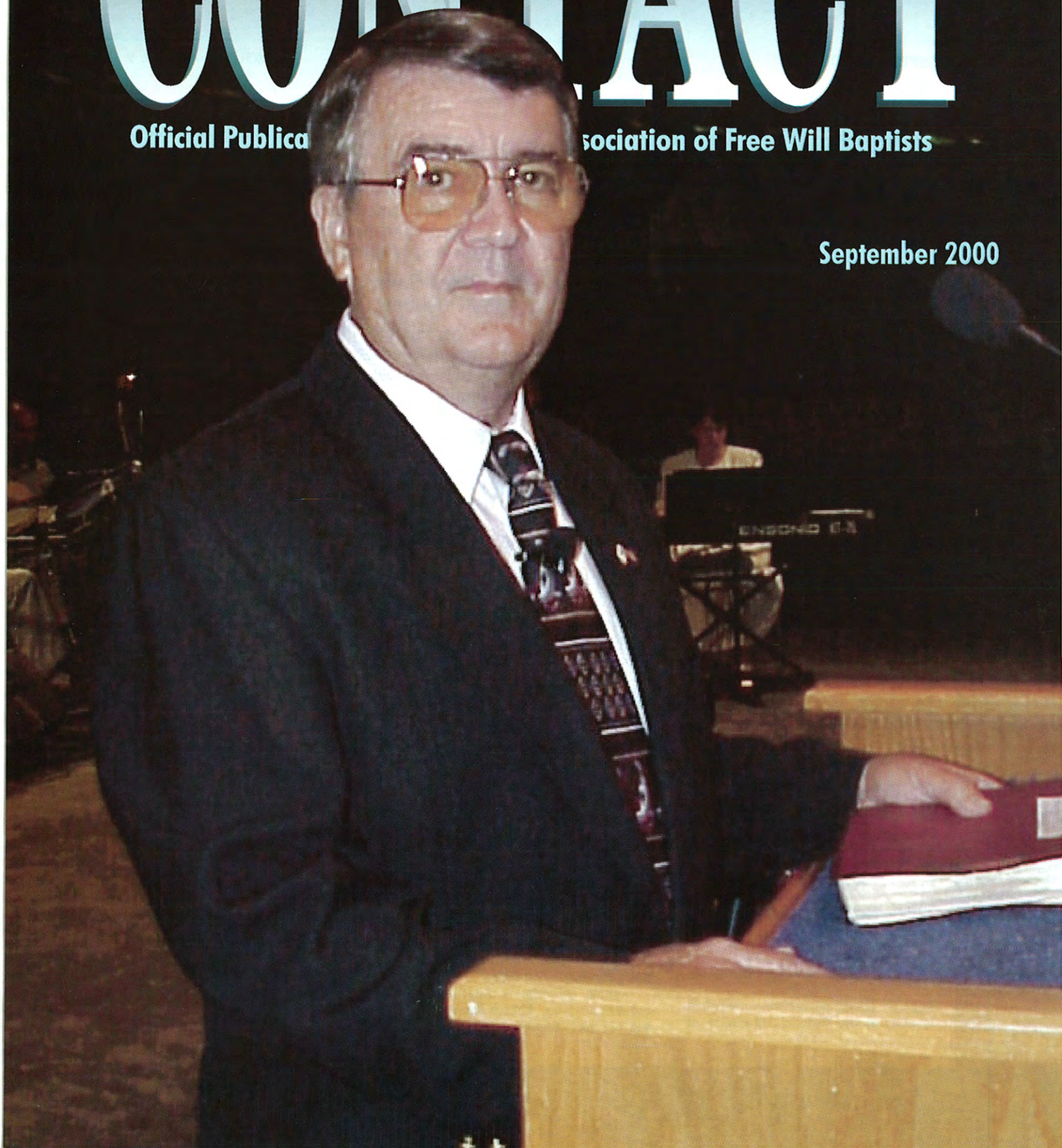


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Official Publication of the Association of Free Will Baptists

September 2000



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THE SECRETARY SPEAKS



Melvin Worthington

Celebration in California

Over 3,000 attendees registered for the 64th annual session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, Inc., July 16-20 in Anaheim. An air of expectancy and excitement permeated the services. Free Will Baptists from around the world celebrated God's blessings.

Convention Milestones

One milestone was *attendance growth*. In 1980 registration totaled 1,982. In 2000 registration totaled 3,273, with the Wednesday evening attendance exceeding 4,000. Registration and attendance at this convention exceeded any previous national convention in California.

Another milestone was *agency growth*. Record gift income, progressive programs, additional personnel and bold vision characterized the agency reports.

Attendees applauded the debt-free status of the National Offices Building purchased in 1990 and occupied in 1991. The \$1.5 million debt was paid in full on June 12.

Two editions of *Rejoice, The Free Will Baptist Hymn Book* (1988, 1995) and one edition of *Rejoice, The Hymnal for the Church at Worship* (1995) have been published. The indebtedness on both hymnals has been paid. More than 175,000 copies have been sold.

Budgets for 2001 adopted at this convention exceeded \$20 million—the highest in our history. Per capita giving in 1961 was \$2.06. In 1999 per capita giving rose to \$54.52.

Convention Manager

In 1977 Jack Williams became convention coordinator and served for 24 years. In light of his workload and the continued growth of the national convention, it became necessary to seek a convention manager. Dean Jones, director of the National Youth Conference for the past 11 years, has been secured as convention manager.

We are pleased that Dean will serve as convention manager. He holds the Certified Meeting Professional designation. As Jack has observed, Dean brings unique, unlimited and unquestioned skills to the position of convention manager. It is encouraging to have young men who are capable and committed for denominational service.

Convention Music

The *musicians* who served during this convention were magnificent. We have an unusual number of gifted musicians among Free Will Baptists. They made a tremendous difference in the services. Singing is an important part of the national convention and Free Will Baptists have always been a singing people.

One of the impressive things about the musicians during this convention was their age. They were young accomplished musicians. The future of the denomination in the area of music is bright.

The *music* was balanced during this convention. The diversity which characterizes Free Will Baptist musical taste was addressed in the variety of music performed. We commend Randy Sawyer for the selection of hymns, choruses and special music, including the choir, men's chorale and quartets. The music was the best ever in style and substance.

Convention Messages

The preaching at this convention was

biblical, balanced and bold. We commend the speakers for their thorough preparation and thoughtful presentation. From the comments of attendees, the preaching met their needs, and many left refreshed and revived—ready to go back home and get on with the task of being witnesses in the world.

Convention Media

Technological advances were evident in this convention. The screens for the music, the sound system and the scriptures used in the sermons on the screens were a first for us. Dave and Deb Hash did an excellent job with the sound system.

The Media Commission assisted by providing the screens for the convention. We appreciate their vision and look forward to even greater participation on the part of the Media Commission in future conventions.

The convention news was on the convention web page each evening. We commend Cheri Ham for this innovation.

Convention Meetings

The business sessions went well with timely discussion and thoughtful decisions. Decisions made during the business sessions have a significant impact on denominational life.

Reports were right on target and presented thoroughly, thoughtfully and in a timely manner.

Perhaps the most important business transacted during the convention was the adoption of a procedure for the election of the executive secretary. During the 1980 convention in Anaheim, delegates approved an indefinite term for the executive secretary, and during this convention they approved a procedure for the election of the executive secretary.

We are already looking forward to the 2001 national convention in Detroit. Make plans to join us. ■

The Secretary's Schedule

September 2000

- 5-8 Convention Planning Trip
Detroit, Michigan
- 7-8 CMP Board Meeting
- 24 North Warren FWB Church
Warren, MI
- 27-30 Christian Stewardship Association

The Witness of Good Work Well Done

By Larry Hampton



Monday—General Board Meets

At 8 a.m. Monday, July 17, the General Board convened in the Anaheim Convention Center. A small number of individuals not on the board attended this year's session. Moderator Carl Cheshier used Psalm 126 as the basis for his remarks to the board members. Cheshier noted that he sees a lack of a burden for the souls of men as he travels.

He challenged board members to be faithful when "overworked and underappreciated." He urged them not to berate other sowers. He added, "Be faithful—sow, sow, sow. When the seed leaves your hand, it is in God's hand. He gives the increase."

The Mexican controversy surfaced early. A member of the General Board asked if Mexico's General Board member was in good standing. A member of the Executive Committee pointed out that the national convention elects the General Board.

Following the roll call and proxy seating, the Moderator appointed the Credentials Committee, Nominating Committee, Resolutions Committee and Obituary Committee. General Board members then heard reports from each of the departments and commissions as well as the Execu-

tive Office and Women Nationally Active for Christ.

The General Board approved the procedure for electing the executive secretary proposed by the Executive Committee. Board members ratified the Executive Committee's decision to retain the present system of site selection for the national convention. They also endorsed the Executive Committee's choice of Oklahoma City to host the July 18-22, 2010, national convention.

The General Board discussed the Executive Committee's recommendation for the Executive Committee to serve as a mediating body in the controversy over church government in Mexico. Several questions were raised. How can this matter come directly to the Executive Committee without going through proper channels? Would this action impugn the Home Mission Board? How many churches have withdrawn from the Mexican Association? Are we offering our services as mediators or are we simply going to do it? A substitute motion which called for no action to be taken by the National Association at this time was approved by the General Board.

Wednesday—Convention Business Session Convenes

The first item on the agenda following the Moderator's Message was the report of the credentials committee and

seating of delegates. After accepting a partial report of the General Board and a partial report of the Nominating Committee, delegates were ready to hear reports from the Executive Office and the boards and commissions of the National Association.

Executive Office Report

When the national convention met in Anaheim in 1980, Melvin Worthington made his first report as executive secretary. At that time, the North Carolina native announced a \$5,000 drop in gifts to the Cooperative Plan and a combined budget for all national ministries of \$7.4 million. Twenty years later he reported a new record for Together Way gifts and a combined budget that has grown to \$21.3 million.

Worthington also shared the good news that the National Offices Building became debt-free on June 12. He told delegates that each department will continue to pay rent for their office space in the Antioch facility. This money will be used to maintain the building.

Worthington presented a plaque to Arizona pastor George Harvey in recognition of 15 years as Registration Coordinator for the national convention.

WNAC Report

Marjorie Workman, executive secretary-treasurer of Women Nationally Active for Christ, reported 632 local groups comprised of 6,499 dues-paying members in 1999. Currently, 9,484 women subscribe to *CoLaborer* magazine

2000 Registration Report*

National Convention	2,124
Ordained Ministers	431
Ordained Deacons	73
Local Church Delegates	38
State Delegates	72
Home Missionaries	64
Foreign Missionaries	27
National Board Members	41
Licensed Ministers	16
Visitors	1,362
National Youth Conference	1,733
Women Nationally Active for Christ	586
Grand Total	4,443

*This report reflects the total number who registered for the three combined conventions: National Convention, NYC, WNAC. By actual count, some 3,273 individuals registered, some for one or more conventions. At the same time, several hundred attend each year who do not register.

edited by Rhonda McReynolds. Women gave \$49,271 in cash and non-cash gifts to the Missionary Provision Closet.

WNAC unveiled a new brochure during their convention.

Master's Men Report

Tom Dooley, general director of Master's Men, listed three goals of the department:

First, to raise the awareness of pastors and churches about the need to develop and implement local church ministries and strategies for winning men to Christ. Second, to provide opportunities for training leaders through workshops and published resources. Third, to develop Bible study materials for churches to use in the spiritual development of their men.

Dooley announced that the 45-year-old men's organization is now debt-free. Ken Akers has been employed as director of ministry development. He will be responsible to work with pastors as he seeks to establish new Master's Men chapters. He will also be available for training sessions for pastors and laymen to equip them to implement a men's ministry in their church.

In October 1999 Master's Men launched "Operation Saturation" in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Men from five states



David Burgess (IL) and Randy Bryant (FL)

Ministers,
Missionaries,
Musicians



Clint Morgan



Flutist



North Carolina pastor Doug King

helped missionary Tommy Jones place the gospel in approximately 2,500 homes. On September 30, Master's Men will sponsor a national "Operation Saturation" event. Fifty home missionaries are slated to participate in the activity. Volunteers will be saturat-

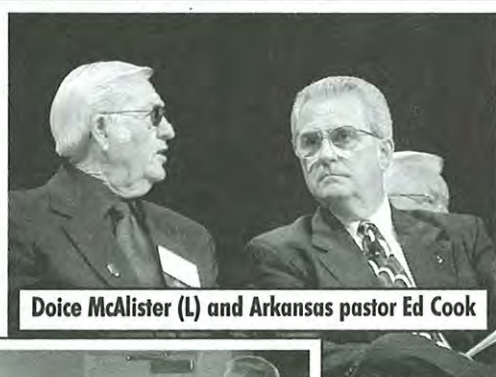
and helps. He will be helping pastors and churches. His first assignment is to launch a new program, *1000 in 2000*, to place the gospel in 1,000,000 homes this year. He will also assist with "Operation Saturation."

The Church Extension Loan Fund approved 23 new loans totaling \$3.8 million.

The cross-cultural ministry continues to grow. We now have 12 Korean churches, five Russian churches and numerous Hispanic works.

Home Missions is joining forces with Free Will Baptist Bible College to start a mission church in Nashville, Tennessee, to help train future pastors and church planters. Veteran home missionary Cliff Donoho will lead the project.

Colonel Kerry Steedley, senior Free Will Baptist chaplain, briefly addressed conventioners. He announced that 50 people had recently been baptized at Fort Lewis, Washington.



Doice McAlister (L) and Arkansas pastor Ed Cook



Don Robirds (R) gives instructions to foreign missionaries.

ing communities where we have mission works with packets of materials about our missionary churches along with a clear presentation of the gospel.

Board of Retirement Report

"Every year is a journey of faith for the Board of Retirement," observed William Evans, general director. The answers to several questions determine the kind of year this ministry will have: How will prospective participants respond to the plan? What will market pressures do to our investments? How

many will choose to retire during the year? Will Congress change the rules affecting our operation?

The Board of Retirement was created to provide retirement funds for pastors and employees of denominational agencies. Last year, 108 new enrollees joined the plan.



Song leader Daron Dwyer

churches—Greeley, Colorado, Jacksonville and Pinellas Park, Florida, Davenport, Iowa, and Plymouth, Massachusetts—became self-supporting.

A new magazine, *A/M* (Advancing In Missions), was started last year. Ida Lewis serves as editor. Home Missions joined with Foreign Missions to publish a world prayer guide to help individuals pray more effectively for world missions.

Richard Atwood has been hired as director of ministry

Home Missions Report

According to Trymon Messer, general director, 1999 surpassed all previous years in the history of Home Missions. The department established a new income record of \$4.3 million. Twenty-one new missionary couples were sent to the field. Five mission



Bible College president Tom Malone presents commentary to Korean pastors while Milton Fields and James Cox (R) observe.

Slightly more than 25% of participants have signed up during the past five years (408 out of 1,599).

In 1980 the Board of Retirement reported that it was grow-

ing by over \$1,000 per day. Today the department's total assets are just over \$21 million. This growth occurred while the department paid out over \$915,000 in various types of settlements.

Free Will Baptist Foundation Report

The Free Will Baptist Foundation was established when the national convention met in Anaheim in 1980. The agency now holds \$8.3 million in trust for churches and denominational enterprises. William Evans, general director, projects that this amount will increase to \$25 million within 10 years.

The Foundation is currently developing a semi-voluntary staff to help spread the word about its ministry and

explain various gift options available to donors. Leroy and Lou Scudder of Arkansas and William (Buddy) and Martha Morris of Georgia have volunteered their services to this ministry.

Foreign Missions Report

According to James Forlines, general director, Free Will Baptists now have 114 missionaries in foreign countries. The good news is that we now have 150 ordained national pastors and 236 licensed and lay pastors. A total of 111 students are preparing for ministry. We now have training institutions in Brazil, Cuba, France, India, Ivory Coast, Panama, Russia and South Korea.

We now have 202 organized

churches and 335 mission works. Missionaries reported 1,344 conversions in 1999. The average Sunday attendance for the year was 12,314.

The Foreign Missions Department has a vision for a major denominational mobilization for world evangelism:

1—Challenge a whole generation of Free Will Baptist young people to find their role in God's plan to reach the nations.

2—Create Professional Volunteer Networks for adults across the country to find how God can use them and their careers to reach the unreached.

3—Provide the channel for a surging number of retirees to make an

Elected in Anaheim

The following were elected during the 64th annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated:

General Officers

Moderator Carl Cheshier (Oklahoma)
Assistant Moderator Tim York (Kentucky)
Clerk Keith Burden (Oklahoma)
Assistant Clerk John Hibbard (California)

General Board

2001 George Harvey (Arizona)
Tim Owen (Florida)

2003 Jim Marcum (North Carolina)
Jim Nason (Northeast Association)
Brent Nix (Northwest Association)
Delmar Sparks (Ohio)
Ernest Harrison (Oklahoma)
Sigbee Dilda (South Carolina)
Charles Thigpen (Tennessee)
Keith Woody (Texas)
Glen Johnson (Virginia)
Carl Vallance (West Virginia)

Executive Committee

2001 Rick Cash (Alabama)

2003 Glen Johnson (Virginia)
Ernest Harrison (Oklahoma)
Charles Thigpen (Tennessee)

Free Will Baptist Bible College Trustees

2006 Richard Barnes (Virginia)
Gary Fry (Missouri)
A. C. Allen (South Carolina)

Foreign Missions Board

2006 Randy Wilson (Oklahoma)
Douglas Little (Arkansas)
Milton Worthington (Michigan)

Sunday School and Church Training Board

2006 Edwin Hayes (Ohio)
Dennis Wiggs (North Carolina)
Jeff Crabtree (Canada)

Home Missions Board

2001 Matt Upton (California)
2005 Robert Thebeau (Missouri)

Media Commission

2005 Doug Kite (North Carolina)

Music Commission

2005 Chris Truett (North Carolina)

Historical Commission

2005 Darrell Holley (Tennessee)

Commission for Theological Integrity

2005 Daryl Ellis (Illinois)

eternal difference in the sunset years of life by personally getting involved in God's plan to reach every people group with the gospel.

4—Mobilize churches which have not yet sensed the call to be involved in reaching the untold millions with the gospel.

5—Double the Free Will Baptist missionary force around the world



Florida pastors Ron Hunter (L) and Tim Owen

They came from
all over . . .
Florida, North
Carolina, Texas,
Mexico . . .



Texas pastors Thurmon Murphy (L) and Jack Bankhead

through such mobilization efforts.

Members of the Foreign Missions staff will be involved in "Operation Saturation" in cooperation with the Home Missions Department.

Forlines presented a plaque to Dave and Pat Franks who recently retired after 43 years in Brazil. He also gave a plaque to William and Lois Reaga as Bill Reagan finished his 12th year as a member of the Board.

Forlines lauded Ken and Marvis Eagleton for 41 years of service, most of it in Brazil. Ken died last August. He also praised Jimmy and Janie Aldridge for their faithful ministry with the department. The Aldridges served in Ivory Coast for 22 years. Jimmy served as Overseas Secretary for 15 years before retiring in January of this year.

Forlines also announced the resignation of Fred Warner, director of stateside development, after 13½ years with the department. Warner will pastor Vista FWB Church in Van Buren, Arkansas.

Free Will Baptist Bible College Report

President Tom Malone announced that Free Will Baptist Bible College ended in the black with a surplus of \$103,812. That wasn't the last of the good news from West End Avenue. The present campus has been sold for \$13.5 million. Full payment is scheduled to be received on January 2, 2001. An additional \$6 million will be needed for the completion of the new Joelton campus.

The college enrolled 367 students in 1999-2000. They came from 25 states and 10 foreign countries. This included 126 new and returning students, the highest number in these categories in 12 years.

FWBBC signed an agreement of cooperation with the Asia FWB Theological Seminary in South Korea. This will be the third year a faculty member has taught in Russia.

Delegates voted to accept the proposed name change for the college: Palmer College—the Free Will Baptist Bible College. A final vote will be taken at the national convention next year.

Sunday School and Church Training Report

Alton Loveless, general director, announced that the junior Sunday school curriculum revision is now complete. This is an important step in an ongoing plan to offer the highest quality materials to our churches. The recent purchase of a new imagesetter will enhance the work of the graphics and production departments. Sales and inquiries via the Internet are increasing. Both Free Will Baptists and non-Free Will Baptists are visiting our web page at www.randallhouse.com.

The Sunday School and Church Training Department is participating in "Operation Saturation." It will be printing 300,000 pieces of material for the event.

A special fund has been established at the Free Will Baptist Foundation that would enable the department to raise funds so that the agency can print and give free of charge at least one book a year to Free Will Baptist ministers.

And *A Little Child Shall Lead Them: 365 Devotions for Those Who Love Children* by Susan Henderson was released during the national convention in Anaheim. Two new books, *The Quest for Truth* by Leroy Forlines and *A Free Will Baptist History* by William Davidson, will be released later this year.

Loveless presented a plaque to Billy Hanna in recognition of 12 years on the Sunday School and Church Training Board.

Commission for Theological Integrity Report

Leroy Forlines, chairman, reminded delegates of the commission's purpose:

1—To alert our people to theological trends that could threaten our theological integrity as a denomination.

2—To prepare materials that will contribute to the continued preservation of the theological integrity of the denomination, and

3—To conduct seminars on subjects which are pertinent to the purpose of the commission.

The fifth annual Theological Symposium will be held on



Thomas and Wilma Marberry

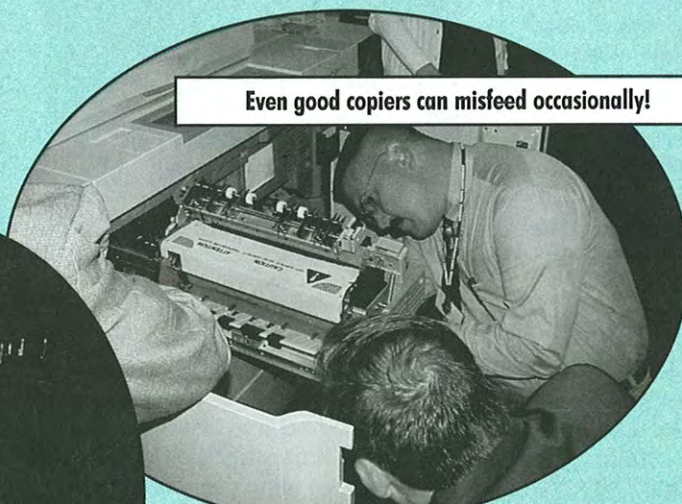


North Carolina promotional director Jim Marcum

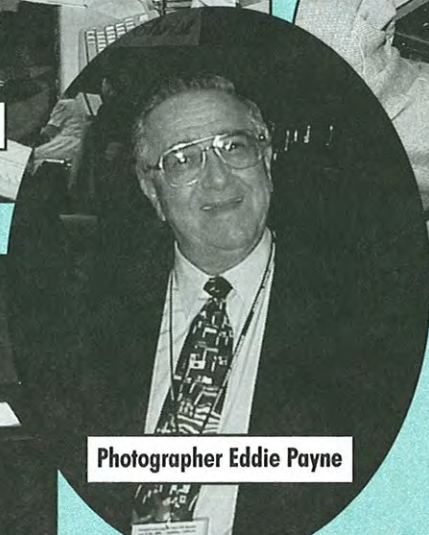
Behind the Scenes



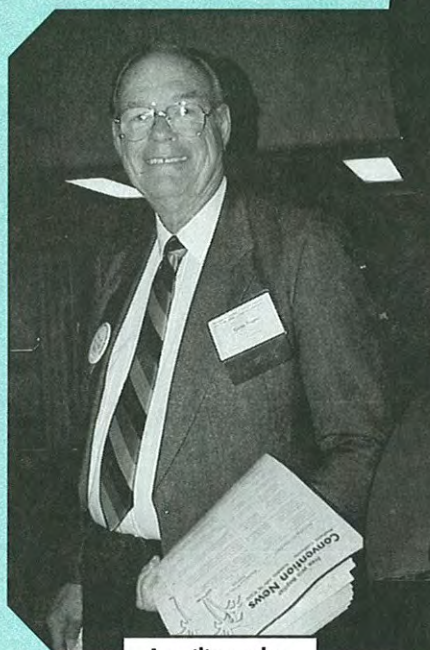
Cheri Ham keeps the computers on line.



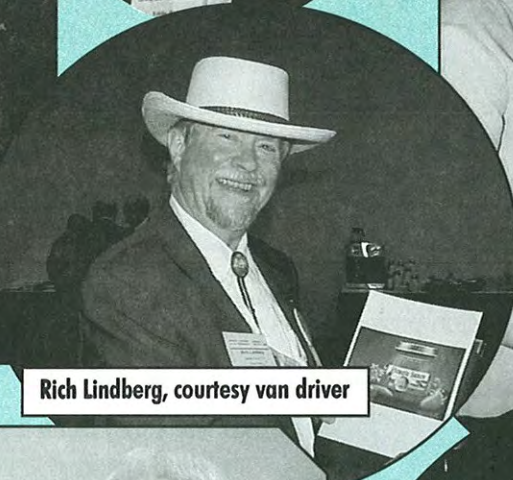
Even good copiers can misfeed occasionally!



Photographer Eddie Payne



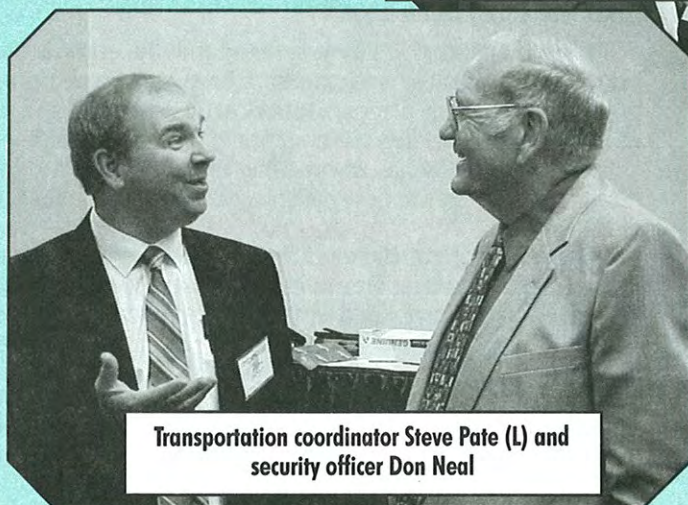
A smiling usher



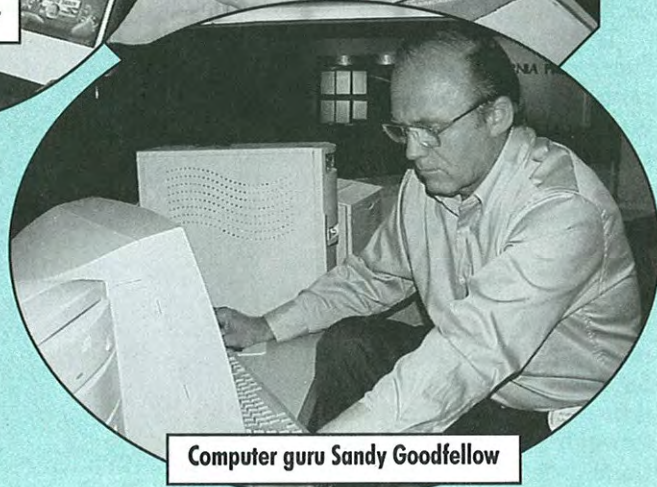
Rich Lindberg, courtesy van driver



Registration coordinator Dari Goodfellow



Transportation coordinator Steve Pate (L) and security officer Don Neal



Computer guru Sandy Goodfellow

November 2-3 at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee.

Matt Pinson, editor, introduced *Integrity: A Journal of Christian Thought* during the commission's report. It is a joint effort of the commission, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Hillsdale FWB College, and Randall House Publications.



Clerk Keith Burden

Media Commission Report

Steve Faison, chairman, and other commission members, made a passionate personal appeal for increased funding to the commission. They also used videos in their attempt to garner support for the Raise the Standard Campaign. Their goal of \$200,000 would allow the commission



Okay, Gang . . . where is the Sunday School class?

to employ a full-time director. The commission projects that it could become self-supporting in three years if the campaign goal is reached.

The commission provides "access to and assistance with professional quality tools for communication, evangelism and edification."

Music Commission Report

The Music Commission is responsible to help meet the music and worship needs of our denomination's churches. Randy Sawyer, chairman, pointed out that this is accomplished through training musicians, holding music workshops, leading worship and providing mu-



Moderator Carl Cheshier

sic publications for our churches.

Each year the commission sponsors a Music Workshop at the national convention. Participants receive more than \$200 in free music and recordings. For the past 10 years the commission has sponsored a booth at the national convention



George Harvey (L) receives plaque from Melvin Worthington.

and sold music targeted to the needs of our churches.

The commission has created a partnership with Candela Music Press, a division of The Lorenz Corporation of Dayton, Ohio. The commission has endorsed Candela Music Press as the official music publisher for our denomination. The commission retains complete creative and artistic control of any work published by Candela Music Press for our denomination.

The commission plans to publish two mini-musicals this year: "Thanksgiving Praise" and "I Will Be the One," a commitment to world missions and evangelism. Our first publication, "Worthy of Praise," is currently available.



H. B. London, Jr.

Historical Commission Report

Thomas Marberry, chairman, noted that the commission's current major project is to publish a Free Will Baptist history guidebook including places of historical interest, resources and other data. Darrell Holley will coordinate this multi-year project.

The commission has an on-going project to help furnish a "history" room on the new campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

Guidelines for grants to individuals who are doing historical research regarding Free Will Baptists are being prepared. They should be completed by the 2001 national convention.

Miscellaneous Business

At the end of a long, hard day, item five of the General

Board report returned to the floor to claim the body's attention.

The General Board's recommendation included the following points: The National Association of Mexico will meet before the end of July. At that time a recommendation will be made as an appendix to the *Treatise* of Mexico pledging adherence to the position of local church autonomy. The Mexico Association has contacted an attorney to assist them in revising their constitution to clarify their position on local church autonomy. The appeal to the Executive Committee was submitted without following proper procedure.

In light of these observations the General Board concluded that an "investigative committee" should not be sent to Mexico at this time. The Mexico association should address their grievances in compliance with the *Treatise*. In addition, the National Association should encourage the Mexico Association to make revisions to their constitution and *Treatise* to reflect their view of



Gene and Jane Norris

der. He made a motion that the moderator appoint a committee to determine whether or not the appeal had been submitted following proper procedure. After some discussion, this motion passed.

The moderator appointed a five-member committee to review the procedures followed in submitting the appeal to the Executive Committee. They were instructed to bring their findings to the body on Thursday morning. The Special Committee consisted of Nathan Ruble, chairman, Leroy Forlines, David Joslin, Gene Norris, and Matt Pinson.

The Wednesday business session adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Thursday—Convention Business Session Reconvenes

Following scripture reading and prayer, delegates heard the report of the Special Committee. Committee members

concluded that the appeal from Mexico had been made properly and that the Executive Committee should mediate the controversy. Delegates did not agree, voting to table Item 5. The problem was not resolved, only deferred.

The Educational Task Force Report

Chairman Melvin Worthington stated the two-fold purpose of the task force: 1—To define the educational needs and problems with the current system and 2—To formulate a strategy with which to address them.

The task force is seeking to address concerns raised by a series of six questions.

Each task force member has been assigned to one of three committees—the Survey Committee, the

College and Seminary Committee, and the Funding Committee.

The Educational Task Force is sched-

uled to meet again in January 2001.

Delegates then heard reports from the Registration Committee, Budget



Assistant moderator Tim York (L) entertains Melvin Worthington.



Song leader Brad Williams



Ray Lewis (L), Bill Evans, general director, and David Brown from Retirement and Insurance

Committee and Resolutions Committee.

All general officers were retained. Perhaps it was because they got conventioners out early. It wasn't even 10:00 a.m. when the first national business session of the millennium ended. ■



Do you know me?



ABOUT THE WRITER: Larry Hampton serves as adult curriculum editor at Randall House Publications. He is a member of Woodbine Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee.



Music Commission chairman Randy Sawyer (L) and Doug Little

local church autonomy.

Leroy Forlines pointed out that if the appeal had not been made in accord with proper procedure, the General Board recommendation was out of or-

Witnesses in the World

The Witness of the Preached Word

When Free Will Baptists arrived in Anaheim, they were in the heart of fantasyland. After all, the city's best known citizen is a cartoon character.

Southern California is the heart of the entertainment industry. For the sports-minded there are professional baseball, basketball and football teams. In winter, a person can go to "The Pond" and watch the Mighty Ducks take the ice.

Amusement is designed to short circuit the thinking process. Those who go to Mr. Disney's well-known park are more likely to be interested in having a good time than dealing with the world's problems.

Disciples of Jesus Christ are called to be witnesses in the real world. Faithful witnesses long to spend eternity in Gloryland rather than a few hours in Disneyland. We are to be ambassadors for the Kingdom of God not advocates of the Magic Kingdom approach to life. While we all need to relax and enjoy ourselves now and then, we are to seek to live holy lives that we may please Him that called us rather than seek to have fun in order to please ourselves.

Messages at this year's national convention called us to fulfill our role as witnesses in the world. Speakers rightly reminded us that only as we live godly lives can we witness effectively.

Sunday School in Anaheim

At 10:00 a.m. Sunday, July 16, Brent Nix, pastor of New Hope FWB Church in Kent, Washington, welcomed conventioners to Anaheim. As we sang and prayed, the convention center was turned into a house of worship.

Paul Kennedy, layman from Amador FWB Church in Pioneer, California, taught the adult Sunday School lesson. Like a wise older brother, Kennedy challenged his students to learn from the mistakes of the 12 disciples. He warned, "Don't seek glory. Don't measure yourself against others." He added, "We are to exert a

moral influence on society. Pride, vanity, vainglory destroy our influence."

Morning Worship

Following congregational singing and special music, Brent Nix introduced his college friend Ron Helms to the assembled believers. Helms pastors Southgate FWB Church in Michigan. Recalling that Winston Sweeney was originally scheduled to speak at the national convention that morning, Helms asked conventioners to pray for Brother Sweeney who has cancer.

Helms' message, "Can He Get a Witness?" was both biblical and powerful. He reminded his listeners of the primacy of preaching. The apostles, deacons—everyone worked to spread the gospel.

Sunday Evening Worship Service

Doice McAlister, pastor of Turlock FWB Church in Turlock, California, presided at the Sunday evening worship service.

Ed Cook, pastor of Oak Park FWB Church in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, preached from Acts 10:34-48. He said, "God has always had a witness!"

Cook made three observations about these witnesses. One, the witness is trusted. Two, the witness is true to his message. Three, the witness tells the truth.

Pastors/Laymen Conference

H. B. London, Jr., vice president of Outreach/Pastoral Ministries for Focus on the Family, spoke candidly to pastors and laymen assembled in the convention center Monday afternoon. He said that the pastor is to preach/teach, serve/shepherd, and cast a vision.

He urged pastors to question why they do what they do. He said, "Ask yourself, 'So what?'" He warned pastors that 5-7 people can invalidate their ministry. It doesn't matter if these individuals are deacons or leaders.

London told laymen they should

trust the pastor's leadership. He counseled them to be open to change. He reminded them that they should be committed to a mindset that says "I will not quench the Spirit of Christ."

Monday Evening Worship Service

Clerk Keith Burden called the 64th session of the National Association of Free Will Baptists to order and introduced Carl Cheshier, the moderator. Nuel Brown, executive secretary of the California State Association of Free Will Baptists, welcomed visitors and delegates to Anaheim. This was the second time for the convention to be held in Anaheim and the fifth time in California.

Jay Baines, pastor of the Free Will Baptist Church of New Castle, Delaware, presided over the service and introduced the speaker.

Doug King, 36-year-old pastor of Cramerton FWB Church, Cramerton, North Carolina, spoke from Philippians of God's passion, God's plan and God's power.

Tuesday Evening Worship Service

Fred Hanson, pastor of Plaster Rock FWB Church in New Brunswick, Canada, presided Tuesday evening.

A special feature of the service was a presentation by the Media Commission. The commission is seeking to raise \$200,000 this year. Trymon Messer, general director of Home Missions, asked conventioners to support the work of this commission.

Tim Owen, pastor of Piney Grove FWB Church in Chipley, Florida, preached on the topic "Why Have We No Power?" He asked, "Is it because we are hazy, crazy or lazy? That is, are we confused about the Bible's teaching? Have we accepted the idea that truth is relative?"

Wednesday Evening Worship Service

The Wednesday evening service

has a reputation to live up to—it is always special. Home and foreign missionaries are introduced. We are given opportunity to make an offering to help spread the gospel around the world. We hear a missions message. Men and women respond to God's call.

Tim York, pastor of Heritage Temple FWB Church in Ashland, Kentucky, presided over the service and received the missions offering.

Steve Lytle introduced foreign missionaries that were present from Brazil, China, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Japan, Panama, South Korea and Spain. David Crowe introduced home missionaries in attendance at the convention; missionaries working among the Hispanics, Koreans and Slavic people were among the dozens of home missionaries who walked across the stage.

David Shores, pastor of Ina FWB Church, Ina, Illinois, promotional secretary for the Illinois State Association of Free Will Baptists and member of the Board of Foreign Missions, preached the missions sermon. Shores said that the church's mission program should be simple, include a scriptural presentation, spiritual priorities, strong preaching and sincere prayer.

Numerous people came to the altar during the invitation. The Wednesday evening service is always special. This one surely was. ■

So What?

Another national convention is history. Now it's time to look at what happened in Anaheim. Truthfully, it's tempting to say "not much." Oh, everyone seemed to have a good time. Free Will Baptists love fellowship. It's always good to see friends and catch up on family and denominational happenings. And you couldn't find nicer weather anywhere in July. A Southern California summer is unbeatable.

Facilities were top-notch. The convention center was a reasonable distance from the pricey hotels and restaurants. It was cool (sometimes too cool) and comfortable in the convention center. Every seat was a good one. David and Deb Hash made sure we could hear every word that was said or sung.

Preaching was excellent as was the music. Screens supplied by the Media Commission made it easier for the congregation to read the words of the songs and to follow along as the speakers read the scripture.

Still there's a nagging feeling we really didn't do much. Of course we adopted budgets and elected board members. We chose the site of the 2010 convention. We decided on the procedure we will follow the next time we elect an executive secretary. But we didn't solve the problem over church government in Mexico. It's still simmering south of the border.

We passed only one resolution—a standing vote of thanks to the Califor-

nia State Association for hosting the national convention. Make no mistake, California Free Will Baptists earned our heartfelt gratitude and a standing vote of thanks for all the work they did to ensure that the 64th national convention ran smoothly.

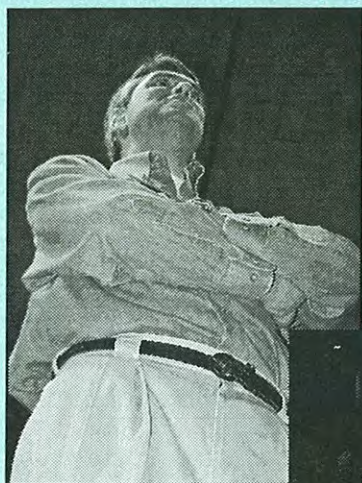
Perhaps it's a feeling of *deja vu*. Maybe it just seems like 1980.

Not only should we review what happened in Anaheim, but we should assess its significance. Or as H. B. London, Jr., put it, we should ask "so what?"

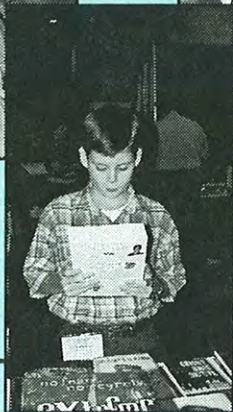
Free Will Baptists from all over the world met in Anaheim and enjoyed one another's fellowship for five days. We heard outstanding messages from God's Word as we were challenged to be witnesses in the world. We rejoiced as we listened to some of the best music this side of Heaven.

We listened thoughtfully as James Forlines shared his vision to mobilize a generation for world evangelization. We listened appreciatively as Richard Atwood explained how "Operation Saturation" and *1000 in 2000* can help us reach our goal of winning thousands of souls to the Lord.

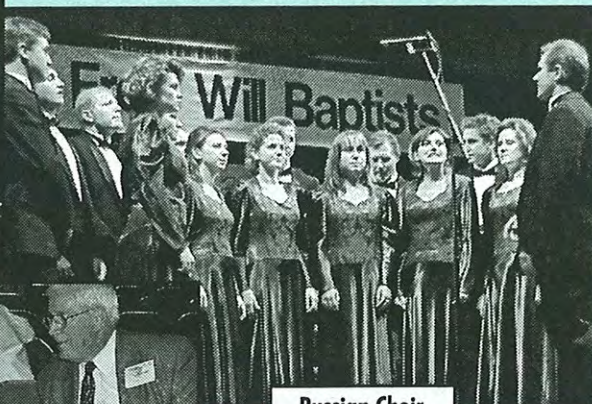
What happened in Anaheim? Plans were laid to expand the outreach of Free Will Baptists. If we accomplish our goals, God will be glorified and men, women and children will be saved. Now what? It's time to be about our Father's business. It's time to be witnesses in the world. ■



The
Long
and
short
of it.



Dave Franks, Sr. (L) and Vernon Barker



Russian Choir

2001 Together Way Allocations

The Budget Committee recommends that gifts received through The Together Way Plan be allocated to the national ministries* on the following basis:

1. Underwrite the Executive Office Administrative Budget above designated gifts, not to exceed 45% of cooperative gifts.
2. Disburse the balance of cooperative gifts to the following national ministries according to these percentages:

Free Will Baptist Bible College	23.0%
Foreign Missions	23.0%
Home Missions	18.0%
Retirement and Insurance	14.0%
Master's Men	14.0%
Free Will Baptist Foundation	6.0%
Commission for Theological Integrity ...	0.5%
Historical Commission	0.5%
Music Commission	0.5%
Media Commission	0.5%
Total	100.0%

*All these ministries receive funds through The Together Way Plan except the Sunday School and Church Training Department which is self-sustaining.



Exhibit preparations



Bert Tippet (R)



Leroy Forlines



Registration and Exhibit scenes

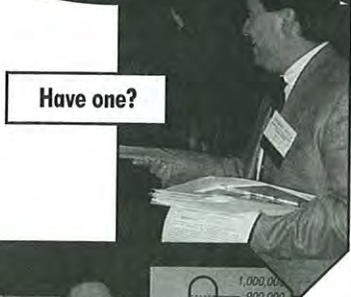


2001 Budgets Adopted

Executive Office.....	\$ 700,640.25
Administrative	\$390,000.00
Contact.....	93,105.00
Convention	217,535.25
Free Will Baptist Bible College	4,480,939.00
(Includes \$1.2 million in unrestricted gifts)	
Foreign Missions	7,090,003.26
(Does not include \$864,500 Vision Projects)	
Home Missions	4,500,000.00
Master's Men	218,437.00
Retirement and Insurance	399,668.00
Free Will Baptist Foundation	116,100.00
Sunday School and Church Training....	3,547,103.85
Commission for Theological Integrity ...	2,800.00
Historical Commission	4,800.00
Music Commission	46,375.00
Media Commission	200,000.00
Total	\$21,306,866.36



Great quartet sound.



Have one?



Home Missions staffer Richard Atwood



Georgia pastor Matt Pinson and wife Melinda bring Anna Elizabeth to her first convention.



Dave and Pat Franks (seated) and Bobby Aycock—the Brazil connection



Blow that horn!

2000 Convention Tapes Available

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MESSAGES ON CASSETTE TAPES

The cost of tapes is \$4.00 each. Payment must accompany order. Select the tapes you wish to order by circling the tape number and placing the quantity desired in the appropriate lines.

Tape Number	Subject	Quantity
Convention Messages		
1. Ron Helms	Sunday Morning	_____
2. Edward Cook	Sunday Evening	_____
3. Doug King	Monday Evening	_____
4. Tim Owen	Tuesday Evening	_____
5. David Shores	Wednesday Evening	_____
Women Nationally Active for Christ		
6. Seminar	Joanna Felts	_____
7. Devotional	Elaine Holland	_____
8. Missionary Service	Annette Aycock	_____
9. Fellowship Luncheon	Pat Clary	_____
Seminars		
10. Theological Trends Seminar	Thomas Marberry	_____
11. Sunday School Workshop	Alton Loveless	_____
Miscellaneous		
12. H. B. London, Jr.	Pastors/Laymen Conference (\$5)	_____
13. Richard Atwood	Foreign/Home Missions Rally (2 tapes/\$5)	_____
14. Carl Cheshier	Moderator's Message	_____
15. Paul Kennedy	Adult Sunday School Class	_____

Please complete the following:

Name _____
 Address _____ Total Tape Cost _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Plus Postage **\$2.00**
 Amount Enclosed _____

Please send **Check or Money Order** to:
Mike Anderson — 6521 Mercomatic Court — Nashville, TN 37209

A Door Ajar

By Rhonda McReynolds

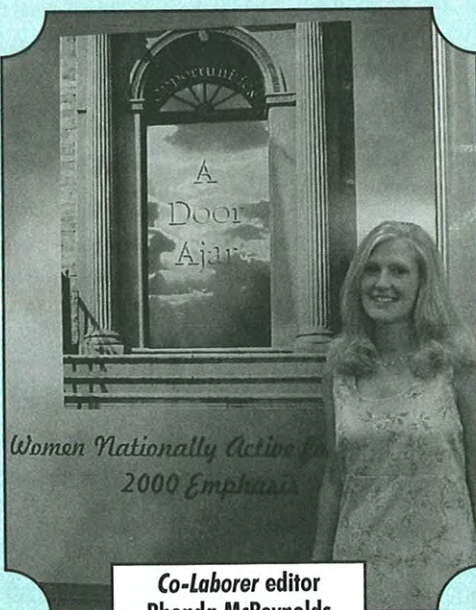
The WNAC convention welcomed 586 registered attendees to Anaheim, California. The music, the speakers, the banquet and the seminar focused around the year's theme, "Opportunities: A Door Ajar." The convention offered spiritual and growth opportunities, and those present walked through the open doors with renewed hearts.

General Session

Elaine Holland, missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, centered her devotion on the year's theme in the Tuesday morning session. She encouraged attendees to take advantage of every open door. She emphasized the need to recognize daily opportunities as a means of witnessing for Christ.

Debe Taylor, WNAC president, presided over the business session. The following resolutions were approved by the Women Nationally Active for Christ during the convention:

1. To decorate and furnish the Mission House to be built on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College by the Foreign Missions and Master's Men Departments.
2. To grant up to three scholarships of \$1000 each from the Cleo Pursell Foreign Student Scholarship Fund.



Co-Laborer editor
Rhonda McReynolds

A third motion was made to specify the number of years a WNAC Executive Committee member may serve was tabled until 2001.

Seminars

Nearly 200 women attended two WNAC seminars on Monday afternoon.

When Cancer Comes to Your House

"Please stand if you have had cancer. Please stand if a relative has had cancer. Please stand if you know someone who has had cancer."

With no one in the room left sitting, Joanna Felts captured people's atten-



WNAC President
Debe Taylor

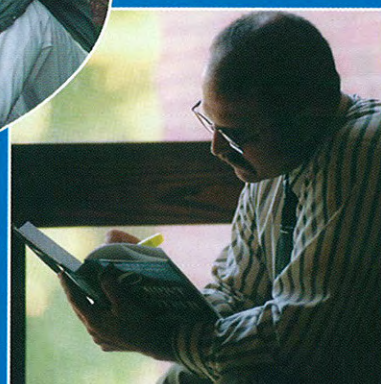
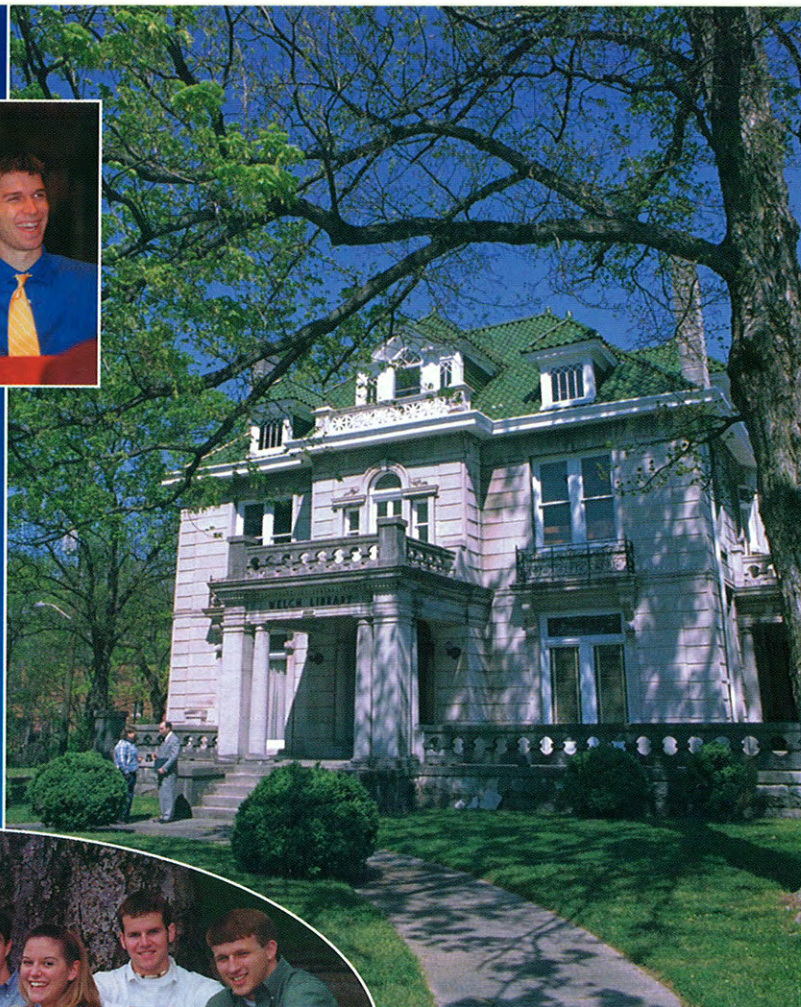
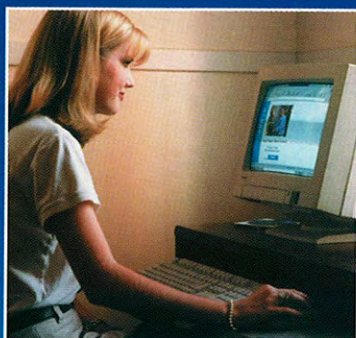
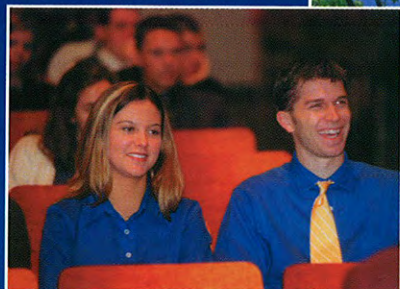


WNAC Executive Committee
(L-R, standing) Diana Bryant, Debe Taylor, Joanne King, Yvonne Brown
(seated) Marjorie Workman, Dawn Sweeny, Debbie Burden

tion by driving home the fact that, in some way, cancer relates to every one.

She then lightened the mood by reading the children's story, "Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day." The story was a good lead in to the roaring emotions of a household struck with cancer.

Joanna gave insight and encouragement to women dealing with this disease in their own life or in the life of someone they know.



Free Will Baptist Bible College

Nashville, Tennessee

Let's Get *Acquainted*

Let's begin with a few assumptions:

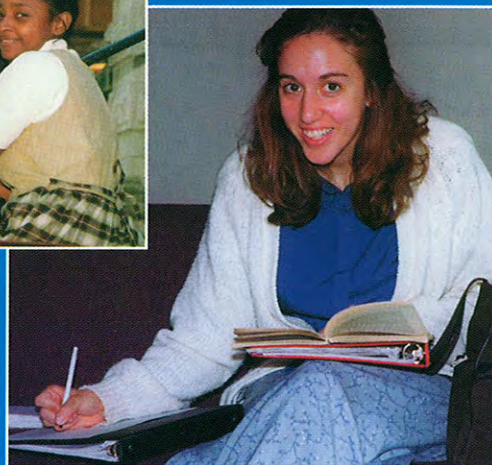
- You are interested in college;
- You are a Christian;
- You want the best education you can get;
- You are considering FWBCC.

If these are true, then read on.

Here are things you should know about FWBCC:

- We are a Bible college; (We'll tell you more about that below.)
- We only admit Christian students;
- We hold dual accreditation;
- We can help you find financial aid;
- We have been doing this since 1942.

With these before us, let's get down to details.



What Is A *Bible College*?



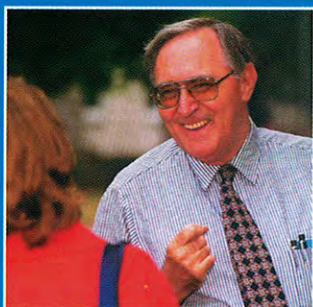
Bible colleges differ from other colleges in two ways: (1) Every student majors in Bible, and (2) every student does regular Christian service.

The amount of Bible required varies: Some programs require 30 hours; others 40 hours.

But you can also major in a variety of other areas. (See the list of programs we offer.) In fact, most students do, graduating with double majors.

Christian service is the practical side of Bible college training. It puts you in touch with people in need. You will work in churches, minister in jails, comfort those in nursing homes, and counsel teens whose lives are in shambles. You will get your hands dirty ... just like Jesus did. What you do in Christian services is as important to us as what you do in the classroom.

Whatever your vocational pursuit, we'll get you there with a Bible-based education that will teach you how to live, as well as how to make a living.



This Is *The Life*



Life at FWBBC is an adventure.

If you are a dorm student, you will rub shoulders with hundreds of Christian young people, like yourself. If you live off campus, you will still find yourself meshing with college activities far beyond just attending classes.

Every student joins one of eight societies (four for men and four for women). Married men have the option of joining Married Men's Fellowship, if they prefer.

If you are musical, you can try out for the College Choir or one of the college's touring music teams. Or you may choose to join Choral Union where you can be part of

Christmas On Richland Avenue or minister through an Easter cantata.

Other groups may be more your cup of tea. For instance:

- The Evangel Players (for drama enthusiasts)
- The Flames/Lady Flames (for basketball players)
- Global Missions Fellowship (for anyone interested in world outreach)
- The Lumen (the yearbook staff)
- Christian Business Leaders Association (for business students)
- Ministerial Fellowship (for those called to ministry)



Then, there are the daily chapel services; actually, there are four each week. That is when President Tom Malone, some other member of the college family, or a guest speaker will help you keep your eyes on Christ while you are studying here. And the music will bless your soul!

Whether at a basketball game or sharing in an on-campus prayer meeting, you will find yourself surrounded by people who care about you, some of whom will become your lifelong friends.

The days at Free Will Baptist Bible College will be some of your best, and they will shape all your days that follow.

We Mean *Business* About Our *Faith*

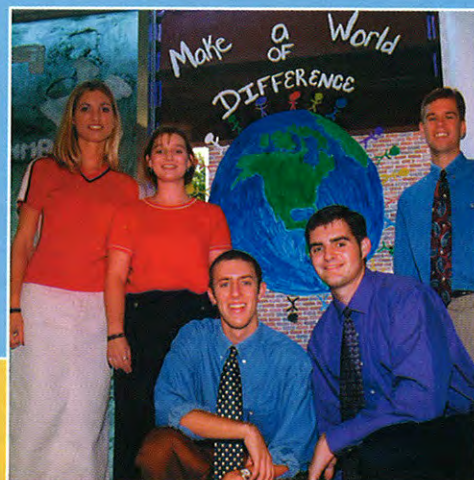


We don't take being a Christian college lightly. And we don't want our students to take a light view of being Christians. Bottom line - we train workers for the Kingdom of God, no matter what field of work they enter.

Our purpose statement says it all: ***The Mission of Free Will Baptist Bible College is to equip men and women, through Bible-based education, to serve Christ and His Church.***

Every teacher is a Christian and we only admit Christian students. Period.

At FWBBC, we will help you discover God's plan for your life and then train you to fulfil it.



We're *Here* For *You*

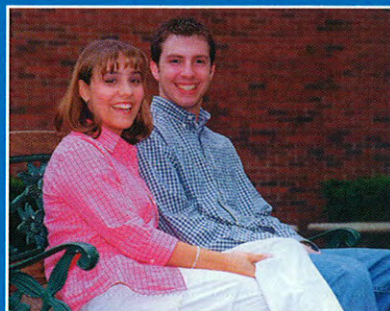


Left to right:
Maranda Register
Tonya Yocum
Dr. James Cox, Director
Stacey Lane
Joe Tolbert
Michaellynn Hughes,
Secretary.
Seated:
Stewart-Allen Clark,
Assistant Director.

When you write, call, or email us, one of the members of our Enrollment Management Team will contact you. We'll be here for you as you make this important decision: "Where will I go to college?!!"

And when you choose FWBBC, we'll be here for you when you arrive, unpack, and begin the adventure of a lifetime!

You'll *Like Learning* Here!



If you have more questions about Free Will Baptist Bible College, there are many ways for you to contact us.

- Telephone: 1-800-76-FWBBC
- Fax: 1-615-269-6028
- Web site: www.fwbbs.edu
- Email: recruit@fwbbs.edu
- Snail Mail: 3606 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205

You choose the method; just be sure to let us know how we can include you in our enrollment plans for the coming year. With Moses, we say, "Come thou with us, and we will do thee good."*

*Numbers 10:29



Free Will Baptist Bible College



Devotional speaker
Elaine Holland, Côte d'Ivoire

Treat Yourself to a Retreat

Judy Posner (TX), Deborah Honeycutt (OK) and Rhonda Hodges (CA) led the women down the road of planning a retreat. The speakers supplied the women with an assortment of ideas for planning and organizing a retreat on the local and state levels.

Creative Arts Contest

CoLaborer editor Rhonda McReynolds presented awards to winners in the 2000 WNAC Creative Arts Contest. There were 120 entries in four categories. This year's first place winners are:

Poetry: "Clutter," Freeda Lucas, Cromona, KY

Articles: "The Chef," Alice Grant, Lancaster, OH

Programs: "Five Nobodies Who Were Somebodies for the Lord," Cheryl Akers, Jacksonville, FL

Plays: "A Friend Like No Other," Sara Kilgore, Limestone, TN

Missionary Service

"Go ye. . . our only question should be where. . ." Annette Aycock, missionary to Brazil, challenged each person to do as God has commanded and "go."

Her message centered on a series of events that happened in her life from losing her money to losing her youngest daughter Destiny.

Annette related these losses to asking the question, "What is your level of commitment to missions?" She challenged traditional thinking that giving money and having compassion for missions is doing enough. Instead, hearts were inspired to give a deeper commitment. "Finances and compassion are good, but they are not good enough . . .

God's heart aches for souls whom He wants to come home."

As the audience wiped tear-filled eyes, the closing words penetrated the hearts of those listening.

"Nothing is good enough until we are all going . . . to the grocery store, to the doctor's office, to the ball game . . . Your next open door is the next lost person you meet."

Fellowship Luncheon

WNAC's luncheon was a success. This was the first time to have a luncheon instead of a dinner. The tickets sold out and the room was filled to capacity.

California women provided each table with a beautiful basket full of California surprises. One person from each table got to take the basket home.

Pat Clary from the Women's Ministries Institute was the speaker for the afternoon. She continued with the "Door Ajar" theme. She challenged the crowd to be like Esther



Some of the guests at the Fellowship Luncheon

You did a
GREAT
job, Honey!

I'm finished.
And I didn't
faint!



Missionary Service speaker
Annette Aycock, Brazil

and dream big dreams, enter into the presence of the Lord, surrender to His presence and initiate a plan to move into service for the Lord.

Those present left the luncheon with the question, "If God . . . could do anything with your life—what would He do?"



ABOUT THE WRITER:
Rhonda McReynolds is
editor of *CoLaborer*
magazine.

I Press Toward the Goal

By Dean Jones

I Press Toward the Goal was the 33rd annual National Youth Conference theme, July 16-20, in Anaheim, California. Jonathan Yandell, California pastor and Randall House curriculum writer, started the conference Sunday morning using *Horizon* curriculum. Casey Cariker, youth pastor from Owasso, OK; Chris Willhite, youth pastor from Castaic, CA; Matt Upton, pastor from Stockton, CA; and Rick Locklear, associate pastor from Woodhaven, MI, spoke during teen worship services. Donald Myers, Taylor, MI, served as music coordinator for teen worship services.

Bible Competition and the Music and Arts Festival started Monday morning and continued through Wednesday morning. There were 431 entries and 962 registrants.



Waitin' for my badge.

Monday evening's teen service featured music by Truth & Peace Student Leadership Conference, under the direction of Deanna Hollifield, conference staff member. The after-service activity was held in Hilton Hotel's California Ballroom where 200 young people joined in a fun time conducted by the youth group from Garden Grove, CA.

Tuesday was another day of competition with Bible Competition winding down to the



semifinal round. Instrumentalists, puppeteers, ensembles, choirs and chorales packed competition rooms.

During the conference attendees visited the art gallery where nearly 75 entries were displayed. They also picked up conference souvenirs and their favorite T-shirts at the NYC sales booth.

Wednesday morning featured Bible Competition Finals. The Greenwood, AR, team won the Bible Bowl competition and the Limestone, TN, team won the Tic-Tac-Toe competition.

The 2000 winners were *Turning Point*—Teddie Collier, MO; and *Horizon*—Hollie Hubbard, TX.

Bible Memorization Winners were: 1st grade—Breanna Cusick, AR; 2nd grade—Miranda Thomas, AR; and 3rd grade—Jeanetta Baumer, MO.

Bible Sword Drill winners were: 4th grade—Ashley Peerson, AR; 5th grade—Alisha East, AR; and 6th grade—Steven Holland, MO.

During the course of the four-day conference, over 30 workshops and seminars were presented for children, teens and youth workers on various ministry and practical subjects. Our "Reach That Guy—Impact Anaheim" project allowed over 400 opportunities to take the gospel to the streets. Some volunteered their mornings and afternoons to serve at nearly a dozen agencies in the Greater Anaheim area.

Preschool Worship (ages 3-6) services were held each day. This exciting program provided an opportunity to minister to the youngest Free Will Baptists. Upon check-in, each was assigned to a team. From there they were led through a series of centers throughout the service including worship and singing, role play, crafts, snacks, sensory center and motor skills.

Children (grades 1-3) and Tweener (grades 4-6) worship services were conducted by Johnny and Gail Miller, Arkansas children's pastors; and Bruce Bennett, children's pastor from Oklahoma.

Hundreds of decisions were made during the services, including many for salvation. Our speakers challenged our students to commit their lives to a living God and serve Him daily.

Some 2,000 people gathered for the Awards Celebration Wednesday evening. All Bible Competition and Music & Arts Festival winners were recognized.

The 2001 National Youth Evangelistic Team was announced. These 12 high school youth were top scorers in the 2000 Music and Arts Festival. They are: Matt Jones (OK), Teri Deel (TN), Jesse Fletcher (TN), Melody Highsmith (NC), Ryan Lewis (IL), Renee West (MI), Kevin Turner (AR), Tiffany Coonce (MO), Emily Cook (OH), Laura Ellis (IL), Greg Harrell (NC) and Blaine Comer (NC).

Trophies, ribbons, medals, certificates and scholarships were awarded. Special awards were given to the following: Youth Group of the Year—Heritage FWB Church, Fredericksburg, VA; Youth of the Year—Amanda Smith, OK; and Youth Worker of the Year—Andrew Brosnac, CA.

One by one, winners were announced and walked across the stage for special recognition. Congratulations to all the youth who entered the competitive activities. You are all winners!

It would be impossible to conduct a conference of this magnitude without the assistance of the Truth & Peace Leadership Conference. These 72 youth gave life to the planned activities. They were divided into various areas of responsibility. They did a super job. Participants were in leadership training two weeks prior to the National Youth Conference. For more information about participating in the 2001 Truth & Peace Conference, please write to: P. O. Box 17306, Nashville, TN 37217.

At the conclusion of the Truth & Peace Conference, several awards were presented. The NYC staff selected Travis Henderson (AR) and Rena Beth Sagraves (TN) for Outstanding Leadership Awards.

Special appreciation is due to all pastors, parents, youth leaders, coaches and judges who work with our youth. A special thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who helped make the 33rd annual National Youth Conference a success.



Even the Frog registered (note his badge).



Much to contemplate . . .



Double your pleasure . . . Double your fun . . .

We have implemented many changes and hope to see even more in the future. We are eager for your input. If you have ideas or suggestions for speakers, seminars or changes, please mail them to the above address.

When people think back to the 2000 NYC in Anaheim, some will remember the comfortable July temperatures or maybe the local attractions of Orange County, but I will remember the hundreds of young people who shared their lives with us for a week. Lives which returned home different than when they arrived. Lives which will live out their faith in the coming years. Lives which will lead us to the 34th youth conference in Detroit, Michigan, where they will . . . Go . . . No Retreats . . . No Reserves . . . No Regrets! ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Dean Jones serves as director for the National Youth Conference.

Sermons Drive California State

FRESNO, CA—The 57th annual California State Association met May 18-20 on the campus of California Christian College. Executive Secretary Nuel Brown praised the preaching by four ministers developing the association theme, "Reflecting His Light."

Reverend Brown said, "The preaching was very good with three of our young pastors preaching. Thursday night Pastor John Howell preached, Friday morning Pastor Kevin Pitman and Saturday morning Pastor Jason Hensley." Home Missions staffer Richard Atwood preached Friday night.

The Oklahoma Ministers Quartet was featured during the state meeting as well as singers from Fresno First FWB Church and Jackie Kelly.

Brown said, "The business was smooth with good reports from all state ministries. The concern about the financial status of our school was on most people's minds, but there seemed to be a great desire and support for the school across the state. We all feel that God has sent us the man to lead our school—Wendell Walley."

Brown continued, "Some great things have happened since the state meeting to encourage us about the future of the school."

Florida Elects Promotional Team

DELAND, FL—The Florida State Association voted to try something different when Executive Secretary Millard Sasser resigned after six years at the helm. Delegates divided the full-time duties among three pastors and elected their first "Promotional Team."

Pastor David Williford (First FWB Church, Chipley) will serve as executive secretary, Pastor Danny Conn (Soul's Harbor FWB Church, Pensacola) as editor of *The Coordinator*, Pastor Randy Bryant (Ryanwood Fellowship FWB Church, Vero Beach) as bookstore manager.

The 56th annual Florida State Association met May 10-13 in Deland at the Holiday Inn Convention Center. Moderator Tim Owen presided.

Clerk Randy Bryant reported 225 in worship services and 250 for the state youth conference. Thirty-nine ministers registered as well as 25 lay delegates, nine deacons and 58 visitors.

Three bi-vocational pastors preached during worship services developing the theme, "Two Ministers, One Call." Pastor Howard McNeal (Worthington Springs), retired pastor R. C. Wiggins and Pastor Randy Bryant all brought messages.

Delegates adopted resolutions calling for reaffirmation of holy living, an aggressive return to personal soul-winning and teaching

doctrinal truths to new converts.

A constitutional change gave the Steering Committee more wiggle room in negotiating state meeting dates with hotels. Another changed the Home Mission Board title to Florida Mission Board. A third change increased representation fees to \$100 per church.

Plaques of appreciation were given to Millard Sasser for his service as executive secretary, and to two pastors who led their home mission churches to self-supporting status—Odis Whitehead (Faith Church, Jacksonville) and Jose Rodriguez (Renacer Church, Miami).

In other action, delegates adopted a \$438,150 Total Ministries Budget to be allocated: Mission Board—\$61,800; Youth Board—\$16,950; C. E. Board—\$15,200; Florida Mission Shares—\$262,000; Executive Secretary—\$8,400; Office Expense—\$27,900; National Co-op—\$16,000; Other State Ministries—\$29,900.

The Florida Women Active for Christ met concurrently with the state association and celebrated their 50th anniversary. Diana Bryant narrated the celebration activities. Foreign Missions staffer Eddie Payne spoke at the Florida WAC Missions Luncheon.

The 2001 state association will meet May 9-12 in Deland at the Holiday Inn Convention Center.

Kentucky Re-Elects Hall Moderator

GLASGOW, KY—Delegates to the 61st annual Kentucky State Association elected Owensboro pastor Tim Hall to his sixth term as moderator during the June 16-17 session. More than 150 people attended the meeting at First FWB Church in Glasgow.

Promotional Secretary James Patton reported that Kentucky churches gave more than \$7,000 to aid North Carolina Free Will Baptists who were hit by Hurricane Floyd last fall.

Since Kentucky will host the National Association in 2005, officials asked each church to raise \$250 to help underwrite that cost.

Delegates adopted five constitutional changes and tabled two others for 2001. They also voted to give \$500 to the state Youth Board, and \$100 each to the Paducah and Louisville mission works, to Camp Caleb and to Darrell Nichols, missionary to Côte d'Ivoire.

Two Kentucky ministers preached sermons during worship services. Promotional Secretary James Patton preached Friday evening and Elizabethon pastor Lincoln Varney Saturday morning.

Delegates adopted a resolution commending the Kentucky governor for his efforts to restore posting the Ten Commandments to public buildings.

Phyllis York, president of KWAC, said that 50 people registered for the Friday session of the Kentucky Women Active for Christ. They also adopted a \$40,000 budget for 2001.

Harry Frisby, manager of the Master's Miracle Bookstore, presented a \$4,800 check to the state association from the store's sales this past year.

The 2001 state association will meet June 15-16 in Prestonsburg at Katy Friend FWB Church.

Forrest to Head Pastoral Training at FWBBC

NASHVILLE, TN—Rev. Terry Forrest has been named to head Free Will Baptist Bible College's training program for pastors, according to Dr. Milton Fields, academic dean. Rev. Forrest was pastor of First FWB Church, Walnut Ridge, Arkansas, for nine years.

He also served eight years as the first pastor of First FWB Church, Monticello, Arkansas, before he joined the FWBBC faculty in 1991. Since then he has served on the faculty and as dean of students.

Rev. Forrest graduated from the Bible College in 1971, earned his master's at Tennessee State University in 1996, and is doing graduate studies through Liberty University.

He currently pastors Bethel FWB Church, Ashland City, Tennessee, directs the college's Lifetime Learning Division and is establishing a church planting emphasis in the college's Pastoral Training program in cooperation with the Home Missions Department.

Rev. Ralph Hampton, chairman of the Biblical Ministries Department, says Rev. Forrest has a solid reputation as a pastor, teacher and soul winner. "He is an exceptional man who is well qualified, practically and spiritually, to lead the program," he adds.

Dr. Robert Woodard, who directed the program for many years, will continue to teach Bible courses in the Biblical Ministries Department. "He is to be commended for his years of devoted leadership in training our preachers," Rev. Hampton says.

As his schedule permits, Rev. Forrest will be available for conferences and retreats. Contacts should be made by writing him, in care of the college.

Asbury to Lead West Virginia

CRAB ORCHARD, WV—The 55th annual session of the West Virginia State Association tapped Huntington pastor Ivan Asbury to moderate the 2001 meeting. Asbury pastors Central FWB Church. He succeeds Luther Morgan who served four years as moderator.

The June 9-10 session met at Cornerstone FWB Church in Crab Orchard. Some 334 people attended including 97 ministers, 21 deacons and 55 lay delegates.

Three ministers addressed the association theme, "Amazing Grace," during worship services. Carl Cooper (pastor of Springdale FWB Church in Hurricane) and home missionary Russell Wright shared pulpit duties with FWBBC staffer James Cox.

A number of plaques were given to churches

who led in the March for Missions project. Retiring foreign missionaries Dave and Pat Franks received a plaque for faithful service. Out-going moderator Luther Morgan received a plaque for his service.

The state association also presented a plaque to clerk Norwood Webb for 30 years' service.

One constitutional change was adopted requiring that ministers voting in business meetings must have cards of good standing issued by the state association.

Visiting minister Tim York (Kentucky) conducted a church growth seminar for attendees.

The 2001 state association will meet June 8-9 at Bradley FWB Church in Bradley.

FWBBC Plans Academic Olympics

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College will host its first academic olympics for high school students, grades 9-12, on February 23-24, 2001, according to Dr. James H. Cox, director of enrollment management.

Called "Brain Storm," the challenge will be issued for up to 16 teams from Free Will Baptist schools, churches and associations to meet in Nashville to see who has the top students. Teams may be comprised of two to four students, with up to two alternates. Participants must be enrolled in a Free Will Baptist school or be members of a Free Will Baptist church.

The competition will include several fields of knowledge: Social Studies, Language Arts, Mathematics, Bible, Science, Current Events, Fine Arts and the Free Will Baptist Denomination. The college will issue a bibliography of textbooks to help participants prepare.

An entry fee of \$150 will be charged, with participation limited to the first 16 teams who pay the fee. Trophies, certificates and free participation in various Bible College-sponsored events will be awarded.

For more information, write or call:

Brain Storm
c/o Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205
1-800-76-FWBBC

Record Attendance at North Carolina

GOLDSBORO, NC—When the Monday evening service began at the 38th annual North Carolina State Association, a record 724 people had gathered for worship services, according to promotional director Jim Marcum. The attendance was bolstered by a 100-voice mass choir composed of members from six local church choirs. A 15-instrument orchestra accompanied the choir.

The June 5-6 event met at Victory FWB Church in Goldsboro. Moderator Randy Stone presided and was elected to his second term in office. Some 122 ministers were among the attendees.

Six sermons powered the meeting. Messages were preached by Moderator Stone, Promotional Director Marcum and four pastors—Henry Potter (Calvary FWB Church, Jacksonville), Joe Haas, Sr. (Emmanuel FWB Church, Jacksonville), Bob Edmondson (Glad Tidings FWB Church, Asheboro) and Karl Sexton (Virginia).

Delegates approved a constitutional change authorizing the state Executive Committee to receive invitations from local churches to host the state meeting and recommend a meeting site to the voting body.

In other action, delegates adopted a resolution expressing opposition to President Clinton's declaring June as Gay and Lesbian Month.

The 2001 state association will meet June 4-5 at Landmark FWB Church in Cary.

Missouri Adopts \$1.4 Million Budget

O'FALLON, MO—The 87th annual session of the Missouri State Association adopted budgets for the coming year surpassing \$1.4 million, according to Executive Secretary Nathan Ruble. The budgets included \$450,000 (Cooperative Plan), \$544,958 (Show-Me Plan) and \$500,000 (State Bookstore).

The June 5-7 session met at First FWB Church in O'Fallon. Moderator Rick Dablemont was elected to a third term.

Some 321 people registered—64 ministers, 64 lay delegates and 190 visitors. Delegates passed resolutions calling for "greater Christian unity" at all levels of ministry in the National Association, and commending the Trustees of Free Will Baptist Bible College for the proposed name change to Palmer College.

In other action, delegates approved a constitutional change specifying a procedure to elect the state executive secretary.

Three pastors joined Board of Retirement director William Evans in developing the association theme, "Conscious of the Past, Challenged by the Present, Confidence in the future." The pastors who preached included Milan Ruble (Liberal), Don Walker (Grandview) and Jason Roberts (Thayer).

The Christian Education Board sponsored a workshop featuring speaker Ron Owens.

The 2001 state association will meet June 4-6 at United FWB Church in West Plains.

Georgia Adopts \$760,000 Budget

ALBANY, GA—Delegates to the 64th annual Georgia State Association adopted a \$760,000 budget for 2001, according to state clerk, Terry Pierce. That included \$210,000 for state outreach and \$550,000 for The Together Way Plan.

The March 16-18 session met at First FWB Church in Albany. Moderator Paul Smith presided. Some 169 people registered—52 ministers, 13 deacons, 26 lay delegates and 78 visitors.

Foreign Missions staffer Fred Warner was named guest speaker for the preaching/worship sessions.

One of the meeting highlights was the commissioning service for Duck-Chen Lee who will begin a Korean FWB Church in Marietta.

The 2001 state association will meet March 15-17 at Trinity Fellowship FWB Church in Hampton.

currently

What a day at **Peace FWB Church** in **Florence, SC**. Ground-breaking ceremonies for a 1,300-square-foot sanctuary to seat 750 people were led by Pastor **Donnie Miles**. The \$1 million structure also includes four classrooms, three offices, a conference room and a large reception area.

What a month for Pastor **Wayne Snipes**. Within a 30-day span, he participated in the dedication for a new sanctuary for his home church, then was called to pastor **Unity FWB Church** in **Johnsonville, SC**, and was ordained to preach. That's a full month in anybody's schedule.

Yes, that's a new sign at the **FWB Children's Home** in **Turbeville, SC**. A big one. Thanks to **Kenny Sauls** and Pastor **Rickey Evans** at **St. John FWB Church** in **Pamplico, SC**, the thousands of vehicles that pass the home each month drive within a few feet of the positive advertising effort.

A new sign and a new parsonage—that's the word from **Beulah FWB Church** in **Pamplico, SC**. **Elro Driggers** pastors.

The Vacation Bible School at **Mt. Olive FWB Church** in **Plymouth, NC**, averaged 43 students and gave a \$403 missionary offering. Pastor **Robert Travis** has been on duty six months with the congregation.

Pastor **Bill Swearingen** reports seven baptisms at **Faith & Hope FWB Church** in **Aurora, MO**. That new baptism has been put to good use.

The **Missouri Bible Institute** enrolled 25 students this spring. Instructors **Rick Dablemont**, **Ken Dodson** and **Gary Fry** taught students in Cuba, Park Hills and Mountain Grove. The institute, sponsored by the state Christian Education Board, is in its seventh year of operation.

Members of **First FWB Church** in **Arkadelphia, AR**, celebrated their 30th anniversary this spring with special Sunday services. Ninety-five attended the event. But wait, there's more. That

day Pastor **Rob Gerst** officiated as four babies were dedicated. One more thing—Pastor Gerst was ordained to the ministry that same day.

During National Volunteer Week this spring, **Florida** minister **Arnold Woodlief** received a certificate of appreciation and a pin in recognition of his volunteer work at the Marianna Convalescent Center.

The **G. W. Lobaugh Memorial Library** was dedicated June 4 at **East-side FWB Church** in **Petaluma, CA**. Brother Lobaugh was a faithful member and leader in the church for many years. **Carl Young** pastors.

Reverend **William Eversole**, active **Michigan** pastor, retired after 13 years in his final pastorate at **Romulus FWB Church** in **Romulus** and relocated to Tennessee. While in Michigan, Pastor Eversole served as moderator of the Metropolitan Association.

Wayne FWB Church in **Wayne, MI**, sold its building and merged with **Romulus FWB Church** in **Romulus**.

Pastor **Jeff Crabtree** and the congregation at **West Frederickton FWB Church** in **New Brunswick, Canada**, offered \$90,000 for 18 acres on which to relocate. The owner agreed. The congregation made a \$40,000 down payment with the promise to provide the remaining \$50,000 within six months. The six months are almost up. Pastor Crabtree said, "We are trusting the Lord to provide the \$50,000 just like He did the \$40,000." That's the right outlook.

Members of **First FWB Church** in **Norman, OK**, welcomed 11 new members, according to Pastor **Joe Grizzle**.

Pastor **Rue Dell Smith** reports nine new members, three conversions and several rededications at **Landmark FWB Church** in **Monroe, LA**. The congregation has \$68,500 in a building fund and wants to be self-supporting by the time Pastor Smith's contract with the Home Missions Department is completed.

The first Sunday that **Carroll Bazen** came on board as pastor at **Grace FWB Church** in **Lake City, SC**, he led the congregation to raise more than \$10,000 to build a church in India.

In the one year that Pastor **Darren Squires** has led **Socastee FWB Church** in **Socastee, SC**, the church reported 55 conversions, 25 baptisms and 32 new members. Small wonder that they purchased a van to assist in their expanding ministry.

Home Missionary **Fred Jones** reports six new members and five baptisms at the **Prattville FWB Mission** in **Prattville, AL**.

Yes, that's Home Missionary **Tommy Jones** behind the big smile at **Two Rivers FWB Church** in **Pittsburgh, PA**. He reports a record high attendance of 96 and two conversions.

Pastor **Russell Johnson** reports one conversion and three rededications at **First FWB Church** in **Cheyenne, WY**. One member, **Travis Shuck**, answered the call to preach earlier this year.

Can't pass up this final item: **The FWB Children's Home** in **Turbeville, SC**, is completing 51 years of service to the state and community. When the home celebrated its 50th anniversary last November, more than 250 people came to cheer. **James Willhide** is superintendent. ■

Directory Update

ARKANSAS

Rob Gerst to First Church, Arkadelphia
Fred Warner to Vista Church, Van Buren from Foreign
Missions Department as director of stateside ministries

MISSOURI

Howard Anderson to First Church, Cape Girardeau from
Willow Springs Church, Mountain Grove

NORTH CAROLINA

Robert Travis to Mt. Olive Church, Plymouth from First
Church, Simpsonville, SC

SOUTH CAROLINA

Todd Black to St. John Church, Patrick

OTHER PERSONNEL

Brian Sargent to Woodbine Church, Nashville, TN, as
minister of youth and music

Terry Welch to Woodbine Church, Nashville, TN, as min-
ister of visitation and evangelism

THE TOGETHER WAY

June 2000

Receipts: State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Year To Date Designated	Year To Date CO-OP	Year To Date Total
Alabama	\$ 709.53	\$ 268.87	\$ 978.40	\$ 2,417.44	\$ 1,183.73	\$ 3,601.17
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Arkansas	16,009.51	8,969.65	24,979.16	85,026.39	90,806.54	175,832.93
California	.00	1,191.65	1,191.65	.00	5,712.15	5,712.15
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	137.91	6,000.00	6,137.91	267.91	6,000.00	6,267.91
Georgia	60.00	.00	60.00	160,425.38	9,229.10	169,654.48
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	8,107.35	2,589.86	10,697.21	57,560.58	12,681.49	70,242.07
Indiana	.00	.00	.00	7,203.30	1,378.48	8,581.78
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	295.00	1,978.80	2,273.80
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	.00	400.71	400.71
Kentucky	1,487.00	926.38	2,413.38	9,102.55	6,234.93	15,337.48
Louisiana	.00	.00	.00	20.00	155.00	175.00
Maryland	.00	131.25	131.25	.00	459.36	459.36
Michigan	19,147.62	2,142.02	21,289.64	160,468.31	21,371.39	181,839.70
Mississippi	.00	.00	.00	42,761.85	3,848.85	46,610.70
Missouri	31,051.28	12,229.92	43,281.20	245,605.53	82,711.90	328,317.43
Montana	.00	.00	.00	30.00	.00	30.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	351.21	.00	351.21
New Mexico	601.57	40.79	642.36	3,856.48	250.28	4,106.76
North Carolina	1,040.44	2,171.52	3,211.96	8,028.86	12,976.94	21,005.80
Ohio	10,739.59	2,478.98	13,218.57	86,124.16	18,431.14	104,555.30
Oklahoma	44,365.52	9,490.25	53,855.77	341,087.87	60,830.46	401,918.33
South Carolina	.00	.00	.00	281,700.35	131.93	281,832.28
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	11,352.01	1,507.55	12,859.56	73,520.72	10,508.77	84,029.49
Texas	10,279.28	348.39	10,627.67	58,351.23	1,955.95	60,307.18
Virginia	589.15	166.55	755.70	3,874.00	166.55	4,040.55
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	878.09	86.06	964.15	8,646.57	518.68	9,165.25
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	693.99	6.59	700.58	3,631.44	73.64	3,705.08
Northwest Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northeast Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	.13	.13	.00	.32	.32
Totals	\$ 157,249.84	\$ 50,746.41	\$ 207,996.25	\$ 1,640,357.13	\$ 349,997.09	\$ 1,990,354.22

Disbursements:

Executive Office	\$ 1,784.50	\$ 22,835.83	\$ 24,620.33	\$ 11,612.09	\$ 157,498.60	\$ 169,110.69
Foreign Missions	95,263.21	6,419.41	101,682.62	967,293.38	44,274.63	1,011,568.01
FWBBC	10,047.84	6,419.41	16,467.25	106,224.15	44,274.63	150,498.78
Home Missions	43,625.04	5,023.89	48,648.93	442,761.54	34,649.70	477,411.24
Retirement & Insurance	330.27	3,907.47	4,237.74	2,974.71	26,949.78	29,924.49
Master's Men	558.85	3,907.47	4,466.32	2,569.73	26,949.78	29,519.51
Com. for Theo. Integrity	37.43	139.57	177.00	908.80	962.51	1,871.31
FWB Foundation	244.39	1,674.65	1,919.04	2,014.72	11,549.93	13,564.65
Historical Commission	5.52	139.57	145.09	141.09	962.51	1,103.60
Music Commission	15.96	139.57	155.53	115.67	962.51	1,078.18
Media Commission	32.89	139.57	172.46	222.23	962.51	1,184.74
Hillsdale FWB College	1,667.45	.00	1,667.45	10,821.02	.00	10,821.02
Other	3,636.49	.00	3,636.49	92,698.00	.00	92,698.00
Totals	\$ 157,249.84	\$ 50,746.41	\$ 207,996.25	\$ 1,640,357.13	\$ 349,997.09	\$ 1,990,354.22

COMING NEXT MONTH . . .

• How to Survive
Between
Pastors

• Don't Blame
Your
Background

• Man Behind the
Badge

• The Church
Under Siege

Brain Storm is the exciting new academic bowl sponsored by the Free Will Baptist Bible College. On February 23-24, 16 teams from various high schools and churches across the nation will meet in Nashville to compete for trophies and prizes by battling their way through the other teams in an academic competition. Areas of study for the competition include Bible, Math, History, Free Will Baptist History and Doctrine, Science, etc.

The goal of the competition is bring the brightest students from our denomination together for fun and fellowship, as well as friendly competition. The Bible College will host the event and the first 16 teams that pay their registration fee will be invited. Registration is open to all Free Will Baptist high school students. This makes it important for teams to register as soon as possible. Teams may be comprised of members of one or several churches, an association, or a Christian school. Competitors must be Free Will Baptist and represent their church, school or association.

The registration fee for the competition is \$150 per team. Once the Bible College receives the registration fees, a set of rules for the tournament

"Brain Storm" Coming To FWBBC

By Dr. James Cox

will be sent with a bibliography for study purposes. The teams may have four active members and up to two reserves or substitute members. Each team must have an adult sponsor traveling with them. Teams should also have their church or some business entity support them with expense money for their trip

to Nashville. Lodging will be in a local hotel near the college and will be at the competitor's expense.

The college will furnish t-shirts, trophies, certificates, refreshments, meeting rooms, judges and other personnel to help with the tournament. The college will also provide some entertainment for the teams after the tournament on Friday evening. Dr. James Cox, Director of Enrollment Management, says that it will be a thrilling event to have so many great young people on the campus for this event.

Dr. Fay Forlines is the Director of the Tournament and Dr. James Cox is the College Coordinator. To contact Dr. Cox for further information please call 615-844-5246 or contact him by E-mail at recruit@fwbbc.edu. ■



February 23-24, 2001

Join Free Will Baptists' brightest young people at Free Will Baptist Bible College's inaugural Brain Storm Academic Olympics. Go head to head against other high school students, grades 9-12, on topics like math, social studies, Bible, science and others.

In brief:

- The competition will be at Free Will Baptist Bible College, Nashville, Tennessee. It will begin Friday evening, Feb. 23, and conclude on Saturday, Feb. 24.
- It is open to high school students (grades 9-12) who are enrolled in a Free Will Baptist church-related school or are members of a Free Will Baptist church.
- Teams will consist of 2-4 players, with up to 2 alternates being permitted.
- A maximum of 16 teams will compete.
- Teams may come from Free Will Baptist schools and Free Will Baptist churches (or groups of churches).
- A non-refundable entry fee of \$150 per team is required for registration.
- A list of books for study will be available.

Free Will Baptist Bible College

Id like to go out my back door and pick a nice, ripe tomato or a fresh ear of corn. I'd like to, but I can't because I didn't plant any tomatoes or corn. If I expected to reap something that was never sown, I'd be nuts! Many times at church, we can't understand why we aren't reaping a bigger harvest of souls. Could it be that we aren't sowing any seed?

Free Will Baptists have set a goal of reaching out with the gospel to one million people this year. What a great way to start off the new millennium. The job is big and we need to think big. Every Christian has a responsibility to obey the command of preaching the gospel. Why not help the people in your church to obey by providing a way to do this?

The plan is simple. We are asking 1,000 churches to reach out to 1,000 people each. Twenty people can commit to reaching 50 each or 50 people can commit to reaching 20 each. Some states have committed to a goal of 50,000 or 100,000 within their state. Your church can get involved even if the whole state doesn't. This plan isn't the only way or even the best way . . . but it is a beginning. I would rather do something than to do nothing. Will you join us?

It is very important to begin by setting a goal and having a plan. A little organization will go a long way. Select areas to be targeted. You may want to take a walk or drive around the neighborhood first and pray for the people and homes that you will be visiting. People can take material containing the gospel to people's homes.

The material may be given personally or left on the doorknob if no one is home. These materials may be personalized by adding your church name and address, or by including brochures or pamphlets from your church. Each church can set their own date to do this and get people committed to be there. Individuals or Sunday School classes can set their own goals. The Home Missions Department has material available that can be used, and we invite you to contact us and let us be of help to you.

David Crowe has set a goal of 100,000 people to be reached by the home mission churches. Operation Saturation is scheduled for September 30. This is a

One Million In 2000

By Richard Atwood
Director of Ministry Helps

joint venture between the Master's Men Department, WNAC, Randall House Publications and the Home Missions Department. Consider taking a group from your church to help a mission church in saturating their town with the gospel.

Participating in this venture would certainly provide a

boost toward your reaching many souls with the gospel. There are materials available to help with this, and they can be obtained by contacting either the Home Missions Department or the Master's Men Department. This is an excellent opportunity for participation in helping to reach one million in the year 2000.

When you hear that someone visited your church or got saved or even made a favorable comment about your effort, let the church people know. If they feel it is a success, they may be glad to make it an annual event. The results for the whole denomination will be published and we can all celebrate the first time we've reached out to one million people.

Free Will Baptists can't reach everyone this year, but there are those out there who are just waiting for us to show them that someone cares for them. While discussing this article with our Home Missions publications editor, I found out that she and her family visited and ultimately joined a Free Will Baptist church, simply because someone from a local Free Will Baptist church in their area placed a flyer in their mailbox making it known that their church needed someone to come and play the piano for services.

There are so many who need salvation, those who need to know that someone is interested in them, and countless who would like to find a church where they can be actively involved and feel needed. The possibilities are endless when you think what placing a simple brochure in a home can do for the people inside.

People need what we have. Some will listen. Maybe we can do a better job in 2001, but we can do something now. Remember the quote from missionary Robert Moffatt, "We'll have all eternity to celebrate our victories, but only one short hour before sunset to win them." ■

Home



Missions

Commissioned to Teach—Part Two

By Alton Loveless

II. What Do I Teach?

"Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls," (Matt. 11:29).

"And build up in him, and establish in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving," (Col. 2:7).

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also," (II Tim. 2:2).

A. The Bible—God's Revelation to Man.

1. As the means for regeneration.
2. As the means of promoting worship.
3. As the means of promoting doctrines and concepts.
4. As information.
 - a. How it came about.
 - b. Facts relative to the Word of God.

B. Teach That Which Is Dedicated to the Building of the Church.

(Christian unity must exist in the classroom if one learns.)

1. Support the principles of the church.
2. Support the doctrines of the church.
3. Support the pastor of the church.
4. Support the programs of the church.

C. Teach the Class to Worship, Witness and Learn Daily.

1. Lead students to praise the Lord.
2. Lead students with a purpose.

3. Lead students in reaching all prospects.
4. Lead students in church-related projects.
 - a. Be comprehensive—lead in the interest of all the class.
 - b. Coordinate all programs.

D. Teach Christian Habits.

1. Habits are taught not born.
2. Cultivate an appreciation for right living.

E. Teach Christian Concepts and Meanings.

F. Teach Christian Attitudes.

G. Teach Proper Values.

H. Teach High Ideals and Goals.

(Remember that your role is to teach worship, proclaim the gospel, educate to meet needs and to minister.) ■



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

Randall



House



Garnett Reid

Seeker-Friendly

The seeker—recent trends within various subcultures of Christianity have flooded church growth writings with this description. In the aftermath we encounter “seeker-sensitive” services and “seeker-friendly” churches supposedly tailored for those worldlings—seeking for something secular pursuits have not provided.

Whatever one thinks, the true “seeker” has been around a lot longer than this present spate of baptized marketplace demographics might suggest.

For instance, Zacchaeus, that “wee little man” many of us first encountered in the kid’s choir, was a seeker. In fact, Luke’s narrative about Jesus and the tiny tax collector is all about “seeking.”

The most common Greek verb translated “to seek,” *zteo* (used 117 times in the New Testament), appears twice in Luke 19:1-10. The same word occurs in Matthew 6:33: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God.” Luke also uses it when Joseph and Mary were “seeking” young Jesus at the temple (Lk. 2:48-49; see other uses of *zteo* in Lk. 15:8; Jn. 5:30; I Cor. 10:24; Col. 3:1; and I Pet. 5:8).

Here in Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus “sought” to see Jesus (v. 3); and Jesus “seeks” to save Zacchaeus and all who are lost (v.10). These two instances of “seeking” provide a convenient framework for analyzing the story.

What Zacchaeus Sought

Jesus’ passing through Jericho occasions this introduction of Zacchaeus. That he is a Jew is evident by his name, a derivative of the same root as the name Zechariah; “Zacchaeus” means “just” or “righteous.” By profession he was a tax collector (KJV “publican”)—but not just any tax collector. He was the “chief,” probably supervising the district office from Jericho.

Tax collectors in first century Palestine were usually Jews hired by the Romans to conscript a designated amount of money payable to the government. Most publicans were unscrupulous, hated for gouging the citizenry above the official tax rate in order to line their own pockets.

Obviously Zacchaeus belonged to this camp. “He was rich,” Luke notes, adding the people’s estimation of him as “a sinner” (v. 7). Verse eight also alludes to Zacchaeus’ ill-gotten gains. Therefore one driving passion which motivated this little man was his pursuit of money. He loved and sought wealth.

His story, though, is not primarily about his search for riches. Rather, “Zacchaeus sought to see Jesus,” verse 3 comments. In fact, so eager was he to catch a glimpse of the Savior that he overcame the limitation of his short stature in the crowd by climbing a “sycamore” (mulberry) tree.

Why Zacchaeus’ interest in Jesus? Was it just curiosity, or did it go deeper than that? Had his money left him dissatisfied and empty? Was it the loneliness that stemmed from people’s hatred of this traitor to the Romans? Maybe verse 8 suggests he could no longer live with the guilt he harbored over his many acts of extortion. Whatever the reason, this little man had big problems and sought help. He was, as Pastor William Mishler once put it, “out on a limb” in more ways than one.

What Jesus Sought

Luke leaves no doubt that Jesus intended to meet Zacchaeus. Long before the little tax man scampered up the tree, Jesus knew him and set out to meet his need. That’s true of us, too, by the way.

Jesus called Zacchaeus by name! I like G. Campbell Morgan’s suggestion that just perhaps Matthew (himself a

tax collector) had requested that when Jesus was in Jericho He might look up one of his business associates—a fellow named Zacchaeus. From what we know of Matthew, such a suggestion would not have been out of character (see Lk. 5:27-32).

The Lord’s greeting was definitive: “Make haste and come down; for today I must abide at thy house” (v. 5). The language here is reminiscent of Jesus’ appointment with the woman at the well: “He must needs go through Samaria” (Jn. 4:4). The imperative “must” in both passages is the Greek *dei* and suggests an urgency, a compulsion, even. Zacchaeus responded as Jesus had requested, opening his home to the Lord.

Evidently something happened between verses 7 and 8. By verse 8, we see a change in Zacchaeus. He acknowledged that he had taken money wrongfully and was even then (Greek present tense verbs) in the process of making restitution four times over, beyond what the law required for such a crime (see Lev. 6:1-5). Additionally, he was giving half of his property to the poor.

Jesus Himself provides the reason for the change: “This day is salvation come to this house” (v. 9). Zacchaeus, a physical descendent of Abraham by birth, now becomes a true covenant heir of Abraham by faith. Christ’s immortal words so fitting of His portrait in Luke’s gospel and so characteristic of His entire life’s mission close the story: “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” Jesus, the Savior, the Seeker. ■

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PREACHERS



Dennis Wiggs

Financial Principles from Proverbs

The book of Proverbs contains wisdom for many areas of life. One important area, especially for the young preacher, is that of finances. Here are 10 principles from that book regarding financial matters.

Work.

There are at least three ways to make money: work, steal and receive an inheritance. Working is an honorable way. Proverbs 6:6-8 declares, "*Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.*"

You would benefit and the Lord would be glorified if the pastor were known for his hard work. And, what is work for the preacher? "*But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word,*" the apostles told the disciples in Acts 6. Praying, preparing sermons, preaching should be the priority. Everything else should be secondary.

Avoid debt.

"*The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender,*" Proverbs 22:7 states. You should shun debt, paying cash for everything possible. A vehicle and a home may be the exception, but even then it would be far better to eliminate those debts as quickly as possible.

Pay your bills when due.

Telephone, utility, vehicle expenses, clothes and food bills do appear regularly. Proverbs 3:27-28 declares, "*Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it. Say not unto thy neighbor, Go, and come again,*

and tomorrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee."

You will produce a poor testimony if bills are not paid when they come due. Better to do without than have and can't pay.

Avoid money-making schemes.

Proverbs 13:11 states, "*Wealth gotten by vanity [dishonesty] shall be diminished; but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.*" Quite a few people will ask for an appointment to influence you to join them in money-making ideas. Don't get caught up in these traps. Better to look to the Lord for financial solvency than the world's methods.

Spend less than you earn.

Proverbs 21:20 challenges us with this statement: "*There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.*" Keep some funds for a rainy day.

Prepare for the day when you are without a church or the vehicle breaks down or an emergency occurs. Some give the rule that we should give God 10%, ourselves 10% (savings) and live on 80%.

Take care of what you have.

Proverbs 12:27 declares "*The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting; but the substance of a diligent man is precious.*" Stretch the life of everything you possess. For example, neatly hang up your suits when you come home from preaching. Polish the shoes regularly. Keep the vehicle clean. Keep the vehicle serviced regularly.

Don't trust in possessions.

Proverbs 11:28 warns us that "*He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but*

the righteous shall flourish as a branch." Major on being rich spiritually.

Avoid any purchase without first seeking the blessing of God.

Proverbs 10:22 declares, "*The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it.*" Pray about purchases. Count the cost before making a financial deal. Always seek the Lord's will in financial matters. Financial troubles often develop when purchases are made without the Lord's leadership or blessing.

Receive an inheritance with wisdom.

"*An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed,*" Proverbs 20:21 warns. Pay the tithe on the inheritance. Put the rest in a short-term investment. Seek the Lord's will about how to spend this gift, rather than unwisely use the money.

Give liberally and unto the Lord.

Proverbs 19:17 admonishes us with these challenging words: "*He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.*" The Lord keeps an accurate record of our giving. As we give for His glory, our needs will be met, according to His will. ■



Thomas Marberry

Las Obras De Referencia y Consulta: Su Utilidad y Manejo

By Eliseo Vila

(Barcelona: Editorial Clie, 1998, 384 pp., paperback, \$1.50.)

The author is president of Editorial Clie, the world's leading publisher of Spanish-language evangelical literature. He is a well-known author and conference speaker.

Many years ago, Solomon, the wisest of the wise, wrote, "Of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh." Those words are especially true for modern pastors and other Christian workers. So many Christian books and articles are available today that it is impossible to keep up with them.

Many of these resources are valuable and useful; others are not. The average pastor and Sunday School teacher needs some help in determining which books are really essential and which are not. The Christian reader also needs help in determining the strong points and weak points of the books that he or she uses.

The Bible is the only perfect book; all others (no matter how good they may be) have their limitations.

Until just a few years ago, only a limited number of theological books were available in Spanish, and most of those were translated from English, French or German. That is no longer the case. Many more good books are available and many of them are originally written in Spanish.

Vila's goal in writing this book is two-fold. First, he helps the reader understand how to use Christian books more effectively. Second, he analyzes many of the leading reference works that are available in Spanish today.

The first part of the book is extremely valuable. The author notes that we read books in different ways and for different purposes. The casual reader reads occasionally and primarily for pleasure. The devotional reader reads the Bible and other Christian literature primarily to bene-

fit his or her own spiritual growth and development.

The pastor reads and studies in order to prepare sermons, devotions, Bible lessons, etc. The professor reads primarily to prepare for teaching and research. The student reads primarily to prepare for exams, papers and other projects.

As we read and study for different purposes, we need to understand what is going on and select those resources that will help us most in accomplishing our objectives.

The second part of the book is Vila's analysis of leading Bible dictionaries, commentaries and other reference works that are available in Spanish. This section of the book is valuable for pastors, professors, students and others who need to know about the great variety of Christian literature for Spanish-speaking readers.

He summarizes the contents of these works and then outlines what he considers to be the strong points and weak points of each work.

One of the books Vila discusses is *Hermenéutica Bíblica (Biblical Hermeneutics)* by José M. Martínez. This is the most comprehensive introductory text on hermeneutics that is available today. In fact, it is more comprehensive than any introductory text available in English. Martínez emphasizes that one must be spiritually minded in order to interpret the Bible correctly.

He writes, "There is no doubt that that the Holy Spirit is the foundation and basis of all Biblical hermeneutics." He also notes that this spiritual orientation must be combined with a good knowledge of the rules and principles of biblical interpretation.

Dr. Vila's book is a comprehensive one. He evaluates books on theology, church history, pastoral ministry and ethics, hermeneutics, commentaries, etc. There are very few areas (such as

missions and evangelism) which receive inadequate treatment.

This book is a most valuable tool for Spanish-speaking Free Will Baptist pastors. It will help them to understand more about the great variety of Christian literature that is available in Spanish today. It will help them to build a library of good books that will assist them in preaching and teaching. Unfortunately, there is nothing like it available in English. Right now it is on sale at a very special price. Take advantage of it. ■

Don't Forget!

**Pastor
Appreciation
Sunday**

**September
10**



Jack Williams

Surefire Rules for Success

Nobody wants to fail, not even Rodney Dangerfield who made a success out of failure. So what's the secret to getting ahead in life? If you're serious about this, grab a pad and pen.

Rob Gilbert, editor of *Bits & Pieces*, printed his "Four Surefire Rules for Success," and I found them. Rule #1—Show up. Rule #2—Pay attention. Rule #3—Ask questions. Rule #4—Don't quit.

That's it. End of class. Yeah, yeah, I know. Sounds too simple. But, this works while the complicated stuff and the high-rent seminars collect dust in your closet.

Those who refuse to show up tend to show out as they head for some ill-fated showdown where they inevitably crash and burn. And you'd better pay attention, because I promise you the bad guys do.

Everybody knows something you don't, and most will share it. Ask if you don't know. If something isn't clear, you're smart to risk looking dumb by asking why.

Expect to get a bloody nose now and then, and expect to skin your knee. But quit?

Former heavyweight boxing champion Jack Dempsey said, "A champion is one who gets up even when he can't."

Since life is what you make of it, here are four championship principles to get you up off the floor.

Make a mistake. In fact, make a lot of mistakes. Former IBM chairman Tom Watson said, "If you want to succeed, double your failure rate."

If you're not making mistakes regularly, you're doing something wrong... or else you're doing less than you're capable of doing. When you get it right every time, you need to raise the bar.

In their book, *Sacred Cows Make*

the Best Burgers, Robert Kriegel and David Brandt said, "No matter how much effort you put into something, no matter how well you prepare, you will make mistakes. It's how we learn."

I don't know about you, but that makes me want to run right out and make a big blunder. In the IBM sense, of course.

Make a difference. It's easier to make a difference than you think. Here's how. Write a letter of appreciation to your third-grade teacher. Send a thank you note to your mother. Speak a kind word at an unkind moment. Extend a hand when others point a finger. Volunteer to teach a class of junior age boys.

David Wolfe tells the story of a man who once stood before God, his heart breaking from the pain and injustice in the world.

"Dear God," he cried out, "look at all the suffering, the anguish and distress in the world. Why don't you send help?"

God responded, "I did send help. I sent you."

Make up your mind. Maybe that was Solomon's problem. He had it all, he knew it all, he tried it all. He flitted from incredible wealth to astounding intellect to beautiful women in a heated rush until one day he groaned, "Vanity of vanities . . . all is vanity" (Eccl. 1:2). Which is another way of saying, "There's got to be more to life than this."

There were just too many options in Solomon's life. The man who was the smartest fellow around was also the wealthiest. The philosopher was also a poet. The writer was also a monarch.

If Solomon with all his abilities needed to narrow the focus, you can bet your socks that the rest of us certainly do. Make it your business in life to do one thing well. While you're becoming expert in that one thing, you'll pick up enough skills in other areas to amaze your friends and irritate your enemies.

Make a friend. God did not invent hermits. Adam didn't last even one day without needing the company of a woman. Believe me, nothing has changed since that day in Eden.

Sure, for a specified length of time and for a special purpose, we may choose to be alone. But even Jesus chose to live among people with their hurts and weaknesses and tears. He could not accomplish His life's work in a cave with a computer. And neither can you.

You're gonna need help to get through life. The Bible says that "A friend loveth at all times" (Prov. 17:17). That's important to remember, because there will be times when you hate yourself for something you said, did, didn't say or didn't do.

A friend can reach into your grief and love the hate away. While your enemies laugh at you and your acquaintances suddenly remember previous engagements, a friend will help you dream again.

The next step is up to you. True, you can't do everything, but you can do something. And you can do something that matters.

The little Holocaust victim, Anne Frank, wrote in her diary, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Put a bit more succinctly by that grand lady of the lovelorn, Ann Landers, "The Lord gave us two ends—one to sit on and the other to think with. Success depends on which one we use the most." ■

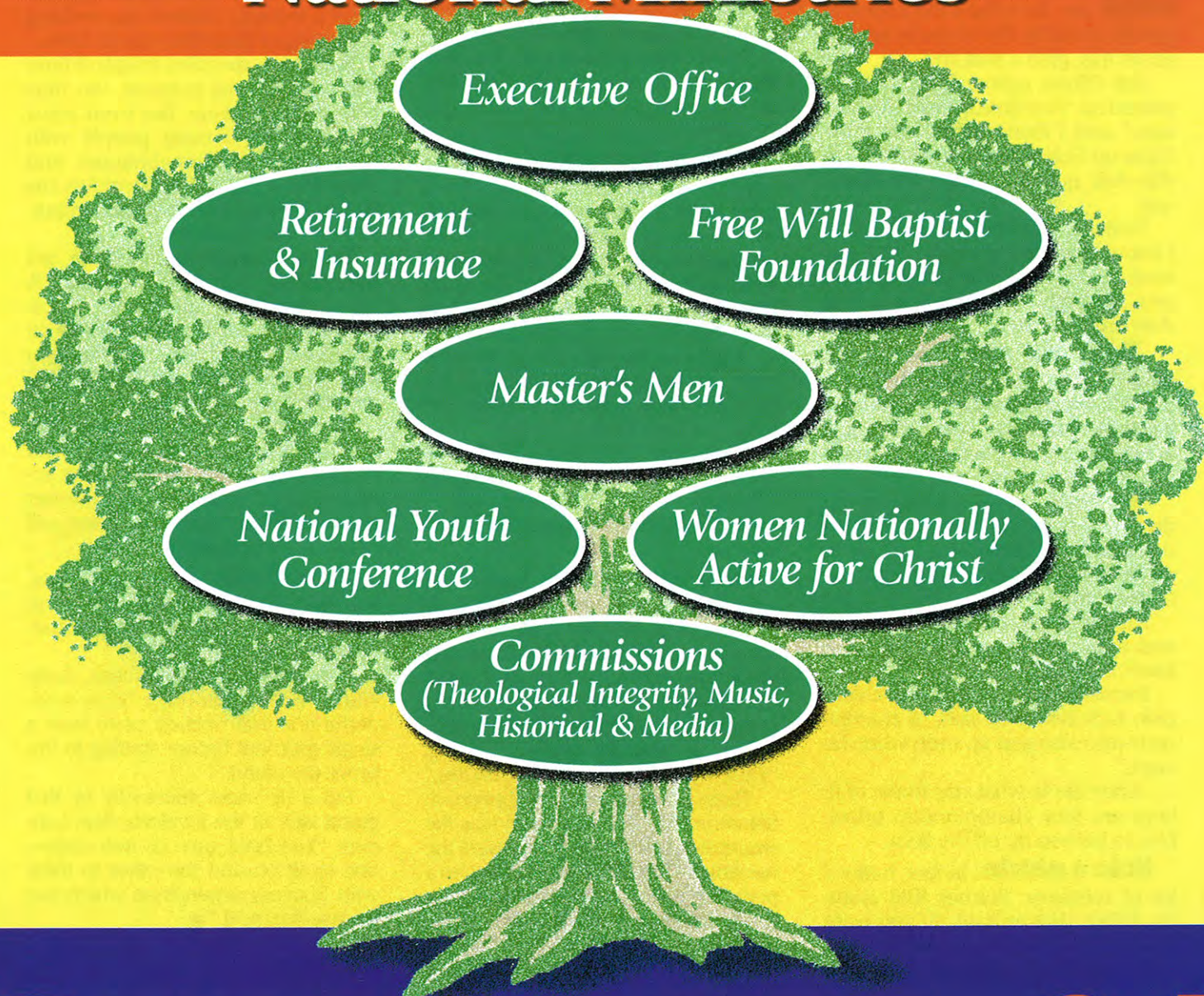
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SEPTEMBER 24

Rest of the Family Offering