

CONTACT

Official Publication of the National Association of Free Will Baptists

May 2000

California, Here We Come!
The Sin of Envy
Church Growth Riddle
Convention Forms
Turn the Horses Loose

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THE SECRETARY SPEAKS



Melvin Worthington

Guidelines for the Group

The National Association of Free Will Baptists celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1985. During that celebration a record, *Join Our Jubilee*, was made to preserve the historic celebration. While listening to the record, I was reminded of three established goals that explain our denominational vision—*Family Sensitivity, Financial Stability and Focused Service*.

Family Sensitivity

The diversity among denominational constituents demands that we be sensitive to each other.

Family sensitivity is *built* by understanding our *oneness in Christ*. We are all members of the Lord's Church. Our fellowship is with Him and then with one another. The closer we get to Jesus the closer will be our relationship with one another. Oneness in Christ is reflected in our unity with, understanding of and unselfishness toward one another.

Family sensitivity is *broadened* by understanding our *organizational composition*. Beginning with the individual Christian, extending to the local church, district and state association and the National Association, our organizational structure is dependent upon voluntary participation. Denominational life is enhanced by individuals who are gentle, gracious and godly.

Family sensitivity is *balanced* by understanding our *outreach commitment*. Family sensitivity evidences itself in acceptance of all family members even when they differ from us in some ways. The spirit of sensitivity makes it possible for us to fulfill the purpose for which we exist—to *extend the witness of Christ and building of His Church throughout the world*.

Family sensitivity is *buttressed* by

understanding our *obligation in the covenant*. In the Free Will Baptist Church Covenant, we obligate ourselves to one another. The obligations in the covenant include consideration, communication, cooperation, confrontation and comprehension.

Financial Stability

Financial resources are necessary for the denomination to function. Individual Christians need jobs in order to support their families. Local churches need members with financial resources to support the church. District associations need churches with financial resources to support association ministries. State associations need district associations with financial resources to fund association programs. The National Association needs state associations with financial resources to support national outreach.

Financial resources are necessary at every level of denominational life. We praise the Lord for His financial provision for denomination enterprises and constituents. In our recent history, greater emphasis has been placed on the whole spectrum of stewardship—time, talent, tithe, tongue and testimony, rather than just money. Every Christian has a stewardship responsibility which encom-

passes the whole life, not just money.

Focused Service

The purpose for which we came into existence remains the same—to extend Christ's Kingdom to the ends of the earth. We serve the Lord and one another. Focused service means that we understand the purpose for which God has redeemed us. We are His appointed ambassadors.

Focused service will help us reach the denominational goal. In order to do this, we need *members*. The denomination has experienced steady if not spectacular growth during its history. Greater emphasis is being placed on involvement by members in evangelism.

To accomplish our goals, we need *money*. Denominational income has significantly increased since our organization.

To accomplish our goals, we need *ministers*. God still calls men to preach. We have over 4,000 ordained ministers. We need to pray that God will call choice individuals to preach.

To accomplish our purpose, we need *missionaries*. In an ever-changing world, we must learn to cope with changes. We need short-time and career missionaries to reach the lost multitudes.

To reach our goals, we must heed the *mandate*. The harvest field is ripe and ready. We must pray the Lord of harvest that He will thrust laborers into His harvest field.

The proper focus on service is that every individual Christian has a place in the work of extending the Kingdom of Christ to the ends of the earth. Focused Free Will Baptists can move the denomination to heights never before achieved. The goals of our group mentioned in 1985 during our 50th-year celebration are still relevant today. Let's stay focused. ■

The Secretary's Schedule

May 2000

- 5-6 West Fork District Association
Bellevue, Texas
- 10-13 Florida State Association
- 14 Donelson FWB Church
Donelson, Tennessee
- 19-20 Michigan State Association
- 23-26 Convention Planning Trip
Anaheim, California

Preview of the 2000 Anaheim Convention

California, Here We Come!

By Jack Williams



Anaheim Convention Center (Photo courtesy of Anaheim Visitor and Convention Bureau).

California here we come . . . again! For the fifth time since 1950, the National Association of Free Will Baptists rolls into the Golden State for five days of preaching, seminars, business, fellowship and an action-packed youth conference. Twice in 50 years the convention met in Fresno (1960, 1970), once in Richmond (1950) and now twice in Anaheim (1980, 2000).

Part of a Spanish land grant, Anaheim land was purchased for \$2 an acre over 125 years ago by German colonists who moved there to grow grapes. After a blight wiped out the vineyards in the 1880s, the community switched to oranges and maintained strong agricultural ties until after World War II.

By 1955, an enterprising young man named Walt Disney opened the doors to tourism. Then came the Anaheim Angels baseball team, the Mighty Ducks hockey team and the Anaheim Convention Center in 1967.

California's 62 Free Will Baptist churches and 3,200 members have waited 20 years to welcome delegates to the West Coast. Convention officials expect 4,000 people to register for the 64th annual session. This is about 60% of the number who usually attend when the convention meets anywhere east of California.

The July 16-20 convention unfolds at the Anaheim Convention Center, just 50 feet from the headquarters hotel, the Hilton Anaheim. Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington blocked 400

rooms in the Hilton Anaheim and 400 rooms in the Anaheim Marriott across the street. So there's plenty of room for everybody.

Big Business

The national convention is another name for the annual business meeting of the National Association of Free Will Baptists. Naturally, there's more to the gathering than parliamentary procedure and departmental budgets. However, that's what calls us all together each July from 40 states—time to take care of business.

This year, national convention delegates are expected to approve denominational budgets exceeding \$18 million. Moderator Carl Cheshier

(President of Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Oklahoma) will gavel the voting body through electing 30 board and commission members and general officers. Each national agency and commission will submit an annual report to delegates during the two-day convention business session on Wednesday and Thursday.

Meet the Speakers

The 2000 convention theme, "Witnesses in the World," will be developed by four pastors and a state promotional officer. An ordained deacon will teach the adult Sunday School class.

Sunday School—Paul Kennedy

Long-time Free Will Baptist deacon Paul Kennedy will be first in the pulpit when he teaches the adult Sunday School class on July 16. He is a member of Amador FWB Church in Pioneer, California, and is active in the prison ministry.

Paul (79) was ordained as a deacon in 1955, serving 30 years in a Bay Area church before retiring to Pioneer where he has served another 17 years. In addition to his work in the local church, Kennedy served six years as California's executive secretary and 10 years as moderator of Golden Gate Association.

He completed 12 years on the national Master's Men Board. An avid historian, Brother Kennedy has written extensively on Free Will Baptist history for *The Voice*, California's state paper.

Sunday Morning—Winston Sweeney

Pastor Winston Sweeney knows what to do with a pulpit. After 52 years in the ministry, the 72-year-old Tennessee preacher will complete 42 years at the same church in August. He began serving as pastor at Fellowship FWB Church in Kingsport when President Dwight Eisenhower lived in The White House.

Pastor Sweeney was ordained to preach in 1948 and pastored six years in Virginia and North Carolina before his more-than-four-decades-long tenure in Tennessee. He has served as moderator of the Tennessee State Association and the Union Association.

He wrote three gospel tracts, led 34 tours to the Middle East and



**Paul
Kennedy**



**Winston
Sweeney**



**R. Edward
Cook**



**Doug
King**



**Tim
Owen**



**David
Shores**

served 30 years on the Board of Trustees of what is now FWB Family Ministries in Greeneville, Tennessee.

Sunday Evening—R. Edward Cook

By late Sunday afternoon, most delegates will have checked into their hotels and be eager to attend worship service Sunday evening. That's when Arkansas pastor R. Edward Cook takes the stand. The 62-year-old Missouri native was ordained to preach 37 years ago and has pastored without a break since then.

Brother Cook pastored his first church in Tennessee. He has led eight churches in Tennessee, Florida, Oklahoma, Kentucky and Arkansas. He was called to Oak Park FWB Church in Pine Bluff in 1997.

He is a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College. During his Florida pastorates, he served on the state Executive Board and as a home missionary. He was later elected to the Tennessee Home Missions Board and the national Home Missions Board. He currently serves on the Central Association Executive Board in Arkansas.

Monday Evening—Doug King

The national convention officially kicks off Monday evening when clerk Keith Burden calls the session to order. Half an hour later, 36-year-old Doug King will deliver the keynote sermon. He comes from good preaching stock beginning with his late father, Reverend Bob King, and his grandfather, Reverend Roy Rikard.

Doug has pastored Cramerton FWB Church in North Carolina since 1988. He is an alumnus of Free Will Baptist Bible College and Southeastern FWB College. He served on the Southeastern College Board 1990-1999, and on the North Carolina State Bookstore Board 1992-1998.

Brother King is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He earned the Eagle Scout Award in 1982 and was named Alumnus of the Year at Northside Christian Academy in 1991. He served three years as youth pastor at First FWB Church in Inman, South Carolina.

Tuesday Evening—Tim Owen

He's the moderator of the Florida State Association and has been elected to leadership roles in Florida since he was 31 years old. Pastor Tim Owen (40) has served as Florida's assistant moderator or moderator since 1991.

Tim pastors Pathway FWB Church in Winter Haven (1996-present). Prior to that, he pastored 10 years at Shiloh FWB Church in Bratt. Rounding out his varied background, he taught five years at Raleigh Christian Academy in North Carolina (1982-1987).

A graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Brother Owen has taken graduate courses at Pensacola Christian College and Foundations Bible College. He was ordained to the ministry in 1987. The Florida native was converted when he was eight years old.

Wednesday Evening—David Shores

Missions night! A special service calling for a special speaker. His name is David Shores, promotional secretary for the Illinois State Association. The 63-year-old minister also pastors Ina FWB Church and is closing in on 20 years at that church where he came on board in 1981.

David was ordained to preach in 1959, three years after his conversion at age 19. An Illinois native, he has invested his entire 41-year ministry in that state. Prior to his Ina pastorate, he led congregations in Cisne, South

Roxana and Walnut Hill.

Brother Shores has been a member of the Foreign Missions Board since 1992. He is a 1965 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College. He and wife Pat have two children, both of whom are active in Illinois churches.

Pastor/Layman Conference

Colorado-based H. B. London, Jr., will lead Monday's Pastor/Layman Conference at Anaheim Convention Center, 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. After serving 31 years in pastoral ministry,

Reverend London became vice-president of ministry outreach/pastoral ministries for Focus on the Family.

He communicates with hundreds of pastors and church leaders each week through "The Pastor's Weekly Briefing" (a FAX network) and produces a bi-monthly "Pastor to Pastor" cassette and newsletter. He has co-authored six books including his newest, *The Minister's Little Devotional Book*.

A fourth generation minister, London hosted a daily radio program for 20 years in Oregon and Los Angeles. His assignment at Focus on the Family is to serve as liaison to pastors and churches.



Headquarters Hotel, Hilton Anaheim

Four Handy Facts

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|--------------------------------|---|
| Airport Transportation: | Use Super Shuttle from Los Angeles International or Orange County/John Wayne. Cost is about \$13 one way. |
| Anaheim Temperature: | Averages 59° to 79° in summer. Expect cool nights and warm, balmy days. |
| Tours: | Daily shuttle buses provide transportation to Knott's Berry Farm, Movieland Wax Museum, Universal Studios, Queen Mary and much more. Check with your hotel for details. |
| Flat Land: | No hills to climb walking to and from the convention center! |

Seminars and More

The Foreign/Home Missions Rally Tuesday morning will officially unveil the "1,000 in 2,000" outreach program. Richard Atwood, the newest staffer with the Home Missions Department, will introduce the program.

Tuesday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. the Theological Trends Seminar focuses on "The Four Views of the Lord's Supper." Seminary president Thomas Marberry will speak.

Dr. Alton Loveless, Sunday School Department director, will lead a 3:00 p.m. Sunday School workshop on Tuesday.

Other meetings were being finalized at press time.

Where Is It?

Convention Registration: Hilton Anaheim (headquarters hotel)
2nd Floor

Convention Exhibits: Anaheim Convention Center
Arena Lobby

FWB Convention Office: Anaheim Convention Center
Room AR-1

Convention Tapes: Anaheim Convention Center
Arena Lobby

WNAC Overview

The annual WNAC convention will bring 1,000 Free Will Baptist women together for two days of business and fellowship. The 2000 theme is "Opportunities: A Door Ajar."

California pastor's wife Joanna Felts headlines a powerful Monday afternoon seminar at the Hilton Anaheim Hotel on the subject, "When Cancer Comes to Your House." She serves as ministries coordinator at Clovis FWB Church and as adjunct teacher in music and drama at California Christian College. She is a writer, mother of two and still manages to lead the church choir.

The business side of WNAC opens Tuesday morning at 8:30 a.m. in Anaheim Convention Center with devotional speaker Elaine Holland, missionary to Côte d'Ivoire.

Two hours later, missionary to Brazil, Annette Aycock, will keynote the WNAC missionary service. She home schools her four children in Brazil, serves in a ministry of hospitality, teaches English at a language school and directs a children's class.

WNAC president Debe Taylor takes the gavel to lead delegates through reports and voting. WNAC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Marjorie Workman will make her second report to the convention.

Veteran WNAC attendees, take note. In a major shift to expedite program planning, the traditional dinner with speaker has changed to the **WNAC Fellowship Luncheon** with speaker. Starting time is 12:30 p.m. at the headquarters hotel.

Pat Clary, founder and president of

Women's Ministries Institute®, will speak to an expected 300 luncheon guests. The five-foot tall entrepreneur wrote *Ministry to Women* and *The Women's Ministries Leader's Handbook*.

Married 33 years and a grandmother of two, Pat is a nationally-recognized speaker and teacher in women's ministry, leadership development and spiritual formation of women in ministry. She serves on the Board of Directors of Christian Ministries Training Association.

NYC Notes

National Youth Conference director Dean Jones expects more than 1,500 participants for the 33rd annual conference. The four days of non-stop activities will rally around the theme, "I Press Toward the Goal."

With more than a dozen worship services scheduled for attendees in addition to tutorials and workshops, NYC officials plan to start early and

go late every day.

More than 700 entries will crowd the annual Music and Arts Festival and Bible competition. Several hundred youth will participate in service projects in the Anaheim area.

Behind the Scenes

California Free Will Baptists are raising \$15,000 to host the national convention. They also assembled a Steering Committee to handle convention details ranging from registration volunteers to ushers.

Each Steering Committee member took responsibility for a specific area:

Chairman: *Nuel Brown*

Registration Committee: *Don Harbert*

Hospitality Committee: *Jonathan Yandell*

Prayer Committee: *Nuel Brown*

Ushering Committee: *Steve Shaw*

State Moderator: *Matt Upton*

CWAC Representative: *Sue MacGill*

NYC Advisor: *Patrick Ziegler*

Join Us in Anaheim

This is the convention opportunity of a lifetime. Just ask your kids. California has it all, and most of it's just down the freeway in Anaheim.

You still have time to pre-register for the convention (deadline June 9), book a flight to Los Angeles and beat the June 16 hotel cutoff date. But time is slipping away fast. Get it done today. ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Jack Williams wears the convention coordinator hat at the Free Will Baptist national convention.



Anaheim Marriott Hotel

How do we know if God did it?

The Church Growth Riddle

By J. Grant Swank, Jr.

**"I will build my church."
God said it.**

All other "church growth" is irrelevant. It is mere hype. It is very much of the flesh.

True. Acts of the Apostles related that 3,000 were saved in one day. Who did it? What did it? How did it happen? God did it. That is, the Holy Spirit came and built His church by 3,000 in one day. That formula has worked throughout the church age. All other formulas are suspect.

Yet there is much ado today about church growth. One need not elaborate on the seminars, airfares spent flitting to conferences to hear experts, fondling of brochures regarding gurus relating how to clone their Taj Mahals. Consequently, one need not belabor the mega-this and that. They are realities. They are countable.

Nevertheless, the question remains: Are they of God? Did He have anything to do with their building? Are they truly a part of "His church" when He said, "I will build my church"?

Surely there are all sorts of explanations which can be given for numerical growths of one mass of humans or another. Some delight in following Pied Pipers. Others fall for religious circuses. Still others are titillated by goosebump feelings of religion in a desperately lonely and cold world.

There are definitely those who come to the altars due to aesthetics. They are enamored by the evensongs, the altar flowers, the incense. They are taken with the hoods and cassocks and incantations. If God were dead, they would still show up because there is a magnetism to aesthetic pleasure.

With this said, what is it then that reveals the church that God built? A life is changed for good. A soul is forgiven of his sins. A surrender is complete before the Spirit of Christ. A reckless relinquishment to the cross is evident.

There is a lining up with the re-

vealed truth of scripture. There is a determined search for more of the divine. A revulsion against sin as well as a sensitivity to holiness are obvious.

The soul that so immerses itself in the biblical truth of conversion is a definite spectacle of the eternal church. God has done His work within. Eternity will show it; earth is better for it.

When one so centers on Jesus, God has added to His church. This needs no trumped up theatrics, no sensuous baits. It needs no gimmicks of business enticements nor allurements of the local mall. There is no need for groaning, barking nor flopping on sanctuary carpets.

There surely is no need for ego stroking, grandiose displays of materialistic braggadocio—castles for Jesus nor waterslides of the Spirit. Such is anathema to the Holy Ghost of Pentecost.

However, America—and wherever the American church is cloned around the globe—is taken up with its own brash brand of spiritual waywardness. It is this constant banging of the drums for numbers at any cost, tallying projected numerical gains, competitions ad infinitum between branches of Christendom and a yearning for one more "religious celebrity"—in itself a contradiction in terms.

Therefore, America will pay dearly at the judgment for creating its own golden calf. Evangelical Protestantism will especially pay for this segment of religion should have known better, considering its claims historically for orthodox knowledge.

What then is the solution to this present gaudiness in the name of God? It is a repentance of all that is blatantly carnal. There is a determined need for cleansing of the holy of holies by beginning with our own sacred precincts.

In short, there is the need for confessing that we have written our own religion, yielded to compromise to

accommodate a brattish public and settled for the bottom line rather than the highest calling.

Lie back in the Spirit. Do nothing until He moves. Cleanse your own heart of all that is tawdry and caught up with the manipulative. Examine your motives in light of the Word.

Check your runnings to and fro. Ask yourself: Why am I straining so hard at this daily religious game? What am I trying to prove? Who am I striving to impress?

Then determine to be a pauper with Jesus. Let go of every security other than the Spirit within. Strip down. Own nothing but what He provides in the moment. Put blinders on to shut out all that magnetizes to the flesh.

Ask God to start all over again to build His church in you—the kingdom of God is within you. Settle for nothing but that presence of the Holy, the consuming presence of the genuine indwelling of God alone.

Let Him do what He will with your life. In that, He will have built up His church in at least one soul. All other souls will be resigned likewise to His convicting presence.

That is how God builds His church—the true church—that one which will still be around after all the globe's dust settles in the last hour. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend J. Grant Swank, Jr., is a free-lance writer who resides in Windham, Maine. He pastors the New Hope Church.

Part five of a seven-part series on the Seven Deadly Sins

The Sin of Envy¹

By Kevin Riggs²



Anyone who has ever painted a kitchen or bathroom knows painting over grease, mold or mildew never works. No matter how pretty the paint, the stains will seep through. In order to be successful the stain has to be “killed” with either a bleach or a special product made for such a procedure. Once the mildew has been properly treated then, and only then, will paint cover the spot.

Envy could be described as the

mildew of our lives. A person filled with envy can try to hide it and try to cover it up with pretty colors, but the stain will always seep back through. I can dress envy up, and I can try to disguise it, but until I “kill” it, it will never go away. The Bible says, “For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one,” (Job 5:2).

Every age of life can be infected by the mildew of envy. Babies easily become jealous when mom or dad hold another baby. Children cry, bite,

pinch and throw temper tantrums because another child has a toy they wanted. Teenagers display envy by gossiping, tearing one another down to make themselves look better.

In college, students try to out-do each other and one-up each other through pranks and practical jokes. At work, people gossip around the water cooler, sabotage a person’s chance at a promotion and rejoice at the misfortune of others, all out of envy.



Within marriage, envy is seen when one spouse puts the other down in public or when one spouse tries to control the other. Even in church, envy can gain a stronghold: Churches compete against each other, instead of working together. Members harbor resentment for silly reasons, refusing to work together. No wonder the writer of Proverbs said, "A sound heart is the life of the flesh; but envy, the rottenness of the bones," (Prov. 14:30).

Sin of Envy

Envy is the desire to have what another person has at the expense of the other person having it. Envy is hoping the worst for another person. Another word for envy is "covet," and the Tenth Commandment emphatically states, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbour's," (Ex. 20:17).

Envy is what causes two gunslingers in every Western movie to look at each other and say, "This town ain't big enough for the two of us."

Warning Signs of Envy

During my first week at church camp when I was eight, I was almost bitten by a four-foot-long rattlesnake. Before I could get away, the snake struck at me three times. The power and quickness of this creature was both amazing and terrifying, and I will never forget the sound of those rattlers.

Envy reminds me of that rattlesnake: Both are deadly, and both give warning signs before they strike. What are the warning signs of envy?

One warning sign is comparisons. When I catch myself comparing my abilities, number of friends, material possessions, accomplishments and moral values with another person's, I'd better watch out, envy is about to strike.

If nothing is gained through comparisons, the next warning sign is competition. In other words, it could be envy, not a desire to fulfill the Great Commandment, that motivates me to have the biggest church with the most people and the largest salary.

If I can't bring the other person down or myself up by comparing and

competing, then I am tempted to criticize, the third warning sign of envy.

For example: If there is another minister who is more popular than me, has a larger ministry than mine, writes better than me and drives a nicer vehicle, it is tempting to bring that minister down a notch by criticizing his philosophy of ministry, calling him names like "liberal" or "legalist" and pointing out his faults to anyone who will listen.

Like a rattlesnake in its coil—comparison, competition, and criticism—are the signs envy is about to strike, and envy's bite is deadly.

Dangers of Envy

Envy always leads to hate. It is impossible for me to love someone and be jealous of him at the same time. A second danger of envy is it destroys my spiritual health. After David killed Goliath and received a hero's homecoming, King Saul kept an envious eye on David (1 Sam. 18:9).

After years of resentment, Saul concluded, "God is departed from me, and answereth me no more," (1 Sam. 28:15). Saul's envy toward David ate away at his relationship with God. Envy, jealousy, resentment or whatever else I may call it, is incompatible with the Christian life.

Another danger is envy ruins the joy of living. In short, the envious person is a miserable, unhappy person. When I try to keep up with the Jones', I end up losing the most important game in life. What good is a lot of stuff if I have to work three jobs to pay for it, and never have time to enjoy it?

Joy comes, not from trying to be like someone else, but from learning to be content with who I am, what I am and with what God has given me. Jesus said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you," (Matt. 6:33).

Overcoming Envy

Recognizing the dangers of envy makes me more committed than ever to overcome. I have learned envy can be overcome as I do three things.

First, I must trust God's plan for my life. God knew me and knit me together, before I was born (Psa. 139:13). I

was no accident, and God has a plan for my life that is better than my plan.

Furthermore, what God has planned for me, He has gifted me to do. I am discovering, as I trust God's plan for my life, that He provides opportunities for me to experience joyful service and total fulfillment.

A second thing I must do is develop the gifts God has given me. I am unique, God has given me a combination of gifts and abilities unlike anyone else's. Instead of trying to be like someone else, I need to develop the gifts God has given me and not be envious of those with differing gifts.

I was reminded of this truth a few years ago during summer youth camp. (This time, instead of being a camper, I was the evangelist.) During the week of camp, a 10-year-old boy beat me in chess, not once, but twice. Was I jealous or envious of his superior intellect? Of course not, I simply recognized God had gifted me in different areas than this child prodigy. How did I redeem my self-esteem? I challenged him to a game of basketball, and won!

The Apostle Paul said, "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all," (1 Cor. 12:4-6).

A third thing I have learned to do is remember I am a steward, not an owner, of what God has entrusted to me. All that I have comes from Him and is simply on loan from Him. Furthermore, all that anyone else has is on loan as well. There is no reason for me to be envious of what another person has because, ultimately, everyone owns the same thing in life—nothing.

No matter how much or how little God has given me, it is more than I deserve, and it is my responsibility to take care of it. Since all is from God, there is no need to be proud of what I have, and there is no need to be envious of what others have.

It is easy to whine, gripe, complain and forget how good I really have it. One thing pastoring has taught me is that everyone has problems. People in church strive for more and are envious of others. If they only knew the struggles those people they envy are going through, they would recognize

how good they really have it. In other words, most of what makes people envious of each other is not worth being envious. It may look like the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, but what I need to remember is that the grass is always greener over a larger septic tank. "For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work" (Jas. 3:16). ■

1. The Sin of Envy is part five of a seven-part series on the Seven Deadly Sins. These sins were called "chief" or "cardinal" sins by the early church fathers. They include the sins of laziness, lust, anger, pride, envy, gluttony and greed.

2. I would love to hear from you with any comments, questions, or opinions. I can be reached via email at gkriggs43@aol.com, or snail mail at 149 Arsenal Dr., Franklin, TN 37064, or by telephone at 615/790-3229.



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Kevin Riggs pastors Franklin Free Will Baptist Church in Franklin, Tennessee.

THE TOGETHER WAY

February 2000

Receipts: State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Year To Date Designated	Year To Date CO-OP	Year To Date Total
Alabama	\$ 193.40	\$ 476.73	\$ 670.13	\$ 522.30	\$ 476.73	\$ 999.03
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Arkansas	7,685.30	8,897.02	16,582.32	28,802.40	29,129.75	57,932.15
California	.00	1,267.94	1,267.94	.00	2,213.03	2,213.03
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Georgia	24,107.70	2,001.42	26,109.12	61,416.55	4,249.82	65,666.37
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	15,007.33	3,171.51	18,178.84	22,236.06	5,011.83	27,247.89
Indiana	1,261.93	125.19	1,387.12	2,398.27	244.23	2,642.50
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	175.00	1,158.80	1,333.80
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	.00	237.72	237.72
Kentucky	1,048.23	1,755.17	2,803.40	2,671.67	2,258.97	4,930.64
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Michigan	19,602.22	3,801.79	23,404.01	31,429.48	8,848.54	40,278.02
Mississippi	12,383.95	1,111.92	13,495.87	20,273.63	1,677.40	21,951.03
Missouri	43,883.66	12,168.88	56,052.54	82,089.08	27,000.65	109,089.73
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	1,147.86	58.94	1,206.80	1,702.14	76.08	1,778.22
North Carolina	2,065.18	2,416.26	4,481.44	2,912.59	4,793.72	7,706.31
Ohio	20,218.20	6,365.91	26,584.11	37,943.95	7,973.35	45,917.30
Oklahoma	67,880.22	9,610.36	77,490.58	120,269.98	19,093.20	139,363.18
South Carolina	.00	.00	.00	55,657.69	.00	55,657.69
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	8,411.39	1,233.12	9,644.51	27,712.25	4,171.35	31,883.60
Texas	12,029.42	307.82	12,337.24	20,652.82	616.52	21,269.34
Virginia	912.52	.00	912.52	1,404.21	.00	1,404.21
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	2,194.45	48.01	2,242.46	2,953.31	162.57	3,115.88
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northwest Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northeast Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	.05	.05	.00	.18	.18
Totals	\$ 240,032.96	\$ 54,818.04	\$ 294,851.00	\$ 523,223.38	\$ 119,394.44	\$ 642,617.82

Disbursements:

Executive Office	\$ 1,321.34	\$ 24,668.10	\$ 25,989.44	\$ 3,697.44	\$ 53,727.43	\$ 57,424.87
Foreign Missions	147,647.33	6,934.50	154,581.83	301,086.30	15,103.39	316,189.69
FWBBC	11,750.76	6,934.50	18,685.26	31,774.35	15,103.39	46,877.74
Home Missions	70,394.48	5,426.99	75,821.47	167,198.48	11,820.04	179,018.52
Retirement & Insurance	250.19	4,221.00	4,471.19	900.83	9,193.38	10,094.21
Master's Men	297.26	4,221.00	4,518.26	750.37	9,193.38	9,943.75
Com. for Theo. Integrity	344.82	150.74	495.56	604.32	328.35	932.67
FWB Foundation	246.89	1,808.99	2,055.88	709.89	3,940.03	4,649.92
Historical Commission	22.70	150.74	173.44	44.25	328.35	372.60
Music Commission	14.13	150.74	164.87	50.04	328.35	378.39
Media Commission	30.90	150.74	181.64	78.89	328.35	407.24
Hillsdale FWB College	1,565.82	.00	1,565.82	3,522.25	.00	3,522.25
Other	6,146.34	.00	6,146.34	12,805.97	.00	12,805.97
Totals	\$ 240,032.96	\$ 54,818.04	\$ 294,851.00	\$ 523,223.38	\$ 119,394.44	\$ 642,617.82

WNAC LOCAL DELEGATE CARD —2000—

THIS CERTIFIES THAT _____
 is a duly authorized delegate to the WNAC Convention of Free Will Baptists from
 the _____ women's group
 of _____ Free Will Baptist Church

 Signed _____ or _____
 (Local Coordinator) (Local Secretary)

IMPORTANT: This card properly signed and accompanied by a \$5 registration fee entitles a local delegate to register for voting privileges in the WNAC convention. Only one delegate allowed per church.



LOCAL CHURCH DELEGATE CARD —2000—

THIS CERTIFIES THAT _____
 is a duly authorized delegate to the National Association of Free Will Baptists
 from _____ FWB Church,

 _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (District Association)
 Signed _____ or _____
 (Pastor) (Church Clerk)

IMPORTANT: This card properly signed and accompanied by a \$50 registration fee entitles a local church delegate to register for voting privileges. Only one delegate allowed per church.

Beyond Belief



CONVENTION HERALD

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS, ANTIOCH, TENNESSEE

Volume 64, No. 2

May 2000

Registration Important

ANTIOCH, TN—Convention officials note that registration for the national convention in Anaheim is important for all attendees.

Registration gives officials a more accurate attendee count plus other vital statistics important for this and future conventions.

Registration provides badges for attendees. Badges are required for convention events.

Badges help identify registered visitors and delegates to the convention. Proof of registration (i.e. badge) allows attendees to participate in convention events.

Pre-registration is open to all who plan to attend (see related story elsewhere on this page for badge preview).

All badges identify attendee, status (visitor, minister, local church delegate, etc.), convention(s) registered for, and voting status.

Check Out Web Page

ANTIOCH, TN—Pre-registration materials for the convention are available at www.nafwb.org for the following items:

- Pre-Registration Form
- Housing Form
- Delegate Cards

Print the form, fill out completely and mail to appropriate address (see below).

For the first time, you will have the option of pre-registering on line if no money is involved (i.e. meals, delegate fees, NYC fees, etc.).

Pre-Registration Perk

National Association of Free Will Baptists
July 16-20, 2000 Anaheim, California



ANTIOCH, TN—As a special incentive, convention attendees who pre-register will receive attractive full-color badges in a quality vinyl pouch with bulldog clip and pin for attaching. Convention 2000's badge has a palm tree and sun design.

On-site registrants will receive plain black and

white badges with no graphics. These badges come in plastic covers with only pin-on attachments.

See above sample of pre-registration badge. The real thing will be in full color.

Don't delay.

Pre-register now!

Convention Hint: Take a light jacket!



In This Issue

May and June issues of *Contact* contain forms for pre-registration including the following:

- Pre-Registration Form
- Housing Form
- Local Church Delegate Card
- WNAC Delegate Card

Fill out forms completely (one person to a form, please) and mail to the proper address. Take special note of each address for each form.

Mailing addresses:

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

Housing Form
Mail, FAX, phone or email to the hotel of your choice (addresses on form).

Local Church Delegate Card
Attn: Melody Hood
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

WNAC Delegate Card
WNAC
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

Attention Pre-Registrants

Early pick-up available at
Hilton Anaheim
for those who
pre-register
by June 9.

Times:

Saturday, July 15

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 16

1:30 - 6:30 p.m.

At the Convention:
Visit the
exhibit area!



www.nafwb.org

Pre-Registration Form

for
National Association of Free Will Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Anaheim, California / July 16-20, 2000

DEADLINE:
Must be postmarked
on or before
June 9, 2000

Please Print: (Only one person per form—make copies if needed.)

Name: _____
Name desired on badge
Last Name

Home Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone #: (____) _____ - _____ Male Female

Church Name: _____ City _____ State _____

Pastor's Name: _____

Note: You may register for all three conventions on this form. (Badges required for convention events.)

<p style="text-align: center;">National Association Registration</p> <p>Voting Delegates: All voting delegates must be members in good standing of a FWB church. Check only one:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> National Board/Commission Member (nbn) <input type="checkbox"/> State Delegate (nsd) <input type="checkbox"/> Local Church Delegate—\$50 (nld) <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Missionary (nfm) <input type="checkbox"/> Home Missionary (nhm) <input type="checkbox"/> Ordained Deacon (nde) <input type="checkbox"/> Ordained Minister (nor)</p> <p>Non-Voting Attendees:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Licensed Minister (nli) <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor (nvi)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">National Youth Conference Registration</p> <p>For identification purposes: all NYC participants and all spectators must wear a badge.</p> <p>You must pay \$22* Pre-Registration Fee if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are in Grades 1-12 and plan to attend NYC events. • You are Ages 3-6 and plan to attend Pre-School Worship. <p>Check <input type="checkbox"/> Grades 1-12/attending NYC events—\$22 (y12) one: <input type="checkbox"/> Ages 3-6/attending Pre-School Worship—\$22 (y26) <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor (yvi)</p> <p>Birthdate: _____ Age: _____ Grade completed Spring 2000: _____</p> <p>Parent/Guardian: _____</p> <p>Youth Leader: _____</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">WNAC Registration</p> <p>Voting Delegates: Check only one:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> National Officer (wof) <input type="checkbox"/> State President (wsp) <input type="checkbox"/> State Field Worker (wfw) <input type="checkbox"/> State Delegate (wsd) <input type="checkbox"/> Local WNAC Delegate—\$5 (wld)</p> <p>Non-Voting Attendees:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Visitor (wvi) <input type="checkbox"/> Missionary (wmi)</p>	

Payment enclosed for:

Tickets: Youth Workers Reception—\$15	Quantity _____ x \$15 \$ _____
WNAC Fellowship Luncheon—\$28	Quantity _____ x \$28 _____
FWBBC Luncheon—\$25	Quantity _____ x \$25 _____

Delegate Fees:

Local Church Delegate—\$50 (Must enclose signed delegate card; see Contact, page 12 or www.nafwb.org) _____

Local WNAC Delegate—\$5 (Must enclose signed WNAC delegate card; see Contact, page 12 or www.nafwb.org) _____

Youth Registration Fee:

Pre-Registration Fee—\$22 _____

*On-Site Registration Fee—\$25 _____

Total \$ _____

Send one check for total amount — payable to FWB Convention.
No refunds after June 9, 2000.

Mail to:
Convention Registration
P. O. Box 5002
Antioch, TN 37011-5002

→ **Confirmation letters will be mailed.**
(Contact us if you do not receive one.)
1-877/767-7659

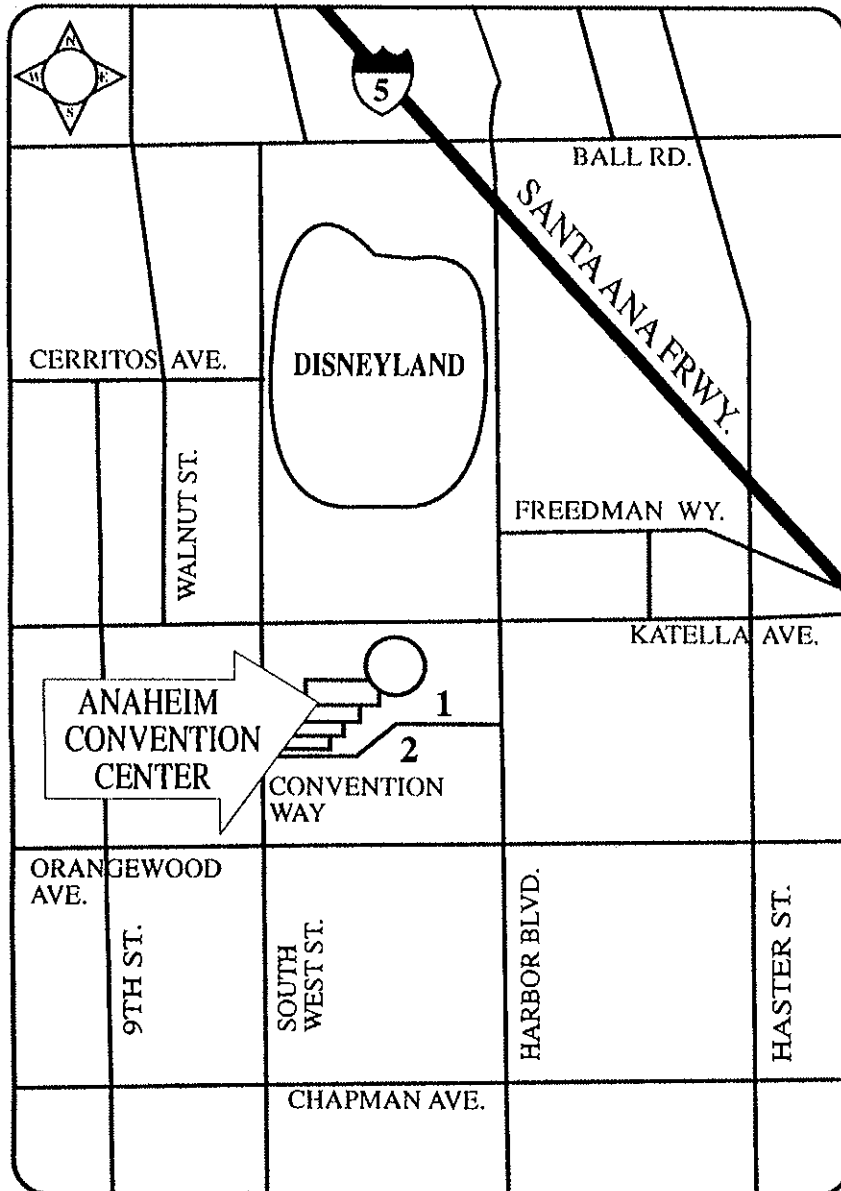
For Office Use Only

Date Rcv'd _____

Clk/MO# _____ Amt _____

From _____

Anaheim, California



Hotels

1. Hilton Anaheim Hotel
2. Anaheim Marriott Hotel

North Carolina Thanks Free Will Baptists

GOLDSBORO, NC—North Carolina promotional director Jim Marcum issued a statement of thanks in late February to Free Will Baptist people across the United States for their assistance in the aftermath of the Hurricane Floyd disaster.

Marcum said, "As of February 22, Free Will Baptists have given \$434,844 to the North Carolina FWB Disaster Relief Fund. Because of this outpouring from Free Will Baptists, renewed hope and encouragement fills the hearts of our embattled people."

The September 1999 hurricane destroyed the homes of more than 100 Free Will Baptist families in eastern North Carolina as well as doing extensive damage to local churches.

"Without your support in prayers and gifts, there is no telling how long our people would have been in the pit of discouragement and defeat," Marcum said.

Shortly after the hurricane, trucks and trailers filled with food, water, clothing, sanitary supplies and other items began arriving in North Carolina, sent by Free Will Baptists across America. Many local churches sent teams to the flooded area to assist in cleanup and rebuilding.

Pastor Jim Maddox whose Tabernacle FWB Church in Kinston experienced \$700,000 damage said, "Your generous contribution came at a time that was crucial for us. We needed help on a larger scale than we were capable of handling alone. You were used of God to help in this situation."

After 14 families in Mt. Calvary FWB Church (Hookerton) lost their homes, Pastor Fred Carraway said, "What an effort! Our church family is deeply indebted to Free Will Baptists."

Grifton FWB Church (Grifton) had 18 families displaced. Pastor Van Mitchell wrote, "The outpouring of support, encouragement, prayers and love has been glorious. Our people have been so strengthened by the knowledge that we are not having to go through this alone."

Under promotional director Jim Marcum's leadership, 12 North Carolina pastors met with Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington September 29, 1999, to assess flood damage and devise a strategy to assist families and churches.

A news release was mailed to every Free Will Baptist church denomination-wide on October 7 requesting assistance for North Carolina churches. The response has been overwhelming.

By late February, Marcum told the denomination that it would no longer be necessary to contribute to the North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund. "This does not mean that our people do not need any more money to help rebuild. However, it does mean that we in North Carolina believe that our brothers and sisters from all across this great land have gone above and beyond the call of duty. When our plea went forth, you responded with great compassion and speed."

North Carolina Free Will Baptist Disaster Relief Fund Totals

Alabama	\$ 18,910.93
Arkansas	26,074.58
Arizona	1,365.00
California	373.67
Colorado	1,210.00
Delaware	1,346.05
Florida	4,487.38
Georgia	21,299.93
Hawaii	330.00
Idaho	1,000.00
Illinois	15,585.42
Indiana	3,564.81
Kentucky	12,383.44
Louisiana	250.00
Maryland	184.00
Michigan	8,932.00
Mississippi	10,129.00
Missouri	5,450.49
New Jersey	605.55
New Mexico	270.00
North Carolina	136,430.29
Ohio	42,020.35
Oklahoma	13,561.80
Other Agencies	4,454.18
South Carolina	16,073.00
South Dakota	100.00
Tennessee	58,165.23
Texas	3,775.00
Unknown Contributors	60.00
Virginia	22,154.71
West Virginia	3,230.00
Wisconsin	582.00
Wyoming	485.54
Grand Total	\$434,844.35

Koreans to Publish Randall House Titles

NASHVILLE, TN—A meeting in early 2000 to arrange for Free Will Baptist materials to be translated and published in Korea brought together Foreign Missions director James Forlines, Randall House president Alton Loveless and Dr. Hack Bong Chung, who will lead the new Free Will Baptist Seminary in Korea.

Both Dr. Chung and Dr. Loveless signed letters of agreement giving

permission for Randall House Publications to publish five of Chung's books for the growing Korean community in the United States: *Biblical Basic Doctrines of Christianity*, *Biblical Discipleship*, *Biblical Stewardship*, *Lay Missionary* and *The Lord God of Ko-*



(L) Foreign Missions director James Forlines, Randall House president Alton Loveless, Korean leader Hack Bong Chung.

reans. All will be in Korean.

Dr. Loveless agreed that Dr. Chung could translate and publish the following Randall House titles into the Korean language: *Biblical Ethics*, *Biblical Systematics* and *Quest for Truth*, F. Leroy Forlines; *Commissioned to Communicate*,

Harrold D. Harrison; *Free Will Baptist Handbook*, J. Matthew Pinson; *Free Will Baptist Minister's Manual*, Billy A. Melvin; *Handbook for Deacons and The Free Will Baptist Doctrines*, J. D. O'Donnell; *The Future*, Cecil Sanders; *Romans*, Robert Picirilli; and all the *Randall House Bible Commentaries*.

R a n d a l l House recently went to press

with the Russian translation of Forlines' *Biblical Systematics*. The book will be distributed to Russian Free Will Baptists.

"We are glad for the opportunity given to broaden World Missions through Free Will Baptist books," said Brother Forlines.

Theological Commission to Publish Journal

NASHVILLE, TN—At the 1999 national convention, the Commission for Theological Integrity announced plans to publish an annual theological journal. The commission will unveil the first issue of *Integrity: A Journal of Christian Thought*, in Anaheim this July.

Journal editor Matt Pinson explains the purpose of the journal as "providing our pastors and lay people with serious theological writing that will apply to their lives and ministries while at the same time giving them the fruit of in-depth theological research."

Pinson goes on to say that the journal is "by Free Will Baptists for Free Will Baptists. Our people have long needed and wanted solid theological reading material that reflects basic Free Will Baptist commitments. Our aim is to provide them with that."

Commission chairman Leroy Forlines says that the journal will provide a "format for sharing the benefits of those who pay the price of doing in-depth research and thinking. The journal will help us connect to a

much wider audience than we have been able to reach in the past. We want to furnish pertinent material for pastors, those in leadership positions, and those among the laity who would like to be informed and stay in touch with what is happening in the field of biblical and theological life and thought."

Integrity will feature original articles on biblical studies, preaching, theology, church history, church and ministry, apologetics, Christian worldview, Christianity and culture and other topics. The journal will also carry in-depth reviews of books that will be excellent reading for pastors and lay leaders.

Integrity will be published by the Commission for Theological Integrity. It is being sponsored by Randall House Publications, Free Will Baptist Bible College and Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College, who contributed to see the project come to fruition. The journal will be provided free of charge to Free Will Baptist churches the first year of publication.

Discount Air Fares to National Convention Available

ANTIOCH, TN—The National Association of Free Will Baptists has made special travel arrangements for attendees and their families who will be flying to the national convention in Anaheim, California, July 16-20, according to Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington.

Artists Travel Corporation in Nashville has been selected as the agency of record to provide members attending the convention with discount travel services.

Discounts for air travel to Anaheim have been secured on Delta Air Lines. The airline offers a 5% discount on excursion rates and 10% discount on full coach fares. These fares cannot be purchased through another travel agency or directly with the airlines. These are contracted group air fares. First class tickets may also be booked if desired.

Special note: Book your ticket 60 days in advance and receive 10% discount on excursion rates.

Artists Travel Corporation has contracted for travel dates July 12 through July 24 for the convention.

To book airspace at the offered discounted rates, call Artists Travel Corporation toll free at 1-800/489-2009. Ask for **Janice Jakobik** and identify yourself with the Free Will Baptist national convention. The agent will need the following:

- your name
- number of passengers
- home phone number
- correct mailing address
- city of flight origin
- business phone number

For easy billing, have a **current credit card** ready at the time of booking. Artists Travel will process and mail the tickets to you.

Children and Youth Workers Meet

NASHVILLE, TN—Over 250 Free Will Baptist children and youth workers from 14 states met during two national youth worker retreat locations in February, according to Dean Jones, National Youth Conference director. The retreats, held in Branson, Missouri, and Prestonsburg, Kentucky, provided training, encouragement, resources and fellowship for both part-time and full-time workers.

Dean Stone, director of the International Network of Children's Ministry in Castle Rock, Colorado, led the general sessions and challenged workers to prepare for ministry in the 21st century. His years of expertise provided practical insight, theory and creativity for those looking to improve their ministry with young people, especially children.

Workshop electives provided attendees with additional training in the areas of drama, music, spiritual development and personality profiles. The setting of retreat locations made for a learning and relaxing experience.

Plans are underway for next year's retreats to be held February 9-11 in Missouri, and February 16-18 in Kentucky. Guest speaker will be Paul Borthwick, student missions mobilizer and worker trainer.



General session leader Dean Stone.

currently

Pastor **Mark Braisher** gathered 10 couples for a February "Discovering Church Membership Class" at **Southern Hills FWB Church in Overland Park, KS**. He also baptized four converts and received eight new members.

First FWB Church in Inman, SC, needs a principal for their Christian school. Interested persons may contact Pastor **Earl Hendrix** at 864/472-3376. Current principal **Jeff Cochran** will change hats after 14 years and become children/youth minister.

Retired minister **Elvis Fielding** died after being hit by a vehicle while exercising near his home in Mexia, TX. The 73-year-old minister's most recent pastorate was Zion FWB Church in Corpus Christi.

Westfield FWB Church in Katy, TX, became self-supporting after five years, according to Pastor **David Ferguson**. The congregation has received financial and prayer support from First FWB Church in Houston.

Churches out West often have a difficult time securing pastors. That's the situation with **Lighthouse FWB Church in Carlsbad, NM**. Ministers: Do you want a chance to be part of something challenging a long way from the Atlantic Ocean? Contact **Hank Murray** at 505/885-8562.

Pastor **Ronnie Mitchell** reports seven new members at **First FWB Church in Mt. Vernon, IL**.

They're breathing a sigh of relief at **Harmony FWB Church in West Frankfort, IL**. Pastor **Kenneth Edwards** says that the remodeling effort by members finally ended. The auditorium has been reborn.

Pastor **John Hollis** says, "Thank you," for the donation of a car to **Crossroads FWB Church in Effingham, IL**. The Q45 will be used as a ministry vehicle.

The oldest member of **Hazel Creek FWB Church in Kirksville, MO**, was honored by the congregation. **John Filkins** has been a member since 1916, when he joined at age 14. Filkins (97)

taught Sunday School 20 years and led singing 15 years. **Ken Reiter** pastors.

First FWB Church in Lebanon, MO, celebrated **Lehman O'Dell** Day to honor the layman who has served as a deacon for 33 years. Pastor **Ken Haney** presented Deacon O'Dell with a plaque commemorating his years of service.

They're singing great songs at **Abundant Grace FWB Church in Louisville, KY**, thanks to two cases of new hymnals. The hymnals were given by **Ten Mile FWB Church in Madison Heights, MI**. Pastor **Mark Wheatley** and his Louisville congregation have their eyes on a five-acre site they hope to purchase.

The 25th annual **Alabama Missionary Conference** stretched from Florence to Dothan this year, and included 69 churches and 25 speakers. Conference Coordinator **Danny Williams** said that 260 people attended the kickoff banquet at Northport's Civic Center, sponsored by the Mt. Moriah Association.

After doubling the size of their parking lot and installing a new septic system in January, members of **Victory FWB Church in Mascoutah, IL**, started pouring footers for their new building. **Jon Cannon** pastors.

The **Mississippi Pastors/Workers Conference** met in February at **Martin Hill FWB Church in Booneville**. The conference included eight messages from four speakers: Home Missions director **Trymon Messer**, Randall House director **Alton Loveless**, Corinth FWB Church pastor **Robert Dykes** and Pearl FWB Church associate pastor **David Nicholson**.

The **Mid-South Pastors/Workers Conference** met February 14-16 at **Highland FWB Church in Muscle Shoals, AL**. The speakers included North Carolina pastor **Dann Patrick**, Tennessee evangelist **John Gibbs** and Foreign Missions staffer **Fred Warner**.

Reverend **Clayton Crafton**, a Free Will Baptist minister in Oklahoma for more than 43 years, died January 22.

He was 80 years old. Brother Crafton was converted at age 30 and called to preach at age 37. He pastored five churches, all in Oklahoma.

Contact welcomes **Hardhood**, a publication of Evangelist **Irvin Hyman** in Albany, GA. The eight-page quarterly includes devotional ideas, a question and answer column and other helpful items.

Home Missionary **Tommy Jones** reports four conversions and nine baptisms at **Three Rivers FWB Church in Pittsburgh, PA**.

Members of **Limestone FWB Church in Limestone, TN**, raised \$30,000 in the Don Sexton Foreign Missions Walk-A-Thon. **Alfred Cutshall** pastors.

The **Georgia Christian Education Board** sponsored a couples retreat in February on St. Simons Island. The guest speaker for the retreat was **Paul Harrison**, pastor of Cross Timbers FWB Church in Nashville, TN.

Pastor **Ken Doggett** reports two conversions, four rededications, six baptisms and 23 first-time visitors at **Heritage FWB Church in Springfield, IL**.

Thirty-five professions of faith: That's how Pastor **Fred Jones** described 1999 at **Prattville FWB Mission in Prattville, AL**. He started the new year with six baptisms.

North Valley FWB Church in Phoenix, AZ, reports five conversions and five rededications. **George Harvey** pastors. The congregation thanks Highland Park FWB Church in Stillwater, OK, for a Chevrolet van to be used in ministry.

Pastor **Darrell Smith** reports 31 conversions at **Oregon Trail FWB Church in Oregon City, OR**. ■

1,000 In 2000!

By Richard T. Hendrix

I have a dream for Free Will Baptists. That dream is that we rid ourselves of the mindset that we can't grow like other Baptists. Wouldn't it be wonderful that if this coming year your church reached, baptized and

added 50 new members? Wouldn't it be great if Alabama Free Will Baptists baptized and added 5,000 new members to our Alabama churches? Wouldn't it be great if the National Association of Free Will Baptists grew by 50,000 new members during this coming year?

The typical response would be, "That's good, but that's a hard thing to do!" Let me tell you about a plan that the Lord gave me. It is called "1000 in 2000." I have challenged Madison FWB Church (in Madison, AL, where I pastor) to evangelize 1,000 people in the year 2000. By evangelize, I'm referring to those who have had the gospel presented to them by word of mouth, letter, gospel tract or other materials, and have received enough information to make an intelligent decision about Christ.

Your next question might be concerning how that will be accomplished. If you have 20 people who will commit to evangelize 50 people this coming year, then you will have evangelized 1000 people. On the other hand, if 40 people will commit to evangelize 25 people, you will have reached your goal.

Do you think it would be a reasonable goal to expect to evangelize five percent of the people we reach? Sure it is. That would be 50 new people added to the kingdom of heaven. If we reached one percent of the 1000 evangelized, that would be 10 new souls in a year. A lot of Free Will Baptist churches would be happy to have 10 new additions in a year.

Here is a breakdown of the plan on the local, state and national levels. Local: 20 people to evangelize 50 people in a year = 1000 — 5% of 1000 = 50

Statewide: We have about 20,000 Free Will Baptists in Alabama. It would only take 2000 Alabama Free Will Baptists evangelizing 50 people in a year to reach 100,000 — 5% of 100,000 = 5000. If we followed this plan for five years, we could easily have 45,000 Free Will Baptists in Alabama!

Nationally: We have approximately 250,000 members in the National Association of Free Will Baptists. If 20,000 Free Will Baptists would evangelize 50 people, that would equal one mil-

lion people who would have had the gospel presented to them. $5\% \text{ of } 1,000,000 = 50,000$. If the National Association would follow this plan for five years, we could easily have 500,000 Free Will Baptists nationally. More importantly, 250,000 new souls would be going to Heaven.

This plan will work. Here are some ways to do it:

1. Have commitment cards made.
2. Order 1000 gospel tracts with your church name imprinted on them.
3. Make a chart to keep up with your progress.
4. Have a banner made: "1000 in 2000"
5. Each week, have your people turn in the number they have evangelized.
6. Have a short training session for those who have committed to the "1000 in 2000" program.
7. Celebrate each soul that comes to Christ.
8. Adjust the program to fit your individual church situation.
9. Report the number evangelized and saved to your individual Free Will Baptist state office so we can have a big celebration at the state meeting.
10. Home Missions director Trymon Messer has agreed to promote the plan on a national level. The Home Missions Department is working on a packet to help you with the materials. Contact them for more information.

I believe with all my heart that we as Free Will Baptists can make a greater impact on the world for Christ. We can double our membership locally, statewide and nationally if we will just do it. ■

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ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Richard Hendrix planted the Madison Free Will Baptist Church in Madison, Alabama, as a home missionary approximately 10 years ago, led it to become self-supporting and maintains a successful ministry there today.

Home



Missions

Is Anybody Listening Out There?

By Alton Loveless

Continuing with the 10 worst listening habits . . .

Sixth, faking attention ranks high in most of our poor listening habits. Having paid the speaker the overt courtesy of appearing to tune him in, the listener feels conscience-free to take off into a thousand mental directions.

Effective listening is characterized by a quicker action of the heart, a faster circulation of blood and a small rise in body temperature. The attention forced becomes a collection of tensions inside the listener who has resolved to get the facts and ideas the speaker is trying to convey.

Tolerating or creating distractions is seventh. This needs little explanation. Anything can distract the listener . . . from a rumbling stomach to the bird out the window.

Evading the difficult appears eighth on the list. Most poor listeners had rather avoid any difficult situation of presentation according to research. This contributes to their "inexperienced status." The wise listener sees everything hard as a challenge and soon learns it is often just as easy as the simple.

Ninth in line is submitting to emotion-laden words. We do not know what words affect every person, but we do know that some are effective in affecting many. It is silly how sometimes a simple word—merely a symbol of something—can get us so excited as to disrupt our listening efficiently. (Do you know what words affect your emotions?)

Wasting of thought power finishes off the top 10 worst listening habits. I left this one until last because I think it could be the most important. An average teacher talks about 125 words per minute, but a listener has an easy cruising thought speed of at least 400 - 500 words a minute. The difference between speech speed and thought speed can operate as a tremendous pitfall.

Thought power does not have to be wasted. If you can think four times faster than a man can talk, you

surely have a source power; it should not be a weakness.

The process of converting the speaker's words becomes the business of learning. What things do you engage in mentally in order

to stay tuned in on the speech?

Here are three suggestions:

1 Anticipate the speaker's next comment. Dash ahead of him to guess what his next main point is likely to be. If you guess it, learning is reinforced. If you guess wrong, you can compare his reasoning with yours. That is one of the oldest laws of learning—that of comparison and contrast.

2 Identify elements. The average speaker uses only three ways to build points. He explains the point, gets emotional and harangues the point or he illustrates the point with a factual generalization following the illustration. A good listener knows this and spends the differential between thought speed and speech speed to identify what is being used as point-support material.

3 Make mental summaries. Throw in periodic mental summaries of what you're hearing. That means put in your own words what you think the speaker is saying. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Alton Loveless is general director of the Sunday School and Church Training Department.

Randall



House

Most of us have moved at one time or another in our lives. Sometimes the move involved great distances and other times it was just down the street or across town. There are myriads of emotions that flood our minds when we even contemplate a move. Will we like the new house we are moving into? Will the neighbors be pleased that we are there?

When a college contemplates relocating and moves forward with that process, there are tons of emotions that flood the hearts and evoke questions in the minds of those who love and support that institution.

One question that is frequently asked: *Is there serious interest in the purchase of our present campus?* Yes. A number of parties are seriously interested in purchasing our present campus. We have received formal offers to purchase the campus and it may be sold by the time you read this.

Another question is: *What is the asking price for our present campus?* An appraisal of our present facilities was conducted a few weeks ago at the request of and underwritten by a potential buyer. The results of that appraisal were considered and a price of \$14,325,500 was set.

Another question that comes to mind is: *How do the new neighbors feel about our becoming a part of their community?* We invited some 1,200 neighbors in the Joelton Community that surrounds our new campus to meet with us a few weeks ago. That meeting also included the Nashville City Council representative for that community. We took our Master Plan and building designs to the meeting and went into great detail about what we hope to do on the new site. At the conclusion of the meeting, the council representative asked how the neighbors felt about our becoming part of their community. Their response was a rousing standing ovation of support.

Another question that comes to mind is: *When will we actually begin construction?* If things continue on course, we should receive our building permits from the city in June and begin construction shortly after the National Association in July.

Another question that comes to mind is: *What will be built first?* The front entrance area will probably be the first to be developed. It is very visible on US 41-A and will be a nice presence to assure both our constituents and our neighbors that we are moving forward with the construction. The Free Will Baptist Bible College Alumni Association has taken the entrance

On the Move

By Roy Harris,
Advancement Director

area on as its new project at a cost of approximately \$100,000.

Another question is: *Are we still on target to move in and begin classes by August 2002?* Yes. Our goal is to complete the

construction, make the transition from the old campus to the new one, and begin classes on the new site in August 2002.

Are there any potential problems that could slow down or stop the process? There are two very important things that must happen or the process could be delayed. First, the sale of the present campus is essential. The equity derived from the sale figures heavily into the financial undergirding of the new campus. Second, the Relocation Campaign must generate the funds needed above the monies received from the sale of the old campus. When a move is made from a small house to a larger one, the larger house will cost more. That is true with moving from a nine-acre campus with older buildings to a 123-acre campus with new buildings. We must have the financial support of our Free Will Baptist family if we are to be successful.

What can be done to help is another question that comes to mind. Prayer is the most important thing that can be done to help the process. If God does not build the house, the work is in vain. Pray that the campus will be sold and at a price we must have in order to continue our forward momentum. Pray that God will continue to impress His people to help undergird the process financially. Cash flow will become more and more of a juggling act as we move through Phase One. Another thing that can be done is for individuals, churches, businesses and alumni to ask the Lord if He would like for them to become involved, personally, in helping Free Will Baptist Bible College relocate to a new campus.

The next 90 days are crucial. It has been amazing to watch God's involvement in this process. His presence and direction have been clear as this massive undertaking has moved forward one step at a time. He already sees the completion of this great endeavor. This is one move where God will rest all our fears and answer all our questions. He is the sovereign God who is in control and devises His own plans. He is the omnipotent God who possesses all power and resources to complete any project that He begins. He is the omniscient God who knows His plan and sees the end from the beginning. There is no question, God is God and He is the real story of all that is happening at Free Will Baptist Bible College. ■

What Is the Foundation?

By William W. Evans

The Foundation is not an end-product ministry, like Foreign or Home Missions, Master's Men, WNAC, FWBBC, Sunday School or one of the commissions. We are like BASF, we do not make the product, we just make the product better.

The general purpose of our other national ministries is shown by the names of the organizations. They have a defined ministry role that helps fulfill the great commission in some way. Their operations may be complex, demanding, and involve many diverse activities. Consider the missions departments for example: they appoint personnel, supervise training and preparation, work through relocation problems, receive and dispense gifts, provide support materials and programs, and countless other "things" that require time and workers.

However, there is no specific requirement within these other departments to focus on money management or the placement and operation of deferred gifts. But that *is* required of the FWB Foundation.

The Foundation is organized to assist any and all of our agencies and provide help in the following ways:

1. Eliminate the need for each agency to have individuals trained to focus on cash management and the placement, investment and management of IRS approved deferred gift agreements.
2. Manage surplus funds or funds designated for a specific project in the future.
 - A. Surplus funds are invested to provide safety of principal with access and returns that generally exceed money market accounts.
 - B. Specific project funds are invested to match the purpose and need of the specific project. Those considerations include the areas of risk, reward and the time involved for each individual project.
3. Explain, provide and manage deferred gift agreements. This requires maintaining a trained Free Will Baptist staff to explain the legal details of the various types of gift giving agreements.
 - A. Endowments: outright gifts that provide
 - 1) 100% income tax deduction to the donor in the year of the gift.
 - 2) Immediate income to the charity/ies designated
 - B. Life income gifts: deferred gifts that provide:
 - 1) Income to the donor, donors or others as di-

rected for life or a period of years.

- 2) Charitable tax deductions for a portion of the assets transferred.
- 3) Management of the assets, payments and tax reporting as required.
- C. This also requires providing information and calculations without pressure or obligations to donors who want to maximize benefits both to themselves and to the ministry.

Those are good reasons to support the existence of the Foundation, but there are several others also.

Cost is probably the most obvious. If each department had to focus on this kind of money management, additional cost of staff, office space, training and travel would be prohibitive. In addition, those services would require specialized investment supervision, reports to the donor and the IRS in a timely manner, and numerous other details.

Not so obvious, but very real is the representation and service the Foundation offers for our smaller agencies, state and district ministries and local churches.

The Foundation serves all Free Will Baptists and their agencies with consistency and without competition. We are, after all, a denomination, not a loose confederation of independent agencies with a winner-take-all, or first-come, first-served attitude.

The Foundation has policies for conduct and operation that demand respect for the wishes of the donor, and operates in light of the law and Christian ethics. We presently manage agreements that benefit every department of our National Association, several state and district associations and local churches. We also serve numerous individuals who have income-producing agreements, some of which will revert to heirs, others that will benefit various Free Will Baptist agencies.

If you have some questions about arrangements that could benefit you or our Free will Baptist ministries, drop us a line or give us a call; we would love to help. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend William W. Evans serves as director of the Free Will Baptist Foundation.

Free Will Baptist



Foundation



Garnett Reid

Here Comes the Groom

Our two previous studies on John the Baptist focused on Jesus's *words of assurance to John and His words of commendation about John*. In this month's feature we hear what John says about Jesus and draw some conclusions about how the two men relate to each other.

The first chapter of John's gospel provides the setting for two remarkable *words of recognition* from John the Baptist about Jesus. In verse 29, John declares, "Behold, the *Lamb of God*, which taketh away the sin of the world." In referring to Jesus as God's "lamb," John uses an image familiar to most Jews of the day. Those people who heard this metaphor would have thought of the Old Testament and its many references to lambs.

The Passover, instituted in Exodus 12 and celebrated throughout Jewish history to commemorate deliverance, featured a lamb. Other Old Testament sacrifices involve a blemish-free lamb offered in place of a guilt-stained person (Lev. 5:1-6).

Isaiah 53 depicts the Suffering Servant "brought as a lamb to the slaughter" in his great work of bearing iniquity in our place (vv. 6-7). John, therefore, points to Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice capable of removing the world's sin.

In the same context, John attests "that this is the *Son of God*" (John 1:34). The Gospels identify Jesus as God's Son 26 times (see, for example, Mark 1:1, Matt. 8:29; Luke 1:35). Jesus even uses the expression to refer to Himself (John 5:25; 10:36; 11:4). In Romans 1:4 Paul calls Jesus the "Son of God" in connection with His resurrection, proving that He is deity.

The Old Testament associates the title "Son of God" with the coming Messiah. In God's covenant with David, for example, the King who reigns on David's throne will be God's

"Son" (II Sam. 7:14; see also Psalms 89). Ultimately Jesus Christ alone fulfills this royal office since only He is an everlasting kingdom (II Sam. 7:16).

Psalms 2, a Messianic psalm, also identifies the "anointed" one (Messiah) as God's Son. "I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee." (v.7). Once more His reign as divine King is in view as the nations and the "uttermost parts of the earth" encompass His dominion (v. 8).

Let's summarize our look at the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist by listening to the words of John's father, Zacharias, spoken on the occasion of John's circumcision. In many ways, this oracle (Luke 1:67-80) explores the very heart of the New Covenant message about Jesus' mission.

Luke begins his account of Zacharias' statement with this powerful preface: "And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost and prophesied, saying . . .," (v. 67). John's prophecy offers a digest of the gospel centered around the ministries of Jesus (vv. 68-75) and John (vv. 76-80).

Note that Zacharias describes the life and ministry of Jesus with regard to the two great redemptive covenants before the gospel era: the covenant with David and its source, the covenant with Abraham. As God promised, through the house of David He has "visited" His people in the person of Jesus. According to the Old Testament, "divine visitation" occurs when God Himself directly intervenes for His people, either to judge them or save them.

In this case, His intervention is to "redeem" His people by "raising up a horn of salvation," (vv. 68-69). The term "horn" suggests strength and often denotes Messianic activity in the Old Tes-

tament (see I Sam. 2:10; Psalms 89:24).

Other phrases loaded with meaning relative to Christ's saving work occur here in covenant connections. God's "servant David" is an important title of the Messiah (Jer. 33:26; Ezek. 34:23-24). Zacharias affirms that God's prophets have foretold His salvation and mercy "since the world began," (vv. 70-72), in keeping with His covenant promises.

Both to and through Abraham, God promised blessing (Gen. 12:1-3). Now Zacharias announces a continual fulfillment of that promise as God delivers His people and makes provision for them to serve Him faithfully (Luke 1:73-75).

Then, perhaps taking his newborn son in his arms, Zacharias looks ahead to what John will do with his life. What joy and intense satisfaction must have welled up within this godly priest when he envisioned the future for his boy.

John will, so his father says, prepare the way of the Lord, going before His very presence as His ambassador: (1) to declare that repentance of sin paves the way for salvation and the forgiveness of sin; (2) to dispel death's darkness by announcing the approaching sunrise ("dayspring," v. 78); and (3) to direct our feet down the path of peace.

In John 3, John the Baptist compares his role to that of the best man at a wedding: "the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease," (vv. 29-30). May John's longing be that of our hearts as well. ■

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PREACHERS



Dennis Wiggs

The ABC's of Previous Articles

Aaron, my grandson, was riding with me from home to church. Doug, his father, married to our daughter, Audra, was driving his own vehicle so he could remain at church and work on the office computers. Aaron was scheduled to begin four-year-old kindergarten in a few days.

As we traveled, Aaron kept saying "Yep" to every question I asked him.

So, I proceeded to give him a grandfatherly lecture on why he should say "Yes, Sir" and "Yes, Ma'am" when he went to kindergarten. He listened intently.

Arriving at church, I said, "Aaron, remember that you need to show respect to your teacher and principal by saying, "Yes, Ma'am" and "Yes, Sir." I asked, "Do you understand?"

Without blinking an eye, he loudly said, "Yep."

My grandson heard but he didn't put my suggestions into practice. That might be the way young preachers treat these articles. To review what has been written for the last year or two, here's my "older preacher lecture" to younger preachers by the means of the alphabet.

Always begin the day with the scriptures and prayer.

Be extremely careful when you counsel the opposite sex.

Carry a mint in your pocket to place in your mouth after you preach.

Date your wife at an inexpensive restaurant once a week.

Exercise regularly. Park your vehicle at the far end of the hospital's parking lot. Walk the steps.

Flirt with no woman! Be devoted to your wife. Write her love notes. Treat her like a queen.

Give kind, optimistic statements to the congregation. Write thank you notes for gifts received.

Help your wife around the home, especially when you first move into a new pastorate.

Invest wisely for the future. A systematic method of saving is essential.

Judge not. Commit problem church members to the Lord.

Kill the temptation of laziness. Check off items in your planning book as they are accomplished.

Love your congregation. Give handshakes, smiles, telephone calls, even to dissatisfied members.

Memorize Scripture.

Neatly hang up clothes in the closet. Buy quality clothes and wear them many years.

Open your home to missionaries, evangelists, preachers and other Christian workers.

Place gospel tracts wherever you go. Leave church bulletins and booklets in hospital rooms.

Quit bad habits, like chewing fingernails, using "minced oaths," overeating, etc.

Refuse to spread gossip. Defend your brother pastor. Get the truth from him.

Share God's blessings by tithing. Keep a \$20 bill in your wallet to assist someone.

Trust the Lord for victory over pastoral problems. Pray long before acting.

Unite the congregation around prayer meetings.

Visit in the hospital with a desire to be a blessing. Dress professionally.

Witness regularly to the unsaved of the saving grace of God. Pray for converts.

Xpect to stay at the present pastorate as long as possible.

Yield to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in preparation and preaching of sermons.

Zip off letters of commendation to your congregation. Write at least one note a week. ■

E-mail: denniswiggs@always-online.com

COMING NEXT MONTH

Convention Programs
for

National Convention
WNAC Convention
National Youth Conference

YOUTH UPDATE

Be A Missionary in the U.S.?

Did you know that...

Los Angeles is:

- The largest Mexican metropolitan area outside Mexico
- The largest Korean metropolitan area outside Korea
- The largest Filipino metropolitan area outside the Philippines
- The largest Vietnamese metropolitan area outside Vietnam
- The largest Salvadoran metropolitan area outside El Salvador
- The largest Guatemalan metropolitan area outside Guatemala
- The second largest Chinese metropolitan area outside China
- The second largest Japanese metropolitan area outside Japan



The **National Youth Conference**, through our **Reach That Guy** student mission involvement program will be offering numerous opportunities in the Anaheim/Los Angeles area to involve you and your youth group in ministering and serving these and many other people groups.

There will be various opportunities for junior high and high school students as well as a "youth workers-only" outreach experience. If you or your youth group are interested in participating in these special outreach events, please register your group by calling 1-800-877-7030, ext. 307.

Special Outreach Project for NYC 2000

The **National Youth Conference** in cooperation with the **California State Mission Board** has developed an exciting opportunity for our summer convention in Anaheim, California.

As you plan your trip to the National Youth Conference this summer, don't forget our special project to help our mission churches in sunny California.

Free Will Baptists have started several mission churches in California which minister to Korean, Russian, Slavic, and Chinese people. Beginning these new works mean there are a lot of needs for specialized materials, supplies, and curriculum.

If your youth group, children's church, or Vacation Bible School would like to bring a donation to NYC, it can be used to buy curriculum, foreign language Bibles, radio transmission equipment, and church supplies. For more information or to send your donation, please write: National Youth Conference•114 Bush Road/
P.O. Box 17306•Nashville, TN 37217.



Thomas Marberry

John in the IVP New Testament Commentary Series

By Rodney A. Whitacre

(Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999, 526 pp., hardback, \$21.99)

The last 25 years have produced a number of valuable commentaries on the Gospel of John, and this one deserves a place among them. The author holds a Ph.D. from Cambridge University; he presently serves as Professor of Biblical Studies at Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. The study of the Johannine literature is one of his principal areas of specialization.

The author begins with an insightful analysis of current scholarship concerning the date, authorship and purpose of the fourth gospel. He notes that there is no general agreement among New Testament scholars on the authorship of this gospel. Some students find evidence for several different authors or editors who contributed to the book in different ways.

One popular theory today is that the gospel was not the work of one single author; it was something of a community product. Whitacre defends a rather traditional approach to the issue of authorship. He does not see the book as a community product.

He writes, "It is far more likely that one individual stands behind this document than that a community does." He argues that John the son of Zebedee is not necessarily the author of every word in the gospel, but he is the driving force behind the gospel, and it preserves John's witness to Jesus.

Whitacre writes, "I will refer to John as the author not in the sense that he necessarily wrote it all as it stands, but in recognition that it is his witness that is presented here and that he at least caused it to be written."

Whitacre notes that the date of the gospel is quite difficult to determine. There are valid arguments for a date before 70 A.D., but, in his view, a date about 90 A.D. is more likely. He points

out that "Most scholars would accept a date between 80 and 100."

The key to understanding the purpose of this gospel is found in John 20:30-31. As the author explains, "His primary purpose is to tell the story of Jesus for faith." There is considerable discussion whether this means that the gospel was originally intended to engender faith in unbelievers or whether it was intended to develop the faith of believers.

The author suggests that the book was originally written to give assurance and instruction to believers during the difficult days of the second half of the first century. It is his view that this gospel proved to be a valuable evangelistic tool and it was so used at an early date.

This commentary approaches the Gospel of John from two different perspectives, one historical and the other pastoral. The author devotes considerable attention to explaining how each section of John would have been interpreted in the first century.

Jesus healed the lame man at the pool in chapter five on the Sabbath day. Whitacre explains that ". . . according to Jewish thought God alone is allowed to work on the sabbath, so to claim such a right would make one equal to God . . ." This commentary provides many helpful insights on the original meaning of the gospel text.

This commentary also reflects a decidedly pastoral approach. It emphasizes how the gospel can be effectively used in preaching and teaching today. In his interpretation of John 7:1-13 the author notes that "Recognizing that Jesus is a miracle worker does not make one a believer." A short time later in the same section the author writes, "Jesus' aim is not to gain a following but to reveal his Father by being faithful and obedient to him."

This is a useful commentary for

pastors and other Christian workers. It takes the text of John's Gospel seriously. It is not carried away by the latest radical theories in New Testament interpretation. It seeks to bring together the original meaning of the text and contemporary application. It confronts the difficulties that we face in interpreting this gospel, but it does so in a clear and understandable way. This commentary deserves a place on the pastor's bookshelf. ■

Directory Update

FLORIDA

Danny Conn to Soul's Harbor Church, Pensacola from Pleasant Hill Church, Bonifay

GEORGIA

Grover Jewell to Cornerstone Church, Perry
Duck-Chun Lee to Ban Suk Church, Marietta
Burt Hall to New Life Church, Morgan from White Rock Church, Phenix City, AL
William Morris to Swainsboro Church, Swainsboro

KANSAS

James Greene to First Church, Ulysses

KENTUCKY

Joel Franks to First Church, Glasgow

OTHER PERSONNEL

Kevin Justice to Unity Church, Greenville, NC, as minister of music and CE from Fellowship Church, Antioch, TN, as associate pastor

Kent Nelson to Unity Church, Greenville, NC, as minister of youth from Southpark Church, Huntsville, AL, as associate pastor

OUR READERS COMMENT

Chaplain Writes

I look forward every month to reading *Contact*. The articles and pictures are wonderful. It really helps to keep informed about our denomination.

I saw the article about Reverend Cecil Campbell's death. Brother Campbell was our pastor in New Bern, North Carolina, and performed our wedding ceremony 40 years ago!

Since the flood last fall, our mail has not always arrived in good shape or on time. Hopefully, things are getting back to normal here.

Chaplain Walter Golding
New Bern, North Carolina

Magazine Quality Rises

Thanks for the quality of *Contact*. The first two issues this year have been especially good. I'm enjoying Kevin Riggs' articles on the Seven Deadly Sins. Danny Dwyer's article last month about his daughter was compelling reading, and in February, I appreciated Darrell Holley's article about "People of the Book," and Paul Harrison's article on abortion.

The editorial, "What a Century!" was right on, especially the part about the 30-Year-War. History, common sense and the New Testament's instructions on interpersonal relationships among believers should teach us to be wiser and more longsuffering about drawing lines in the sand too soon.

Steve Lytle
Foreign Missions Department

I do enjoy the *Contact* magazine. Don't know all who write articles in them, but know some of them. Good reading anyway.

Floy Palmer
Guymon, Oklahoma

Please change my address . . . I enjoy the *Contact* very much and wouldn't want to miss an issue.

Oma A. Viles
Muldrow, Oklahoma

Likes "Century"

Amy and I both read the article, "What a Century" (February issue). Excellent, dear brother. You hit the nail right on the head.

The "30 Year War" certainly took its toll and even today the effects are still felt. However, we've made a comeback and there's a fresh challenge awaiting us in this new Y2K.

Paul and Amy Robinson
Smithville, Tennessee

Mom Likes *Contact*

Mom loves the magazine and reads it cover to cover! She is in a nursing home now.

Please pray for her. She is alert but quite ill. She is able to read her Bible and pray.

Maggie Barrett
Milton, Florida



The Orange County, California coastline (photo courtesy of Anaheim Visitor and Convention Bureau).

Columbine Killers Hated Christians

LITTLETON, CO (EP)—Columbine killers Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold blasphemed Christ and expressed their hatred for Christian students and others in a video prepared before last year's massacre at Columbine High.

"Go Romans. Thank God they crucified that [expletive]," Harris said, referring to Jesus. Both teens then began chanting, "Go Romans" and cheering. Klebold also yelled, "What would Jesus do? What would I do!" and pretended to fire a gun at the camera.

The boys singled out Christian student Rachel Scott for abuse on the tape, calling her a "godly whore" and "stuck-up." Harris mocked Scott's faith saying, "Yeah. 'I love Jesus. I love Jesus.' Shut the [expletive] up."

Scott, who was one of the first to be killed in the attack, had shared her faith with Klebold and Harris and confronted them about a violent video they made, according to her father, Darrel, who noted that the killers clearly hated God. "There seemed to be an extra element of hatred and vengeance there."

Videos made by the killers have not been released to the public, but parents of the victims were allowed to see them, according to a report in *Christianity Today* magazine.

Evangelical Christianity Growing

PASADENA, CA (EP)—Evangelical Christianity is the fastest growing religious movement in the world. According to *Missions Frontiers* magazine, a bulletin of the U.S. Center for World Mission, Pentecostal and charismatic churches have an annual growth rate of 7.3% followed closely by evangelicals with a rate of 5.6%. This is almost twice the rate of the growth of Islam, which is at 2.7%.

Evangelical Christianity, which boasts over 645 million members worldwide, is growing three-and-a-half times faster than the world population growth rate. An author of this research concluded that evangelical Christianity is the only major

religious group that is significantly expanding its ranks through conversion.

The same report also suggests that, for the first time in history, the majority of non-Christians of the world are within evangelized groups, rather than in people groups yet to be exposed to the Gospel message. Only 25 years ago, around 50% of all non-Christians lived in unreached people groups. Today that number has dropped to only 30%.

Inmate Testifies Against Himself

DALLAS, TX (EP)—A prison inmate who recently gave his life to Christ confessed to killing a minister 30 years ago. Robert Young wrote to the *Dallas Morning News* from prison to admit shooting Roosevelt Boston, 67, at a gas station in 1969.

Young said he was writing "in the name of Jesus to testify against myself to the glory of God."

Boston's widow, Thelma, said, "This is a happy ending. I pray to God for a blessing on this man for confessing."

Guess Who's Greatest Communicator

NEW YORK, NY (EP)—Jesus Christ was the "greatest communicator of all time," according to *PR Week*. The industry publication notes that Jesus "knew how to get His message out—in the gospels, scattering His words, like good seeds over His audience." Jesus headed the list of the magazines newly-named "Greatest Communicators of All Time."

Editor Adam Leyland explained, "It's not enough to have ideas. You have to know how to communicate them in a way that captures the public's attention and imagination. Many of the people in these lists may not have known the term 'public relations,' yet their PR skills played a major role in their influence."

Following Jesus on the list were Mohammed (founder of Islam), and civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. Moses was named to the list of all-time "Top Ten PR Pros," as someone who communicated

well "on behalf of someone else."

"Jesus" Film for Children

ORLANDO, FL (EP)—One of the most successful evangelistic tools ever created is now being adapted specifically for children. Producers of the Jesus Film Project are planning on shooting a children's adaptation of the Jesus Film this year.

Paul Eshleman, director of the project says, "We went back and recreated sets just like they looked in the original film. The story will follow six children from ages six to 12 through the story as they watch Jesus feed the 5,000 and raise the daughter of Jairus from the dead."

The film will be released first in English with language translations beginning the following year. The adult version of the Jesus Film has been translated into 500 different languages and seen by an estimated 2 billion people across the world.

Suicide Video "Appalling"

EUGENE, OR (EP)—The early February televising of a do-it-yourself suicide video is "appalling" according to the leader of the Christian Medical and Dental Society (CMDS). The video, based on Derek Humphrey's book, "Final Exit," was aired February 2 and 4 on a public access cable channel in Eugene and Springfield, Oregon.

The broadcast is "the next step for a state that has equated killing with caring," said Dr. David Stephens, executive director of CMDS, which represents 15,000 doctors and ethicists. Stephens noted that terminally ill people often find that their will to live fluctuates, and added that he hoped the video "didn't catch anyone at a bad time of day." ■



Jack Williams

Turn the Horses Loose

A few months ago I was on a tough assignment with deadlines clawing at the door. The project required a thousand-mile journey alone, my favorite way to travel. Since the work could not be delegated, I saddled up the Ford and headed west.

Four states. No one in the car except me and my thoughts. As I zipped out of Nashville on I-40, I reached for the radio, hesitated, and wondered how long it would be before the silence became too loud.

The answer surprised me. As miles passed and hours mounted, I found no need to hear another voice. Six hours into the silence, a freshness that had been missing for years returned, like an old friend from the past.

I emptied my mind of the crowds, the noise, the deadlines, the pressures. Somewhere near the 300-mile mark, I turned the horses loose in my mind and let them run. They bolted straight to the top of the shining mountains in my thoughts, pawing and frolicking in the cold high sunlight. Freedom! Sweet, sweet freedom.

The horses kicked up some noble ideas on those high plateaus. The kind of thoughts a man would be proud to spread out before his God for evaluation. It felt good to think without interruptions from phone calls, from duty, from somebody with a need.

The horses leaped from mountain to mountain at ease in the high lone-some atop my world. Then, with the flick of a hoof, they thundered down the mountainside, and plunged into a dangerous, tumbling river at flood stage. They emerged wet and glistening in the sun, soaked in questions and ideas that roar through the rivers of time.

At some unseen signal, they wheeled

and raced across a desert landscape. I discovered them miles away lost in a dark box canyon, stalked by philosophical predators that threatened their principles and challenged the ideals that dared bring them here.

A red warning flag whipped in the wind. Did I fear my own thoughts? Had I held them in check so long that once loose they might never return?

Deep in the shadowy canyons, I heard the unmistakable growl of old enemies. The false science of evolution rose to slash at my peace of mind. The grizzly bear of humanism and the deadly cough of prowling racism moved among the shadows. A giant named Pride called my name, luring me deeper into the darkness. I was suddenly afraid.

But just as quickly as that, the horses doubled back across an old trail and within a heartbeat were 10,000 lifetimes beyond the darkness and the predators, beyond the uncertainty and fear. All doubts vanished. Heads high. Eyes ablaze with determination. A mighty pounding force again.

They galloped through the years of my life, those unfettered thoughts loose in the silence of my mind. Astride their powerful backs, I was a boy again listening to the rats gnawing in the walls, terrified to sleep lest they come through these walls after me.

The silent horses pivot and I'm standing alone at Red Wing looking down at a fresh grave. He was just 41. Strong and vibrant, now gone, leaving behind a confused, frightened widow and an 8-year-old son. After these 30 years, he's still dead and I ride the horses away just ahead of the tears.

Long-restrained thoughts dance from past to present gathering laughter

from Sundays on Boeuf River and fire from a Thursday night when the gospel branded my soul, forever changing my life.

They stand with bowed heads at the Iwo Jima monument. They stomp angry hooves when shots ring out in Dallas, Texas, in November 1963. They cringe at flag burnings in the 1970s and bare their teeth when a wounded Vietnam veteran is jeered in San Francisco.

Suddenly, I turn in amazement, for astride the horses with me rides a dark-eyed young hero who is all I can never be. My son Brad—loyal, faithful, steady. A boy who became a man during his turbulent teenage years.

The stampeding hooves grow louder, a groundswell from yesterday crowding today, pushing tomorrow. Ride! Ride!

In a winged moment, it's all gone. The horses corralled again, sedately in harness ready for duty. High thoughts sliding just beyond reach. The dark fears receding. A green road sign announces that I'm back in Davidson County with Nashville just over the next hill.

But how is that possible? I just turned the horses loose. And yet it's a thousand miles later. A thousand miles of noisy silence and dreams that mark a man's trail.

I reach for the radio. Ernest Tubb is "Walking the Floor Over You." I'm back in Guitar Gulch. As the echo of hooves drift into the background, 25 years of responsibility tighten across my shoulders. A phone rings, the computer chirps incoming email, and from the paper mountain spilling off the desk, a deadline calls my name . . . ■

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