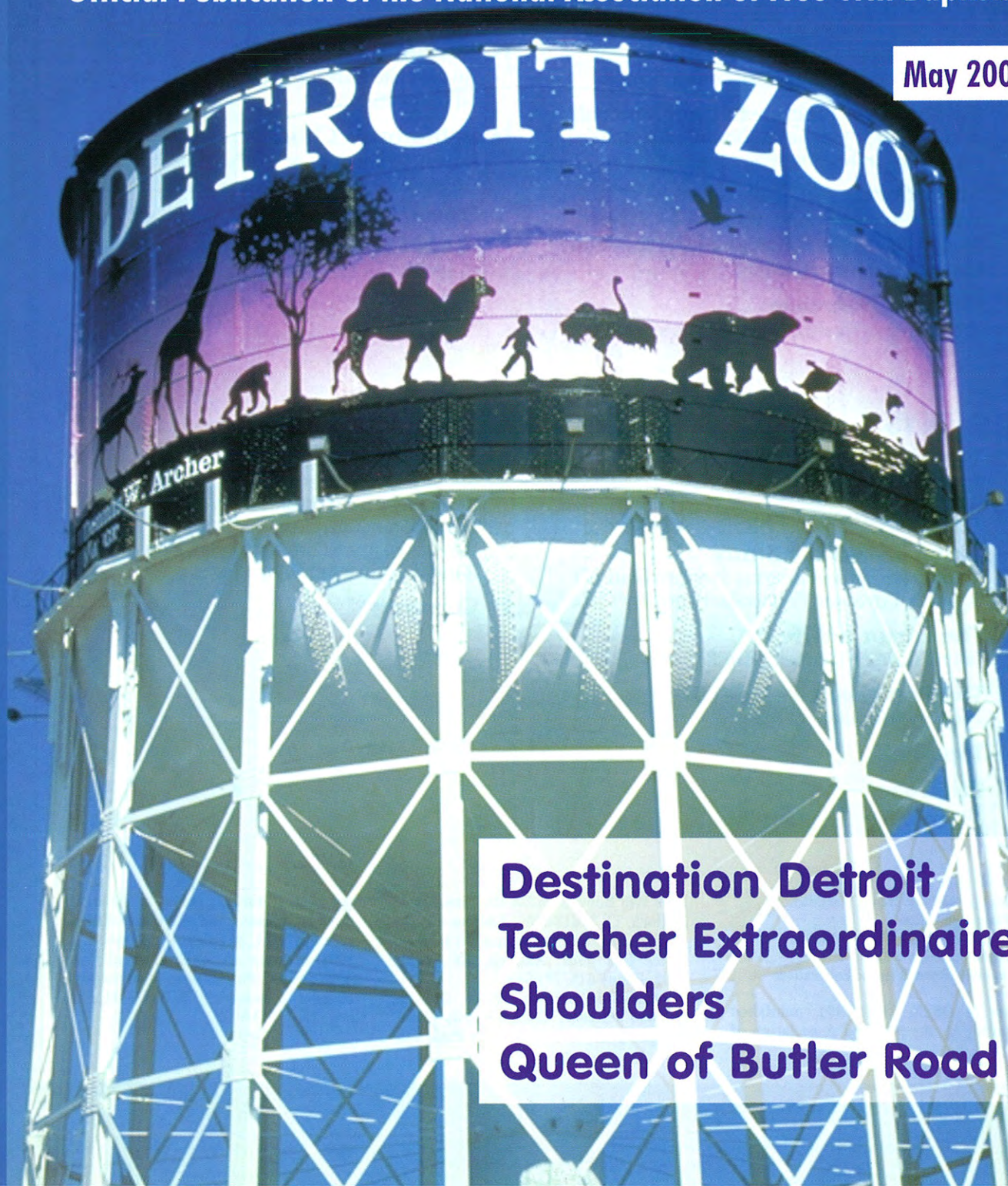


CONTACT

Official Publication of the National Association of Free Will Baptists

May 2001



**Destination Detroit
Teacher Extraordinaire
Shoulders
Queen of Butler Road**

ARTICLES

4 Destination Detroit

Preview of the 2001 national convention.

8 My Mother—Teacher Extraordinaire!

A preacher's kid pays tribute to a special mother who never stopped teaching.

10 Shoulders

When a mother and wife died after an extended illness, the strong shoulders of friends buoyed the grieving family.

12 We Must Decrease

When church members leave, who's to blame?

14 Rescue the Perishing

He was like Lazarus at the gate. No one wanted to touch him.

16 Baltimore's Child

A riveting account of God's grace and a Free Will Baptist family that overcame almost impossible circumstances.

Front Cover Photo

Courtesy of Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau.

COLUMNS

3 The Secretary Speaks

My Soul-Mate

22 The Department Pages

26 Green Tree Bible Study

Amos, The Burden-Bearing Prophet (Part IV)
Of Moles, Cows and Fishhooks: Hypocrisy's Tale

27 The Pastor's Wife

Taking Care of Yourself (Part II)

28 The Preacher's Perspective

The New Homiletic

30 Top Shelf

31 Briefcase

The Queen of Butler Road

NEWS

18 Free Will Baptist Newsfront

South Carolina State Association
Kentucky Church Celebrates 125 Years
Joe Mooneyham Dies
Massia, Foster Retire at Randall House
Randall House Seminar

21 Currently

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THE SECRETARY SPEAKS



Melvin Worthington

My Soul-Mate

Over 40 years ago while attending Columbia Bible College (now Columbia International University), I met a special young lady. Her last name was Wilson, so we sat next to each other in classes. She had black hair, a ready smile, and she laughed at my jokes. She later told me that she could not understand what I said because of my accent.

The first time I dated her was by mistake. I thought I was dating someone else. But I came to realize that God's divine providence brought us together. During Christmas break our senior year, I traveled to Anne's home near Chicago and requested permission from her daddy to marry her. He agreed and she did too. We married on September 12, 1959.

Our honeymoon consisted of traveling to Chocowinity, North Carolina, where I assumed the pastorate of two part-time Free Will Baptist churches six miles apart on Highway 17—Union Chapel near Chocowinity and Palmetto Chapel near Vanceboro. Our two children were born during that pastorate.

Anne has been my soul-mate. Although I have an identical twin brother and we are close, Anne is much closer. She has loved me, listened to me and loyally supported me during our marriage and ministry.

The sovereign God knew exactly what I needed to have a happy marriage. He perceived my need and provided a perfect partner who has made all the difference in my life and ministry.

Anne is *unique*. I was amazed at the gentle, gracious and godly traits which characterized her. She was not hard to please and never has to have her own way. She does not fuss or fight. We both believed that it was God's will to get married, and from the beginning our attitudes and ac-

tions reflected that conviction.

She willingly and lovingly accepted her role in the marriage relationship. She was content to stay home and care for the family. She was not driven to have a career outside the home. After the children left home, she worked part-time in the Executive Office. No matter where we lived, she made it home.

Anne is *understanding*. She was never critical of her children, companion or church. She seemed to sense when the children needed encouragement and help. When times were difficult, she made a difference. I always knew that I had one supporter in my corner.

At times we did not have an abundance of money, but Anne understood. When the housing was not adequate, she understood. When I had to be gone for long periods of time, she understood. When I had to miss special occasions, she understood. When I had to take a stand that was not popular, she understood. When she could not buy certain items because of other priorities, she understood.

Anne is *unselfish*. She has allowed me to fulfill the biblical role of a husband and father. She was never a pouter nor did she hold grudges. She in honor preferred others to be in the

spotlight. She never asks what's in it for her, but what's best for others.

Perhaps the greatest example of her unselfishness was her decision to move to North Carolina in November 2000 to assume responsibility as primary care-giver for my 91-year-old father. What a beautiful example of her unselfishness. Rather than count it a burden, she considers it a blessing, although this means that we are separated for long periods of time.

Anne is *unassuming*. She never has to have the visible place of service. She has quietly worked behind the scenes to make others successful and effective. With a quiet spirit of dignity and grace, she willingly served where she could without recognition or applause.

Anne is *unwavering*. When Anne believes something is right, she stands her ground. Her quiet, meek spirit is not a sign of weakness but great strength of character. She demonstrated this quality in rearing our children. She set a marvelous example of what a mother and wife ought to be.

Anne is *untiring*. She was never too tired to cook, clean house and care for the family. She was a tireless worker as a Sunday School teacher, choir member and WNAC member. The children were always properly dressed and fed. She kept a rigid schedule for the family, prepared three meals each day for us and made many of our daughter's clothes in the early years.

Anne, you are my special person. Thank you for the difference you have made in my life. You continue to set an example for others. The writer of Proverbs wrote about you, "Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates" (Prov. 31:31). ■

The Secretary's Schedule

May 2001

9-10 RCMA Board Meeting

9-10 Florida State Association

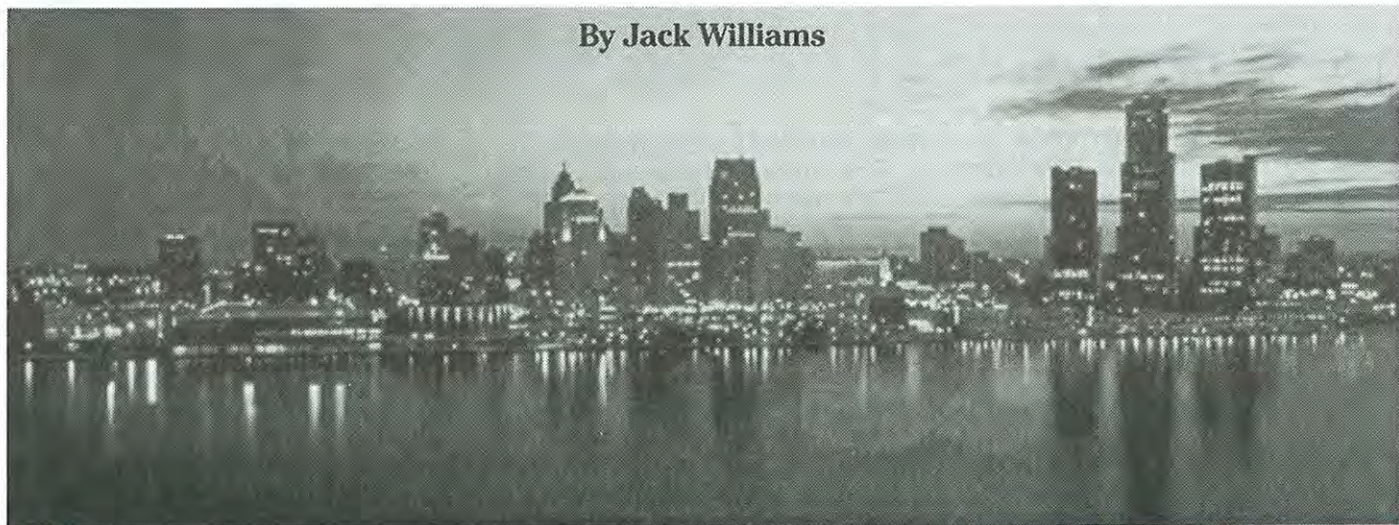
11 Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College

17-19 Michigan State Association

17-19 California State Association

Destination Detroit

By Jack Williams



They're hauling out the party hats in Detroit this summer, so bring your best smile to the 65th annual Free Will Baptist National Convention which meets July 15-19 at Cobo Center. The city turns 300 years old while we're in town, and they'll need a lot of help blowing out all those birthday candles.

Located on the Detroit River, north of Windsor, Canada, the city was named in 1701 by its founder, Antoine De La Mothe Cadillac. Now you now know where Cadillac automobiles got their name and why.

Detroit is the undisputed steel heart of America's automotive industry. The Big Three—General Motors Corporation, Ford Motor Company and Chrysler—call Detroit home and drive the local economy.

But it isn't all cars in Detroit. The city boasts the most registered bowlers in the U.S., the largest flower bedding market in the world and claims title as the nation's second largest seller of fishing rods. One more thing—ice cream soda originated in Detroit. That happened in 1875 when a clerk at Sanders Confectionery made a mistake that was good enough to eat, which he did.

For the fourth time since 1947, the National Association of Free Will Baptists gears up for a Michigan convention with five days of preaching, busi-

ness, seminars, fellowship and a non-stop youth conference. This marks the third time the convention will meet in Detroit. The previous two occurred in 1963 and 1977. The 1947 session met in Highland Park, a Detroit suburb.

Michigan's 3,500 members and 44 churches will host the national convention. Executive secretary Melvin Worthington and convention manager Dean Jones say they expect about 7,000 people to register for the mid-July event.

The convention unfolds at spectacular Cobo Center, a four-level, 2.4 million-square-foot structure. With Cobo's 80 meeting rooms, 26 loading docks and 27,000-square-foot Riverview Ballroom, there's plenty of space to house our three concurrent conventions.

Officials blocked 1,100 sleeping rooms in two downtown hotels—800 rooms in the headquarters hotel, also known as Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center, and 300 rooms in the Hotel Ponchartrain Crowne Plaza. Before you ask, we have no clue why the Detroit hotels wear such long names.

There's something new this year. Convention Manager Dean Jones and his staff prepared a 12-page, four-color convention brochure which was mailed to state editors and included as an insert in *Co-Laborer* and *Contact* magazines. The brochure includes housing and pre-registration data, a brief schedule, facts about the city and speaker profiles.

Big Business

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

Convention delegates will examine denominational budgets exceeding \$18 million as moderator Carl Cheshier (president of Hillsdale FWB College in Moore, Oklahoma) gavels the voting body through electing 30 board and commission members and general officers. Each national agency and commission will submit an annual report to delegates during the two-day business session on Wednesday and Thursday.

Meet the Speakers

The 2001 convention theme, "While We Wait," will be developed by three pastors and a senior foreign missionary. An ordained deacon will teach the Adult Sunday School Class.

Sunday School—Charles Walden

He has moderated the Mississippi State Association since 1997—this deacon, song leader and Sunday School teacher for 42 years named

Charles Walden. He will be first in the pulpit at Cobo Center Arena on Sunday to teach the Adult Class.

A business man, former high school science teacher, building contractor and real estate broker, Brother Walden was named "Outstanding Citizen" in his hometown of Booneville, Mississippi. He and his son Mark are partners in a retail appliance store.

Walden earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Mississippi State University. He and Barbara Ann, his wife of 61 years, have three children and seven grandchildren. He was ordained as a deacon in 1965 at Martin Hill FWB Church where he is a member.

Sunday Morning—David Bishop

Fifty-two-year-old Arkansas pastor David Bishop preaches the opening sermon at the Detroit convention. Bishop pastors Union Grove FWB Church in Atkins where he has led the congregation 21 years. He has moderated the Arkansas State Association since 1999.

David previously served on the state Sunday School and Executive Boards in addition to moderating the Fellowship Association. He attended the University of Arkansas, Arkansas Tech University and Free Will Baptist Bible College.

David and Patsy Bishop have one child. David served in the U.S. Army (1968-1970), is the brother of missionary to Japan, Dale Bishop... and turns 53 just 13 days before his sermon at the convention.

Sunday Evening—Danny Dwyer

Dr. Danny Dwyer catches the first large crowd in Detroit Sunday night. He pastors First FWB Church in Florence, Alabama, and serves as administrator for Florence Christian Academy.

Dr. Dwyer, a graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College, completed his master's and doctoral degrees at Columbia Pacific University. The 52-year-old Tennessee native was ordained to preach in 1972 and pastored six churches in Tennessee, Mississippi, North Carolina and Alabama. He served 14 years as a professor, dean of students and vice-president at Southeastern FWB College.

He is active in district and state associations, having served as clerk and moderator in both Tennessee and Mississippi. Dr. Dwyer is a board member



Charles Walden



David Bishop



Danny Dwyer



Leonard Pirtle



Gene Norris



Carlisle Hanna

for the Alabama Christian Education Association, a writer and conference speaker. Danny and Carolyn Dwyer have three children.

Monday Evening—Leonard Pirtle

The National Association officially kicks off Monday evening when Clerk Keith Burden calls the session to order. Half an hour later, 53-year-old Oklahoma pastor Leonard Pirtle delivers the keynote sermon.

Brother Pirtle has pastored First FWB Church (Rejoice) in Owasso since 1973. Ordained to preach in 1970, he pastored three years in Georgia before returning to his native Oklahoma roots. He is a 1970 graduate of Free Will Baptist Bible College.

He served on local and state boards in Oklahoma—Hillsdale FWB College Board, state Missions Board, and maintains a high profile in the local community. He served on two hospital boards in Tulsa. Leonard and Carolyn Pirtle have three children.

Tuesday Evening—Gene Norris

He's Michigan's promotional secretary and also chairs the 2001 national convention Steering Committee. With his other hand, Gene Norris edits *The Menorah*, Michigan's state paper, and serves as meeting planner for the state association.

Gene has pastored 18 years at Riverside Fellowship FWB Church in Clinton Township. He pastored seven churches in Illinois, Missouri, Arizona and Michigan. Ordained to preach in 1954, he moderated the Arizona State Association and served as promotional secretary for both the Illinois and Michigan State Associations.

Gene and Jane Norris have two children. He attended Free Will Baptist Bible College, is the brother of former missionary to Ivory Coast, Lorene Miley, and serves on the National Association's Executive Committee.

Wednesday Evening—Carlisle Hanna

Missions night at the national convention usually attracts the largest attendance. It's an on-going, big-night tradition that this year features the dean of Free Will Baptist foreign missionaries, D. Carlisle Hanna.

Brother Hanna has served as a missionary to India for 50 years. He and his late wife Marie were commissioned in March 1951 and labored together until her death. He continues to lead the work in India.

Reverend Hanna, who turns 72 in August, was ordained to preach in 1950 and graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College in 1952. He graduated from George Peabody College in 1964 and attended Columbia Bible College (now Columbia International University).

The South Carolina native was awarded the highest honor a civilian can receive from the state of South Carolina—The Order of the Palmetto. Governor Jim Hodges presented the award to Brother Hanna on November 16, 2000, at the state capital.

Pastor/Layman Conference

Michigan-based Patrick McLaughlin leads Monday's Pastor/Layman Conference in Cobo Center Arena, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. He is president and founder of The Timothy Group, an organization that focuses on stewardship.

More than 2,000 people are expected to hear McLaughlin. An ordained minister for 25 years, he teaches an adult Sunday School class at Kentwood Community Church in Grand Rapids. He was named one of the "Outstanding Young Men in America" in 1986.

An author and conference speaker, McLaughlin graduated from Faith Baptist Bible College in 1975 (B.A. degree) and from Denver Baptist Theological Seminary in 1981 (M.A. degree).

Special Seminars

Dr. Mark Paschall will lead a 90-minute session Tuesday afternoon at the Theological Trends Seminar on "Abortion and Euthanasia."

A medical doctor, Dr. Paschall served six years in Ivory Coast (1992-1998). He is now senior staff physician at St. John Hospital in Michigan. He previously operated a private medical practice and was senior staff physician at Henry Ford Hospital.

Dr. Paschall is a member of Central FWB Church in Royal Oak, Michigan. He received his M.D. degree from the University of Michigan Medical School, completed additional studies in biomedical sciences, and holds a certificate in missions from Tyndale College.

Other seminars were being finalized at press time—Foreign/Home Missions Rally, a Sunday School Workshop and numerous youth seminars.

WNAC Overview

The annual WNAC convention will bring 1,000 Free Will Baptist women together for two days of business and fellowship. Their 2001 theme is "Sharing Hope and Healing."

Two Monday afternoon seminars will meet at Cobo Center. Anne (Mrs. Melvin) Worthington will speak on the subject, "You Have a Speck in Your Eye." A pastor's wife for 20 years, Anne worked in the Executive Office after her husband was elected executive secretary. She is a wife, mother, teacher and writer.

Two pastors' wives will lead the WNAC State Leaders Seminar. Debbie Burden (Oklahoma) and Diana Bryant

(Florida), both busy mothers and WNAC officials, will bring professionalism and humor to their one-hour session. Debbie served seven years on the Hillsdale FWB College Board of Trustees. Diana helps coordinate the Florida State Association as a meeting planner.

The business side of WNAC opens Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. in Cobo Center Arena with devotional speaker Carol Pinkerton, missionary to Côte d'Ivoire.

Two hours later, Foreign Missions director James Forlines will deliver the keynote address at WNAC's missionary service. The 42-year-old minister and father of three children served 16 as a pastor in Indiana and Arkansas before being asked to lead the Foreign Missions Department.

WNAC president Debe Taylor will gavel delegates through reports and voting. Executive Secretary-Treasurer Marjorie Workman will give her annual report to attendees.

WNAC activities conclude with the two-hour Fellowship Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. in Cobo Center. Missionary to Spain Susan Turnbough will address banquet-goers. Susan graduated from Free Will Baptist Bible College and Troy State. She also attended the University of Madrid. The energetic wife and mother helped start two café ministries in Spain for evangelistic outreach.

NYC Notes

National Youth Conference director Dean Jones expects more than 2,000 participants for the 34th annual conference. The conference theme is, "Go—No Reserves, No Retreats, No Regrets."

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

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

Behind the Scenes

Nine Michigan Free Will Baptists serve on the national Steering Committee to coordinate the 2001 convention:

Gene Norris	— Chairman/Steering Committee
J. B. Varney	— State Moderator
Ron Helms	— Registration Committee Chairman
Calvin Brown	— Hospitality Committee Chairman
Rex Evans	— Prayer Committee Chairman
Steve Thrasher	— Ushering Committee Chairman
Mattie Riley	— State WAC President
Trent Walley	— NYC Advisors
Don Myers	— NYC Advisors

Don't Miss Detroit

You still have time to pre-register for the convention (deadline June 8) and beat the June 15 hotel cutoff date. Rumor has it that the colorful, car-oriented pre-registration badges alone are worth the trip to Michigan this year.

But if you get bored with convention doings, take a bus to the zoo where you can visit with Detroit's Lions, Detroit's Tigers, Detroit's Red Wings and Detroit's Pistons. Hmm, that last group may not be at the zoo. Check with the Chrysler assembly line. ■

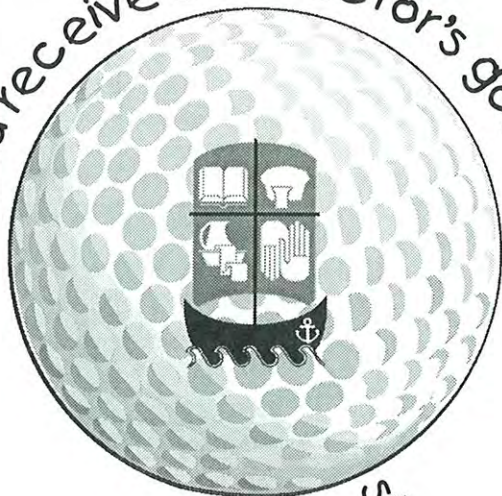
Remember Father's Day on June 17



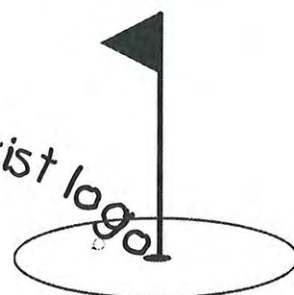
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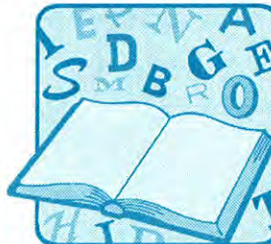
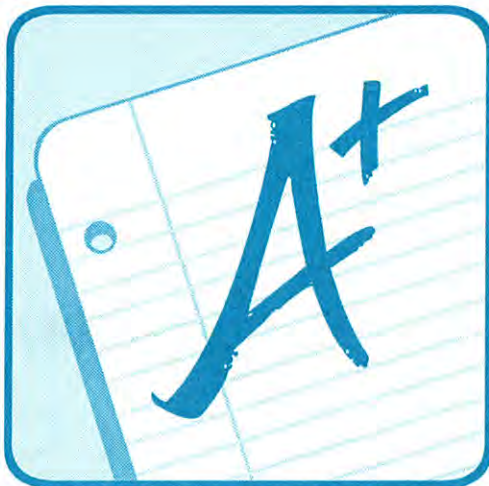
. . . or FAX to 615/731-0771

. . . or email Angie Williams angie@nafwb.org

A preacher's kid pays tribute to a special mother

My Mother—Teacher Extraordinaire!

By Patsy Gwartney



My mother, Pat Thomas, is a teacher. She is not a typical college-educated school teacher. Although she graduated from high school as one of the top students in her class and attended Free Will Baptist Bible College, she was unable to complete her college education. Instead, she helped my father complete his, took care of a three-year-old daughter and gave birth to a beautiful baby boy—my brother. She's a great teacher because she's a great learner.

With an insatiable hunger for life and learning, Mother taught herself to do many things. She's an accomplished musician, a seamstress, an interior decorator and a fabulous cook. Mother is a writer of Christian articles and books, an interesting Bible teacher and conference speaker and a compassionate soul winner. She learned these skills the hard way—through work and persistence.

Patricia King was saved at age 17 in a small Free Will Baptist Church in

New Mexico. She entered Christian life with the same thirst for knowledge that she had for life in general. She began to devour the scriptures and learned all she could about Christian living and church history.

Immediately after becoming a new convert, mother became Patricia Thomas, preacher's wife. And of course, she learned everything she could about becoming a successful preacher's wife.

You can't put all that learning into one mind without having a place for it to go. Mother found the perfect place to deposit the many things she learned. It became her main goal in life to transfer that knowledge into my brother, Mark, and me. Here are seven basic concepts that she taught us.

Becoming a Christian is a privilege

Mother would repeatedly relate to us the story of how a Free Will Baptist preacher from Arkansas went to Idaho, preached the gospel, and Roy Thomas (our daddy) was saved. Sub-

sequently, Daddy was called to preach.

While serving in the military in New Mexico, he preached in various Free Will Baptist churches. Mother attended a Sunday evening service and was saved. Daddy baptized her in the Pecos River.

This experience became real to us. She constantly made it plain that their salvation was no accident. God had special plans for their lives and the lives of their children. We were instructed that because the Lord had saved us, we owed a debt to the Lord and to Free Will Baptists for bringing us the gospel.

Develop excellence

Mother taught us that God deserves our best. Quoting the verse, "Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might," she taught us by example that we should do our best in whatever activity we were involved. When Mother taught us to make our beds, the job was not complete until they were made perfectly. When we

cleaned the church, we were not finished until every closet, drawer, nook and cranny was spotless.

We did not have a lot of material possessions, but Mother made sure we dressed up in our best clothes for church. She sometimes would stay up all night to sew new clothes for Easter services. She told us that Easter was a special day of celebration and that God deserves our best to be worn in His house.

We never saw Mother do anything half-heartedly. Instead of expecting our best efforts, she inspected to make sure things were done correctly.

Balance, balance, balance

As a young girl, mother had been taught the 4-H plan for living which stated that each individual should succeed in the areas of:

The *Heart*—Spiritually
The *Health*—Physically
The *Head*—Mentally
The *Hand*—Socially

Mother used this as a master plan for child rearing. She invented time management skills long before they became popular. As small children, we were given task lists to complete. She taught us etiquette and how to be appropriate in different kinds of social settings.

She stressed the importance of excelling academically, and involved us in extra-curricular activities, but she helped us understand that the Lord should always take first place in our lives. Mother taught us that anything we subtracted from our lives to glorify the Lord should be replaced with something beneficial.

Ministry offers the most exciting life possible

Mother never resented the demands that the ministry made on our lives. She guided us toward choosing the ministry as a lifetime career. She didn't have time for a nervous breakdown.

She said that Christians were happiest when they were busy serving the Lord and others. She loved the people in our church by caring for them in sickness, cleaning their houses and using every opportunity to disciple them.

Mother coordinated the church music program, led the teen group,

organized Vacation Bible Schools and Christmas programs, implemented Sunday School growth campaigns, taught the children in CTS, arranged church dinners, delivered meals to shut-ins, housed traveling evangelists and missionaries and, in her spare time, held a national WNAC office.

When Daddy would preach revivals out of state, Mother would take us out of school to accompany him. She would make it a grand adventure. Instead of leaving the impression with us that the ministry was a life to be tolerated and endured, she instilled in us a love for it.

Fill life with good music, good books and humor

She wanted us to have a deep relationship with Christ, but also taught us that God created many wonderful things for us to enjoy. Mother instilled in us a love for art and music. She gave us musical instruction, and made sure that we practiced our instruments. We spent many happy hours singing around the piano at home and attending concerts.

Mother read classic literature, Christian biographies and fiction to us before bedtime. Daddy is an excellent storyteller and Mother would cry during Daddy's stories and laugh at Daddy's jokes.

She taught us that joy was completely different than happiness. Happiness could be taken away, but the joy of the Lord would always be our strength. Growing up in Colorado, we were encouraged to appreciate nature and the beautiful scenery God created for us.

Soul winning should be a lifetime priority

Mother taught us to be friendly to everyone. Guests were welcome in our home. Since soul winning was a priority with Mother, she believed that you had to learn to talk to people in order to share Christ with them. She taught us an acronym to use as an aid in conversing with someone:

Family
Occupation
Religious Background
Message of salvation

Mother taught us early in life to maintain a prayer list for lost people. She stressed the fact that we should

never give up on friends or family until they were saved.

Marriage can be an adventure that lasts a lifetime

Mother taught us that our Daddy was the most wonderful man in the world. She was not only committed to Daddy; she was in love with him. Mother's career was to help make him a success at whatever he did.

Whatever Daddy loved, Mother loved. She loved his family, his life's work, his hunting and fishing trips and his Savior. She sang with Daddy in services and made us sing too! She praised his sermons and never, ever let him give up the ministry.

She felt that a good marriage did not just happen—it needed to be nurtured. It took a lifetime of giving and loving to build a happy home. She taught us that it is important to speak lovingly to a mate. Her wedding vows were sacred and she taught us that next to salvation, Daddy was the best thing that had happened to her. She referred to Daddy as "her brown-eyed, handsome man." No sacrifice was too great in her mind. She made us believe that romantic love can last a lifetime.

Mother taught us to love God and have a positive outlook on life. I not only "rise up and call her blessed", but I'm hoping to be more like Mother as I teach my daughters. Yet, there's one characteristic of Mother's I will never have. Her boundless energy! I still need more than three hours of sleep each night! ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Patsy Gwartney is a member of East Valley Free Will Baptist Church in Mesa, Arizona, where her husband Howard pastors.

When a mother dies

Shoulders

By Frank Owens

I put my arms around her to move her from the couch to the wheel chair. For the first time I realized how frail my mother's body had become from her battle with lymphoma and leukemia. We did not yet know that in a matter of days she would slip into the presence of the Lord.

Her arms, always so ready to serve, had become increasingly weak. She was unable to do things she had always done for herself, us and others. We were called upon to care for the one who had always cared for us.

God, in His marvelous care, would send others who would share in bearing what He would place on our shoulders. Only He could have known what we would need during those days just ahead.

Mother's condition could swing to extremes so quickly. On several occasions we received calls to come as quickly as we could. For those times God gave us friends who would sacrifice their time and resources to make it possible for us to be with her.

Sacrificial Shoulders

Sacrificial shoulders helped make the arrangements, secure airline tickets, cover our ministry responsibilities and slip travel money into our hands. I doubt these people will ever fully

know what their kindness meant to us.

Sensible Shoulders

Some of life's decisions are so difficult to make. A pastor's wife, who had been almost like my mom to me, loaned a sensible shoulder one day. It was almost the weekend and we had received one of those calls to come. I was wrestling with whether to leave for North Carolina or wait until Monday.

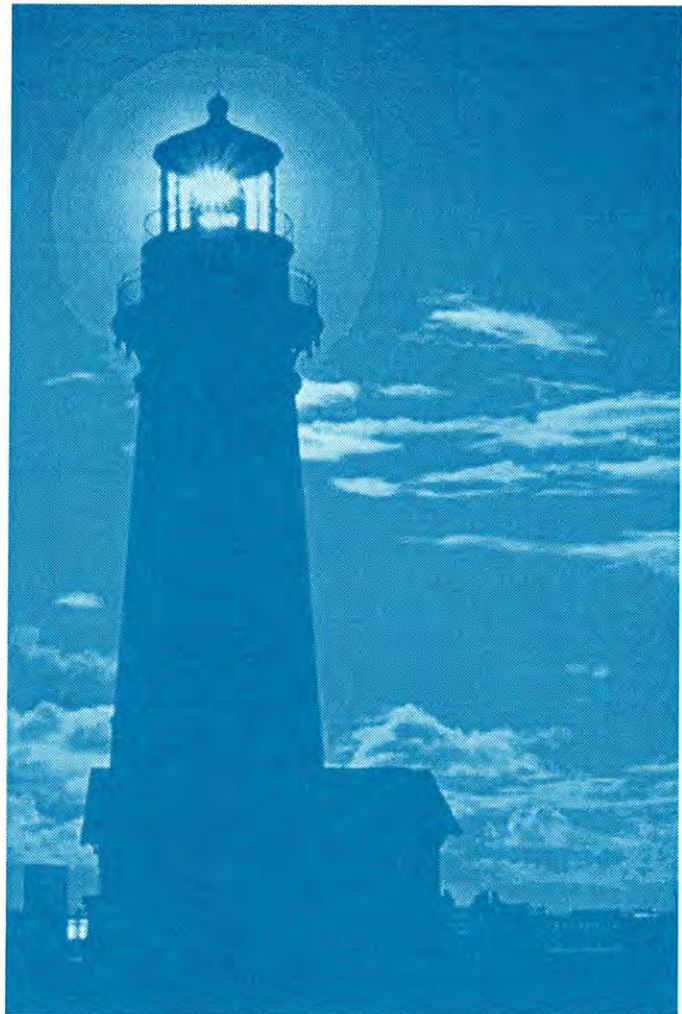
Her words were, *"It's not really any of my business, but I've been where you are, I know what you are considering . . . I encourage you to go, now."* We did go and I am so glad. God sent her with sensible advice to

guide me through my uncertainty.

As I left Nashville on June 25, I knew I would not return the same. In my heart I knew that Mother would not live long. I had committed myself to stay as long as she lived. I was just three hours into a 10-hour trip when my cell phone rang. It was Dad.

He asked me to pull over to the shoulder so we could talk. Mother had taken a turn for the worse. They were not sure that she would live until I arrived. He wanted me to know so I would not be caught off guard.

In February when she was diagnosed with leukemia, I asked the Lord for one more Mother's Day. He gave it, and for the first time in 24 years of min-



istry we shared it *together*. Now I asked Him for just a few more hours.

My father, sister and both brothers were already there. About midnight when I arrived, Dad was sitting on the front porch. She was some better and resting. I stepped into her room, touched her, but decided not to wake her.

At 5:00 the next morning, Mother decided it was time for us to get up. What a wonderful day we had together. We could hardly find it within us to leave her side, for *anything*. Our time was precious; we didn't know yet how precious.

She could only have sips of nourishment, water and medicine. That night we made peach ice cream, her favorite. In a while we said, "*Good night.*"

Sufficient Shoulders

At 6:15 the next morning, I was awakened by my sister-in-law. I ran to Mother's room. I felt for any breath, I pressed my ear to hear any heartbeat. There was none, she was gone.

In that instant, four words came to my heart, "present with the Lord." I went for my father and brothers. They came to her side. We stood there a long time, a quiet sob in our throats.

There was no one on earth whose presence she enjoyed more than ours, but at that moment our presence could not compare to being in His presence. In those moments we found His to be such sufficient shoulders. We were cast upon Him with nowhere else to go, and He was enough.

Sympathetic Shoulders

After a time of family farewell around Mother's bedside, we made a phone call to hospice care and the coroner. We had prepared an e-mail notice that we sent to a number of personal and ministry friends who had journeyed with us through the months of her illness. In a matter of moments God began to send sympathetic shoulders who would bear with us our sense of loss and separation.

Calls soon came that said, "*We love you,*" "*We're remembering you,*" "*We are here for you.*" That day we received e-mail from far-away mission fields from those who had responded to the Lord's prompting to "*weep with*

those who weep." The next day's mail brought the first of what would be dozens of cards from friends and churches scattered across the states.

Sensitive Shoulders

The rest of our world had come to a halt. Nothing else mattered but being with our family and planning how to best honor the life and memory of a wife and mother. Sensitive shoulders from family members and friends began to take care of meals, prepare the house for visitors who would come, wash the car and a host of other things. Their sensitivity allowed us time for each other and the arrangements we had to make. Without asking, they were there caring for us.

Supportive Shoulders

We had a great deal of trepidation about what it would be like during visitation time at the funeral home. Would we hold it together emotionally? Would the flood of memories at the sight of old friends overwhelm us? The doors opened and our questions were answered. Family members and friends brought supportive shoulders to us. They shared a cherished memory, a funny remembrance, an encouraging word, a firm handshake, a warm embrace. In the time of our greatest weakness, they were holding us up, supporting us and loving us.

Early in my ministry, God allowed me to work alongside a pastor who poured his life into me. He is 20 years my senior. I learned so much of life and ministry from him in the time we were together. He was my pastor, and now I am his. I had thought I would learn from him how to handle the death of a parent. In the normal course of events it would be this way.

Strong Shoulders

The morning of the funeral he walked in the door of the funeral home. He had traveled 650 hard miles to be there, much because I needed him. He took me, pressed my face to his shoulder and said, "*I guess I will learn this lesson from you.*"

Dad had asked me to preach Mother's funeral on his behalf. I was unsure if I could do it. His was such a strong shoulder. He gave me assurance that

God's strength would be sufficient.

The funeral became a time of honor and praise. First, to the God who saved and made my mother the woman she was. Second, to the woman who surrendered her life to be His servant. She had left an outline for the service—the arrangements, the people and the music she wanted. Among the hundreds who came, we counted between nearly 60 preachers and their wives. What an impact for a woman who had spent her life behind the scenes being a faithful wife and a supportive mother.

At the cemetery, as the guest singer began to sing "Eastern Gate," there was a spontaneous joining in by the family and friends under the tent that soon spread to those standing outside the tent under umbrellas. There was a shout of joy at the wonderful guarantee that Mother is in the presence of the Lord, waiting for our arrival.

Sovereign Shoulders

During the months since mother's home-going, our family has realized that underneath all the shoulders that came to bear and share our time of sorrow were the sovereign shoulders of a mighty, loving God. He, through so many of you, has cared for us. We are far more aware than ever of the opportunities that we have to "*be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we are comforted of God.*" Join us, find a need and "shoulder" up to it. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Frank Owens pastors Sylvan Park Free Will Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee.

Note: Mrs. Marie Owens (wife of evangelist Guy Owens and mother of Pastor Frank Owens) died June 27, 2000, at age 63. She and Guy had been married 43 years.

When church members fall away, who's to blame?

We Must Decrease

By Todd Tennant

We don't expect to have trouble at church when we are young. The sermons and lessons are about the love and grace of God. We hear of the way we should treat others and behave ourselves. So when those who are teaching react to the folly of adolescence in a harsh way or those instructing in morality fail in their own morals, it is hard for young minds to process.

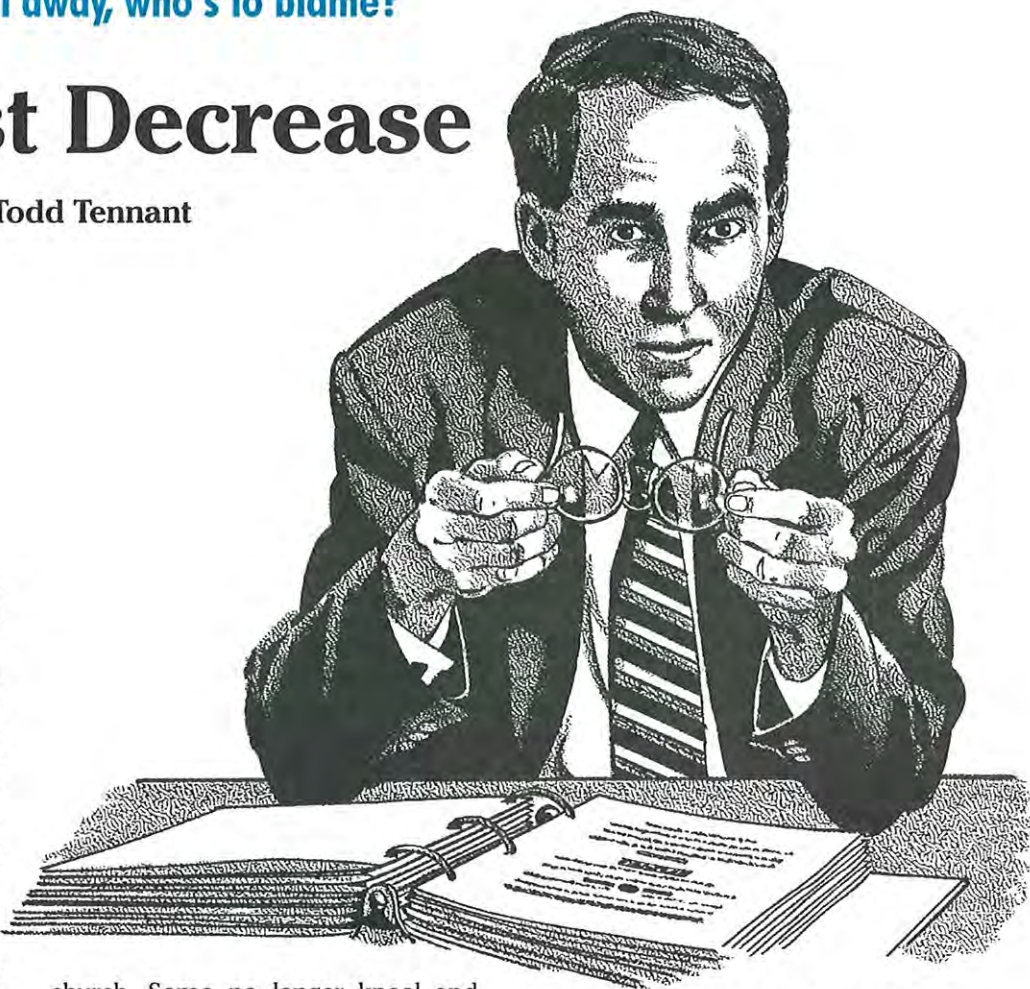
The result is often bitterness, disillusionment, doubts and questions about the validity of all that has been taught. The very ones who were trusted and respected have now disappointed, and it hurts.

You Did Run Well

It was a wonderful youth group. We were by no means perfect but at times we came close. A great youth choir and widespread participation in activities made us the pride of the church. The friends I had at church were closer to me than any I had at school and closer than most of my relatives.

We not only enjoyed fellowship but we worshiped well. Our worship came from honest hearts, deeply concerned about God's approval in our lives. We prayed *en mass* at the altar, we studied the scriptures at every meeting, party, roller skating and hay ride.

Three of us are pastors now, and others are active in the church teaching, leading singing, serving on boards and doing the things that were once done for us. But some no longer attend



church. Some no longer kneel and pray, stand and sing or read the Bible each day. And I keep asking why.

What Did Hinder You?

I have spoken with several about their decisions to exclude God from their lives, and it always comes back to the same thing—a problem at church. Something happened or someone said something or did something that hurt them deeply, and they still can't get past it (remember, we weren't perfect).

I have never dismissed these excuses because I know they are true. At times, things were handled in the wrong way and people did act in an "unchristian" manner. I was there, I heard it, I saw it, and it often hurt me too.

Here is what troubles me. Jesus is being blamed for the indiscretions of others. Brother X had an affair, Sister Y was mean and hateful and now Jesus is at fault. My friends are choosing to ignore the Savior because of

what someone at church said or did.

We could easily attach guilt to the neglecter and say they just need to get over it. I agree in part. When they stand before God, there will be no excuse for failing to continue in their walk of faith. Some may attach guilt to those leaders who have fallen and failed. I again agree in part. They will answer for offending these young impressionable minds. However, I have come to believe that there is an additional culprit.

Perhaps we have disciplined people in such a way that their faith is based on a relationship with the church and not a relationship with Jesus. If faith is built on Jesus, then it will remain even if people fail. If faith is built upon Jesus, then when "the church has problems," faith in Jesus will stand.

When a problem arises at church and people are struggling, we say, "Turn your eyes upon Jesus." We try to divert their eyes from the turmoil and help them see the love and grace of God. How odd that until that point we

wanted people to focus on the church.

"Come and see our church. You should hear our youth choir. Our pastor is such a dynamic speaker. We have the best youth program. Our softball team won the championship." On it goes building people's faith on the foundation of our organization.

When the church has problems and the pieces begin to fall apart, people's faith will be shaken. No need to delve into the issues of what or who the church is or is not. It is only necessary to say that the church is the body of Christ and that we are to lead people into a relationship with Jesus, not ourselves. The relationship with the church is not the foundation. The foundation is Jesus.

It's All About Jesus

My youth choir sang a song that I found to be true. The words are, "I've been discouraged with my family, forsaken by all my friends. But I've never been disappointed in Him." I have experienced much of the same disappointment that my friends have and yet my faith is stronger today than ever.

I made a decision long ago that my relationship with Jesus was the most precious thing I possess. I love my family, but I love Jesus more; I love my church, but I love Jesus more; I love my denomination, but I love Jesus more.

We need to make Jesus wonderful, not ourselves. More and more we must point to the grace and love of Jesus. Show what Jesus can do for a life surrendered to Him. Teach the words of Jesus and lead people in His path. Do the things Jesus said do—love our enemies, care for the poor and needy, share what God has blessed us with.

We need to learn that it's all about Jesus. John the Baptist had it right, "He must increase and I must decrease." We are proud of our churches and denomination and that is all right, but people must be built upon the foundation of Jesus Christ. Then when the winds of discord blow and the rains of disappointment fall they will stand. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Todd Tennant pastors Bloss Memorial Free Will Baptist Church in Arlington, Virginia.

THE TOGETHER WAY

February 2001

Receipts: State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Year To Date Designated	Year To Date CO-OP	Year To Date Total
Alabama	\$ 147.37	\$ 134.81	\$ 282.18	\$ 810.49	\$ 304.79	\$ 1,115.28
Arizona	30.00	82.80	112.80	30.00	82.80	112.80
Arkansas	10,306.14	12,615.12	22,921.26	50,679.50	42,095.07	92,774.57
California	466.00	769.89	1,235.89	883.54	2,089.39	2,972.93
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	.00	3,999.00	3,999.00	.00	3,999.00	3,999.00
Georgia	31,276.77	1,601.19	32,877.96	70,014.92	3,589.08	73,604.00
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	6,015.59	2,502.15	8,517.74	14,678.22	4,556.82	19,235.04
Indiana	1,510.73	348.68	1,859.41	4,334.94	602.21	4,937.15
Iowa	.00	796.30	796.30	.00	796.30	796.30
Kansas	.00	106.55	106.55	.00	106.55	106.55
Kentucky	1,032.04	1,766.52	2,798.56	1,032.04	1,983.40	3,015.44
Louisiana	.00	20.00	20.00	10.00	20.00	30.00
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Michigan	35,516.38	3,772.66	39,289.04	56,568.31	5,788.71	62,357.02
Mississippi	8,699.92	735.00	9,434.92	14,948.69	1,228.19	16,176.88
Missouri	31,180.98	12,677.27	43,858.25	86,225.96	27,912.32	114,138.28
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	411.36	45.68	457.04	835.72	92.86	928.58
North Carolina	400.25	2,246.16	2,646.41	3,759.77	5,181.02	8,940.79
Ohio	10,457.35	4,080.95	14,538.30	23,519.30	7,316.36	30,835.66
Oklahoma	56,917.71	10,157.75	67,075.46	116,175.38	20,377.62	136,553.00
South Carolina	48,069.30	114.41	48,183.71	137,295.43	550.56	137,845.99
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	8,271.72	1,383.94	9,655.66	14,273.14	7,998.25	22,271.39
Texas	10,871.41	399.15	11,270.56	18,276.36	637.77	18,914.13
Virginia	194.40	.00	194.40	940.38	.00	940.38
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	2,871.76	83.16	2,954.92	10,213.15	178.40	10,391.55
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	410.19	9.88	420.07	1,561.71	24.12	1,585.83
Northwest Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northeast Association	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	.01	.01	.00	.10	.10
Totals	\$ 265,057.37	\$ 60,449.03	\$ 325,506.40	\$ 627,066.95	\$ 137,511.69	\$ 764,578.64

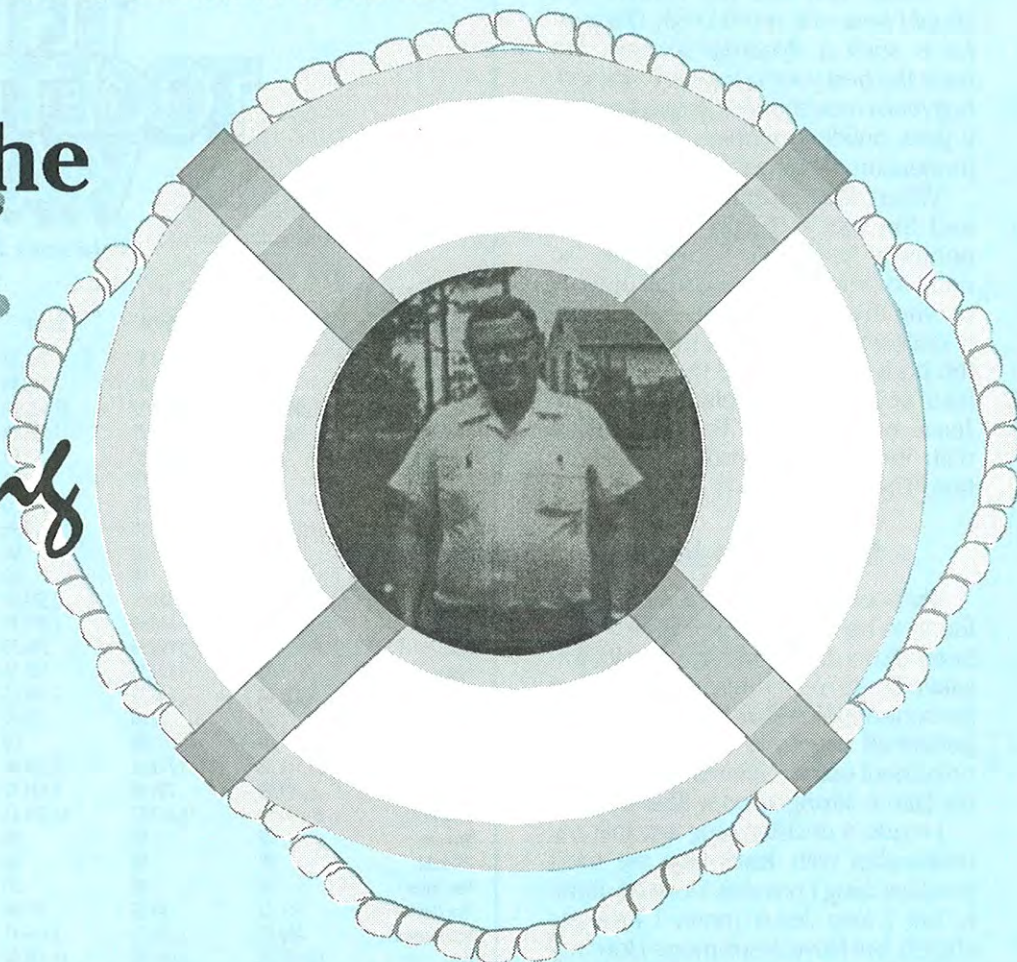
Disbursements:						
Executive Office	\$ 1,482.01	\$ 27,202.07	\$ 28,684.08	\$ 3,249.87	\$ 61,880.24	\$ 65,130.11
Foreign Missions	153,705.84	7,646.79	161,352.63	355,713.78	17,395.20	373,108.98
FWBBC	14,163.73	7,646.79	21,810.52	46,761.54	17,395.20	64,156.74
Home Missions	74,065.71	5,984.47	80,050.18	175,914.89	13,613.67	189,528.56
Retirement & Insurance	385.38	4,654.55	5,039.93	867.77	10,588.37	11,456.14
Master's Men	310.22	4,654.55	4,964.77	692.38	10,588.37	11,280.75
Commis. for Theo. Integrity	45.02	166.24	211.26	89.41	378.18	467.59
FWB Foundation	258.78	1,994.85	2,253.63	433.85	4,537.92	4,971.77
Historical Commission	27.67	166.24	193.91	72.06	378.18	450.24
Music Commission	5.16	166.24	171.40	9.53	378.18	387.71
Media Commission	162.51	166.24	328.75	276.88	378.18	655.06
Hillsdale FWB College	1,623.38	.00	1,623.38	3,667.64	.00	3,667.64
Other	18,821.96	.00	18,821.96	39,317.35	.00	39,317.35
Totals	\$ 265,057.37	\$ 60,449.03	\$ 325,506.40	\$ 627,066.95	\$ 137,511.69	\$ 764,578.64

Like Lazarus at the gate, no one wanted to touch him

Rescue the



By Willie C. Martin



Richard Daniel was a short, chubby man. His were those old-fashioned black-rimmed glasses you could hardly see into or out of, especially since they were in desperate need of cleaning. He was bald and wore one of the cheapest and ugliest unmatched toupees a person could wear. He was somewhat unkempt with a slight odor.

He was also a veteran of the Korean War and had a couple of tours in Vietnam. He was disabled. His body bore the marks of being wounded. He was known to be quite offensive at times in his speech.

The Perishing

When I started pastoring in Columbus, Georgia, in 1985, his mother-in-law stopped to shake my hand on the way out of the church and said, "Brother Willie! Would you go see my son-in-law who is in the hospital? I can not predict how he will respond

to you. He claims to be an atheist and his language can be very offensive."

When I arrived at the hospital, I met a man who was about the same age as his mother-in-law. Sitting in the room that morning was his wife, at least 20 years younger than "Daniel" as we called him. I could sense there was a distance between Daniel and his wife, Karen.

That morning Daniel was cheerful, but Karen's face showed signs of abusive living. I knew after being in the room for a few moments that this was no ordinary relationship. But like anyone else, for the time being I did not question the peculiar atmosphere that pervaded that room.

The Rescue

What a joy it was when Daniel got out of the hospital and went home. I saw him a few days later at his mother-in-law's house around the block from where he lived. We were alone

and I talked to him about receiving Jesus Christ as his Savior. He was so receptive.

Although his health was not the best, we knelt beside a couch and he acknowledged his sinfulness and asked the Lord to save him. I must confess that my thoughts were, *Wasn't this too easy?* Did this man with a reputation for cursing and swearing really mean it?

Daniel immediately started coming to church. He was not there for every service but he came often. I approached him about announcing his decision to follow Jesus, joining the church and being baptized. He wanted to.

The night I baptized him, he crawled at a snail's pace down into the baptism with me. When it seemed that he did not have any intentions of removing his hairpiece, I instructed him, "Daniel, you need to take off your toupee!" Reluctantly, he reached up and pulled it off, revealing a much better-looking person than I

had assumed was under there. The curtains opened and I baptized him.

After the service Daniel cheerfully exclaimed, "I didn't know those curtains would be opened after I pulled my toupee off and you baptized me!"

Rescued or Not?

A couple of months later I heard his mother-in-law's husband blurt out one day, "Daniel has changed! He doesn't curse like he used to. He is different."

I had not known the old Daniel but time would reveal some interesting things. As I became acquainted with Daniel, I knew that he was growing as a Christian. He often described his relationship to the Lord as a commitment. He repeatedly said, "I made a commitment," as if to reassure me that he knew what he had done.

I remained puzzled, however, by the relationship he had with his wife. We talked many times over the phone. We talked at church long hours after the services. We talked at his home. As we spoke of the Lord and His work, he spoke of Karen in a loving way. He spoke of Josie her young pre-teen daughter. There was little doubt in my mind that he loved both of them deeply.

In time I learned another side of the story. Karen had a severe drinking problem, but things really became confusing when I learned Karen had a boyfriend and that somehow it seemed acceptable to Daniel. Karen was trapped in the night club atmosphere and it seemed she only came home to get money. Daniel had a good VA pension, and she took as much of it as she could to support her drinking habits.

There were times during this whole matter that I questioned Daniel's "commitment" to the Lord. A few people were sure that if Daniel's wife siphoned off money for drinking that he was involved as well. I will never believe it. I never saw Daniel drunk. I never smelled it on him. I never saw any evidence or heard of him drinking.

Daniel's problem was that he was trapped by another commitment—marriage. He sincerely loved Karen and did not know how to help her. But it was a one-way street. I desperately tried to understand why she rarely showed any concern for him as his health deteriorated. His house

soon became unbearably littered. He was sick and lonely the last years of his life. And from the appearance of things, Karen came by only when she needed money.

All this time Daniel came to church and spoke of keeping his commitment. Occasionally Karen came. (In fact, I baptized her when she seemed repentant and wanted to make a commitment.) Josie came occasionally, at times disturbed about her own life.

When Karen or Josie came, they sat with Karen's mother. Daniel sat alone. Daniel brought his sister from time to time. Perhaps it was a small outreach program, but nonetheless an effort to do his part in the service of the Lord.

The Final Rescue

One day while I was studying in my office, the phone rang. It was Daniel. He had been unable to attend church for a while. His diabetic condition and a catheter kept him more confined at home. When I answered the phone Daniel said, "Brother Willie, I need to speak to Dot," (his mother-in-law).

I responded, "Daniel, what is wrong?"

"I need to get to the hospital!" he replied. I explained that Dot, who lived by the church, was at work but that I would help him get there.

I will only forget that day when my memory is gone. I pulled up to Daniel's house as he came out the door staggering and carrying a small roll of newspaper and the catheter tube. He was, without exaggeration, soaked in urine from head to toe. He was covered in dog hair and could barely speak or walk. Just before I left home the Lord had nudged me to take plenty of towels for the automobile seats.

I quickly spread the towels and helped Daniel in the car. As we pulled away, he looked over at me with the most fatigue I had ever seen in his face, and in a voice as weak as it had ever been, he said in words not much above a whisper, "I love that song, 'Rescue the Perishing.'"

I choked with emotion remembering another occasion when he told me how he almost cried during a hymn we sang at church. It was difficult not to cry then. It was difficult not to stop the automobile and hug

the nastiest, smelliest specimen of humanity I had ever seen.

When I got Daniel to the Martin Army Hospital at Fort Benning, Georgia, I assumed the staff would flock to assist him. After I half-carried him in, we were shuffled about from desk to desk. I searched through his wallet, the size of softball, peeling layers of urine-soaked papers apart to find documents he needed to be treated. Eventually, the staff gave him some attention.

Daniel died a few weeks later. His funeral was a joy to preach. I think Daniel in some way represents the perishing thousands around us. I believe he was a Lazarus at the gate that no one wanted to touch. I believe he was the woman at the well no one wanted to socialize with. I am sure he was the victim that the priests and Levites passed in the parable of the Good Samaritan.

This is an unusual story, but let's end with this thought: Daniel married Karen, but they had never experienced a physical consummation. It was a marriage of convenience. Perhaps Daniel was wrong for marrying her; I believe he married her to provide for her and her little girl. He loved them in spite of how they may have treated him, just like the Lord loved Daniel in spite of how he had treated the Lord prior to receiving Jesus. ■

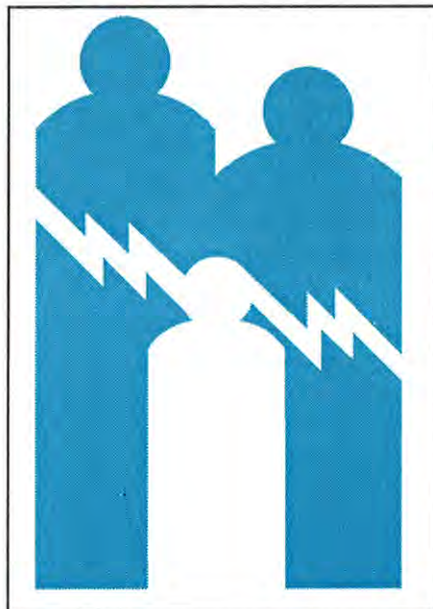


ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Willie C. Martin pastors First Free Will Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

What do you see in the mirror? Could it be . . .

Baltimore's Child

By A. G. Wings



There was a time when most Free Will Baptist Bible College students seemed to come from stable, hard-working families whose biggest worry was how to pay tuition. Not anymore—there's a new student on campus. The dysfunctional home has reached West End Avenue. That was true during my college days, but that was also true 25 years ago when we didn't discuss divorce, child neglect and alcoholism. We only whispered about such tragedies.

While living in Baltimore as a child, I knew first-hand about poverty, neglect and abuse. Dad was an alcoholic with strange ideas about responsibility. For instance, interacting with him meant that the kids waited in the car while he played slot machines and drank in local bars. Dad was a hard worker . . . until pay day when he fell off the wagon and drank until the money was gone.

Growing Up Fast

By the time I was seven, there were four of us children scattered like doorsteps. I was the big sister who assumed the worries and tendencies of a mother hen. Where was Mother? She slept most of the time, consumed by depression. She leaned on prescription drugs to cope and fought with Dad. She couldn't make much of a difference.

That's the beginning of the story as I remember it and how I lived for five years. Dirty, ragged clothes, missing a great deal of school and going without medical attention and food. I was always "Teacher's Pet" and did well aca-

demically, probably because I loved the attention I received in school.

Fly Away Home

Dad heard the beat of a different drummer. Maybe he was proud of me, but for some reason he couldn't show it. Maybe he knew what a bad job he was doing, so he quit trying. One Valentine's Day, my friends next door said they had gotten a card from Dad. Why would a man give a gift to an outsider when he never did to his family?

When life really got out of control, usually when we were evicted, Mother would send us to live with her parents or his until they could get their act together again. Fortunately, my maternal grandparents were Nazarenes and my paternal grandparents were Free Will Baptists.

When I was 12, Dad took us from the house while Mother was out, put us in a neighbor's car and left for the airport. I knew something bad was about to happen, but I was too young to do anything about it. He wouldn't let me near a phone to call Mother.

Without any packing, without extra clothing or personal belongings, we

suddenly lived in a new town with grandparents as guardians. Our biggest concern was whether we could stay together, the four of us children. During those years we bonded in a unique way. Twenty-five years later we still live within a few miles of each other, talking and interacting on a regular basis.

Free Will Baptist Legacy

Our paternal grandparents immediately set about teaching us right from wrong, cleanliness, the importance of education and Christ. We not only attended a Free Will Baptist church every time the door was open, but cleaned the church twice a week. Granddad refused to let us be involved with anything at school, so the only social life we experienced was at youth camp or church, and later, Free Will Baptist Bible College.

At age 17, it was my turn to enter the world of continuing education. Granddad had worked hard to pay for my first year of Bible College. Since he was retired from a government position, he took odd jobs to cover this expense. During the summer all of us would help him with certain projects.

One summer he replaced a roof for a fellow church member. We all four helped, using shovels to scrape off the old roof shingles. My brothers hauled heavy bundles of shingles up to the roof. My sister and I were in charge of laying out the felt covering and placing chalk lines for new shingles. Hard work, but we had the best tan you ever saw.

Then came Bible College and I loved

65th Annual

National Association of Free Will Baptists



July 15-19, 2001
Detroit, Michigan

Contents

From The Beginning to Now.....	page 3
The 2001 Convention.....	page 4
Women Nationally Active for Christ.....	page 6
The National Youth Conference.....	page 7
Pre-Registration Form.....	page 8
Housing Form.....	page 9
Detroit! Motor City, Hockeytown and much more.....	page 10
Important Reminders & Delegate Cards.....	page 11



*"...waiting for
the coming of
our Lord Jesus
Christ" 1 Cor.
1:7*

From the Beginning to Now



The Treatise Committee pictured at Cofer's Chapel FWB Church in Nashville, TN. The picture was taken at the first Free Will Baptist National Convention in 1935. Pictured from left: J.C. Griffin, C.B. Thompson, Ralph Staten, E.B. Joyner, E.E. Morris, Winford Davis, W.B. Davenport, M.L. Morse, M.T. Van Hoose.

William F. Davidson called the time from 1935 to the present "the modern period" for Free Will Baptists. The periods before 1935 were rocky at best. When times began looking good, they somehow turned grim. However, in 1935 members of the Eastern and Western Associations joined together at Cofer's Chapel Church in Nashville, Tennessee, to host the first-ever National Association of Free Will Baptists.

The years since that first meeting have seen exponential growth. The Free Will Baptist denomination has drawn its members together to fellowship and see where God is leading them for the future.

That future is now. The growth seen now is a harvest of the seeds sown in the past. Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington expects 7,000 delegates and visitors to attend the 2001 convention at Cobo Center in Detroit, Michigan. There will be 40 states represented compared to the six in 1935.

This year's convention will offer a variety of choices for attendees. The Women Nationally Active for Christ will conduct their yearly meeting with special guests and speakers. The National Youth Conference will host their yearly event and expect this to be the best year ever. The evenings will offer services for children, students and adults.

Are you "...waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:7b, KJV)? This year's theme is *While We Wait*. Join your fellow Free Will Baptists this summer in Detroit and prepare for the future God has for us.

Pop Quiz

Can you name the first year the National Association met in the state of Michigan?

Can you name the first moderator of the National Association?

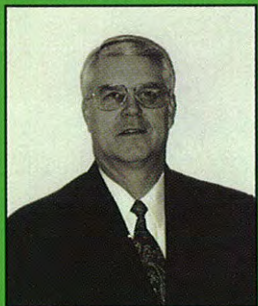
8,340 people attended the 1985 convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Can you name the second largest convention?

Since the National Association first met in 1935, it seems the 2001 convention would be the 67th convention. Can you name the years the convention did not meet and why?

How many times has the National Association met in Detroit, Michigan? Can you name the year(s)?

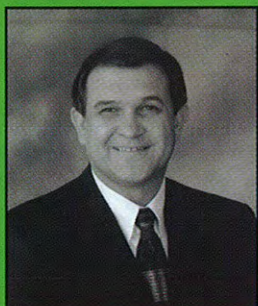
For answers to these questions, visit our web site at: www.nafwb.org

The 2001 Convention Speakers



David Bishop Sunday Morning • July 15, 2001

David pastors the Union Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Atkins, Arkansas, where he has been since 1986. He serves as moderator of the Arkansas State Association and as moderator of Fellowship Association. David and Patsy Bishop have one daughter.



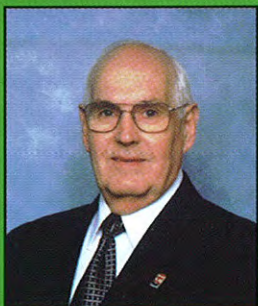
Danny Dwyer Sunday Evening • July 15, 2001

Danny pastors the First Free Will Baptist Church in Florence, Alabama. Prior to serving in Alabama, he was the Dean of Students and Vice-President of Southeastern Free Will Baptist College. Danny and Carolyn Dwyer have three children.



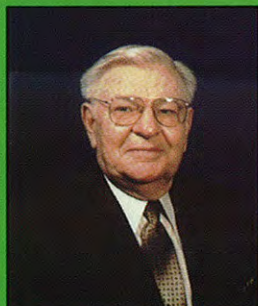
Leonard Pirtle Monday Evening • July 16, 2001

Leonard pastors the First Free Will Baptist Church in Owasso, Oklahoma, where he has been since 1973. While in Owasso, Leonard has helped his community by serving on several boards and committees. Leonard and Carolyn Pirtle have three children.



Gene Norris Tuesday Evening • July 17, 2001

Gene pastors the Riverside Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church in Clinton Township, Michigan, where he has been since 1983. He is Promotional Secretary for Michigan State Association and chairs the 2001 Convention Steering Committee. Gene and Jane Norris have two sons.



Carlisle Hanna Wednesday Evening • July 18, 2001

Carlisle has served as a Free Will Baptist missionary to India since 1951. The State of South Carolina presented him with the Order of the Palmetto award in November 2000. The Order of the Palmetto is the highest civilian honor a South Carolinian can receive.

COLOR CODED CHART

NAFWB EVENTS

WNAC EVENTS

NYC EVENTS

OTHER FWB EVENTS

CONVENTION AT A GLANCE

July 15-19, 2001 Detroit, Michigan

SUNDAY JULY 15, 2001

Adult Worship
Cobo Arena
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Children & Student Worship
Cobo Center
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Early Registration
Pre-Registered Only
Cobo Center
1:00 - 3:00 pm

Registration
Cobo Center
3:00 - 6:30 pm
8:30 - 10:00 pm

Exhibit Area Open
Cobo Center
3:00 - 6:30 pm
8:30 - 10:00 pm

Pastors/Laymen Conference
Cobo Arena
3:00 - 5:00 pm

Adult Worship
Cobo Arena
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Children & Student Worship
Cobo Center
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Exhibit Area Open
Cobo Center
10:00 am - 10:00 pm

Hillsdale College Luncheon
Hotel Pontchartrain
12:30 - 1:30 pm

WNAC Fellowship Luncheon
Cobo Center
12:30 - 2:30 pm

Master's Men Seminar
Cobo Center
2:00 - 4:00 pm

RTG Service Projects
Cobo Center
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Convention Business Session
Cobo Arena
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Exhibit Area Open
Cobo Center
10:00 am - 10:00 pm

NYC Seminars
Cobo Center
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
1:00 - 4:00 pm

MONDAY JULY 16, 2001

General Board Convenes
Detroit Marriott
8:00 am - 2:30 pm

NYC Competitive Activities
Cobo Center
8:30 am - 5:00 pm

RTG Service Projects
Cobo Center
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

NYC Seminars
Cobo Center
1:00 - 4:00 pm

WNAC Seminars
Cobo Center
1:30 - 2:30 pm

TUESDAY JULY 17, 2001

NYC Competitive Activities
Cobo Center
8:30 am - 5:00 pm

RTG Service Projects
Cobo Center
8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Foreign/Home Missions Rally
Cobo Center
8:30 - 10:30 am

WNAC Convention
Cobo Arena
8:30 am - 12:30 pm

NYC Seminars
Cobo Center
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
1:00 - 4:00 pm

Theological Trends Seminar
Cobo Center
3:00 - 4:30 pm

Sunday School Workshop
Cobo Center
3:00 - 4:30 pm

Adult Worship
Cobo Arena
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Children & Student Worship
Cobo Center
7:00 - 8:30 pm

WEDNESDAY JULY 18, 2001

NYC Competitive Finals
Cobo Center
8:00 - 11:00 am

FWBBC Luncheon
Cobo Center
12:00 - 1:15 pm

Music Commission Seminar
Cobo Center
1:30 - 3:00 pm

Combined Worship
Cobo Arena
7:00 - 9:00 pm

NYC Awards Ceremony
Cobo Arena
9:00 pm

THURSDAY JULY 19, 2001

Concluding Business Session
Cobo Arena
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Sharing Hope and Healing



"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory"
Colossians 1:27 KJV

Seminars and Events

Monday July 16, 2001

Anne Worthington 1:30-2:30
You Have A Speck In Your Eye

Debbie Burden &
Diana Bryant 1:30-2:30
Just The Facts, Ma'am

Tuesday July 17, 2001

Carol Pinkerton 8:30
Morning Devotion

James Forlines 11:00
Missionary Service

Susan Turnbough 12:30
Fellowship Luncheon



Anne Worthington *You Have A Speck In Your Eye*
Anne Worthington's 30-year leadership in WNAC and life as a pastor's wife for 20 years give her a unique perspective on dealing with criticism. Anne has been there up-close and personal with the critics, and she knows ways to handle the critics in your life.

Debbie Burden & Diana Bryant ~

Just The Facts, Ma'am

Same initials, same calling—one is an Okie, the other lives in Dodgertown. Pastors' wives, mothers, music teachers, church pianists, WNAC board members. This dynamic duo juggles impossible schedules and both understand the art of good record keeping. Come and see how they do it!



Carol Pinkerton

Carol Pinkerton, missionary to Cote d'Ivoire, loves living in a place she once dreaded. "God convinced her" that He enjoys using a variety of personalities in His work. And 28 years later, Carol's vibrant personality is still touching lives.

James Forlines

James Forlines, energetic general director of Foreign Missions, focuses attention on spreading his vision of an entire denomination mobilized and actively involved in world evangelism. He's a road runner with his eye on tomorrow.



Susan Turnbough

Susan Turnbough's day job is a missionary in Spain—"the best country," she says. Susan brings zip and passion wherever God places her—on stateside assignment or in Spain. She helped create the successful evangelistic outreach Cafe y Algo Mas. Interpretation: Coffee and Something More.

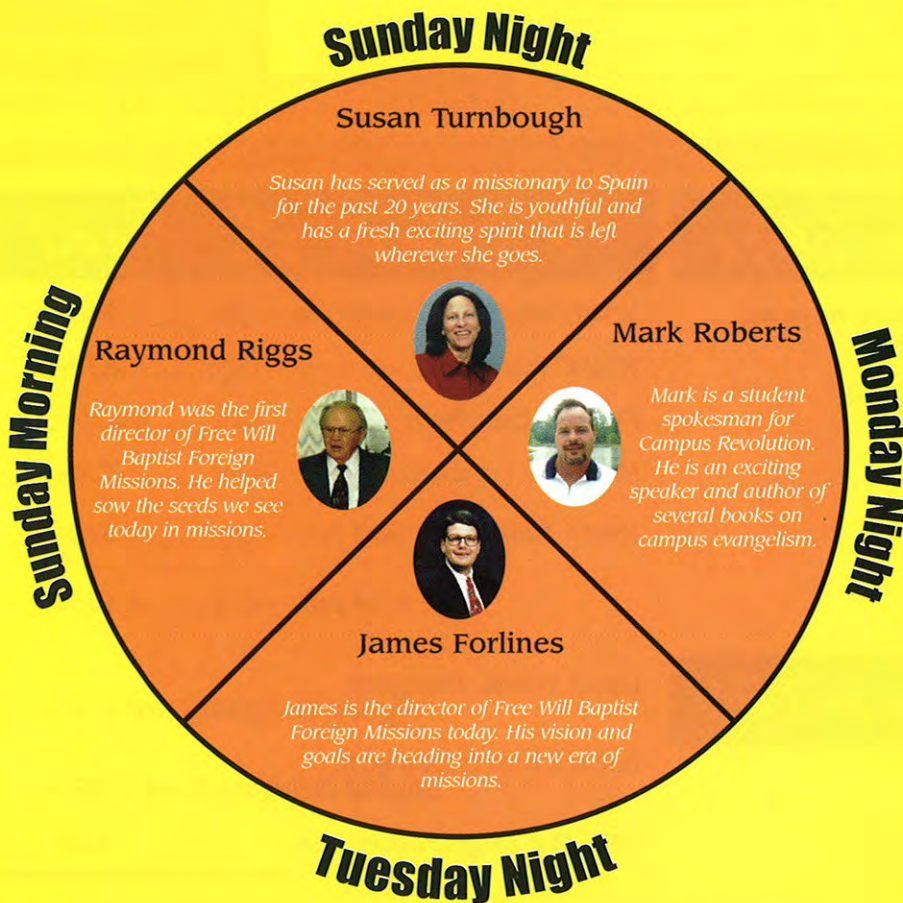
DON'T FORGET

**YOU MUST PURCHASE A
TICKET TO ATTEND THE
FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON AT
12:30 ON TUESDAY. TICKETS
ARE \$25 PER PERSON.**

**TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED
IN ADVANCE WHEN YOU
PRE-REGISTER. SEE PAGE 8
FOR THE PRE-REGISTRATION
FORM.**

National Youth Conference

STUDENT SERVICES



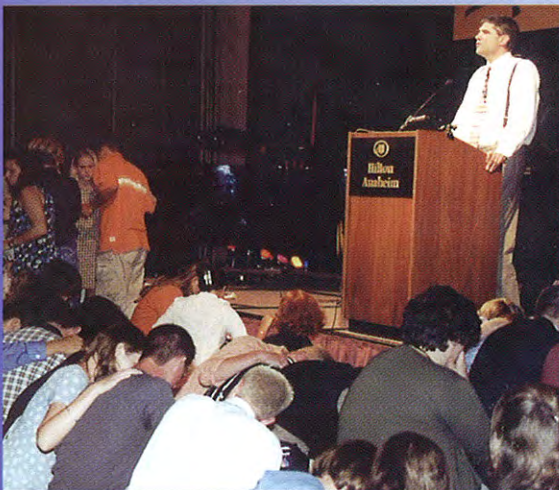
NO RESERVES NO RETREATS NO REGRETS

Youth Blast

Join us for a new and improved version of the youth banquet. This year you'll find an exciting option filled with food and fun. At Youth Blast 2001, you'll find side-splitting comedy and a fantasy-world filled with chocolate. Purchase your tickets for either the 5:00 pm or 9:00 pm show. The 90-minute program features comedy and a scrumptious chocolate dessert reception. Tickets are only \$15.



This year, Reach That Guy has several exciting service projects lined up just for you. We will be working in a large food bank and several soup kitchens, conducting inner city Bible schools and helping out in a **HUGE** community service project in downtown Detroit!



You'll find exciting programming, workshops, worship services and service opportunities for all ages.



Pre-Registration Form

National Association of Free Will Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Detroit, Michigan / July 15-19, 2001

Personal Information *Please Print*

Name Desired On Badge (First) _____ (Last) _____
Home Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (____) _____ Email _____
Church You Are Representing _____
Church Location (City) _____ (State) _____

BADGE REQUIRED

For Attendance

At All

Convention Events

One Person Per Form



National Association

All voting delegates must be members in good standing of a FWB Church.

Voting Delegates:

- ☐ National Board/Commission Member
- ☐ Local Church Delegate—\$50
- ☐ Foreign Missionary
- ☐ Home Missionary
- ☐ Ordained Deacon
- ☐ Ordained Minister

Non-Voting Attendees:

- ☐ Licensed Minister
- ☐ Visitor

WNAC Women Nationally Active for Christ

Voting Delegates:

- ☐ National Officer
- ☐ State President
- ☐ State Field Worker
- ☐ Local WNAC Delegate—\$5

Non-Voting Attendees:

- ☐ Visitor
- ☐ Missionary



National Youth Conference

☐ Grades 1-12—\$22*

Required to attend NYC Events or Competition.

☐ Ages 3-6—\$22*

Required for ages 3-6 attending Pre-School Worship.

Birthdate: _____ Age: _____
Grade Completed Spring 2001: _____
Parent/Guardian _____
Youth Leader _____

***On-Site
Registration
is \$25**

**For Office
Use Only**

Date Rcv'd
CK/MO#
Amount
From

Tickets & Fees

Youth Workers' Reception---Qty. ____ x \$15= ____

WNAC Luncheon-----Qty. ____ x \$25= ____

FWBBC Luncheon-----Qty. ____ x \$20= ____

Hillsdale Luncheon-----Qty. ____ x \$20= ____

Youth Blast ☐ 5:00 pm---Qty. ____ x \$15= ____

☐ 9:00 pm---Qty. ____ x \$15= ____

Local WNAC Delegate
Signed Delegate Card + \$5= ____

Local Church Delegate
Signed Delegate Card + \$50= ____

NYC Pre-Registration Fee \$22= ____

Total = \$ ____

☐ **I will be paying by check.**
Make check payable to FWB Convention.

☐ **Charge my credit card.**
☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Mailing & Other Info.

Mail Pre-Registration Form To:

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

You may register online at: www.nafwb.org
For questions call toll free 1-877-767-7659

Deadline: June 8, 2001
No Refunds After June 8, 2001

**Confirmation letters
will be mailed.**



Housing Form

National Association of Free Will Baptists
Women Nationally Active for Christ
National Youth Conference
Detroit, Michigan / July 15-19, 2001

Instructions

STEP 1

Fill out the *Personal Information* section. The contact name is the person you want the confirmation mailed to. This section must be filled out completely including all of the room-mates.

STEP 2

Fill out the *Hotel Information* section. Fill in the circle under the description that corresponds to the appropriate hotel.

Ex. If you want a room with two beds for two people, and you want to stay in the Marriott, you would do as follows:

You fill in the circle under the DBL/DBL that is in the same row as the Marriott.

	DBL/DBL 2 BEDS/ 2 PERSONS
Marriott	● \$115
Pontchartrain	○ \$109

Complete this section by indicating any special requests, and fill in your arrival and departure dates. The address for the hotel of your choice is located in the bottom right hand side of the *Hotel Information* box.

STEP 3

Fill out the *Payment Options* section appropriately. The required deposit is \$135 per room. You may pay by check or credit card. The hotels prefer you pay by credit card. If you choose to pay by check, make it payable to the hotel of your choice. Forms sent in without complete credit card information or a check for the deposit will be returned without reservations being made.

Any changes or cancellations should be made directly to the hotel. Check your hotel confirmation regarding hotel cancellation policies and check-in times.

***Print or type all information requested and phone, mail, or FAX form to the hotel of your choice by June 15, 2001. Reservations received after June 15, 2001 (or once block is full) will be on a space and rate available basis. If your form is faxed, keep your transaction report as proof of transmittal. You will receive confirmation from the hotel two weeks after they receive your form.

Send only one form per room.

Personal Information

Confirmation will be mailed to this person and this person only.

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

Roommates: (List all occupants of room.)

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

Hotel Information

Fill in the circle that corresponds to the hotel and room you desire.

	SINGLE 1 BED/ 1 PERSON	DOUBLE 1 BED/ 2 PERSONS	DBL/DBL 2 BEDS/ 2 PERSONS	TRIPLE 2 BEDS/ 3 PERSONS	QUAD 2 BEDS/ 4 PERSONS
Marriott Headquarters Hotel	○ \$115	○ \$115	○ \$115	○ \$115	○ \$115
Pontchartrain Crowne Plaza	○ \$109	○ \$109	○ \$109	○ \$109	○ \$109

Rates do not include tax which is currently 15% in Michigan and other applicable taxes.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

☐ Wheelchair Accessible ☐ Non-Smoking

☐ Rollaway (Upon availability at an extra charge)

☐ Crib ☐ Other _____

Arrival Date _____

Departure Date _____

Hotel Pontchartrain
Crowne Plaza
Two Washington Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48226
Tel (313) 965-0200
Fax (313) 965-9464
ATTN: Reservations

Marriott Renaissance Center
Renaissance Center
Detroit, MI 48243
Tel 1-800-228-9290
Fax (313) 568-8666
ATTN: Reservations
Internet:
www.marriott.com
Group code: FWBFWBA

Payment Options

Apply Deposit To: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ AMEX

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

☐ Check Enclosed. Check # _____

Make check payable to the hotel of your choice.

Important Reminders

Parking Cost
Marriott is \$18.50 a day for valet
and \$9-\$14 a day for self. There are
no IN/OUT privileges with self-parking.

Pontchartrain
is \$14 valet.

An advance deposit of \$135 is required. Without proper credit card information or check information, your reservation will not be processed.

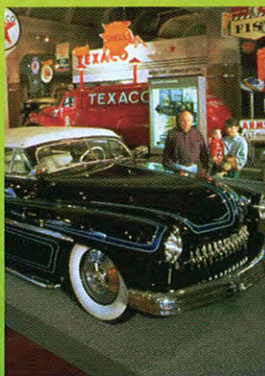
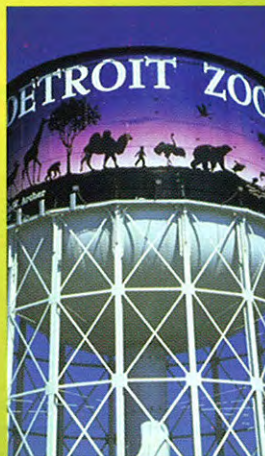
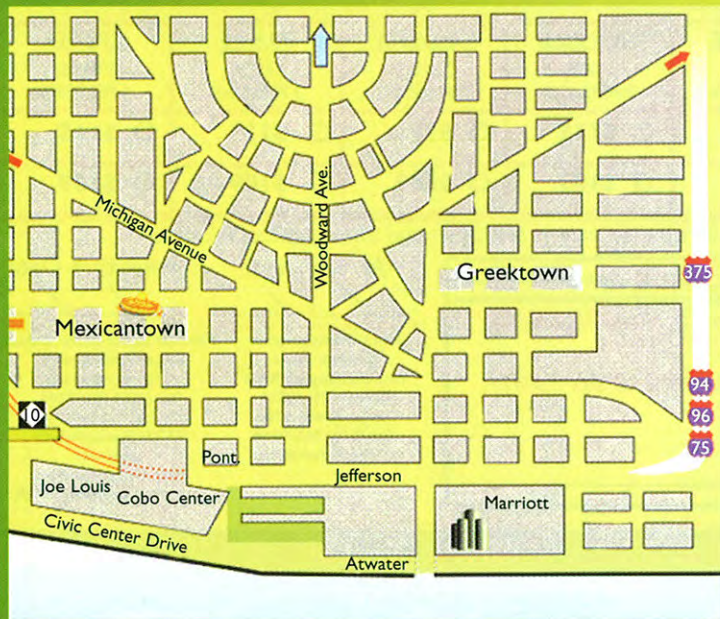
Detroit!



MOTOR CITY, HOCKEYTOWN AND MUCH MORE

Detroit has much to offer during your visit this summer. You can pack the kids and head for the Detroit Zoo, Dad can spend the day at Henry Ford Museum, or the whole family can take the tunnel to Windsor, Canada. Whatever your choice may be, Detroit is ready for you!

Downtown Detroit



Detroit Hot Spots!

Here are a few of the places you may want to visit.

Detroit Historical Museum

5401 Woodward, Detroit, MI 48202
Open Tues-Fri, 9:30 am - 5:00 pm ~ Sat & Sun, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
Admission: \$4.50 adults, \$2.25 seniors & children 12-18, 12 & under free
Tel. (313) 833-1805 Internet: www.detroithistorical.org

Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village

20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn, MI 48124-4088
Open 9:00 am - 5:00 pm daily
Admission: \$12.50 adults, \$11.50 seniors, \$7.50 youth 5-12, 4 & under free
Tel. (313) 271-1620 Internet: www.hfmvgv.org

Detroit Zoo

Open 10:00 am - 5:00 pm daily
Admission: \$7.50 adult, \$5.50 senior (62+), \$5.50 child (2-18), under 2 free
Group Rates: (248) 399-7001 Zoo Information: (248) 398-0900
Internet: www.detroitzoo.org

Belle Isle Aquarium

Open 10:00 am - 5:00 pm daily
Admission: \$2 ages 13 and up, \$1 ages 2-12, under 2 free
Group Rates: (248) 399-7001 Aquarium Information (248) 398-0900
Internet: www.detroitzoo.org

Automotive Hall of Fame

21400 Oakwood Boulevard, Dearborn, MI 48124
Admission: \$6.00 adults 13-61, \$5.50 62 & up, \$3.00 5-12
Open 10:00 am - 5:00 pm daily
Call toll free 1-800-29VISIT

The Detroit Institute of Arts

5200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202
Admission: \$4.00 adults, \$1.00 children
Open Wed - Fri 11:00 am - 4:00 pm, Sat & Sun 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Tel. (313) 833-7900

Detroit Tigers Baseball

For information call (313) 471-BALL
Internet: www.detroittigers.com

it's a great time in
detroit™

For more information on attractions and events in Detroit, check out the official tourism website for metro Detroit at:

www.visitdetroit.com

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Remember: If you pre-register, you will get a nice color name tag. If you do not pre-register, you will get a plain black and white name tag.



This year there will be eight different backgrounds for the name tags. Each one is colorful, attractive and features a car made in Detroit.

The color name tags also come with a quality vinyl holder and clip or pin. The black and white name tags have no pictures and come with a simple plastic cover.

Discount Airfare Discount Airfare

Discount Airfare Discount Airfare

Discount Airfare Discount Airfare

Navigant International has been selected as the official travel agency for the National Convention. Discounts for air travel have been secured on Northwest Airlines. The airline offers a 5% discount on excursion rates (10% if booked 60 days in advance) and 10% discount on full coach fares. These are contracted group airfares and cannot be purchased through another agency.

Navigant International has contracted for travel dates July 9-22 for the convention. To book air-space at the offered discounted rates, call Janice Jakobik at 1-800-489-2004. Identify yourself with the FWB Convention.

Discount Airfare Discount Airfare

For more pre-registration forms, housing forms and delegate cards visit our website at: www.nafwb.org

Local Church Delegate Card 2001

This certifies that _____ (name)
is a duly authorized delegate to the National Association of Free Will Baptists.
Church Name _____
Church City State _____

Pastor's or Church Clerk's signature

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

Local WNAC Delegate Card 2001

This certifies that _____ (Name)
is a duly authorized delegate to the Women Nationally Active for Christ Convention. (Only one delegate per church.)
Church Name _____
Church City State _____

Local Coordinator's or Local Secretary's Signature

Important: This card is properly signed and accompanied by a \$5 registration fee entitles a local delegate to register for voting privileges in the WNAC convention.

National Association of Free Will Baptists

July 15-19, 2001 Detroit, Michigan

DON'T MISS IT!



www.visitdetroit.com

it. My peers didn't understand how I could enjoy being there so much. After all, it was school. To me, it was youth camp all year long. I thrived on the peace and stability of the campus. My brother soon joined me at college, and two years later our sister followed.

A New Exodus

During this time, we stayed in touch with our parents who lived separately all those years. Dad continued on his path of alcoholic destruction and eventually died from seizures due to his alcoholism. Mother worked to support herself.

The summer after my junior year, I called Mother and asked if she would be interested in moving to Nashville, getting an apartment with my brother and me and starting over together. She took a few weeks to think about it and then said yes.

God blessed our every effort during those years. We used cardboard boxes covered with towels as furniture. Mother and I shared a bed. But we were experiencing something we thought was lost to us forever.

Within a six-year span, we all relocated to Nashville—Mother and the four children. When Mother's father died, she brought her mother to live with us. My mother's sister and her son (a cousin) and Mother's brother with his wife and a cousin from my Dad's side of the family all followed later. Does this sound like another Exodus?

We went to church together and grew strong. The children married and continued to serve God. It has not been easy, but we have stayed together. It's as though God swooped down to the door of Hell and said, "Back off, Satan; you can't have these children. They are mine."

Best of the Story

Mother went to work for a local restaurant, which is where I met my knight in shining armor. He was her supervisor and I immediately fell in love with his strength, his charm, but most of all the little boy I saw in his eyes.

He too had suffered much pain during his life, and I decided I was the one to lead him back to Calvary. Although this might not have been God's perfect will, God did bless and

23 years later, life is better than any of us thought possible.

Skeletons in the Closet

Still, there was one unresolved problem for me. I had not come to terms emotionally with the dark Baltimore days and the deep hurts I had internalized as a child. But God had a surprise for me there, too.

As a 30-year-old mother, I went to a Saturday seminar with some women from church. The morning we left, I had this sudden feeling of uneasiness. During the bus trip, I started to feel physically sick and wished I had not gone.

After arriving at the camp we went to the lodge, sat in a large circle and prayed. We were told to hold hands during some choruses. My anxiety level increased with each minute and I did not want to hold anyone's hand. Then we stood in a circle and the leader told us to hug one another. Since I didn't want to hold hands, why would I hug someone?

I felt like a caged animal, angry and threatened. The instructor had no idea what I was experiencing. As the seminar continued, my temper started to brew. The instructor talked in that sweet irritating "spiritual" voice. You know the one—it drips of "God loves you."

The next exercise was to close our eyes and take a hard look at what we saw when we looked in the mirror. That did it. It was none of her business. Who was she to ask me to deal with something I chose not to acknowledge? I decided to stop her in her tracks. She thought she had all the answers; I wanted to show her that nobody could "fix" my self-image.

The Little Girl

I was the first to raise my hand with a question. I asked, "What do you do if you do not like what you see?"

The room grew quiet. Everyone not only looked at me, but looked at me in surprise or shock. Remember, I was angry that she was pushing into my space. No one was allowed to do that. They could hear the defiance in my voice.

The instructor calmly looked in my direction to ask, "What do you see?"

I decided to let her have it, to let her

see how I saw myself. I had prayed for forgiveness and peace. I knew that God promised to forgive when we asked, but I didn't know where to put all those childhood emotions that flooded my memory.

So I answered her, "I see a little girl who is dirty, with long oily, stringy hair. Her clothes are tattered. No one wants to be near her. What do you expect me to do with her?"

With the compassion of a servant of God, she smiled and whispered, "Oh, Honey, you love that little girl. You put your arms around her and you love her with all you are."

My walls crumbled. At that moment I finally realized that I was not responsible for my terrible childhood. I found peace and quiet strength that I had never experienced. I don't know if the instructor knew what she had done for me, but it was life-altering. Other than salvation, I have never experienced such freedom.

Tomorrow's Hope

Fifteen years later, I am still blooming under God's control. I know God can do anything. I've seen Him do it. And I know I can do anything through His power.

It's hard to explain the love God has for His children, but Mother may have come close one day when my sister, who was by then an adult, asked her, "Why didn't you come for me?"

To this she simply replied, "I knew I could do more for you by letting you go. I loved you enough to let somebody else do for you what I could not do."

Am I more fortunate than others? No. But if I could shout to the world one thing I have learned, it is that life is a road of choices. For those who have made mistakes or feel victimized by circumstances, let me tell you there is a way out.

Every day is a new day with new choices. Starting now, you are what you want to be. My heart identifies with those who are hurting, but there is hope. There will always be a yesterday and today, but tomorrow—well, tomorrow belongs to God. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: A. G. Wings is the pen name of a Free Will Baptist wife and mother who probably attends your church.

Kentucky Church to Celebrate 125 Years

NIPPA, KY—The Tom's Creek FWB Church in Nippa will complete a week-long, 125th anniversary schedule on June 24 with a special showing of their newly-produced church video, preaching and dinner on the grounds. Pastor James Kelly Caudill extends an invitation to members, former members and friends to participate in the June 17-24 week of teaching, preaching and singing.

The celebration week includes a camp meeting with day and night services. More than 20 sessions will move attendees toward the June 24 concluding worship service which features Free Will Baptist executive secretary Melvin Worthington.

125th Anniversary Schedule

Sun., June 17	11:00 a.m.	James Forlines	Preaching
	7:00 p.m.	The Cookes	Singing
Mon., June 18	10:00 a.m.	Clyde Perry	Teaching
	11:00 a.m.	Dann Patrick	Preaching
	Noon	Lunch	
Tues., June 19	7:00 p.m.	Dann Patrick	Preaching
	10:00 a.m.	Clyde Perry	Teaching
	11:00 a.m.	Jim Price	Preaching
Wed., June 20	Noon	Lunch	
	7:00 p.m.	Calvin Evans	Preaching
	10:00 a.m.	Clyde Perry	Teaching
Thurs., June 21	11:00 a.m.	Roger Duncan	Preaching
	Noon	Lunch	
	7:00 p.m.	Roger Duncan	Preaching
Thurs., June 21	10:00 a.m.	Clyde Perry	Teaching
	11:00 a.m.	Jack Lassiter	Preaching
	Noon	Lunch	
Thurs., June 21	7:00 p.m.	Jack Lassiter	Preaching

Fri., June 22		"Youth Service"	
	6:30 p.m.	Sealing of the Time Capsule	
	7:00 p.m.	Justin Williams	Preaching
Sat., June 23	9:00 p.m.	Pig Roast and Music	
	11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	"Faith Junior Youth Service"	
	7:00 p.m.	Willard Wilcox	Preaching
Sun., June 24		Special Singing	
	10:30 a.m.	Showing of Church Video	
	11:00 a.m.	Melvin Worthington	Preaching
		Lunch	

Tom's Creek FWB Church was the first Free Will Baptist church in Johnson County and is the oldest continuing Free Will Baptist church in Kentucky. The church was established on June 22, 1876, near the mouth of Sycamore Creek under a large oak tree.

The first building was constructed of logs and served as a house of worship until 1915. A deed was secured on July 2, 1877, for a tract of land on which to extend the log building. Small additions of real estate were donated or purchased until six different properties were acquired.

Over the years, the church grew from a membership of 15-20 to a regular attendance of several hundred. New buildings were built to accommodate the growing congregation. The present building was erected in 1976, the old sanctuary enlarged in 1988.

Tom's Creek hosted the first Kentucky State Association meeting on May 6, 1939. Rev. Millard Van Hoose from Tom's Creek was the first moderator and was a delegate who helped organize the National Association of Free Will Baptists in 1935.

For additional information about the celebration week, call 606/297-4471 or 606/297-6101 or email: rlcride@foothills.net.

Reverend Joe Mooneyham Dies

CERES, CA—The Reverend Joe Mooneyham died in a house fire on February 24. He was 85 and had been preaching 57 years. He is best remembered as the man who conducted the first missionary conference among the California Free Will Baptist churches.

Brother Mooneyham was converted in 1942 in Shawnee, Oklahoma, at age 24 and began preaching a few months later. His first pastorate was at New Bethlehem FWB Church, 25 miles from Shawnee.

Mooneyham said, "I had to mix kerosene with gasoline to make my appointments during the war. They were rationing gas back then, and I only had one card which let me have three gallons a week."

He moved to California in 1948 and subsequently pastored Tulare FWB Church and Visalia FWB Church. In order to make a living, since the churches were unable

to support him full-time, Mooneyham cut grapes and picked cotton. He later opened a small café.

In the summer of 1955, he sold his café and home, moved to the Ceres/Modesto area and bought another café. He organized the Village Chapel FWB Church in June 1957 with 29 charter members.

The church purchased property in 1959 and erected their first building in 1960. Mooneyham pastored there 10 years until progressive muscular dystrophy forced him into early retirement in 1967 at age 52.

He continued in a pulpit supply role and later worked in the cafeteria at California Christian College in Fresno. He served on the college Board of Trustees and helped select the campus site in Fresno when the school relocated from the San Francisco Bay Area.

In a March 1998 news item in

The Voice, publication of the California State Association of Free Will Baptists, Mooneyham spoke of the number of weddings and funerals he preached.

"Every dime I've made on weddings went to foreign missions. Some preachers give the money to their wives, but I've always had a heart for those who haven't heard the gospel."

Funeral services were conducted March 5 at Village Chapel FWB Church. Rev. Nuel Brown, director of ministries for the California State Association of Free Will Baptists, officiated.

Joe Mooneyham is survived by Mae, his wife of 62 years; one daughter, Billie Fleming of San Jose; one brother, one sister, six grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Massia, Foster Retire at Randall House

NASHVILLE, TN—Two long-time Randall House Publications employees with 56 years of combined service retired this spring, according to Dr. Alton Loveless, general director.

Helen Massia served almost 27 years as receptionist, in editorial, and in customer service. Her future plans include traveling with her husband, Bill, and spending time with children and grandchildren. Helen is a member at Calvary FWB Church in Nashville.

Barbara Foster retired for the



Helen Massia

second time at Randall House. She worked 21 years in shipping, the bookstore and customer service before retiring for two years to care for her husband, the late Bill Foster. Barbara then returned to work almost nine years, giving her nearly 30 years with the national agency. She is a member of Fellowship FWB Church in Antioch.

Dr. Loveless said, "We appreciate their faithful work and will miss them greatly in the days ahead."

COMING NEXT MONTH

- ☐ Convention Program
- ☐ Daddy Was a Preacher
- ☐ State of Free Will Baptist Christian Schools
- ☐ Zachary Has Two Dads

South Carolina Revises Constitution

LAKE CITY, SC—Delegates to the 59th annual South Carolina State Association revised their constitution, changing the promotional office from a faith-based salary to a budgeted salary.

Promotional director Mike Jones said the funding change could be met in three ways—by educating the people to the need, by receiving a special offering on Roll Call Sunday and/or by authorizing the office to use up to four percent of the South Carolina Plan of Support monies.

Some 162 delegates, ministers and visitors registered for the February 22-23 gathering which met at Gilead FWB Church in Lake City. Moderator Sherwood Lee was elected to his sixth term.

Five men preached during the meeting: Retired minister Ansel Smith, Pastor Kevin Smith (Arcadia FWB Church, Spartanburg), Foreign Missions director James Forlines, Pastor Mike Wilson (Cornerstone FWB Church, Chester), Home Missionary Todd Smith (Aiken) and Pastor Tony Trott (Jefferson Road FWB Church, Sumter).

In other action, delegates passed a resolution urg-

ing the state Executive Committee to plan two seminars this year on the subject of holiness. Another resolution passed in support of the golden jubilee of Free Will Baptist mission work in India.

During the Thursday night worship service, the South Carolina Conference presented three checks: A \$10,000 check to build a church in India, a \$5,000 check to help fund India's golden jubilee celebration and a \$5,000 check to Free Will Baptist Bible College with which to begin the Carlisle Hanna Missions Scholarship.

Delegates also received a \$15,000 offering for Paula Jones, wife of promotional director Mike Jones, to help with medical expenses.

The Children's Home reported employing a full-time promotional man, Pat Minihane, a former resident of the Home. The Home plans to retire the \$150,000 indebtedness on the boys' dorm this year and begin construction on a girls' dorm.

The 2002 state association will meet February 21-22 at Peace FWB Church in Spartanburg.

Randall House Sponsors Teaching Seminar

NASHVILLE, TN—More than 250 teachers and leaders attended a February 24 seminar titled, "Teaching to Influence Lives," led by Elmer Towns and Stan Toler in Nashville. Attendees represented 47 churches, 18 of them Free Will Baptist churches. The gathering attracted people from several states.

Both speakers are well known in the area of church growth and teaching. Dr. Towns has authored

over 60 books on various subjects and is the co-founder of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. Dr. Toler, who has authored more than 40 books on church growth, is pastor of Trinity Church of the Nazarene in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

In his introduction of the two speakers, Dr. Alton Loveless, president of Randall House Publications, stated, "We have two speakers

from different theological backgrounds who are diverse in their respective roles. But both have the same central theme which is growing a larger church by reaching individuals for Christ through the Sunday School while teaching and training them to become better members of His church."

The meeting was held at Donelson Free Will Baptist Church.

BEYOND BELIEF



A HORN BLOWING MADMAN TAIL-GATED ME FOR 10 MILES. HOW WAS I TO KNOW HE WAS A PASTOR HONKING OUT BLESSED ASSURANCE?

WHY? WHAT DID YOU DO?

LET'S JUST SAY MINE WAS NOT THE CHRISTIAN RESPONSE HE'D DRIVEN 20 MINUTES TO GET.

8-94 ROGER JIVD

currently

The **Ohio State Association** received a \$10,289 check from Brotherhood Insurance, according to Executive Secretary **Edwin Hayes**. The check was presented by **Mitch Salyers**, a Brotherhood agent and pastor of **First FWB Church in Chillicothe**. This was the dividend earned by premiums from the 100 Ohio churches that insure with the company.

Three Rivers FWB Church in Wexford, PA, organized with 42 charter members on February 4. Pastor **Tommy Jones** said he expected another 10 charter members to join. The church began as a Home Missions effort and is searching for property on which to build. They plan to mother another Free Will Baptist church in the Pittsburgh area. The congregation is now self-supporting.

Pastor **Omar Alfaro** reports eight baptisms and 10 new members at **Encuentro Con Dios FWB Church in Miami, FL**. Two of the new members arrived in the U.S.A. from the Free Will Baptist churches in Cuba. One of the converts (Jorge) came from a background of strong atheism.

A new children's choir, two new families, two conversions and a baptismal service have Pastor **Paul Collins** smiling at **Harrisonburg FWB Church in Harrisonburg, VA**. Discipleship and teacher training classes will be used to expand the church's outreach.

Eighteen! That's the number of conversions since October 2000 reported by Pastor **Roger Raper** at **First FWB Church in Fort Collins, CO**. Fifty-four people worshiped on a Sunday morning. Pastor Raper says he does have one problem—not enough parking spaces. If you're a concrete finisher, call Pastor Raper about the first of May at 970/686-6315.

More than 400 people gathered at **Collinsville FWB Church in Collinsville, OK**, on December 10, 2000, to dedicate their 10,000-square-foot building. The structure includes a

300-seat sanctuary, 2,200-square-foot fellowship hall, nursery and two offices. Located on 2.5 acres on U.S. Highway 169 north of town, the \$300,000 building was paid for by dedication day. Pastor **Herman Wood** said the church averages 80 in attendance. Twenty-four new members joined last year. Oklahoma ministers **Carl Cheshier**, **Wade Jernigan**, **Dick Shade** and **Ernest Harrison, Jr.**, participated in the dedication activities.

Liberty Oaks FWB Church conducted their first service on April 1 in **Hinesville, GA**. Pastor **James R. Burgess**, a fifth-grade school teacher, leads the new outreach. Nearly half the county's 70,000 residents are associated with the Fort Stewart Army Base.

Thanks to an anonymous \$4,000 gift, **Berea FWB Church in Battle Creek, MI**, paid off their 15-year loan in 42 months. Pastor **Robert Trimble** is happy and all wet . . . happy about the financial gift and wet from baptizing four converts.

Members **Allen** and **Shirley Friedly** gave a new stove and refrigerator for the kitchen at **Terrill Road FWB Church in Moberly, MO**. Pastor **Lynn Beck** said that the new appliances would immediately benefit the church's Christian Academy which added a class in home economics this year.

Contact welcomes **Fellowship Facts**, publication of **Fellowship FWB Church in Bryan, TX**. The Spring 2001 issue included news about members, church activities, an article on internet usage, an update on the church's website and more. Pastor **Levan Hubbard** wrote an article detailing the five ingredients of a successful Sunday School campaign.

Members of **Corcoran FWB Church in Corcoran, CA**, honored **Norma White** for more than 40 years of teaching the Teen Class. Fourteen past and present students paid tribute to her. Pastor **Ron Young** said the church will celebrate 50 years of service in 2002.

The **Florida Coordinator**, publica-

tion of the **Florida State Association** is now printed in Spanish and English, according to editor, **Danny Conn**. The Spanish translation is done by **Lucy Hyman** with editorial assistance from Miami pastor **Jose Rodriguez**. The Hispanic Association in the Miami area includes six churches.

Pastor **Danny Dwyer** said that members of **First FWB Church in Florence, AL**, adopted the "1,000 in 2000" campaign, but far exceeded their goal to witness to 1,000 people. Members reached the 1,000 quickly and then set a new goal to reach 5,000. By year's end, members had witnessed to 5,105 people in Northwest Alabama. That's good news, and that's what the Great Commission is all about.

Since there was no Christian school in their county, members of **Calvary FWB Church in Union, SC**, did more than talk about the need. They started one. After some extensive remodeling, Pastor **Howard Johnson** reports that the new school opened with eight students and a volunteer principal . . . his wife.

Southpark FWB Church in Huntsville, AL, plans to complete work on their new education building. Pastor **Dennis Haygood** says the structure will include seven classrooms and a storage area in the 2,130-square-foot space.

Pastor **Fred Jones** reports 16 conversions at the **Prattville FWB Mission in Prattville, AL**, this past year. ■

Did you ever attempt to assemble a jigsaw puzzle with 500 pieces... only to find one or two pieces missing when you reached the end? No matter how much enjoyment you got from the process, it was mixed with regret when you finished, right?

As we attempt to sell the present campus and move the college to a new home, we have identified five pieces. . .just five. . .that must fit before the picture is complete.

And there is a deadline: September 1, 2001.

Piece #1: Sale of the present campus

At this writing, we are attempting to sell the present campus—for the second time. As many of you know, the first sale was stopped when the buyer could not put his package together in the allotted time and withdrew his offer.

So, we began the selling process over. I am glad to report that the second contract should be signed by the time you read this. And we are much more hopeful about it than we were about the first contract.

But we are counting on the income from the sale of our campus to provide a major part of the funds for the construction of our new campus, so this piece of the puzzle must fit.

Piece #2: Construction financing

Because of the time of transition between the sale of our campus and the completion of the new one, we will not receive all of the payment from the sale up front. Therefore, a construction loan will be necessary.

Meetings with our banking partner have been encouraging. While we want to minimize the amount we borrow in order to save interest costs, we feel confident that we will be able to finance what we will need to pay construction costs.

Piece #3: Construction costs

Preliminary estimates of what we want to build in Phase One have been high. However, we expect the actual cost to be lower. . .perhaps, substantially lower. . .than the estimates. We will not know the actual cost until we take bids. That process will take place in the near future. These bids will tell us a great deal about the feasibility of building the new campus.

Just Five Pieces, And The Picture is Complete!

By Bert Tippet

Piece #4: Enrollment

Educating students is the college's primary mission. The whole purpose of relocation is to be able to serve the students who will come to FWBBC.

Student enrollment must be sufficient to justify the move. And we must be able to project enrollment growth for the years

ahead. Enrollment is also the college's biggest single source of income and must be sufficient to help underwrite future operational costs.

Piece #5: Fundraising

We estimate that we will need to raise about \$6 million, in addition to what we get from the sale of the present campus, to build the new one. Roy Harris, Director of Advancement, has been busy identifying potential donors. He and President Tom Malone are contacting these donors and gauging how much support they will give to the move. The college is also pursuing grants from foundations more aggressively than ever.

All five pieces must fit. And the degree to which each fits must be known before September 1. At that time the Board of Trustees will make the final decision about the sale of our present campus.

Pray with us about all of these pieces:

- That the campus will be sold for a good price and that the sale will be consummated.
- That the college's banker will approve the construction loan at a favorable rate of interest.
- That construction costs will, indeed, be substantially lower than preliminary estimates.
- That the college's enrollment will grow, and continue to grow.
- That fundraising will meet, even exceed, present projections.

When these pieces fit, you'll see the finished picture—a new campus for Free Will Baptist Bible College. ■

Summer Camp At FWBBC: June 17-22

• **Basketball** • **Missions** • **Music** • **Drama**

For a free brochure, call 1-800-76-FWBBC

Free Will Baptist Bible College

Parents want to leave their estate to their children. However, it is important to know that the assets in an estate are subject to different tax consequences. The cost basis for most assets in an estate is stepped up to the value at the date of death.

For example, stock in an estate that has a cost basis of \$10,000

but a market value of \$100,000 is passed to the heirs at the stepped-up basis of \$100,000. This means the heirs can sell the stock for \$100,000 and no capital gains taxes are due. While this is true with most assets in an estate, a notable exception is a retirement account.

For instance, traditional IRA, 401(k) and 403(b) accounts are taxable to heirs at quite high rates. Assuming a son or daughter is currently in the 28% bracket, a large inherited lump sum from a retirement account could easily push them into the highest tax bracket at 39.6%.

Worse is the possibility of estate tax. Even an estate of \$750,000 would face estate taxes on the \$75,000 above the standard \$675,000 exemption resulting in a tax bite of \$27,750. Consider the following estate which is net of all legal fees and final expenses.

Home	\$250,000
Rental Properties	350,000
Car	20,000
Furnishings and other personal valuables	50,000
Retirement Account	75,000
Cash	5,000
Total	\$750,000

In this example, most of the assets are not easily converted to cash other than the retirement account. Assuming the retirement account is used to pay estate and income taxes, let's review the tax consequences of this estate.

Total Value of Estate	\$750,000
Exemption	(675,000)
Taxable Estate	75,000

Estate Taxes at 37%	27,750
Income Taxes at 39.6%	29,700
Total Taxes	\$57,450

This means the heirs will receive only \$17,550 from the retirement account. The total tax on this \$75,000 is a whopping 76.6%! This is just for federal taxes alone. State estate taxes could easily add another 5-10% to this figure.

Estate and Income Tax Consequences of Retirement Accounts

By David L. Brown

How can this be avoided? Let us assume the deceased was a faithful tithing Free Will Baptist. He could have determined that \$75,000 is the amount he should leave to his church or other denominational agency as a tithe of his estate. The most advantageous asset to give as his tithe is his retirement account. This takes his retirement ac-

count completely out of his estate and as a result his estate would now be under \$675,000 and no longer taxable for estate tax purposes. This \$75,000 gift would impact his heirs only \$17,550, since the account would have been subject to estate and income taxes anyway.

Federal estate tax rates begin at 37% for smaller estates and quickly rise to 55% for taxable estates of \$3 million or more. Heirs of large estates could see the entire balance of a retirement account wiped out in estate and income taxes. Especially for large estates, it's good business to make the beneficiary of a retirement account a charitable organization since taxes will eat it up anyway. Who would you want to benefit—Uncle Sam or your favorite Free Will Baptist ministry?

Even with smaller estates, it makes sense to use the retirement account to make charitable bequests, since it will be taxable to heirs as income possibly at 39.6% even if the estate is not taxable for estate tax purposes.

Legislation has been proposed to allow a tax-free transfer of retirement accounts to charitable organizations during your lifetime. This type of transfer could be done through a gift annuity or unitrust and allow the donor to receive benefits for their lifetime. Through a unitrust these benefits could be extended for a period of years beyond death to children.

Under this arrangement the donor, the children and the charitable organization would benefit from the gift of a retirement account. This legislation has not been passed, but many believe support in congress is strong for its passage in the near future.

The desire to benefit your heirs upon your death is a good thing, but it is important to realize that some assets carry a larger potential tax liability than others. For larger estates it is extremely important to plan the transfer in a way to lessen the impact of estate and income taxes. Free Will Baptist Foundation stands ready to assist anyone who may face any of these problems. Please feel free to contact our office at 877-336-7575. ■

Free Will Baptist



Foundation

You have probably read or heard that history repeats itself, or perhaps more accurately that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. I grew up as a preacher's kid attending churches where my father and grandfather pastored. (My grandfather in Oklahoma and my father in Tennessee). I knew from the moment I answered the call to preach that I would be a third-generation preacher and pastor. Just how far will this repetition go?

When I moved to Clarksville, Tennessee, in June 1998, I thought I was the first in my family to try church planting. But after talking with my dad, I discovered that my grandfather, Ralph C. Hampton, had been a church planter in California nearly 50 years earlier!

My curiosity was piqued, so I began reading about the history of Free Will Baptists in California. Admittedly, I was at first looking only for the family connection. I was interested to read that Ralph C. Hampton served as chairman of the first mission board in California. He had served earlier on a board called the Progressive Building Land Fund Board, set up to raise money to start new churches. In the fall of 1955, my grandfather led in planting the North Modesto FWB Church. All this was going on in a state with only 25 organized churches.

It is amazing what that small group of dedicated Free Will Baptists were doing in California in the early 1950s. According to California state minutes, from July 1955 through June 1956, eleven new churches were organized and three mission churches began services. This took place in a state that had only 48 Free Will Baptist churches. From 1950 to 1959 the California State Association grew from 25 churches to 64 churches—39 new churches in nine years! One local association, the Golden Gate Association, grew from eight churches to 28 in that same time period.

Many of the men who led in California in those early days are no longer with us. Did they have some special gift during this time period that we no longer possess? I seriously doubt it. Though I did not know many of those men, I suspect that what led to their success was a strong faith in God and a great desire to enlarge His kingdom.

Those were exciting days of church growth across America, and Free Will Baptists were a part of it, especially in California. I believe there are still some exciting days ahead for Free Will Baptists, but there are certainly some lessons to learn from history. Fifty years

Will History Repeat Itself?

By Clayton Hampton
Home Missionary to Clarksville, Tennessee

ago our brothers and sisters in Christ saw California as a field "white unto harvest." Today, not only California, but also our entire country is one of the greatest mission fields in the world. God is still interested in building His kingdom.

On September 10, 2000, I was privileged to be involved in the first service of Two Rivers FWB Church in Clarksville, Tennessee. Perhaps it was not noteworthy in the eyes of the world, but it amazes me to think that 45 years earlier my grandfather walked where I am now. History does repeat itself. Another interesting fact about September 10, 2000, was that ours was one of three new churches started that day in Tennessee. Perhaps history will again repeat itself with planting many new churches in this state.

I have come away from my venture into Free Will Baptist history with two things. First, I have a new appreciation and admiration for my grandfather and the men with whom he labored in the early days of our work in California. They obviously held missions and church planting as high priority.

Second, I have a renewed sense of vision for church planting. I am a novice, but I am more convinced than ever of the necessity to plant churches if we are to survive and thrive in this new millennium. It is of utmost importance to lay a strong foundation of faith by planting as many churches as possible from which many will come to know the Lord and help to continue to spread the Word throughout our own country and beyond.

I am proud of my family heritage and the work my grandparents and parents have been involved in as Free Will Baptists. I am also proud of my Free Will Baptist heritage. I have nothing to be ashamed of as a Free Will Baptist. We have been used of God to be a blessing to this nation, even in the modern times. I am also challenged, however, by the growing need to reach our country and plant new churches.

As I look back I feel a sense of pride in what our predecessors accomplished. Will history repeat itself? I believe it can, but it will only happen by our deliberate actions. It did not "just happen" 50 years ago in California and it won't "just happen" now. We must commit ourselves to increasing His kingdom and planting churches for the Lord! ■

Editor's Note: Reverend Clayton Hampton had open-heart surgery February 28. He is recovering well, thanks to the prayers of God's people.

Home



Missions

Ministry simply means to meet people's needs. The Sunday School class can become a cohesive unit in which individual needs of all kinds are recognized and dealt with in a context of rich relationships. Benevolence, social, physical, intellectual and emotional needs, as well as spiritual needs can often be met most effectively through the Sunday School class.

Organize to Minister

By Alton Loveless

One natural outcome of weekly study of the Bible is the dynamic encounter with God. Of course, the Sunday School supports and encourages participation in the worship service. The class is also in the best position to encourage and support personal and family devotions as well. Excellent support publications are available to help people in these areas which can be provided through the Sunday School class. Curriculum material is some of the best support material available as it reinforces and aids a student's spiritual growth at home.

The open sharing of personal issues and honest discussion of life questions is a great foundation for developing strong bonds and relationships which can be tremendously enriching. Such relationships form the basis for an extremely positive learning environment as the Bible is opened each week in search of guidance and direction.

On the other hand, the fellowship of a class must never be allowed to grow too inward to the point where new members cannot readily establish new relationships and become a vital part of the class. Fellowship must be in balance with outreach. Some Sunday School growth experts feel new classes should be started as their growth accelerates in order to assimilate them into the church faster. Some agree that classes that are two years old and older have become ingrown and no longer are showing growth.

The purpose of the organization of the Sunday School is to provide an appropriate place for each individual, of every age, sex and marital status to be taught with developmentally age-appropriate learning materials and methods, in an environment of support, encouragement and exhortation. This organization must be comprehensive (in that it must provide a place for anyone), balanced and manageable. The driving principle behind implementing a particu-

lar Sunday School organization is to organize to best meet people's needs.

The only viable approach to Sunday School organization that will succeed is to grade by age or school grade. Further groups may be provided as numbers increase to meet groups within your congregation with common

life needs. However, the basic grouping and grading by age comes the closest to providing homogenous small groups which can form a common bond supporting outreach, teaching, ministry and fellowship.

Four major age divisions are generally recognized as the initial layer of organization: Preschool, Children (grades 1-6), Youth (school grades 7-12) and Adults. These major divisions provide the highest level of developmental distinction. Often additional age groups can be added if there is a large attendance of people. Our Sunday school department prints material for the following age groups: Cradle Roll, 0-1; Nursery, 2-3; Preschool, 4-5; Primary, Grades 1-3; Junior, Grades 4-6; Junior High, Grades 7-9; Senior High 10-12; College Age; Young Adult, Middle Adult and Senior Adult.

Most adult classes are coeducational. A church may want a men's class and a ladies' class provided for those who prefer a single-sex learning environment. A church can now offer coeducational classes for single adults due to the increase of singles in the American church.

The church and Sunday School must organize today if we are to reach our communities. ■



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

Randall



House



Garnett Reid

Amos, The Burden-Bearing Prophet (Part IV): Of Moles, Cows and Fishhooks: Hypocrisy's Tale

He was known as "B" and "Roman" to his Russian handlers. While his American friends and co-workers at the FBI knew him as Robert Hanssen, he was really a "mole," a spy leading a double life. For 15 years, Hanssen had sold out the United States government, swapping intelligence secrets for diamonds and \$600,000 in cash. The end of his treacherous ways swept down upon Hanssen in February as FBI agents nabbed him making another "drop" of classified data.

According to Amos 4:1-5, Israel, too, was leading a double life in the eighth century B.C. The people were still "going to church," tending to the temple and conforming to all the external worship duties required by law. Yet deep within their hearts, their attitudes and appetites were as worldly and wicked as their pagan neighbors. Far worse was Israel's situation, though, because they were, at least historically speaking, God's own covenant people.

"Cows of Bashan"—The Crime (4:1)

As was true with chapter 3, a command from God begins His indictment: "Hear this word," the Lord charges through His prophet. In a startling and ill-flattering metaphor, Amos labels the "uppity upper-class women" of Samaria "cows of Bashan."

They had their husbands wrapped around their little fingers, doing their dirty work for them. To satisfy their lavish, opulent tastes, their men oppressed poor people, "crushing the needy" by extortion and intimidation. All the while they sweet-talked their eager-to-please husbands, calling them "master" (*adn*) (see a similar condemnation in Isaiah 3:16.).

Cattle raised in Bashan, the region east of the Sea of Galilee, were known as the stoutest livestock because of the

lush grazing pastures in the area. So, too, these husband and wife partners in crime had lived well off the spoils of their victims, at the same time professing to live in loyalty to their covenant God (note that all of Israel is similarly indicted as "stubborn cows" in Jeremiah 31:18 and Hosea 4:16.).

Hooked!—The Consequences (4:2-3)

Two facts are clear about the coming judgment upon Samaria: its certainty and its severity. With a dramatic statement, God asserts that Israel will most assuredly pay for her sins: He swears by His own holiness (see similar expressions in 6:8; 8:7; Isaiah 62:8; Jeremiah 44:26; and Psalm 89:35).

Judgment would come in the person of Assyrian troops. They would besiege the city and demolish her walls, leading these women and others through the gaps with "hooks" and "fishhooks" (an appropriate translation of a difficult Hebrew word). Relief drawings from Assyrian annals show these very scenes: captives led away by ropes fastened to a hook piercing the nose or upper lip.

"Come to Church and Sin"—The Cover-Up (4:4-5)

What made Israel's covenant disloyalty even worse was the fact that it occurred under the cover of external religious devotion. Here is the height of hypocrisy: to offer sacrifices and tithes, supposedly to God, all the while defying His demands for a righteous lifestyle. And they were good at it: "for so you love to do," chides Amos (v. 5).

Here is a tragic underside of Old Testament religion: it often came with compliant hands but not committed hearts. Yet, as Shalom Paul reminds us, "God requires devotion before devotions, and right before rite."

Read carefully the following prophetic exposés of formal hypocrisy and its dangers: I Samuel 15:22; Isaiah 1:11-17; Jeremiah 7:21-23; Hosea 6:6-7; Micah 6:6-8. Going through the motions of devotion without giving God our hearts produces dire results:

- It mistakes *doing* for *being*.
- It minimizes God's concern for the heart, for inner motivation.
- It distorts the *proper* place and value of good works (see Ephesians 2:8-10).

How tragic the stern words of Jesus to any generation: "These people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me." ■

Directory Update

FLORIDA

Mike Shamblin to Marvin Chapel Church, Marianna
Victor Sedar to First Church, Auburndale
Jose Rodriguez to Ebenezer Church, Miami

SOUTH CAROLINA

Joe Cagle to Little Bethel Church, Johnsonville from Hillside Church, Florence
Allen Goodman to South Conway Church, Conway from Freedom Church, Ladson
Mike Gerald to Riverside Church, Myrtle from Rains Church, Rains

TENNESSEE

R. J. Clark to Blue Springs Church, Columbia
John Gibbs to United Church, Dickson from full-time evangelism
David Outlaw to Head's Church, Cedar Hill from Arbor Grove Church, Hoxie, AR
Mike Dankson to Bethel Church, Ashland City from First Church, Vernon, AL



Melinda Pinson

Taking Care of Yourself (Part II)

Last month we discussed the importance of the pastor's wife caring for the soul (spiritual health) and caring for the body (physical health). This month we will talk about those things that can help pastors' wives care for their hearts and minds.

Care of the Heart

When speaking of the "care of the heart," we are referring to personal emotional health. The two greatest threats to the emotional well being of the pastor's wife have to do with her schedule: (1) stress and (2) lack of communication and intimacy in marriage.

Two Great Threats

Stress is no stranger to many pastors' homes, and the temptation to get caught up in the schedule of ministry to the neglect of our personal and home lives compounds stress for the pastor's wife.

Getting tied up in the routines of ministry and not carving out personal time for ourselves, our husbands and our families can lead to a lack of communication and intimacy in marriage. It's easier for us to get caught up in this trap than for those in secular occupations, because we see ourselves as a help meet for our husbands in ministry.

The church is such a large part of the life of a pastor's wife—her church family, her friends, her livelihood, even the house where she lives. Because of this, some pastors' wives fall into the trap of allowing their role as "pastor's wife" to become a substitute for their role as "wife" and "mother."

Prioritizing

Duties and obligations in your "day-timer" can squeeze personal refreshment time out of your life. Although you and your husband cannot solve the

problem by throwing out the datebook, you can take control of your calendar.

Just as we have to be intentional about scheduling devotional and prayer time with God, we must schedule relaxation and refreshment in black ink in a consistent manner. We must schedule personal time with our husband and children.

Yes, sometimes you will have to reschedule because of the unexpected. The challenge lies in learning to discern a critical need that demands your family's immediate attention from a ministry opportunity that can be scheduled for another time. Otherwise, you will forever be deleting personal time from your life, your marriage and your family.

By prioritizing time and energy, we can beat the problems of stress and the lack of communication and intimacy that so easily creep into the life of the pastor's wife.

Care of the Mind

So far, we've considered the care of the soul, the care of the body and the care of the heart (emotional health). Just as these are important, so is the care of the mind. We cannot afford to let our minds get dull as we get caught up in the everyday demands of being a ministry wife.

The Mind is Important

As Leroy Forlines stresses in his book, *Biblical Ethics*, our personalities must integrate mind, heart and will if we want to function properly as God designed us. Yet, what we often neglect the most is the development of our minds. As Romans 12:1-2 says, we are to be transformed by the Holy Spirit by renewing our *minds*.

Emotional health and the care of the soul (spirituality) are foundational to caring for the Christian mind.

Some Practical Suggestions

What are some ways we can care for our minds? The first, of course, is reading. In addition to making time for personal refreshment, make time to read. This doesn't have to be an expensive undertaking. Explore your local public library. Network with pastors' wives who are avid readers and exchange books with them. Gain access to Internet sites such as Focus on the Family (which has good articles on being a pastor's wife).

Establish reading circles and group studies in your local church. But don't read the same kinds of things over and over. Reach out; investigate new areas of study and thought. Read to your husband. Work together with him to learn how to bow to Christ's lordship in all of life.

We as pastors' wives need to make more time for cultural and educational opportunities—things like lectures, concerts, continuing education classes. These can stretch us and equip us to be better supporters of our husbands' ministries, but more importantly it can help us be better servants and witnesses.

Conclusion

Take care of yourself. Care for your soul and body. Find new ways to care for your heart. Prioritize your time to lessen stress and increase intimacy and communication in your marriage and family. Carve out personal time for yourself, your husband and your children. Find new ways to care for your mind. Challenge yourself by reading and studying and learning under the lordship of Jesus Christ. Though this care can be difficult because of the constraints of life as a pastor's wife, it is necessary to be all that God wants you to be in your unique role as a pastor's wife. ■

THE PREACHER'S PERSPECTIVE



Randy Sawyer

The New Homiletic

Three decades ago a revolution occurred in homiletical theory. Proponents of a "new homiletic" argued that at various times in Christian history preaching forms have been reshaped in response to changing cultural situations, and "new sermon strategies have replaced older forms revitalizing the preaching ministry" (All quotes are taken from *Learning to Preach Like Jesus*, by Ralph L. and Gregg Lewis, Crossway Books, 1989).

Based on this observation, it was suggested that the preaching model of the past two centuries or more must be set aside, if today's preachers are to effectively address the culture.

A Traditional Approach

In order to motivate preachers toward a "new homiletic," proponents theorize that traditional sermon form was developed around a "basic idea" or "proposition."

"The main idea then becomes the basis for an outline consisting of a series of 'points' supported by the addition of appropriate illustrations, an introduction, and a conclusion."

Following this model, the sermon becomes a "rational exercise," whereby the preacher attempts to get "the idea" across to the congregation. This traditional approach, according to the "new homiletic," is flawed because of certain misconceptions about how people actually hear and respond to a verbal address, as well as misunderstandings concerning the communication patterns established by Christ and the apostles.

A Scientific Discovery

Homiletics theorists Ralph and Gregg Lewis have gone to great lengths to discuss the right-side/left-side thinking patterns of the human

mind, arguing that "rational persuasion," which offers truth via abstract principles, is foreign to the way people actually entertain information. The Lewises explain that in the 1960s scientists discovered the physiological basis for a dual nature of the human brain. Scientists found that each of the brain's two hemispheres—right and left—absorb information in different ways.

According to the scientists, the left half of the brain is predominately analytical and verbal, while the right half is more instinctual and visual. A connector, called the *corpus callosum*, enables the two halves to communicate back and forth.

The left hemisphere entertains factual information in a logical, deductive and objective way. The right hemisphere, on the other hand, deals with the information in a subjective fashion. This side is emotive, poetic, intuitive and inductive. The left side deals with abstract principles; the right side with concrete images.

A Cultural Trend

The Lewises then go on to explain that today's pop-culture (TV, movies, multimedia, etc.) has programmed our generation to become more "right-brained."

"TV viewing itself is a right-brained activity. It's the right side of the brain that takes the electronic dots the eyes see and arranges them in a complete pattern that forms a recognizable image. The state of the left brain when you watch TV is much like the state of the brain in sleep and dreaming. The right brain is in charge and it's trained to take charge by the thousands of hours most people spend watching TV."

As a result, they conclude, people today are not trained to deal with abstract, objective, rational information, but are programmed to accept, cate-

gorize and respond to the more subjective, visual kinds of presentations. The traditional propositional sermon, which begins with a central point, a core idea, then builds, develops and explores that idea in an orderly, analytical way cannot hope to communicate to today's visual hearer.

A "New Homiletic"

The Lewises, along with a hosts of other "new homiletic" proponents; therefore, call for a departure from propositional presentation to a more visual, sensual, practical kind of communication. This was, they suggest, Jesus' own preaching style.

Understanding how people think and respond to information, the Master Preacher utilized parables, illustrations and comparisons with which his hearers were familiar, painting word pictures and offering visual stimulation in order to appeal to their "right-brained" thinking. The call is for preachers to forsake traditional homiletical form, and return to the way Jesus preached.

A Thoughtful Response

How should we respond to such a well-thought out and clearly scientific approach? First, as the Lewises are quick to point out, the study of the human brain is still in its infancy, with much of the foregoing merely theoretical. It may or may not be true.

As with the nature of any scientific "discovery," the verdict awaits further research. In fact, the Lewises even posit such when they comment, "Suppose all this right-brain/left-brain information is true." They acknowledge that this is a "supposition."

Second, no one ever suggested that preachers deal only in abstract, logical, ideal concepts and principles. With the exception of perhaps

the Puritans, homiletics for centuries have enjoined their students to use illustrative materials that will provide "windows" through which truth can be more easily grasped.

Most of us were taught that explanation, argumentation, application and illustration should develop each point of a sermon. Stories, parables and comparisons do shed enormous light on propositional truth.

Third, how can anyone read the *Sermon on the Mount* or the *Olivet Discourse*, for example, and not observe that Jesus was teaching principles and concepts, presented as propositions? To be sure, He illustrated with homey stories and antidotes to bring truth to light. But that's what any effective communicator will do.

Fourth, the New Testament letters themselves are, for the most part, written expositions which support the verbal expositions already given by the apostles. The epistles provide a strong echo of their actual preaching.

In numerous instances, for example, Paul indicates that his letters merely repeat what he had already said in his personal address to his readers (See: Gal.1:9; I Thess. 3:4; II Cor. 7:3). Even a casual study of Paul's correspondence reveals that the apostle presented propositional truth and then developed it in a logical, orderly fashion.

Finally, it is clear that because the body of revelation has been completed, the preacher's task is not revelatory, only explanatory. Jesus did use parables; we are left to explain them. Paul wrote letters; we are left to exegete them. We can and should use every rhetorical device at our disposal to enhance the explanation, but the preacher of today is not to produce revelation, merely offer explanation. ■

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Thomas Marberry

Dictionary of New Testament Background

By Craig A. Evans and Stanley E. Porter, eds.

(Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000, 1328 pp., hardback, \$39.99).

This is the fourth in a series of major dictionaries of New Testament scholarship published by InterVarsity Press. The first three examine important issues relating to the Gospels, Paul and his letters and the latter New Testament writings.

This fourth dictionary focuses on background issues that affect our understanding of the entire New Testament. This dictionary places the New Testament documents in their literary, historical and religious contexts. It includes some 300 articles of varying lengths by leading scholars in the field.

In a review like this, we do not have space to analyze every article. We should, however, note a few articles that make significant contributions to the study of the New Testament. The article on "Chronology, New Testament" deserves to be included. In this brief but well-researched article, S. E. Porter notes the difficulties that we face in seeking to establish any chronology of the ancient world.

Then he analyzes and evaluates the key chronological evidence found in the New Testament. He concludes that Jesus was born not later than April 4 B.C., began his public ministry about 28/29 A.D., and was crucified in 33 A.D.

After a detailed analysis of the chronological data found in Acts and the Pauline Epistles, Porter concludes that Paul was converted about 33 or 34 A.D. and executed about 64 or 65 during the persecution of Nero.

Several articles are devoted to the Dead Sea Scrolls and how this important archaeological discovery has affected our interpretation of the New Testament. In the article "Dead Sea Scrolls: General Introduction," M. O. Wise notes that it was not until December 1991 that the last of the unpublished manuscripts were finally made available for scholars to study.

He notes that about 225 biblical scrolls have been discovered; these include copies of every book in the Hebrew Old Testament except Esther. The vast majority of these scrolls, however, contain non-biblical materials of various kinds.

Most scholars are of the opinion that these scrolls were left by an ancient Jewish sect known as the Essenes. Prior to the discovery of these scrolls, little was known about this group. The myriad of documents found near the Dead Sea help us better understand the theological milieu in which the New Testament was born.

All the New Testament books were written in areas under the control of the Roman Empire. This dictionary contains a number of articles dealing with different aspects of life in this the largest and most powerful of the ancient empires. The article on "Roman Administration" examines how the various cities and provinces were governed and controlled.

The article on "Roman East" examines how Rome dealt with its eastern provinces including Palestine. The article on "Roman Emperors" analyzes the careers of the leading emperors of the first century. The article on "Roman Governors of Palestine" summarizes what we know about the obscure figures who controlled daily life in Palestine during the New Testament era. He devotes special attention to Pontius Pilatus, Antonius or Claudius Felix and Porcius Festus.

This comprehensive dictionary contains something for everybody. If you have an interest in home and family life, it contains an interesting article on "Children in Late Antiquity." It also has a detailed article on "Family and Household." There is even an article on "Circuses and Games."

If you have an interest in history, there are several well-written articles

on various aspects of Jewish history. If you would like to know more about the various theologies and religious systems current in the first century, there is an article on the theologies of the various Jewish sects.

There is also an article on the mystery religions that outlines how these systems were similar to Christianity in some ways and very different in other ways. There is a good article on the subject, "Religion, Greco-Roman."

There are few reference works available today that contain the breadth and depth of information found in this volume. It helps us understand what life was like in the Roman Empire of the first century. It gives us an understanding of how the people lived, what they believed and how they understood their world. In particular, this dictionary addresses in a comprehensive way the complex issues relating to Jewish life under Roman control.

This large volume can help us do a better job of preaching and teaching from the books of the New Testament. It would be a valuable addition to any pastor's library and to every church library. ■



Jack Williams

The Queen of Butler Road

Her name was Bonnie and in the 1950s she ruled a dusty kingdom of tall boys not far from Bayou Macon in northeast Louisiana. A different kind of queen, Bonnie reigned with no castle, no crown, no servants, no jewels and no privacy. Her chariot was a hard-used pick-up truck, her scepter a rolling pen covered in flour.

She came into my life before I was old enough to know she was there. Which means that Queen Bonnie has been around for more than 50 years. How old is she? One never asks royalty that question, but I can say this much. Bonnie Butler was a wife and busy mother before Elvis Presley grew his first duck tail.

To me she is ageless. She looked younger in August 1998 than she did in 1960 when Butler Road was still called "that dirt road leading to Sardis Free Will Baptist Church." Be sure to smile if you call her "Queen Bonnie," because she doesn't claim the title. Everybody calls her "Sister Bonnie," or just "Bonnie" will do.

Hound dogs. Three years before I got converted, I came under fierce conviction about sin and decided to ride my bicycle to Bonnie's house late one night and talk with her husband about getting saved. A bad mistake on my part since her boys kept a yard full of fox hounds.

Every dog on the Butler farm chose that night to stay up and watch the 10 o'clock news. When my bicycle crunched the gravel in front of their house, those hounds set up a howl that chased the conviction out of me. I out-pedaled two Blue Ticks and a Redbone to a curve in the road. Don't tell Bonnie, but those dogs of hers kept me in sin three extra years. I'm still embarrassed over it.

Best friend. Bonnie gave me my best friend in high school, one of her

tall boys named Robert. He was a year older and much wiser in the ways of the world. We worked together, dated together, rode the school bus together and got into trouble together.

One Saturday night on the town square, Bonnie's boy Robert saved my life after a very large and angry male individual who seemed to think I had stolen his girl friend came to discuss the matter with malice, wicked intent and 200 pounds of mean attitude. Tall Robert stepped between me and certain death, shoving the misinformed, large angry person away from the car and my throat.

First convert. Bonnie also gave me my first convert after I became a Christian and started preaching. That happened on Sunday morning at Sardis FWB Church where I was pastoring at age 17 as a high school senior.

The sermon ended, the invitation began, and a tall boy stepped from a slat pew to the altar and prayed for forgiveness. Bonnie cried that day. The tall boy was her son Robert, my former bodyguard and partner in mischief. As I recall, Robert was overdue for conversion. He later answered the call to preach and never made his mother cry again.

Longest sermon text. Queen Bonnie was there the day I read the longest sermon text in the history of quarterly meetings, the entire ninth chapter of Luke, all 62 verses. To this day I blame the pulpit committee who selected me to speak during the morning worship service and announced their decision as we were singing the last hymn.

The pulpit committee thought they had done me a favor, but I was desperate. I had driven a pick-up truck loaded with people 30 miles to the quarterly meeting and was so unprepared to speak that it's scary. Even though the truck belonged to

Bonnie, when they announced that I was speaking in three minutes, I wished that we had blown a radiator hose back in Mer Rouge.

Fortunately, my Bible fell open to Luke 9, where I spotted Peter, James and John on the Mount of Transfiguration. I decided to climb up there with them. Unfortunately for the quarterly meeting delegates, I took the long way up and down. God bless Sister Bonnie . . . On the way home, she didn't say one word about me reading a 10-minute text to preach a five-minute sermon.

Quiet rule. I never heard Bonnie raise her voice in anger. That's nothing short of amazing, because I knew her tall boys—Prentis, Robert, Larry, Henry and Jimmy Don. She *may* have raised her voice when I wasn't around, and if she did, she had cause (the causes are listed in the previous sentence).

Bonnie was a Free Will Baptist deacon's wife. She taught Sunday School, mothered her own family as well as any strays that wandered by, ran a restaurant in her kitchen, juggled a house full of people, entertained visiting preachers for dinner and maintained her own quiet serenity in the eye of the storm.

Butler Road probably wasn't named for Bonnie, but it should have been. Most of those who read these words will never meet the quiet queen from West Carroll Parish. But a generation of tall sons and grandsons rises up to call her blessed. And 40 years later, I remember her beautiful smile, her gentle words and the taste of her world-famous black-eyed peas.

This one is for you, Bonnie. I still feel like one of your boys. The short one. ■

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