borrow from one another, usually on an overnight basis) at between 0 and .25. This caused interest rates to fall on every type of investment. Short-term government bonds actually became negative at some points during the crisis. Investors were willing to take a negative return to let the government hold their money for 90 days or less. Even the 10-year government bond has fallen to a new low this year.

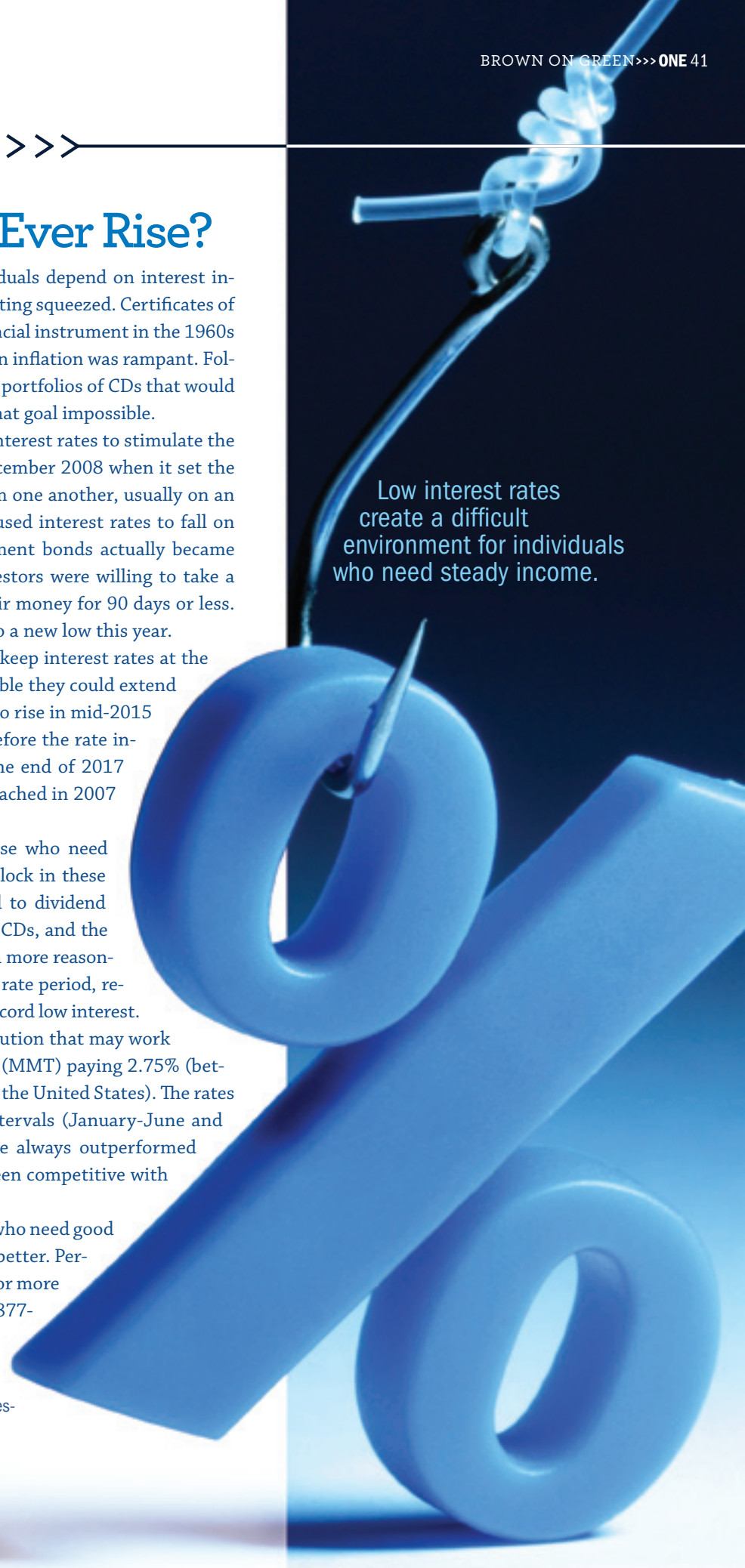
The Federal Reserve has declared that it will keep interest rates at the current level until the middle of 2015. It's possible they could extend that mandate even further. Even if rates begin to rise in mid-2015 or early 2016, it will be some time after that before the rate increases are felt in CDs. It could be as late as the end of 2017 before interest rates return to the levels they reached in 2007 before this crisis began.

This creates a difficult environment for those who need steady income. Investing in long term CDs will lock in these historic low rates of return. Some have turned to dividend stock portfolios because the yield is better than CDs, and the portfolio can be sold when interest rates rise to a more reasonable level. Others have enjoyed this low interest rate period, refinancing their homes or buying new homes at record low interest.

The Free Will Baptist Foundation offers a solution that may work for many. We offer Money Management Trusts (MMT) paying 2.75% (better than the highest CD rate currently offered in the United States). The rates on MMTs are variable but set at six-month intervals (January-June and July to December). Historically, our rates have always outperformed money market and short-term CDs and have been competitive with five year CDs.

It has been a difficult environment for those who need good yields, and it may be several years before it gets better. Perhaps we can help. Call or email the Foundation for more information on Money Management Trusts: 877-336-7575 or foundation@nafwb.org. 

ABOUT THE COLUMN: David Brown, CPA, became director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation in 2007. Send your questions to David at david@nafwb.org.



Low interest rates create a difficult environment for individuals who need steady income.

A Two-part Series From the Gospel of Matthew

Two Men (One Dead) Talk about Money

PART 2: *The* **RED** *Thread*

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
BY BRENDA EVANS
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

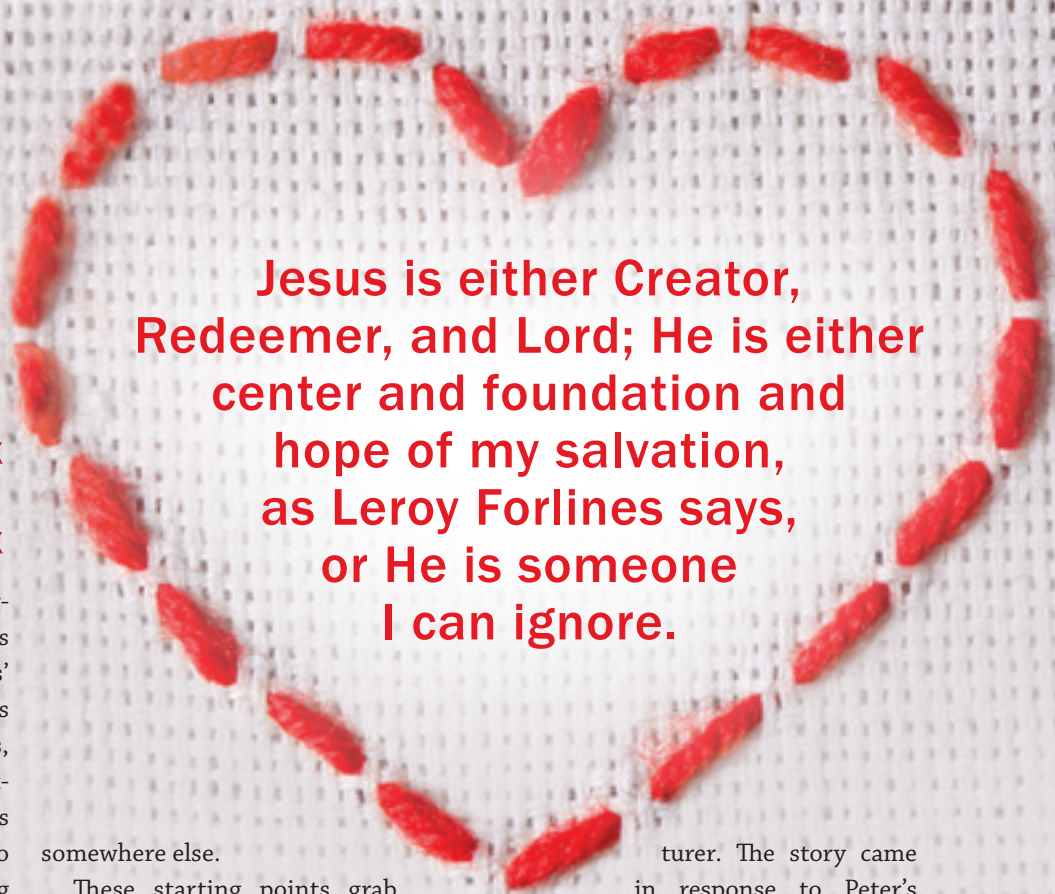
The gospel writer Matthew understood the statement above, and his account of Jesus is stained with Jesus' redemptive blood and the implications of that redemption for Christians, even when the subject is money. Matthew himself often saw the greenness of money as a potential for evil, and so he issued warnings—not surprising for a former tax collector whom money once possessed.

But Jesus had a different perspective. To Him, money and man's infatuation with it provided a platform for teaching what the red thread of redemption means as we live as redeemed ones. Of His 39 parables, 11 dealt with money. In most, money was His text, His starting point. He referenced planning, saving, investing, wages, debt, wealth, tithing, leasing, banking, interest, lenders, debt cancellation, cost analysis, and mismanagement. But while the parables started with money, they invariably ended

somewhere else.

These starting points grab our attention like a blank check in a recession. Yet, His subtext, what He really wanted to talk about, was something bigger—a panorama of sorts, a sweeping view of values, ethics, habits, and behaviors. This “red thread of redemption” revolutionizes all of a man's life, including his checkbook, but more. Or it should. That's what Jesus said.

I think of two examples. Jesus told a tale of money in Matthew 18. A king forgave his servant a large debt; the servant then demonstrated no mercy to one who owed him, so the king delivered the unforgiving servant to a tor-



**Jesus is either Creator,
Redeemer, and Lord; He is either
center and foundation and
hope of my salvation,
as Leroy Forlines says,
or He is someone
I can ignore.**

turer. The story came in response to Peter's question to Jesus about the mathematics of forgiveness. Jesus told Peter and the Twelve to forgive 70 times seven (as many times as it takes), and followed His mandate with the powerful parable.

Forgiveness is not a mathematical calculation. It is not a head initiative, but a heart initiative, a step of reconciliation, mercy, compassion, and generosity. Jesus wanted His followers to forgive without limit, and if we don't, we should remember the fate of the torturer. We should allow the Holy Spirit to goad us, the redeemed, toward “sweet reasonableness” and forgive-

ness, as William Hendriksen says.

In Matthew 20, Jesus used money to make a different point. Vineyard workers became angry over their pay scale and complained that the owner had been unfair because he paid the same amount whether a man started early or late. The workers then demanded the owner renegotiate their contract. The owner rebuked them. The Savior's point is clear: a work-for-wages spirit is a materialist view, not a spiritual one—an unredeemed attitude to avoid.

But His larger point is found in the one-liner at the end. “The last shall be first, and the first last” (20:16). Plainly put, God is sovereign. Our Redeemer-God calls the shots. He is maker and owner of the vineyard, a just and generous rewarder and compensator. This is heavy theology, and we must acknowledge it. Yield...bow before Him as sovereign Lord of all.

When Jesus directly unveiled the Father's redemptive plan, His coming death and resurrection, Peter chided Him for even mentioning such a thing (16:21-23). So Jesus moved on and added more instruction on how to live a redeemed life. But He was not always gentle about it. His words get at us and into us, especially about ethics and values. They peel away skin, look deep, and sometimes draw blood as they remind us that how we inhabit our skins and live out our lives really matter.

Recently, I read a definition of virtue that was dispiriting: doing the right thing, to the right person, at the right time, to the proper extent, in the correct fashion, for the right reason. Then and there, I understood why holiness is a fight. Goodness is not natural to me. Knowing the tempests of our nature, public opinion, societal norms, and our struggle to live redeemed lives, Jesus offered direc-

tions, ways to stay the course, but also ways to tack and claw when a change is needed. Often, He used painful principles regarding money and possessions to peel away layers, to show us what we are and what we can be.

Perhaps you remember the two brief parables only Matthew recounts—the pearl and the hidden treasure (13:44-46). Jesus wasn't saying that if we find jewels or treasures we should sell everything and buy them. Instead, his parables challenge whether we know what is truly precious, whether we recognize the value of His red thread of redemption.

His words draw blood to make me see what I need to see, to be what I need to be.

A scene with a young rich man illustrates that test and how a person can fail it. After a conversation with Jesus, the young man walked away from infinite eternal reward and returned to his insufficient temporal and tawdry treasure because he did not recognize value when he saw it (19:16-30). On the other hand, the oft-married Samaritan woman had a searing thirst for eternal value, for she begged Jesus, “Give me this water” (John 4:15). Others passed the test as well: Cornelius, the Ethiopian eunuch, Lydia, the Philippian jailer—all men and women who understood the precious nature of redemption. The Apostle Paul's words echo through history. Every treasure is rubbish, he wrote, dung in comparison to salvation (Philippians 3:8).

In Matthew 6, Jesus peeled back skin with a different kind of test, an

implicit question stated indirectly, shaping His discourse and forming what teachers called a “thought question” in my youth. The question could not be answered with a yes or no. In this discourse, He poked and pried until we understand He is asking, “What do you treasure?”

His words draw blood to make me see what I need to see, to be what I need to be. They sear both heart and mind. There is pride; He wounds it. There are sensitive sores; He scrapes them. He warns me to think before I act. To seek kingdom values. Watch my motives. Be genuine. Don't put on a show.

Seven times in chapter six, Christ brought up the idea of reward and profit, whether I only care about short-term stuff: prestige, power, status, security, good looks, fine clothes. In the middle, He delivered another one-liner I don't want to hear but need to. “Where's your treasure, Brenda, because where your treasure is you will find your true devotion as well” (6:21).

I like Matthew's green thread, his warnings and perspectives on money. I need the instruction, so I look to him for the don'ts.

But I need a manual of what to do as well, how to live beyond money in the grit and grind of life. Like the sinful Samaritan woman, I thirsted for Jesus' redemptive living water and I drank. Now, I want to know the implications of redemption for my everyday life. I want it, and I want my blood-bought life to be fully blessed and redeemed, lived well every day, in every way. So, I look for Jesus' red thread. Peel away skin, Jesus. Look deep. Draw blood. Whatever it takes. **ONE**

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

WELCH COLLEGE

Equipping Students to Serve

“What is my purpose in life?” “What is my place in God’s world?”
“What is my calling in God’s kingdom?”

These are the questions Welch College helps students answer. We believe God has a purpose for every student—a unique role in His kingdom. In this Christian community of faith and learning, students receive all of the tools they need to find their place in God’s world.

Our mission is to educate leaders to serve Christ, His Church, and His world through biblical thought and life. We provide students with unique opportunity to prepare for leadership and service in the field to which God calls them. We do this by teaching students to confront the inescapable questions of life from the vantage point of a Christian worldview, realizing the implications of their faith for the world around them and for all of life.

Our students want *more* than career training. They come to pursue high-quality Christian education that will equip them for service to Christ and leadership in



the church and the world. Whatever their future may be, they know that life is about God. That’s why we dedicate



ourselves to their spiritual formation. We want each student to develop Christ-centered character that emerges from a Christian heart and mind that values the true, the good, and the beautiful.

Equip

Welch College provides a challenging curriculum and a stimulating learning environment ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of “America’s Best Colleges.”

Students not only learn to think critically as they pursue knowledge, but they also gain a deeper understanding of the Bible and its implications for all of life and thought. Academic excellence requires them to give their very best and rewards them with an excellent education that benefits them throughout life.

Grow

Campus life abounds with opportunities for spiritual growth, from Bible studies to chapel, SpirituaLife groups to peer mentoring and outreach opportunities in the Nashville community. We believe a student's time here should produce more than a degree. It should provide a solid knowledge of God's Word and God's world—a biblical worldview enabling students to live lives that honor Christ and lead others to Him. All students, regardless of their fields of study, take a strong core of biblical studies.



Experience

The college gives students every opportunity to expand their college experience, from fine arts to athletics to campus life. Students perform in a variety of music and drama groups and touring ministry teams and compete in both

intercollegiate and intramural sports. Best of all, students are part of a thriving Christian community where students and professors know them by name. From class to dining hall, gym, and coffee house, they are surrounded by people who care about them and want them to succeed.

Serve

Welch College alumni serve Christ as leaders in His Church and His world around the globe. We believe every Christian is called to minister to his world. The college trains students for their lifelong mission through outreach activities ranging from college-sponsored mission trips to serving dinner at a rescue mission, counseling teenagers, engaging in community service projects, and participating in a summer College Missions Program. Welch College equips workers to serve the Kingdom of God, no matter what field they enter.

Help Us Help Them

The Ketteman Student Scholarship Drive (KSSD) is named after Paul Ketteman, long-time promotional director of Welch College. He was the first student to enroll at the college in 1942 and worked there for more than 25 years. Paul was beloved across the campus...and across the denomination.

Mr. Ketteman invested his life in the students of the college. He knew they were the future of the denomination, and he committed his life to making the school all it could be. Today, the KSSD continues to help the students he loved. This year, the scholarship drive will be held in February rather than December. Read "Same Offering, Different Month" on page 30 to learn how *you can help us* continue Paul Ketteman's legacy through our students.

Ketteman Student Scholarship Drive

February 2013

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LeaderPro- >>>>

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.



José Rodríguez traveled through Panama to reach Miami in December of 1986. At the time, he didn't speak any English. José was born in Cuba and grew up without a church anywhere near him. He attended church only on special occasions during the first eight years of his life.

His mom was a Christ follower, but his dad was not. And it was his grandmother who introduced José to the gospel at a very young age. As early as age 15 or 16, José knew God wanted him to preach, but he resisted the calling. Instead, at age 19, José pursued freedom from his communist country. He came to America dreaming of studying something related to the medical field. God had other plans, and at age 21, José finally surrendered to the call to ministry and enrolled at Welch College (formerly FWBCC).

During his three-month stay in Panama, José met a young lady named Maday. He encountered her again at a Free Will Baptist church in Miami while preaching for Welch College. Today, José and his wife Maday have a wonderful and growing relationship.

José returned from college in 1994 to plant Renacer Free Will Baptist Church in Miami. After leading the church for six years, he became pastor at the Ebenezer FWB Church (also in Miami) where Benito Rodríguez pastored for 37 years. He has been at Ebenezer for 11 years.

¡José, eres un gran líder! ONE

Describe your leadership style. At times aggressive and at others intrepid as I followed a long-standing pastor. I keep my own identity and prepare my heart not to be hurt by the smaller things that come my way.

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

Classical Arminianism by Leroy Forlines
Nine Marks of a Healthy Church by Mark Dever
Systematic Theology by Leroy Forlines

What are you reading right now?

Ethics for a Brave New World
by Feinberg and Feinberg
The Divine Commodity by Skye Jethani

What do people misunderstand about you? People do not understand when I wait before acting like hiring staff or implementing a program. I have learned to wait on God's timing, but sometimes people are not as patient.

What is your biggest shortcoming in your leadership style? I would love to finish my education and get my doctorate.

I have my BA from Welch College, Master of Arts in Biblical Studies from Trinity, and M.Div. equivalent from New Orleans Theological Seminary.

Tell me your kids' names and a one-word descriptor for each.

Samuel (12) – intense
Daniel (10) – bold-hearted

What is your one indulgence?

Going on cruises with my wife.

Paper or Plastic Questions

- >> *Mountains or Ocean?* Mountains
- >> *Music or Talk Radio?* Music
- >> *Coke or Pepsi?* Coke
- >> *Email or Texting?* Email
- >> *Mac or PC?* PC
- >> *Socks or house shoes?* Bare feet

FWB YOUTH WORKER GATHERING SPRING 2013

www.studentleadership.net/youth-pastors

This unique event includes two days of exciting programming with the Youth Pastor Summit at **Universal Studios in Orlando, FL**, plus an additional day of fellowship with FWB youth workers. **Registration is FREE. There will also be a lot of FREE resources.** Your only expense is your hotel, meals, and travel.

All youth workers are invited: full-time, part-time, volunteer, teen and children workers. The YPS Gathering is a great time to network with other FWB youth workers, share special needs, glean valuable insights, and gain much needed encouragement and refreshing.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE **GATHERING!**

ABIDE

D6 CONFERENCE 2012

By Eric K. Thomsen

It's a changing world! If you need proof—not that you do—consider just a few changes that have taken place in the last 35 years. Envelopes and stamps gave way to email, instant messages, texts, posts, and tweets. Music left vinyl for eight-track, cassettes, CD, mp3s, and now The Cloud. Flickering projectors became Beta and VHS before DVDs evolved into Blue-Ray and instant video downloads.

Walk-in computers the size of a kitchen shrank—first to the desktop then to laptops, tablets, and phones. Speaking of phones, they once hung on the wall (with a dial no less). They lost their cords, became mobile, then smart...too smart. Cameras with film became digital then handheld video recorders allowing every moment of our lives to be posted on the Internet for the entire world to see.

GPS units replaced maps and atlases to become standard components on most car dashboards. Cash became checks then debit cards then handy QR codes that allow consumers to pay bills with their phones. The onward march of technology leaves us wondering...

WHAT'S NEXT?

Unfortunately, all the changes haven't been good. New technology has ushered in greater efficiency accompanied by higher expectations and ever-increasing connectivity. The result? More pressure on the family! Marriages are in crisis. Today's kids—while they know more than any generation before them—are emotionally inept, struggling to reach adulthood with faith intact.

Walt Mueller, author of *Youth Culture 101*, describes the impact of these changes, "Not only are more voices taking up space in culture all the time, but they're getting louder, more attractive, and more convincing. The question a concerned father asked me 15 years ago rings truer every day: 'How can I expect my son to hear the still small voice of God with all those other voices screaming in his ears.'"

But, as Tim Elmore, author and founder of Growing Leaders pointed out, the changes are not going to stop. How should the church respond? Can it really help families grappling with the chang-



ing culture? The answer is found in one word...Abide.

ABIDE

Nearly 2,100 attendees from 609 churches in 8 countries, 41 states, and more than 35 denominations took a break from their regular schedules to gather in Dallas, Texas, September 26-28, for the fourth annual D6 Conference. For three days, attendees were reminded time and again that no amount of education, training, or methodology will provide the one thing their families and churches need most—for them to abide in Christ (John 15:4, 5).

More than 80 speakers addressed practical and crucial subjects ranging from marriage to culture, parenting, church ministry, and more. But at the heart of each presentation was a single underlying theme. A deep and growing relationship to Christ is “job one” for every believer, especially those in ministry.

Perhaps conference attendee Amy Dolan said it best on her blog LemonLimeKids.com, “We can have the best strategy on the planet, but if we as leaders are not abiding in the True Vine, are we producing authentic fruit? If the parents we serve are not abiding in Christ, what will the next generation of the church look like?”

Pete Wilson, pastor of Cross Point Church in Nashville, Tennessee, urged listeners to abide in Christ while they fulfill their calling, reminding them, “What matters most is not what you accomplish; what matters most is who you become.”

Richard Ross, founder of True Love Waits and See You at the Pole, reminded the audience, “When you awaken to the King yourself, when you abide in Him, when you have a conversation with Him throughout the day, and as

you awaken to that relationship, you will have more ‘fruit’ hanging from you than you have had in years... Churches and families are having revivals because their leaders have fallen head over heels in love with Jesus.”

Fred Luter, recently elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention challenged listeners to abide in the Word. “If we are going to transform our families, the Word of God



must be evident in our hearts, our homes, and our habits.”

Doug Fields, founder of Simply Youth Ministry, wrapped up the call to abide with a profound reminder. “Jesus didn’t say ‘abide in your church, passion, goals, ambition, or family.’ He said, ‘Abide in me.’”

RENEW

The D6 Conference is more than training and encouragement. Plenty of time is set aside for worship, reflection, games, icebreaking activities, and...the unexpected. This year was no exception. Attendees returned from lunch on Thursday to find foam “finger-rockets” in every chair. Children’s workers, pastors, missionaries, and parents split on two sides of the enormous ballroom, and moments later the air filled with flying foam missiles. “Not sure it was so smart to put ‘weapons’ in the hands of 2,000 youth workers,” quipped emcee Josh Griffin, as rockets continued to fly toward the stage long after the game came to an end.

The pure voice of seven-year-old Emmy McGee opened the conference as she sang the haunting refrain of the old gospel song, “Nothing But the Blood.” Christian musician Aaron Shust accompanied her before leading the 2,000-voice “choir” in worship. Christian artist Bethany Dillon teamed up with duo Shane and Shane to lead worship on Friday morning. Again, thousands of voices raised as one to sing, “Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul,” and “Alive Again,” overflowing the conference center and the adjoining hotel with the sounds of praise. “I loved hearing you all sing,” said one conference center employee. “It was like going to church at work!”

Throughout the conference, attendees enjoyed comic relief provided

by Tommy Woodard and Eddie James, The Skit Guys. The duo left listeners gasping for air before switching to serious, introspective sketches that encouraged parents, ministers, and volunteers not to let the difficulty of ministry deter them from their calling, to let God mold them into the leaders—the unique creations He wants them to be.

RESPONDING TO THE CALL

How did attendees respond to this call to Abide? First-time attendee Phyllis York, from Smyrna, Tennessee, summed it up quickly. “We were bombarded with so much helpful and practical information, but we were also challenged personally to abide in Christ first, and then get out there and make a difference.”

As D6 came to a close, conference planners made an exciting announcement. Starting in 2013, the D6 Conference will meet twice—first for a one-day event in Dallas, Texas, on September 26, and then for a second three-day conference in Louisville, Kentucky, October 16-18.

“It was a great year,” said Randall House Executive Director Ron Hunter. “And it is so good to see all of the hard work and preparation result in a life-changing event that has a profound impact on everyone who attends. I can only imagine what God has in store for the D6 Conference as we move forward to a new location, meet new people, and make a difference in their lives and families.”

Learn more about the 2013 D6 Conference: www.D6Conference.com.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Eric K. Thomsen is managing editor of *ONE Magazine*.

D6 HIGHLIGHTS

CONFERENCE COUNTDOWN

UNFORGETTABLE START! Pre-con Labs feature more than 80 workshops led by presenters such as Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research; Jim Wideman, author and children’s ministry pioneer; and Dr. Garnett Reid, Welch College professor.

JIM WIDEMAN, founder of Children’s Ministers Leadership Club, reminds the audience that the primary ministry is not in the church but at home, challenging them, “The greatest sermon ever preached will be what is said about your family.”

ED STETZER, president of Lifeway Research, encourages church leaders to go deeper in their teaching ministry, focusing on depth rather than details. He challenges teachers to avoid teaching to the lowest common denominator and “teach up” with teaching that is deep but not dry, Christ-centered, story-focused and mission-driven.

AVOID TEACHING TO THE LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR AND “TEACH UP”
— ED STETZER

THE MAIN EVENT

The pure voice of seven-year-old Emmy McGee starts the 2012 D6 Conference with the haunting refrain of the old gospel song, “Nothing But the Blood.” Christian musician Aaron Shust accompanies her before leading worship.

PETE WILSON, pastor of Cross Point Church in Nashville, Tennessee, urges listeners to abide in Christ, to stay connected to Him in every facet of life and ministry. He encourages them to remember they are not alone, that the same God who gave them their calling in the first place is with them through anything they face.

DR. RICHARD ROSS, founder of True Love Waits and See You at the Pole, asks listeners to picture four concentric circles with the individual and his relationship with Christ at the center. Every other relationship—marriage, family, and ministry—rests upon this first relationship. He warns listeners not to be “an expert at God’s service and a novice at being His friend.”

ATTENDEES ENJOY A WAR WITH “FOAM FINGER ROCKETS.”

The air is filled with flying foam missiles.

MIKE GLENN, pastor of Brentwood Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, shares





**THE ‘ELEVENTH
COMMANDMENT’ IN OUR
HOME SHOULD NOT BE,
‘DO AS I SAY, NOT
DO AS I DO.’
— FRED LUTER**

FRED LUTER, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, shares his passion for reaching men, telling his listeners, “If you save the man, the man will save his family.” He reminds conference-goers, “If we are going to transform our families, the Word of God must be evident in our hearts, our homes, and our habits.”

story of how his church changed the focus of their ministry from entertainment to discipleship in order to meet the spiritual needs of the next generation. “It’s not my job to take kids to Six Flags!” he quips. Instead, his church instituted a path to discipleship aimed at taking the entire church deeper in their faith. The result? A church with a greater breadth and depth of biblical knowledge and a desire to serve God and further his kingdom.

TIM ELMORE, founder and president of Growing Leaders (GrowingLeaders.com) ponders the question, “Are today’s kids growing up too fast?” The resounding answer? Yes! After detailing the factors that contribute to this problem, he encourages parents and youth workers to understand their kids and react accordingly, adjusting ministry to fit their needs.

BETH GUCKENBERGER, mother of nine adopted children, and cofounder of Back2Back ministries ministering

with orphans around the world, passionately reminds listeners that when God calls us, the choice is a simple yes or no, even when the calling is neither safe nor appealing. She illustrates with hair-raising stories of God’s power at work in the world today concluding, “God doesn’t just show up. He shows off!”

“All that is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing.” Family Life Today president and co-founder **DENNIS RAINEY** uses Edmund Burke’s famous quote to issue a direct challenge to men, calling them to courageous living in the face of selfishness that threatens to destroy the family. He urges men to take steps leading to Christian maturity. The result is strong mentors and patriarchs—spiritual sages—who pass faith to the next generation as they live out their years with purpose.

Christian apologist **SEAN MCDOWELL** tackles the difficult topic of pornography, sharing shocking statistics that make it clear

pornography has become “mainstream.” He challenges church leaders to address the topic openly and establish support and accountability that is brutally honest.

BETHANY DILLON teams up with duo Shane and Shane to lead worship on Friday. Two thousand voices raise as one to sing, “Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul,” and “Alive Again.”

MARK MCPEAK, director of advancement at Free Will Baptist International Missions, encourages couples to live out grace in marriage—to understand differences, to take different perspectives and personalities into account. Marriage relationships should be sacrificial, a vivid picture of Christ’s love for the Church.

**IF YOU WANT
YOUR WIFE TO BE CRAZY
ABOUT YOU, YOU HAVE TO
BE THE GUY SHE IS
CRAZY ABOUT.
— MARK MCPEAK**



DOUG FIELDS, founder of Simply Youth Ministry, shares “the message he wishes someone had shared with him” based on 29 years of youth ministry. He warns against putting too much importance on numbers, getting caught in an unrealistic pace of life, and making constant comparisons to others, choosing instead to find fulfillment in Christ.

BRIAN HAYNES, author of *The Legacy Path*, ends the conference by challenging attendees to identify one area of their lives or ministry they wish to see change as they abide in Christ this year.

News From WNAC

WNAC Awards International

ANTIOCH, TN—

WNAC recently named five young women, all students at Chame Seminary in Panama as 2012 recipients of the Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship.



Stephanie Concepción came to Christ through the efforts of New Tribes missionaries working among her native Ngobe Buglé Indian tribe. Stephanie's commitment to Christian service and preparation at Chame (12 hours away from her home in Bocas del Toro province) has generated some family opposition. Culturally, girls are to stay close to home and marry someone from the tribe. A second-year student, Stephanie enjoys teaching children and working with teens.



Elisa Niz, a third-year student (senior) completes her studies this December. A talented artist and a soon-to-be bride, Elisa and her new husband, Daudeth Araúz, plan to continue lay ministry in their local Free Will Baptist church in Cañita.



Bäderlin Castañeda, a first-year student from the Buenas Nuevas FWB Church in Chitré, Panamá, enjoys helping others and using her spiritual gifts in music and teaching children.



Cynthia Urriola, also a third-year student, hails from the San Vicente Church, the second oldest Free Will Baptist church in Panama. Her gifts lie in teaching children and working with the deaf. Cynthia plans to marry Julio Barahona, a Chame graduate currently working alongside missionaries Paul and Chrissy Collins in a church plant effort in Santiago.



Liz González, also a first-year student from the Buenas Nuevas Church, plays the guitar in chapel services at the seminary. Blessed with a great sense of humor, Liz's joys include music and laughter.

tist mission leaders (FWBHM and FWBIM). Awarded amounts vary, as funding comes solely from designated gifts received throughout the year.

This year's total of \$1,389.29, pays for tuition, textbooks, and a storage box filled with toiletry items for each of the five girls. Funds also helped purchase needed women's ministry books for the seminary library. Missionary Judy Lytle commented, "We appreciate everything WNAC does for our ministry and for the seminary."

WNAC also announces a third Mary R. Wisheart Scholarship recipient. Gateway Free Will Baptist College chose **Jessica Barrow**, junior Elementary Education major from Faith FWB Church in Washington, North Carolina, to receive the \$1,000 scholarship awarded annually to a promising young woman at each of the five Free Will Baptist Colleges. A pastor's daughter, Jessica serves as junior class secretary and society secretary. She also works as part of the college promotional team.



Jessica joins Bre Rieirson (Hillsdale) and Dominique Ward (Southeastern) in this honor as the first Wisheart Scholarship recipients. In 2010, WNAC Convention delegates voted to convert the organization's longstanding loan fund to a scholarship fund. Guidelines approved in 2011 allow a scholarship committee at each of the five respective Free Will Baptist colleges to receive applications and select the school's recipient.

Colleges are currently accepting scholarship applications, with selections made in early 2013. Interested women should talk with the financial advisor at their perspective school. WNAC provides these scholarships as part of its ongoing mission: helping Free Will Baptist women of all ages discover and utilize God-designed roles for communicating the gospel.

Pursell scholarships, awarded annually, provide help for international students preparing for ministry within their own regions or countries. WNAC bases individual selection on recommendations from Free Will Bap-

How did we get the Bible? What does the Bible teach about inspiration? How has God preserved His Word?



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Order your personal copy of the book for **\$11.99** and the DVD for **\$14.99** by calling **Randall House at 800-877-7030** or by visiting **randallhouse.com/inspiration**.

PANEL SPEAKERS

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Rev. Leroy Forlines

Dr. Paul Harrison

Dr. Thomas Marberry

Dr. Stanley Outlaw

Dr. Robert Picirilli

Each church may contact their state executive director for a **FREE** copy of the DVD and book.

News Across the Nation

Search for Home Missions Director Underway

Antioch, TN—Present director of Home Missions, Larry A. Powell, will retire from the position of General Director on December 31, 2013, after 12 years of service. Home Mission Board Chairman, Reverend Randy Wright, will receive resumes for the position from January through March 2013. The cutoff date is March 31. Please send resumes to: Rev. Randy Wright, PO Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002 ■

Fundraisers Reach a Milestone



San Tan Valley, AZ—Tennessee couple Bill and Roberta Campbell recently traveled across the country to celebrate with members of Christ's Church Free Will Baptist Church in San Tan Valley, Arizona. On Sunday, September 23, 2012, after more than two years and thousands of miles spent visiting churches and raising funds at their own expense, the energetic couple was

thrilled to announce they had reached their \$100,000 goal. Christ Church celebrated the fifth anniversary of their church the same day—a double blessing!

Pastor Howard Gwartney said, "Bill and Roberta are special ambassadors of Christ's Church. The money they raised has assisted greatly in the renovation of our building, and in financing many of our ministries and outreach programs. We are so grateful to this couple for their sacrificial work on our behalf."

The Campbells, who live in a suburb of Nashville, are members of Cane Ridge Free Will Baptist Church. Bill works for Life Care Centers of America, and Roberta is a retired medical assistant.

Bill is quick to point out that this is only a milestone in their fundraising efforts. "When we visited the church in Arizona, we noticed that the children meet in the foyer. The area only seats 17, and they have an average of 25 kids. They desperately need a larger place to meet. On October 13, Roberta and I kicked off the second leg of our fundraising journey to raise \$50,000 to build an addition where children can meet."

Visit www.homemissions.net for more information on Christ's Church. ■

Home Missions Highlights

Daryl Grimes in Erie, Pennsylvania, said, "Praise God we have closed on our building! It was so exciting to stand before our people and hold the deed of the building in my hand. Only God could make this possible." ■

Scott Warren in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Crosspoint congregation celebrated their new building with a grand opening service on October 7. ■

Jeff Cates in Canyon, Texas, indicates they are ready for drywall in the new educational wing of their church. The church plans to be self-supporting next year. ■

Jose Correa in Puerto Rico reports that six people were baptized in August. ■

Seventy-five people attended a church service and pig roast recently in Rochester, New York, where Dana Booth and Jim Martin minister. Two people were saved that day. ■

In nearby Buffalo, New York, Brian Williams reported two people were baptized recently. ■

Larry Reynolds in Meridian, Mississippi, celebrated three recent salvation decisions. **Tim Riggs**, Mobile, Alabama, reports three people saved and six baptized during the month of August! ■

When David Sexton and Marc Nepl, Suffolk, Virginia, hosted a Community Day at their church on a recent Saturday, 400 to 500 people attended. The next morning, 35 first-time visitors attended their Sunday services. ■

Jeff Goodman, Marana, Arizona, reports that The Springs Church recently had 93 people with four saved. That same day, one of the church members led two more people to faith in Christ. ■

Chad Kivette (Clarksville, Tennessee) has enjoyed good success raising support. He started in June and already has reached 80% of his goal. ■



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

One to ONE >>>>

The Nativity

The church I grew up in averaged about 100 people in morning worship. It provided the primary frame of reference spiritually for the first 18 years of my life. From my perspective, it was the “gold standard” for all things church related. Our pastor was the only full-time staff member. Volunteers worked with children and youth.

One Christmas season remains etched in my memory. A group of ladies decided to produce a Christmas pageant. The narration was taken straight from Scripture, and familiar carols were sung to transition between the various passages read. Members of the youth group wore appropriate costumes and reenacted the nativity. The spectacle was presented on the Sunday night before Christmas. Only one rehearsal was scheduled—the afternoon before the performance.

The pageant had the usual cast of biblical characters: Mary and Joseph, a couple of angels, shepherds and, of course, the Magi. The stage setting was simple but effective—a stable constructed of wooden poles and cardboard accented by a manger made of sticks and a few bales of hay. A star wrapped in aluminum foil was carefully positioned above the stable. Except for the angels, costumes consisted of bathrobes with towels for headdresses held in place with drapery cords.

Like most young boys, I was a reluctant, yet somewhat excited participant. Proud that I was chosen to portray one of three wise men, my assigned task was simple and straightforward. On cue, I was to enter from the back of the sanctuary and slowly walk down the center aisle singing “We Three Kings.” Thankfully, the words to the song were written and taped to the top of the gift I bore from afar (a decorative cigar box painted gold).

The rehearsal went relatively well except for one small bobble. The oldest teenage boy in our youth group was spared the embarrassment of wearing a bathrobe and given the task of serving as narrator. His escape from embarrassment, however, was short lived! Obviously nervous and not accustomed to reading King James English, he said, “And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his exposed (espoused) wife, being great with child.” Needless to say, the mispronunciation was corrected at the performance.

Chances are, most who attended that cold, December evening performance have long since forgotten the Christmas program. However, it still lives on in the memory of one of the wise men more than four decades later. Such experiences leave a lasting impression on young minds. Church Christmas programs and family celebrations involve time and work. But it is worth the effort to create spiritual memories with the children in your life. Those memories may just last a lifetime.

Merry Christmas! 



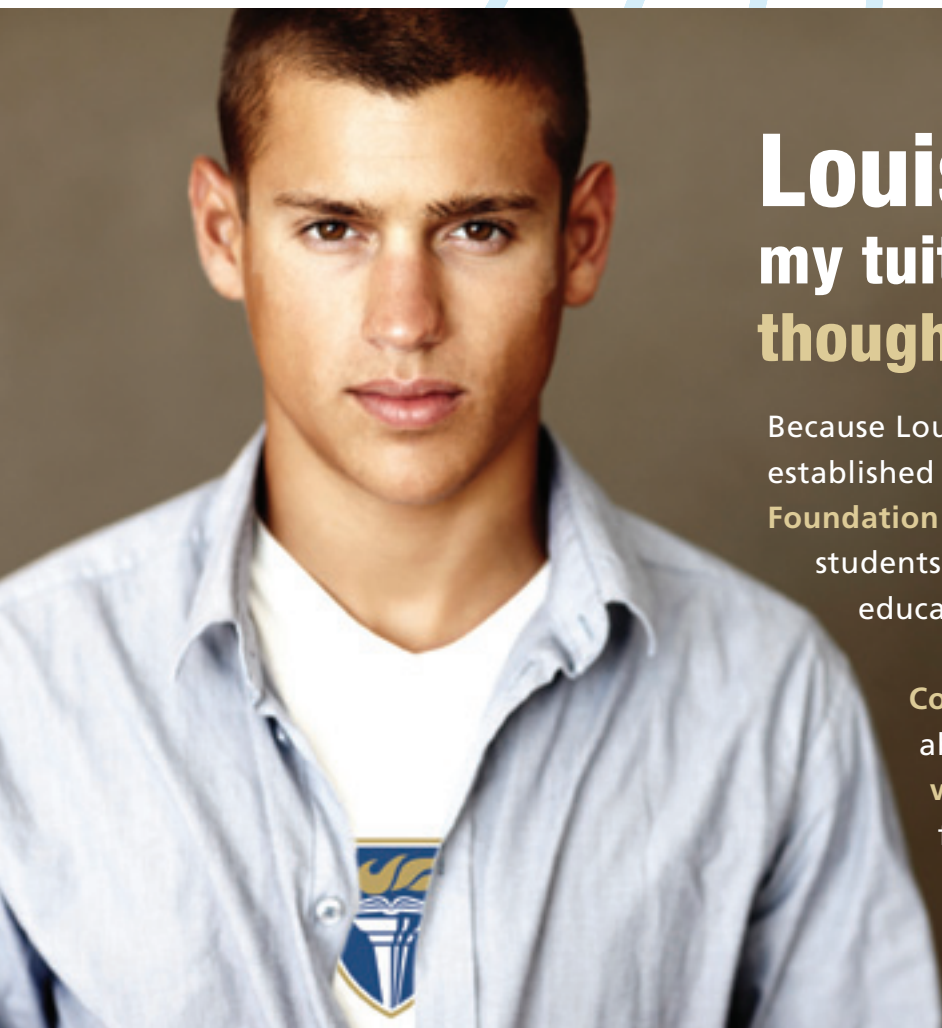


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