

# CONTACT

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*While  
We Wait*



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# THE SECRETARY SPEAKS



Melvin Worthington

## Perfect Partners

**T**he escalating number of divorces, single-parent families, unwed mothers, teenage suicide and a host of other problems threaten the family structure. The best manual on marriage is the Bible. God gives us the portrait of a model marriage in Genesis 1-2. Timeless truths for marriage are embedded in these chapters. Couples could greatly benefit by carefully reading God's marriage blueprint.

### The Man

Consider the *account*. God gives a *summarized account* of man's creation, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness . . . So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him: male and female created he them," (Gen. 1:26-27). God provides information regarding the origin and nature of man.

God gives the *specific account* of man's creation, "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul," (Gen. 2:7).

Consider the *assignment*. The Genesis record declares, "And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed . . . And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it" (Gen. 2:8,15).

God placed the perfect man whom He had created in a perfect place and provided for his needs. Adam's assignment was to dress and keep the garden.

Consider the *admonition*. God gave Adam permission to eat the fruit of all the trees in the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:16-17).

### The Mate

*The Lord's Perception. God per-*

*ceived Adam's loneliness.* The Bible record asserts, "And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him," (Gen. 2:18). Adam did not know he needed anything, but God did. God designed Eve to meet that need.

*God perused Adam's list.* God brought the animals before Adam to see what he would call them. Adam named the animals (Gen. 2:19-20). The biblical account concludes, ". . . but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him," (Gen. 2:20).

*The Lord's Provision. God prepared Adam's lady.* Listen to the simple account, "And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and close up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman . . ." (Gen. 2:21-22).

*God presented Adam's lady.* ". . . and brought her unto the man," (Gen. 2:22).

### The Marriage

*The Declaration.* When Adam saw Eve, he declared, ". . . This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man," (Gen. 2:23). Eve was a special creation, different

from all others in the animal kingdom. She was equal to and suitable for Adam in every respect.

*Leave and Cleave.* Both husband and wife must leave their parents and cleave to each other. The marital relationship between husband and wife supersedes the relationship with parents.

*Love and Cherish.* Husbands and wives should love and cherish each other as long as both shall live. That's what we promised in our wedding vows.

*Listen and Communicate.* An important key in any marriage is the ability of each partner to listen and then communicate. Many explosive situations would be avoided if husbands and wives listened and communicated with each other.

*Lead and Compensate.* Husbands and wives must understand their roles and make the necessary adjustments to fulfill that role.

*Loyal and Considerate.* Fidelity to the marriage vows is vital to a happy home. Loyalty to one's spouse and consideration for each other pave the way for marital bliss.

*Live and Contribute.* Learning to live together in harmony and honesty requires practice, patience and perception. Each spouse must make adjustments if social, sexual and spiritual oneness is to be achieved.

*The Description.* The biblical record says, "And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed," (Gen. 2:25). Husbands and wives share unique intimacy. The relationship between husband and wife is used to describe the relationship between Christ and the Church.

God's design for marriage can not be improved, but it can be implemented in every marriage. A renewed focus on biblical principles will provide a positive solution to the dilemma of the family in today's world. ■

### The Secretary's Schedule

#### June 2001

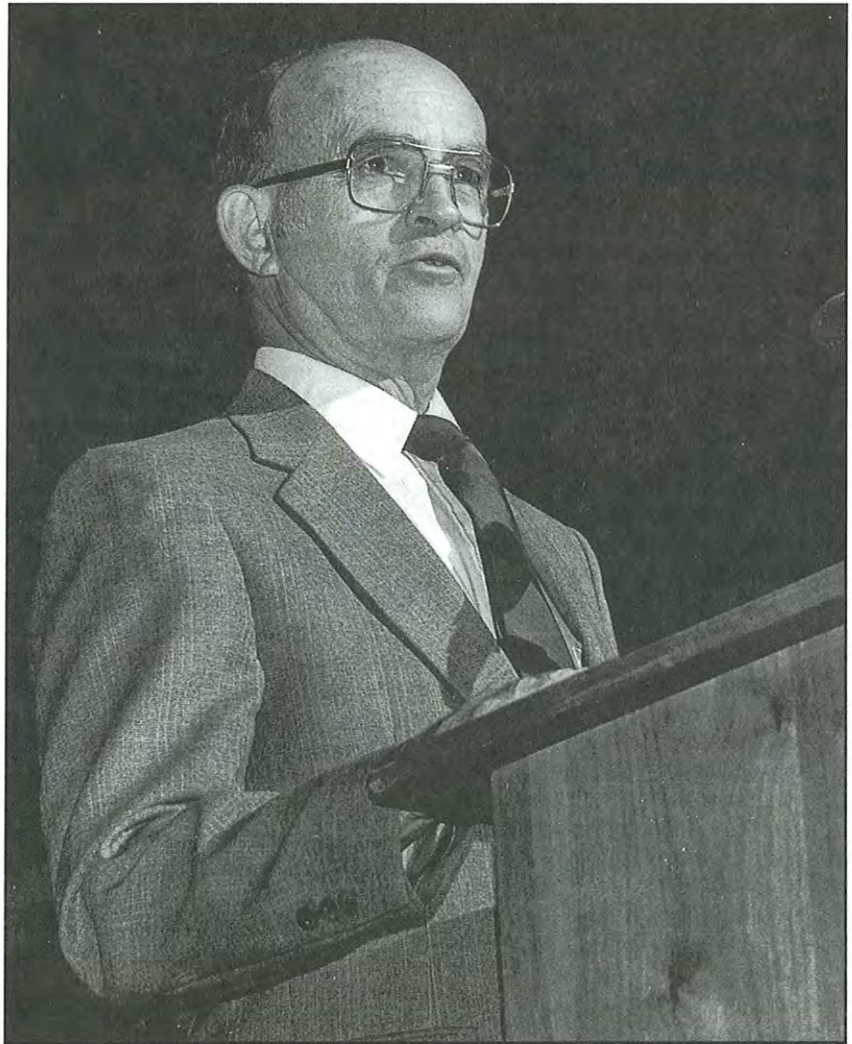
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**Fred was a Preacher's Kid and loved it.**

# Dad Was a Preacher

By Fred Scott



**Ben Scott preaches at National Convention in Fort Worth, Texas, 1982.**

**W**hile visiting a family whose daughter attends our church, I discovered common ground with the father. He, like myself, had grown up in a preacher's home. Our lives, however, had taken far different turns. He had left home at 18, critical of the church, bitter with his father and angry at God. I left home at 18 to attend Free Will Baptist Bible College and later entered the ministry. As I walked away that day, I looked back with renewed gratitude for the opportunity to grow up in a preacher's home.

## **Life in the Parsonage**

Growing up in the parsonage can

sometimes be a burden. Like it or not people's expectations for the pastor and his family can be difficult to live up to. You are expected to look, act and even talk differently.

Sometimes this pressure comes not from the church but from parents who put undo pressure on their children. This pressure to live up to the expectations of others can sometimes turn the preacher's own children away from any desire to become involved in full-time Christian service.

Growing up in the parsonage also has its blessings. Some of my most cherished childhood memories are of visiting missionaries and evangelists who stayed in our home. Because of more flexible hours, Dad could often

be at baseball practice. He could be there to pick me up from school. As far as I am concerned, the blessings far outweighed the burdens.

## **Life with Dad**

I consider myself fortunate. My dad, Ben Scott, is a second-generation preacher. Dad preached his first sermon in June 1944. For over 50 years, he pastored Free Will Baptist churches in Missouri, Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Even though he is now retired from full-time pastoring, his ministry continues through the ministries of his three sons who all followed in his footsteps. Did Dad set out to raise three preachers? No, but I do believe



having three sons in the ministry is the by-product of our home life. Dad provided an environment that gave us respect for the ministry and at the same time protected us from some of the pitfalls that turn some kids away from full-time Christian service.

### Man of Character

As I reflect upon what Dad did right, it all begins with his own personal character. In a day and age when personal character is mocked, ridiculed and lacking, Dad stands tall. As he once wrote about his own dad, "If he were a tree he'd be an oak. If he were a rock, he'd be granite."

I sat and listened to my dad preach sermons week after week and year after year, but what impacted my life most is that which was preached Sunday from the pulpit was lived out in our home the rest of the week. He taught me that the Christian faith is real, that serving God is not just lip service but a way of life.

When he preached on faith, I saw that faith lived out in our home. When he preached on compassion, I watched as he brought comfort to a family that was hurting.

Stephen Lawson in his book, *The Legacy*, says, "If Jesus Christ is to be real in the lives of our children, then He must first be real in our own lives. We cannot leave what we do not live. We cannot pass on what we do not possess. Who we are is more important than what we do."

Thanks, Dad, for being a model of Christian character in the pulpit and in the home.

### Man of Balance

Balance was a key ingredient in our home life. Like any pastor's family, our life revolved around church activities. Pastoring a church is 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but so is raising a family. Dad did a wonderful job of balancing the work of the church with being there as a father.

No matter what was going on, he always found the time to be with us. Times of serious discussion were balanced with the sound of laughter. Quarterly meetings on Saturday were balanced with football games on Friday night. Fishing for men on Sunday

was balanced with fishing for bream on Monday.

There always seemed to be time for a quick game of catch, a game of horse or just sitting on the porch swing and talking. There never seemed to be a conflict between the church and the home. While the church work was of great importance, so was raising sons.

### The Great Encourager

Throughout my life, even today, Dad has been my biggest encourager. Dad never put pressure on any of us to enter the ministry. Dad's desire was to raise up sons who loved the Lord and would serve Him faithfully.

He simply encouraged us to find God's will for our life, follow it and finish it. He encouraged us to be faithful and obedient to the call of God no matter where it might lead us. He encouraged us to develop our spiritual gifts and use our talents for the glory of God.

One of the greatest baseball players of all time was number seven for the New York Yankees, Mickey Mantle. When it came to baseball, Mickey hit a home run. But when it came to life and raising his three sons in particular, Mickey Mantle struck out.

Two of his sons became alcoholics and a third died at age 36 from an addiction to pain-killing drugs. The bold print on the cover of *People* magazine said it all, "The Private Mickey Mantle: He Played Hard And Lived Harder; Often At His Family's Expense."

Dad's name may never appear in marquee lights and he may never hear the cheers of the great crowds. But when it came to raising his three sons, Ben Scott hit a home run. Thanks, Dad! ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Reverend Fred Scott pastors Garner Free Will Baptist Church in Garner, North Carolina.

## Ben Scott said it . . .

*"If I were the Lord and saw church members in bed on Sunday morning, I'd send an angel to sprinkle their beds with a generous serving of itching powder."*

*"Jesus told Nicodemus that he didn't need a rabbi—he needed a Redeemer!"*

*"A little boy's daddy will have more influence on him than a boatload of Baptist preachers."*

*About his father—"He cut no corners and pulled no shady deals. The banker trusted him. Neighbors sought his counsel. He spoke often of a city called Heaven."*



There's more to being a father than putting food on the table.

# Zachary Has Two Daddies

By Shawn K. Hartzog



I am a father. Wow! What a statement. Yes, I have two children who are precious to me—Zachary, 4½, and Caroline, almost 3. They have taught me many lessons as I try to get the hang of this fatherhood thing.

I also study the Word of God, I own a graduate degree in psychology, and every now and then some soul asks me for advice about how to parent. Some even pay for this service, which surprises me since I barely know how to raise my own children.

So after explaining that credit for

any success we're having with our children goes to God's grace and my wife Kelly (an outstanding stay-at-home mom), I provide them with whatever information I've picked up lately by listening to Kelly.

## Adoption: A Father's Point of View

For the past year I have worked for a ministry called Bethany Christian Services. Being the only male employee (within this organization) in the entire state of North Carolina carries with it some unique opportunities.

For instance, every time someone decides to rearrange office furniture, we know who they call. I am also the resident computer expert, technician and handyman.

Along with these work opportunities, I have the opportunity to place children with adoptive parents and pray for the families. These prayers are usually for the future of their new child and their role as parents.

The fact that I am a man and a father means that I bring the perspective of a father to these adoption ceremonies.



## God's Example

What I have found is that fathers need encouragement. Men are increasingly criticized nowadays, and their importance as fathers is often greatly underestimated.

The words I usually find myself uttering while praying for the adoptive husband go something like, "Help him to learn of You so that he may become the kind of Father that You have been to us."

That is a tremendous request when you think about it. There is no greater example of parenthood than what God has provided for us.

He is our heavenly Father. Jesus asked a poignant question, "Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Matt. 7:9-11).

## "Abba" Kind of Father

There is no comparison between the kind of Father that God is and the kind that human fathers are, myself included. However, I long for God to make me the kind of father that exemplifies the grace of Christ.

This is the kind of grace that can only be produced by the power of the Spirit of God. And its yield is the kind of father that draws the words out of his children even as the believer adoringly says of God, "Abba, Father."

Though I have been a father for almost five years now, I continue to struggle with how I am supposed to become this kind of father.

## Scary Side of Fatherhood

What is frightening is the knowledge that my son, Zachary, wants to be just like me. I do know that God has granted me an abundance of love for my little ones, and I would lay down my life to keep them from harm.

But I am far from being the kind of Father that God has been to me. So I pray daily that God will father my children, and that He will teach me how to be that kind of *Abba* father.

## Zachary's Second Birth

One evening Zachary came marching into the living room and proudly proclaimed, "I asked Jesus to come into my heart and forgive me of my sins."

After hours of cross-examination under bright kitchen lights because we just knew that he couldn't possibly understand what he had just said, we concluded that he did understand what he had just said.

"Whatever we have been doing, something is working," I told my wife. Then, in her kind way of being able to gently drop an anvil on your toe and have you feel grateful to her for having done such a compassionate thing, she reminded me that it is only by God's grace that our children are being saved.

## Fatherhood: Heritage of Faith

While Kelly was right, God's grace does nothing to diminish the role that God has given us to impart a heritage of faith to our children. This testimony from the mouth of my son was exactly what we had been praying for since he was conceived.

This heritage of faith is how the nation of Israel became the chosen people of God.

We learn from Paul, "That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed," (Rom. 9:8). He goes on to explain how Jacob was chosen by God because of the faith of his father Isaac and his grandfather Abraham.

Likewise, Exodus 20 says, "For I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

And Paul teaches in I Corinthians 7:14 that children of a believer are set apart ("holy") because of the belief of even one parent.

## Zachary's Other Daddy

The gravity of this responsibility crept up on me the subtle way a Mack truck crashes into your bedroom while you're sleeping.

As I was tucking my son into bed

one night, he rolled over to look at me and say, "I love you, Dad." I told him that I loved him too. Then he said, "I'm glad you're my daddy. I'm glad that Jesus is my daddy too."

As I choked back tears of gratitude to my heavenly Father, I hugged my boy and said, "Me too, son. Me too." ■



**ABOUT THE WRITER:** Shawn Hartzog serves as an adoption caseworker at Bethany Christian Services in Asheville, North Carolina. He is also director of the agency's counseling program. Bethany is a pro-life ministry.

Shawn is an alumnus of Free Will Baptist Bible College, Lipscomb University and Middle Tennessee State University. While in Tennessee, he was employed as a psychologist for Metro Nashville School System.

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A leading pastor looks at the state of Free Will Baptist Christian day schools

# Christian Schools Re-Visited

By Dann Patrick



I am president of the Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Christian Day Schools. Fifty-three of us met recently for our annual Pastors and Principals Conference. We had a good meeting with challenging sermons, seminars and great fellowship. Dr. Charles Walker, president of the Tennessee Association of Christian Schools, was our principal speaker along with five Free Will Baptist school pastors and principals.

Our group will soon celebrate its 30th anniversary. The genesis of our fellowship was on the campus of Free Will Baptist Bible College where we met several years. We later met at an

off-campus location in Nashville, and for the past several years in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

A pastor once answered when queried about the state of his church that, "They are holding their own." Sadly, in some ways, that seems to be the state of our fellowship as well.

No, our member schools are not dying or weak and anemic. As a matter of record, our member schools are strong. Dr. Walker said in Pigeon Forge that all the Free Will Baptist schools he had been in were good schools and that he had, "never been in a bad Free Will Baptist Christian day school."

## Public School Malaise

In our denomination however, the Christian day school movement is weak. Almost no schools are being started and there is little interest it seems.

Why is that? Probably because most in our group are a part of the public/government school system. They either teach in it, have children in it or are preparing to go into it. For the most part, Free Will Baptists seem satisfied with that.

For us in the Christian school movement, it is not just that there is so much wrong with the government schools



(even worse today than the 70s when our organization began). What with humanistic philosophy, evolution, anti-God and anti-Bible curriculum, unsaved teachers (in many cases), daily temptation of scantily-clad classmates, lack of discipline that breeds a threat of violence, illegality of prayer, soul winning and honoring our God—the one and only true God, it seems a given to me that Christians would want a Christian school.

As I have said before, the Christian day school should be to a Christian what water is to a duck—a natural environment.

### Christian Education Mandate

Christian education is a mandate. It is a command to families (Deut. 6:4-9, Prov. 22:6) and to churches (Matt. 28:19-20; II Tim. 2:2). How we can properly be obedient to this command as parents and church members without the help and aid of a Christian school is beyond me.

### Christian School Days

Of course, the school I know best is the one where I am, Faith Christian Academy. Let me give briefly some events that occurred recently.

### Teachers' Meeting

It is 7:45 a.m. Wednesday morning, my morning to meet with the teachers. We gather and I tell them that to be a good Christian day school teacher, the kind of teacher we want at Faith Christian Academy, they need to know four things.

1. They must know Christ. I tell them this is basic. It is essential. Not just in salvation but a daily walk. Lead students by example to want to know Christ.
2. They must know their students. We visit each home. We are interested in Johnny's and Susie's soul as well as their mom's and dad's. We have won many to Christ.
3. They must know their curriculum. Christian education demands excellence by its nature.
4. They must know the best teaching methods. No discipline, no learning.

We have prayer together, then go to our respective areas of ministry. *Who wouldn't want that for their child?*

### Chapel

It is now 9:15 a.m., time for chapel. This is my day to preach. Our youth pastor preaches on Monday; I preach on Wednesday.

In opening remarks, I read to them from an article in the previous night's edition of our local newspaper. The article is on the front page and titled, "Study Finds Textbooks Rife with Inaccuracies." I quote from the article, "None of the 12 textbooks [evaluated] has an acceptable level of accuracy," (AP—Randall Chase).

I tell them we have one book that is the basis of truth and the anchor of our curriculum and that it is not only accurate, but inerrant from cover to cover: the Bible. *Who wouldn't want that for their child?*

I preach a message from II Corinthians 10:1-6 about the mind. I warn them about the battle that exists for the mind. I tell them about the dangers of pornography, bad TV and more, that those things will poison their minds and make them vulnerable to the ungodly lifestyles of our day. Again, *Who wouldn't want that for their child?*

### Evangelism

It is now 3:15 p.m., time for one of the best and most vibrant organizations at our school. It is teen soul winning and evangelism time. Weekly, attendance averages around 60. Weekly, our teens win folks to Christ. When they come back, they are always excited.

One eighth grader came to me recently at prayer meeting with a smile and tears and said, "Preacher, I won my first soul today." We hugged. That excites me more than beating the cross-town rival in basketball. *Who wouldn't want that for their child?*

### Competition

It is now Thursday evening. A high school senior comes to my home at 7:00 p.m. He is getting ready for his "Famous Speech or Sermon" competition in our Southeastern Association of Christian Schools (SACS) Fine Arts. My wife will work one-on-one

with him for an hour and a half.

His speech selection is Billy Sunday's famous sermon about liquor. Here he is at the pastor's home, instructed and helped particularly by the pastor's wife, and he is memorizing one of the hottest sermons in history about the ravages of alcohol. Again, *who wouldn't want that for their child?*

### Bottom Line

I fear that I will be seen as braggadocios with the following statements, but I will chance it to make a point. We annually send several students (this year 17) to Christian colleges and have had a host of them go into full-time Christian service, besides those we have seen become good Christian professionals. We now have 48 full-time Christian workers from our church. I believe the Christian school has been a major part of that. *Who wouldn't want that for their family and children?*

That is why the present status of Christian day schools among Free Will Baptists is sad to me. My question is, *Why wouldn't we want that for our children?* ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Dr. Dann Patrick pastors Faith Free Will Baptist Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina.



When it's time for God to call Christian workers, He surprises us all. Ever wonder why?

# Do You See a “David”?

By Becky Gwartney



**W**e've all heard the song, *Only a Boy Named David*, and sung it in Children's Church as a child or adult leader. The song tells how much young David could do. How many “Davids” do we have sitting in our pews or our Sunday School classes each week? (Boys or girls who don't amount to much in the eyes of the world, but who could be great instruments for good in the kingdom of God.) Sometimes adults tend to judge children or teenagers by what we see instead of looking at them through the eyes of God.

## Paul's Four Boys

At a student workers' conference, I heard Paul Borthwick tell about four boys who sat in his Sunday School class each week with their arms crossed, chairs leaning back and not paying attention. This went on week after week. Paul knew that those

boys were only there because their parents forced them to come.

He spoke of the frustration with their attitudes and wondered if they would ever listen to him or to God. But Paul believed in the boys. He knew that God had a purpose for their lives. He challenged the student workers to “not lose sight of what God can make in someone.” Two of those boys are now in full-time ministry, and another is a Bible translator in Albania. “It's amazing what young people can do when you believe in them,” stated Paul.

I agree with Paul Borthwick. I've seen God take lumps of clay and form them into beautiful vessels of honor. During the 21 years I've worked with students, I've seen many that the world and the church would have thrown away become tender-hearted, loving, servants of God. I've been amazed as God took the castaways and formed them into teachers, musicians, preachers, missionaries, youth pastors, Sunday School teachers, chil-

dren's ministry workers, leaders in the church, leaders in the community.

Our attitudes limit God. What a shame, especially when we look back at our own lives—What did we have to offer God? What good could we have done to further the kingdom? Maybe we possessed natural talent, but what is that without God molding it and using it for His glory?

## The Original David

While I was reading I Samuel 16, verse one stopped me dead in my tracks. God spoke as vividly as if He were sitting there Himself. “*Fill your horn with oil and go!*” kept turning over in my head and my heart. I did some backtracking in the scriptures to get the context, and finished reading chapter 16.

Saul had been anointed king and had goofed up royally. Samuel was devastated and mourned about this. God told him in verse one to quit



mourning, get refreshed and go anoint another to do the job.

Sometimes in ministry, students turn away from our teaching and, more dangerously, turn away from God. We may experience a time of grieving or mourning over those students. That is natural if we have loved them and poured ourselves into them. We cannot give up on them to ease the pain, but must turn them over to God.

He has told me, as He may tell you, just as He did Samuel—quit mourning, get refreshed and anoint another. God wants us to spend time in His presence, which brings healing, and then pour what He teaches us into others who will carry the torch (II Tim. 2:2).

God told Samuel to anoint the youngest of a family of boys—a son no one else would have chosen for the job. In I Samuel 16:7 He said (my paraphrase) that it's not what the world sees or what others see, but what God sees in the heart that really counts. Later, David was Saul's armor bearer; he was used to refresh him and encourage him.

This young shepherd boy, David, went on to become Israel's greatest king and "a man after God's own heart." There are students in every youth group just like David. The world may overlook them, but God wants to use them. They just need to be molded and "anointed."

In the years that I have been involved in student ministry, I have known many "Davids." Some were shy and insecure teenagers. Some were from poor backgrounds, broken homes and shattered families. Some were loud, boisterous and craved attention. All were in need of the same things: love, understanding and someone to believe in them. Here are three of their stories.

### *Laci the Freshman*

Laci was a high school freshman when she first visited our youth group and church. She was shy and insecure, and had tried to commit suicide. Her parents were not only divorced, but her father had deserted the family when she was two years old. Her mother and step-father, with whom she lived, were involved in worldly activities and addictions.

Laci found love and acceptance in

Jesus. She also found love and acceptance in our youth group, church and in our home. As Laci continued through high school, she remained faithful to church and faithful to God. After two years of junior college in her hometown, Laci continued her education at one of our Free Will Baptist colleges.

There, God burdened her heart for children. She began working toward a degree in education, and then felt that God could use her best in counseling. After graduation, Laci was offered a teaching position at the Christian school in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. During her first year, she led eight children in her class to the Lord. God is also using this young woman in the children's ministry at the Free Will Baptist Church in St. Croix.

When the world (or even the church) observed Laci in her freshman year of high school, did they see the potential God saw? Did they see how she could be used for His glory? Maybe not. But I did... I saw a "David."

### *Dee the Eighth-Grader*

Dee was in eighth grade when I met her. She was from a single-parent family (never knowing her father's identity until after graduation), raised on food stamps and welfare, extremely bashful, but very intelligent. Dee had been a Christian since she was a child and had remained faithful to church, no matter what the cost.

The summer after Dee's eighth grade year, she answered the call to missions while at summer camp. Dee's tender heart made mine crumble. I took note of her willingness, her faithfulness and her love for Jesus. Some Christians doubted that this young teen could know for sure what God wanted in her life, but she never looked back.

Instead, she prepared herself for her calling—graduating with honors from high school and then from one of our Free Will Baptist colleges with pre-nursing and missions degrees, going on to another Christian university for her bachelors of science degree in nursing, attending two different language schools and, finally, tropical medicine school.

Dee was ready to be used where God had called her. What did she have to give Him? Just what He had

given her—a tender heart, a love for people, a willingness to work, an intelligent mind and a heart for Him.

Did people view Dee in junior high and high school and say, "Wow! There goes a girl that God is going to use"? Not many. At least one did... I saw a "David."

### *Evan the Collegian*

Evan is a freshman in college. He was always one to push the limits in youth group or Sunday School. His parents are Christians, but were not saved when he was a child. Evan's personality is different from most. He likes to explore, to see what makes people tick, to get people riled-up about something.

Evan is talented in drama and art. He has so much to offer the Lord and His work. He just can't see it (or believe it). I have known for many years that God has something special in store for Evan's life, and have told him that continually.

We've yet to see where God will lead this young man and what great things God is going to do in and through him. I believe in Evan, and I believe that he has a heart for God. I see another "David."

As I write this, I think of others I could tell you about. So many lives that were "only a boy named David" that God has used. I challenge you to view the children and students in your church the way God views them, to see their heart, to see what they can become and their need for someone to believe in them. You can be the one to see the "Davids" among you. ■



ABOUT THE WRITER: Mrs. Becky Gwartney is active in youth outreach at Locust Grove Free Will Baptist Church in Locust Grove, Oklahoma.



How opening your heart to unusual people can brighten your life.

# When Friends Drive You Crazy

By Joan Martin



**I**n many moves about the country, I wasn't eager to count as friends those irritating, unlikable people I met. Yet, some of my deepest relationships have resulted from knowing them.

When I allowed God to stretch me enough, I found a friend.

With each move, I ask Him for three special friends. God always gives them to me, but sometimes it is a long wait. Even in waiting there are lessons in patience and acceptance. Some of those people I would never have chosen:

## *Those who feel they are super spiritual*

I can't compete. When they ask, "You remember what God said in . . ."

(whatever scripture they quote). At one time I was embarrassed that I did not know. Now I ask, "Why don't you tell me?" I'm not concerned I didn't memorize every verse they know.

The benefit to me in accepting "super spiritual" people is I must be careful of how I speak of my knowledge. I can help them and me by not allowing them to act in a condescending way.

## *People who ignore me*

This hurts but I try not to take it personally, knowing the unusual person probably ignores others too. They need my friendly spirit returned.

One day I was ready to give up on Jean as I passed her in church. God seemed to be saying, "Invite her to lunch."

I argued, "She's ignored me too often." Yet in the next breath I found myself blurting out the invitation.

Jean answered immediately, "I'd enjoy that."

I knew that day it was worth trying over and over to win a person as my friend.

## *Those whose tongues and spirits are sharp*

I can sand down my comment with the soft answer spoken of in Proverbs 15:1. The benefit to me is to watch my own tongue. I can suggest to my unusual person, "Let's be careful how we speak to Warren. He's easily hurt."

Sometimes confronting in a gentle



way will help them to remember next time. Often those with sharp remarks are easily hurt themselves.

### ***Powerful, intimidating people who try to dominate others***

A columnist wrote, "Cheat me once, shame on you. Cheat me twice, shame on me." This can apply in allowing others to walk over us.

Many years ago, an older woman kept putting me down as I led a business meeting. It nearly finished my leadership role as I was close to tears.

I summoned the courage to ask her to meet with me after the meeting. She did, and I asked, "Do you realize how many people are afraid of you?" The woman looked at me in disbelief as I explained to her why I was so hurt. Then I drove home and cried all night.

In a gentle manner, tempered with respect, we can let it be known that we are responsible for the outcome of what we do. Listen to advice, but make the final decision without apology.

### ***A person who is not intimidating, but firm and pushy***

When as a young mom, my own mother accepted Christ as her Savior, a person approached her in church and said, "Now that you are a Christian, you should be able to pray aloud."

Mother tried, but not ready yet, she

ended up in tears. Great harm was done to her ability to speak before a group.

It might be wise to say, "I'm not sure of how I feel. I'll pray and let you know. You would want God's answer for me, wouldn't you?"

I've learned to say a firm, but kind, "No," without an explanation.

### ***Someone who grumbles constantly***

I can model my own thankful spirit. Reminding the unusual person of God's goodness is helpful. One morning I fell on the ice just outside church. I hurt my arm.

My friend said, "Isn't it wonderful you didn't break anything?" The rain falls on the just and the unjust and I will have my share of both (Matt. 5:45).

### ***God told me***

This sentence leaves no room for disagreement. After all, if the Lord gave instruction, who are we to argue? Yet, knowing Satan places thoughts in our minds, we can mention this to the speaker. "It may be the Lord, or Satan, and it may be your own will. Are you sure this is God?"

We know God speaks to our minds and hearts, but we need not believe everyone who says they heard from God. Time will tell if they did.

It is better to say, "I feel the Lord is speaking to me but I will wait and see. If He is, I'll know." This is humil-

ity. It helps me remain silent and wait. If I feel God is speaking, I often keep it between Him and me.

### ***People who know all the answers***

We have all thought we had a sure answer, only to find out later that we were wrong. We need not always take the advice of others as God's advice. Simply walking away can help us from becoming angry.

Praying for those who rub us the wrong way is always a correct answer. We must have tolerance given by the Holy Spirit for we can fall too (1 Cor. 10:12).

An invitation to lunch, a kind word or a soft answer may be the first attempt at friendship anyone has made to an usual or irregular person. They can be lonely people who don't know how to win people. Proverbs 18:19 says a brother or sister offended is more unyielding than ever.

When God directs my attempts to show His love to irritating people, my dislike can give way to friendship. If I allow Him to teach me through these attempts, I grow in my Christian walk. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Joan Martin is a free-lance writer who lives in Wayzata, Minnesota.

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## **BEYOND BELIEF**



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Includes National Youth Conference and WNAC programs

# The National Association of Free Will Baptists

**65th Annual Session / July 15-19, 2001**

**Cobo Center  
Detroit, Michigan**



**David Bishop**  
Arkansas



**Danny Dwyer**  
Alabama



**Leonard Pirtle**  
Oklahoma



**Gene Norris**  
Michigan



**Carlisle Hanna**  
India

## Theme: "While We Wait"

**All events are at Cobo Center unless  
otherwise specified.**

**Theme:** "While We Wait"

**Moderator:** Carl Cheshier

**Organist:** Jamie Patrick

**Pianist:** Jerry Carraway

**Orchestra Conductor:** Chris Truett

**Registration Coordinator:** Dari Goodfellow

**Headquarters Hotel:** Marriott Renaissance Center

**Convention Office:** Room W2-58 / Cobo Center

### SUNDAY MORNING / JULY 15

**10:00 - SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**10:45**

Adult Class	Arena
Preschool Class (Ages 3-5)	Room W2-63
Children's Class (Grades 1-3)	Room W2-64
Tweener Class (Grades 4-6)	Room W2-65
Teen Class (Grades 7-12)	Rooms W1-51&52

**10:45** Intermission

**11:00 - MORNING WORSHIP**

**12:00**

Adult Church	Arena
Preschool Worship (Ages 3-5)	Room W2-63
Children's Worship (Grades 1-3)	Room W2-64
Tweener Worship (Grades 4-6)	Room W2-65
Teen Worship (Grades 7-12)	Rooms W1-51&52

### SUNDAY AFTERNOON / JULY 15

**12:15** NYC Personnel Luncheon Windsor Room

**12:30 - WNAC Executive Committee** Hotel Pontchartrain  
**1:15** Luncheon Ontario Room C

**1:00 - Early Registration** Michigan Hall  
**3:00** (Pre-Registered Only)

**1:15** Registration Orientation Edgewater Room

**1:30 - WNAC Executive** Hotel Pontchartrain  
**4:30** Committee Meeting Executive Board Room



<b>3:00</b> -	Registration Begins	Michigan Hall
<b>6:30</b>	(continues until Wednesday noon)	
<b>4:00</b>	Horizon/Turning Point Pre-Test Session #1	Room W2-61
<b>4:00</b>	Reach That Guy Service Project Orientation	Room O2-37
<b>5:00</b>	Usher Orientation	Edgewater Room
<b>5:00</b>	Music Rehearsal	Arena

### SUNDAY EVENING / JULY 15

<b>7:00</b> -	Convention Assembly	Arena
<b>8:30</b>	Preschool Worship (Ages 3-5)	Room W2-63
	Children's Worship (Grades 1-3)	Room W2-64
	Tweener Worship (Grades 4-6)	Room W2-65
	Teen Worship (Grades 7-12)	Riverview Ballroom
<b>8:30</b>	Convention Choir Rehearsal	Arena
<b>8:30</b> -	Registration Continues	Michigan Hall
<b>10:00</b>		
<b>9:00</b> -	NYC Judges' Reception	Room W2-62
<b>10:00</b>	Children's Activities	Windsor Room
	Tweener's Activities	Windsor Room
<b>9:00</b> -	Youth Activities	Room W1-51
<b>11:00</b>		
<b>9:15</b>	Music Rehearsal	Arena

### MONDAY MORNING / JULY 16

<b>7:00</b> -	General Board Breakfast	Detroit Marriott
<b>7:45</b>		Michaelangelo Room
<b>7:00</b> -	Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal	Arena
<b>9:00</b>		
<b>7:30</b> -	Missionary Orientation	Room O2-42
<b>8:30</b>	(For Exhibit Schedule)	
<b>8:00</b> -	General Board Convenes	Detroit Marriott
<b>2:30 p.m.</b>	Columbus Ballroom	
<b>8:00</b> -	NYC Art Gallery Opens	Room W2-67
<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	Table Top Displays	
<b>8:00</b> -	Registration Continues	Michigan Hall
<b>6:30 p.m.</b>		
<b>8:30</b> -	NYC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES	
<b>12:00 noon</b>	Music and Arts Section 1	Room W1-52
	Music and Arts Section 2	Portside Room
	Music and Arts Section 3	Windsor Room

Music and Arts Section 4	Room W2-68
Bible Bowl	Room W2-65
Bible Tic Tac Toe	Room W2-64
Sword Drill/Bible Memorization	Room W2-66

<b>9:00</b> -	Reach That Guy Service Project	Room O2-37
<b>10:00</b>	Orientation	
<b>9:00</b> -	WNAC Nominating Committee	Room W2-61
<b>11:00</b>	Meeting	

### MONDAY AFTERNOON / JULY 16

<b>1:00</b> -	General Board Reconvenes	Detroit Marriott
<b>2:30</b>		Columbus Ballroom
<b>1:00</b> -	NYC SEMINARS	
<b>4:00</b>	NYC Youth Seminars	Room O2-42
	NYC Children's Seminars	Room O2-40
	NYC Worker Seminars	Room O2-41
<b>1:00</b> -	NYC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES	
<b>4:30</b>	Music and Arts Section 5	Room W1-52
	Music and Arts Section 6	Portside Room
	Music and Arts Section 7	Windsor Room
	Music and Arts Section 8	Room W2-68
	Bible Bowl	Room W2-65
	Bible Tic Tac Toe	Room W2-64
	Sword Drill/Bible Memorization	Room W2-66
<b>1:30</b> -	WNAC Seminar	Room W1-55
<b>2:30</b>		
<b>3:00</b>	Exhibit Area Opens	Michigan Hall
<b>3:00</b> -	WNAC State Leaders Meeting	Room W1-55
<b>4:00</b>		
<b>3:00</b> -	Pastors/Laymen Conference	Arena
<b>5:00</b>		
<b>3:30</b> -	Horizon/Turning Point	Room W2-61
<b>4:30</b>	Pre-test Session #2	
<b>5:00</b>	Michigan WAC Executive Dinner	Room O2-38
<b>5:15</b> -	Benjamin Randall	Hotel Pontchartrain
<b>6:30</b>	Appreciation Dinner	Crowne Ballroom A
<b>6:00</b>	Music Rehearsal	Arena

### MONDAY EVENING / JULY 16

<b>7:00</b> -	Convention Assembly	Arena
<b>8:30</b>	Preschool Worship (Ages 3-5)	Room W2-63
	Children's Worship (Grades 1-3)	Room W2-64
	Tweener Worship (Grades 4-6)	Room W2-65



	Teen Worship (Grades 7-12)	Room W2-52
8:30	Men's Chorale Rehearsal	Arena
8:30 - 10:00	Registration Continues	Michigan Hall
8:30 - 10:00	Exhibit Area Open	Michigan Hall
9:00 - 10:00	Board of Retirement Information Meeting	Rooms O2-35/36
9:00 - 10:00	Children's Activities	Windsor Room
10:00	Tweener's Activities	Windsor Room
9:00 - 10:30	Youth Workers Reception	Hotel Pontchartrain Top of the Ponch
9:00 - 11:00	Youth Activities	Room W1-51
9:15	Music Rehearsal	Arena
10:00	Exhibit Area Closed	

### TUESDAY MORNING / JULY 17

7:00 - 7:45	State Promotional Personnel Breakfast	Detroit Marriott Monet Room
7:00 - 7:45	Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal	Arena
8:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Registration Continues	Michigan Hall
8:30 - 10:30	Foreign/Home Missions Rally	Rooms W1-54/55
8:30 - 10:50	WNAC Convention	Arena
8:30 - 12:00 noon	NYC COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES	
	Music and Arts Section 9	Room W1-52
	Music and Arts Section 10	Room W1-51
	Music and Arts Section 11	Room W2-68
	Bible Bowl	Room W2-65
	Bible Tic Tac Toe	Room W2-64
	Sword Drill/Bible Memorization	Rooms W2-66/61
9:00 - 12:00	Horizon/Turning Point Playoff Rounds	Rooms O2-35/36
10:00 - 12:00	NYC SEMINARS	
	NYC Youth Seminars	Rooms O2-42
	NYC Children's Seminars	Room O2-40
	NYC Worker Seminars	Room O2-41

10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Exhibit Area Open	Michigan Hall
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11:00	WNAC Missionary Service	Arena
12:00	Hillsdale College Luncheon Crowne Ballroom	Hotel Pontchartrain

### TUESDAY AFTERNOON / JULY 17

12:30 - 2:30	WNAC Fellowship Luncheon	Windsor Room
1:00 - 4:00	NYC SEMINARS	
	NYC Youth Seminars	Room O2-42
	NYC Children's Seminars	Room O2-40
	NYC Worker Seminars	Room O2-41
1:00 - 4:30	Music and Arts Section 12	Room W1-52
	Music and Arts Section 13	Room W1-51
2:00 - 4:00	Master's Men Seminar	Room W2-69
3:00 - 4:30	Theological Trends Seminar	Room W2-68
3:00 - 4:30	Sunday School Workshop	Room W2-65
4:00	Music Rehearsal	Arena
5:00	Men's Chorale Rehearsal	Arena
5:00 - 6:30	Youth Blast	Hotel Pontchartrain Crowne Ballroom

### TUESDAY EVENING / JULY 17

7:00 - 8:30	Convention Assembly	Arena
	Preschool Worship (Ages 3-5)	Room W2-63
	Children's Worship (Grades 1-3)	Room W2-64
	Tweener Worship (Grades 4-6)	Room W2-65
	Teen Worship (Grades 7-12)	Room W1-51
8:30	Men's Chorale Rehearsal	Arena
8:30 - 10:00	Registration Continues	Michigan Hall
8:30 - 10:00	Exhibit Area Open	Michigan Hall
9:00 - 10:00	NYC ACTIVITIES	
	Judges Post-Competition Meeting	Room O2-41
	Children's Activities	Windsor Room
	Tweener's Activities	Windsor Room



9:00 - Youth Blast  
11:00 Hotel Pontchartrain  
Crowne Ballroom

10:00 Exhibit Area Closed

### WEDNESDAY MORNING / JULY 18

7:00 - State Leaders Breakfast  
7:45 Detroit Marriott  
Michaelangelo Room

7:00 - Instrumental Ensemble Rehearsal  
8:00 Arena

7:00 - Home Missions Board Breakfast  
8:30 Detroit Marriott  
Greco Room

8:00 - NYC Competitive Finals  
11:00 Room W1-52

8:00 - Registration Continues  
12:00 noon Michigan Hall

9:00 - Convention Business Session  
11:45 Arena

10:00 - NYC SEMINARS  
12:00 noon NYC Youth Seminars Room O2-42  
NYC Children's Seminars Room O2-40  
NYC Worker Seminars Room O2-4

10:00 a.m. - Exhibit Area Open  
10:00 p.m. Michigan Hall

### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON / JULY 18

12:00 Registration Closes  
noon

12:00 - Free Will Baptist Bible College  
1:15 Luncheon Room W2-62

12:00 - Southeastern FWB College  
1:15 Luncheon Hotel Pontchartrain  
Crowne Ballroom

1:00 - NYC SEMINARS  
4:00 NYC Youth Seminars Room O2-42  
NYC Children's Seminars Room O2-40  
NYC Worker Seminars Room O2-41

1:30 - Music Commission Seminar  
3:00 Room W2-66

1:30 - Convention Business Session  
4:00 Reconvenes Arena

4:00 Men's Chorale Rehearsal Arena

5:00 Music Rehearsal Arena

### WEDNESDAY EVENING / JULY 18

7:00 - Convention Assembly  
9:00 Preschool Worship Arena  
Room W2-63

8:30 - Exhibit Area Open  
10:00 Michigan Hall

8:50 - Children's Choir Presentation  
9:00 Arena

9:00 NYC Awards Ceremony Arena

10:00 Exhibit Area Closed

11:00 - Truth & Peace Reception  
1:00 a.m. LaSalle A Detroit Marriott

### THURSDAY MORNING / JULY 19

7:00 - Presidents' Breakfast  
8:00 Detroit Marriott  
Raphael Room

7:00 - Foreign Missions Board  
8:30 Breakfast Detroit Marriott  
DaVinci Room

7:30 - Sunday School Board  
9:00 Breakfast Detroit Marriott  
Monet Room

9:00 Concluding Business Session Arena

9:00 - Exhibit Area Open  
12:30 p.m. Michigan Hall

11:45 Adjournment

12:15 Exhibits Closed  
(30 minutes after convention adjournment)



Marriott Renaissance Center



## Tennessean Picked FWBBC Student President

NASHVILLE, TN—FWBBC students chose 2001-2002 student body officers shortly before spring break in March. Charles Cook, a senior from Cookeville, Tennessee, was elected president. Charles is an English major, minoring in history. Serving with him are:

- **Jenny Lewis**, vice president—Jenny is a junior from Nashville, majoring in psychology.
- **Emilee Kettelman**, secretary-treasurer—Emilee, who is from Nashville, is a sophomore majoring in music education.
- **Gowdy Cannon**, chaplain—Gowdy, a senior, is from Turbeville, South Carolina, and is a youth ministry major.
- **Matthew Turnbough**, worship leader—Matthew is from Madrid, Spain. He is a junior majoring in Bible and minoring in history.



(l) Charles Cook, Jenny Lewis, Emilee Kettelman, Gowdy Cannon, Matthew Turnbough

## Illinois Adopts \$400,000 Budget

PITTSBURG, IL—Delegates to the 41st annual Illinois State Association approved a \$409,000 budget, according to promotional secretary David Shores. The Together Way allocations were adjusted to: National Association (25%), State Missions (24%), Promotional Fund (16%), Camp Fund (16%), General Fund (9%), C. E. Board (5%), CTS Board (4%), Master's Men Board (1%).

The March 16-17 session met at Pittsburg FWB Church in Pittsburg. Moderator Larry Clyatt was elected to his 13th consecutive term. Officials reported 178 people registered for the session, including 43 ministers and 15 deacons.

Four sermons by two ministers developed the as-

sociation theme, "Committed to the Commission." North Carolina pastor Randy Sawyer and Foreign Missions staffer Steve Lytle both spoke twice.

Illinois pastor David Burgess spoke Saturday morning to the Master's Men. Former Illinois congressman Glenn Poshard addressed a Friday afternoon gathering.

The Christian Education Board sponsored a seminar on regulations concerning children's activities at school with educator Steve Balin speaking.

Waltonville pastor Bruce Thurman was elected clerk, succeeding Larry Monday.

The 2002 state association will meet March 15-16 at Green Rock FWB Church in Colona.



## 65 Attend Arizona District

TUCSON, AZ—Moderator George Harvey, Jr., reported that 65 people attended the March 10 Arizona District Association which met at First FWB Church in Tucson. Five ministers, three deacons and 17 visitors joined with the Arizona delegation for worship and business sessions.

The keynote worship service featured a sermon by Carl Cheshier, president of Hillsdale FWB College and moderator of the National Association of Free

Will Baptists. He spoke from Matthew 9:35-38 on the subject, "Lift Up Your Eyes."

William Evans, director of the Board of Retirement, brought a morning devotional. Foreign Missions staffer Rob Conley presented a film focusing on foreign missions' global outreach.

The 2002 district association will meet March 9 at North Valley FWB Church in Phoenix.

## Illinois Church Demonstrates Month-Long Appreciation

WEST FRANKFORT, IL—Members of Harmony FWB Church in West Frankfort, IL, skipped "Pastor Appreciation Sunday" last fall but more than made up for it in February, according to Marian Thompson, church correspondent. Pastor Kenneth Edwards and his wife Shirley were honored in a month-long appreciation effort.

The celebration included two banquets, one to begin the month and another to end the 28 days of activities. Between the

two banquets, members wrote and read poems of appreciation, made public presentations each Sunday, scheduled special speakers and, in general, kept Pastor Edwards smiling all month.

Every day in February the pastor and his wife were surprised with at least one happening. They were taken out to dinner, had dinner delivered and received numerous gift certificates to their favorite restaurant (Cracker Barrel).

Gifts and flowers arrived daily.

Phone calls and cards of appreciation came in waves. The small children presented the pastor with a large red box containing 28 gifts, one for each day. On Valentine's Day, a large wooden painted heart signed by every member was placed in the pastor's front yard.

Family members gathered to participate in the special celebration. The pastor's children and grandchildren were included in the month-long adventure of happiness.

## Jon Forlines Appointed FWBBC Student Dean

NASHVILLE, TN—Free Will Baptist Bible College president Tom Malone announced that alumnus Jon Forlines will begin serving as dean of students at the college in the fall. Mr. Forlines continues in the family tradition, filling the office his father, Leroy, filled years ago.

Jon is a 1980 FWBBC graduate, served as student body president and was elected Best All Around Man for 1979-80. He earned his M.S. (1994) and Ph.D. (1998) in counseling psychology at Tennessee State University. He currently serves as psychological examiner at the Tennessee Prison for Women.

He says, "FWBBC has been an integral part of my life, even before birth, through my parents' service. I owe a great debt to Free Will Baptists in general, and to FWBBC specifically for the investment they have made in my life. For these reasons, it is my honor and sincere intention to reinvest myself in our students so the cause of Christ might be advanced."

His father, Rev. Leroy Forlines, was dean of men for 17 years and dean of students three years.

Jon will join the staff in August.

### Coming Next Month ...

- ☐ Send a Great Revival
- ☐ Return to the Lord's Day
- ☐ More Free Will Baptist News



# currently

Home missionary **David Carlson** can't stop smiling, not since a 15-passenger Dodge van was given to **Paducah FWB Church** in **Paducah, KY**, where he serves. The church keeps the van busy bringing people to worship services each week.

*Contact* welcomes the **Woodbine Writeup**, publication of **Woodbine FWB Church** in **Nashville, TN**. The first edition was delivered by editor **Larry Hampton** in April. **Stanley Outlaw** pastors.

You heard it here first. Pastor **Thurmon Murphy** bought the parsonage at **First FWB Church** in **Wichita Falls, TX**. After living 20 years in the house, why not?

More than 400 people were on hand for the dedication service at **Hannon FWB Church** in **Liberal, MO**. Pastor **George Naumann** said the \$320,000 brick structure was debt-free upon completion. Members worked five years to raise \$200,000 before construction began in March 2000. The nearly 12,000-square-foot building came with new pews and sound system as well as landscaping extras. Five former pastors attended the dedication and one of them preached—**Bob Dickey**.

**Cornerstone FWB Church** in **Denison, TX**, sold their property and purchased the Texas Power and Light office building downtown. Pastor **Clarence Hearron** said the congregation paid \$132,500 for the building, then remodeled it to provide space for a sanctuary, offices, classrooms and fellowship hall. Members are raising funds for a new church steeple which will serve as a memorial to **Juanita Hearron** who died in November 2000.

The youth ministry at **First FWB Church** in **Bowie, TX**, had a transportation problem. The congregation began praying on Sunday, and the following Tuesday a car dealer called Pastor **Larry Cox**. He said someone had paid for a van to be delivered to the church. The anonymous purchaser had bought a \$24,000 16-passenger, 2000 Ford van which came with a "Paid in Full" receipt

attached. And what did Pastor Cox have to say? "Praise God for His goodness!"

Reverend **Larry Cockman** died at age 57. He was pastor of **Pioneer FWB Church** in **Ash Flat, AR**, at the time of his death. Brother Cockman began preaching in 1978 and pastored six churches during his ministry. He helped organize the MO-AR District Association in Missouri.

Reverend **Clarence (Shorty) Thompson** was a deacon for 12 years before answering the call to preach in 1978. He preached his last sermon in September 2000, and died the day after Christmas at age 75. During his ministry, he pastored **Bailey FWB Church** in **Alton, MO**, for 16 years, and led the congregation to erect a new building.

Pastor **Ronnie Mitchell** reports 11 new members and five baptisms at **First FWB Church** in **Mt. Vernon, IL**.

Members of **Green Rock FWB Church** in **Green Rock, IL**, tried out their new fellowship hall and kitchen this spring. Pastor **Sam Henderson** says the fellowship is great and the coffee tastes good.

After two years of construction-related headaches, **Southgate FWB Church** in **Southgate, MI**, occupied their new multi-purpose building. The 6,000-square-foot structure was designed for seminars, Sunday School banquets, athletic events and new ministries. Pastor **Ron Helms**, who has led the church 10 years, says the congregation owes \$150,000 on the building.

**First FWB Church** in **Wellington, KS**, goes to jail every Monday night. Pastor **Zane Brooks** says that souls are being saved there.

**First FWB Church** in **Hutchinson, KS**, observed Layman's Day this spring. Man of the Year and Woman of the Year awards went to **Jack Morgan** and **Nichole Barton**. **Larry Collins** pastors. The congregation needs a new place to meet.

Pastor **John Meade** reports 17 conversions at **Southwest FWB Church** in **Columbus, OH**. The church is prepar-

ing to begin the second phase of their building program.

Nobody's complaining about all the noise at **Faith FWB Church** in **Cleveland, OH**. Pastor **Robert Nelson** said the remodeling effort included vinyl siding, roof and steeple work, a lighted cross on the front of the church . . . and an unexpected \$4,000 gift from the Forest City Civic Association.

Pastor **Randy Smith** reports five conversions, four baptisms and two new members at **Hillsboro FWB Church** in **Hillsboro, OH**.

The pastor at **South Columbus FWB Church** in **Columbus, OH**, is a happy man. That's because Pastor **Richard Hensley** saw a record attendance of 116, six new members and four conversions.

Reverend **William Compton** died in January at age 74. He was pastor of **Kissimmee FWB Church** in **Kissimmee, FL**. Brother Compton was converted in 1949 and began preaching in 1961. The Tennessee native ministered 14 years in Wyoming in addition to his work in Florida where he pastored five churches. He was a World War II veteran.

The **Mississippi** Pastors and Workers Conference met March 15-17 at Buckatunna FWB Church in Buckatunna, MS. Seven worship services featured four ministers who preached: home missionary **Cliff Donoho**, Michigan minister **Rick Locklear** and Mississippi youth pastors **Scott Coghill** and **Bruce Walley**.

The **California** Local Church Leadership Conference met March 26-27 with South Carolina pastor **Earl Hendrix** as guest speaker. ■



# The Indispensable Dad

By Tom Dooley

I recently heard about a farmer who believed in old-fashioned hard work. Day after day this man could be seen working his four sons. From sunrise to sunset, day after day, he put the burden of strenuous labor on them.

One of the man's neighbors who owned the farm next to him, observed the farmer putting his sons through the grind of hard physical toil. The neighbor finally could keep silent no longer and when given the opportunity he leaned across the fence and frankly told his neighbor, "You are working your boys too hard to raise your crops."

Without missing a beat the father responded, "I'm not raising crops, I'm raising boys."

I like that farmer's perspective. Crops certainly don't raise themselves and neither do children. They do not come to us "fully assembled." Kids need dads.

In the New Testament, Ephesians 6:4 speaks specifically to fathers about parental responsibility. The verse reads, "And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." This instruction teaches us volumes about what a father's job is all about.

First, we learn that being a dad requires balance. Ephesians 6:4 contains both a negative and a positive command. It tells us of something we are not to do ("provoke not your children to wrath") and of something we must do ("bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord").

Second, it is important to learn that fathering demands a great deal of time. The phrase "bring them up" is present tense and indicates an on-going process. Fathering certainly does not end in the delivery room. Fathers have the responsibility of being involved in every level of their child's growth and development. That means a dad must invest time in his children.

A study conducted by Harvard Medical School indicates that the average American father spends only about 37 seconds a day interacting with his

children. That is a sad commentary on the state of many homes in our society, even Christian homes. Effective, godly fathering requires time. Remember that little time equals little influence.

Third, let's understand that fathering is a spiritual obligation. "Bring them up" is not a suggestion or just a wise piece of advice. It is an authoritative command for every father. This instruction is a non-negotiable that demands our obedience.

Finally, we need to see that fathering cannot be delegated. Bringing up our children is a personal task. The job cannot be handed off to a school, day-care center, church or even the best of grandparents. Nor is it a responsibility that is primarily for Mom to do. The buck stops with fathers. It is the father's business to bring up his children.

Tonight, more than one-third of America's children will go to bed in a fatherless home. Satan no doubt is pleased because he loves separating men from their families. The media (notice the TV shows) has attempted to convince our culture that fathers are not that essential. Don't buy what they are selling, Dad. You're indispensable! ■

## Upcoming Events

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>July 17</b>         | Master's Men Seminar "Drawing Men to God" at the National Association   |
| <b>August 2</b>        | Master's Men 9th Annual National Fund Raiser Golf Tournament<br>Pine Creek Golf Course<br>Mt. Juliet, Tennessee |
| <b>August 3-4</b>      | Master's Men National Softball Tournament<br>Nashville, Tennessee   |
| <b>September 15-22</b> | St. Croix, Virgin Islands, Mission Trip   |
| <b>September 29</b>    | Operation Saturation  |

For information concerning any of the upcoming Master's Men events, please call toll free 1-877-767-8039.

Master's



Men



## Forty Years and Going Strong: The Missionary Provision Closet

By Marjorie Workman

If you want to see the beginning of the Missionary Provision Closet, don't miss the WNAC Convention in Detroit, Michigan on July 17. You will see the one small suitcase that brought those first linens to Nashville. The suitcase belongs to Lucille Steward from Royal Oak, Michigan.

The Provision Closet grew from that one tiny suitcase of linens to a record of nearly \$90,000 in cash and non-cash gifts in 2000. Cumulative gifts during the past 10 years total \$446,907.38.

The size of the closet has also increased and is currently housed in a 24'x24' storage room at the National Offices Building in Antioch, Tennessee. The room has 11 steel cabinets filled with linens, small appliances and school supplies; shelves from floor to ceiling filled with Tupperware, cookware, dishes, blankets, crockpots, food processors and more; and 16 bins filled with small unstackable items such as measuring spoons, plastic cups, lids and children's toys.

The official birth of the Provision Closet occurred July 10, 1962, at War Memorial Auditorium in Nashville. It happened during the afternoon business session of the 27th annual session of the Woman's National Auxiliary Convention.

The birth came as a result of Resolution #3 from the Resolutions Committee. It was one of 14 resolutions presented that day by committee members Mrs. Rolla Smith (chairman), Mrs. Ralph Staten, Mrs. Gene Rogers and Mrs. Charles Hollingshead.

The resolution read as follows: "Be it resolved that the convention set up a Provision Closet which would provide linens, stainless steel flatware and other domestic items for our missionaries who go to the field."

From the adoption of that third resolution until now, Free Will Baptist women have kept the Missionary Provision Closet stocked. In fact, the next issue of *Co-Laborer* in 1962 carried information about the closet. "We have received a nice amount of linens, especially towels and face cloths," the article reported.

It also gave a needs list for Tupperware, stainless steel flatware, Melmac and pressure cookers. The women were asked to "wrap their gifts in

cellophane in sets of two." This probably referred to linens. Several new missionaries were mentioned who would be going out in 1963 and would be visiting the Provision Closet.

The last issue of *Co-Laborer* in 1963 commended the women for their generous donations, but stated that the closet was somewhat depleted. Items now needed were "50 sheets, Tupperware of all kinds, 4 sets of Melmac (service for eight), 4 sets of stainless steel flatware, 4 pressure cookers, 50 dish towels, 2 layettes and 50 dish clothes."

Since the beginning, *Co-Laborer* has always carried a list of items needed. And our women have always come through. The current issue of *Co-Laborer* lists some of those same items—sheets, towels, Tupperware—but adds others such as irons, electric knives and heavy-duty cookware.

Some frequently asked questions about the Provision Closet are: *Who is eligible to get items from the closet? How often and how much can they get? What are the needs?*

The closet is open to all missionaries approved by the Free Will Baptist Foreign and Home Missions Departments. Missionaries may get items whenever they are at the National Offices. They are provided with a card which suggests quantities that can be taken based on the size of the family and whether they are serving out of the country. To know what items are needed, look in the *Co-Laborer* magazine or call 1-877/767-7662.

Because of our women's continued generosity, now second-generation missionaries Deborah Payne Anderson, David Aycock, Mike Cousineau, Kenneth Eagleton, Lynette Miley Morgan, Dave Franks, Jr., Tim Lewis and Ruth Gage Bivens are visiting the well-stocked Missionary Provision Closet. Praise to our God who supplies all our needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus, (Phil. 4:19). ■

Women Nationally **WNAC+** Active for Christ



## Retirement Checklist

Some people have the tendency to put things off. They say, "I'll have time to take care of that later." There are times that this is okay, but at other times delaying can cause us problems.

One area that does not need to be put off is taking care of retirement details before we actually reach retirement. Start early getting things together so there will be no delays when you are ready to retire. Waiting may cause delays in collecting your social security as well as your pension income.

Below is a "Retirement Checklist" for you to use when thinking about your retirement, whether it will be in the near future or further down the road.

### Ready

or

### Not

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I know approximately what my social security income will be in retirement.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I know my pension benefits in retirement.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I know approximate future income from my investments—IRA and savings.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have completed a net worth statement.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have analyzed my cash flow—monthly and yearly.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have discussed finances with my spouse.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have an up-to-date will.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a power-of-attorney on myself.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have my important papers—including my will—where my family can find them. I have reviewed the papers with my spouse. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a regular exercise program.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I had a physical examination in the past year.   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I've checked my health insurance coverage, both now and for retirement.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I checked my home for safety and maintenance.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I've discussed retirement plans—where to live, what to do with time—with my spouse.                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am involved in at least one social activity—politics, volunteer work, civic and church activities.                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I plan to continue learning after retirement.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |



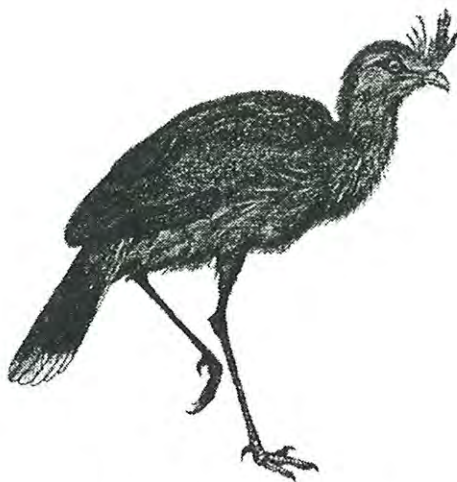
The shrill call of the seriema pierced the early dawn. I rolled over, glanced at the clock, and wondered if I could go back to sleep. But it is hard to go back to sleep when you wonder about the fate of the ugly, yet stately, bird. With the colors and body of a quail, but long legs and neck, the seriema cannot be considered a pretty bird. Near the beak, a group of feathers stand upright on the heads of these birds which reach about three feet in height. With their long legs they can run 40 to 70 kilometers an hour when chased by a car. Their main diet consists of the snakes they kill.

I remember the first time I heard the word "seriema" from Dave Franks in 1991 shortly after beginning the construction of the Free Will Baptist church here in the Buritis area of Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Some seriema lived on the mountain just above our church. We would hear the call and begin looking at the mountain in an attempt to spot the big bird. But I never managed to see one on the mountain. The uninhabited mountains made an excellent nesting area. Then man invaded the area with a 13-floor apartment building, a college, and a grade school. We listened as the seriema chose a new home after each invasion. The birds came closer and closer to the church and our home.

It became easier to spot the seriema and I began to note more things about the bird. Books say the call of the seriema is heard usually just before a weather change, indicating it is going to rain. I noted that the male often calls the female similar to the way he announces the rain.

During the dry season this year the mountain burned, and many small animals and snakes succumbed to the flames. Soon little was left to hunt, so the seriema began looting garbage cans on our street. On quiet Sunday mornings they would be in the street, going from trash can to trash can or sometimes even inside open garages as we went to Sunday school. They are no longer fearful of us and will come close to the car.

More construction workers have come to erect buildings for 100 apartments in front of our house,



## The Seriema

By Vicki Sturgill

but the brave seriema are putting up a fight. They are out every morning before the workers arrive, often calling to each other and (I think) scolding the workers as they arrive. Late in the afternoon, we again hear the birds as they leave their nests, calling each other and again scolding the workers as they leave.

Just as with the seriema, things change for missionaries. In 1991, when our church construction began, the census placed 1,705 people in the community of Buritis. By 1996

the population was 4,453. This year the association of home owners says the population will reach 10,000. What a mission field! The grade school is expected to have 5,000 students within six years, a college will reach about 8,000, and a second college for around 5,000 will soon start its building program. We are the only church in this community of apartment buildings, so we have a responsibility to reach those without Christ!

We can learn some lessons from the seriema. First, the birds have **determined to stay** in the area. When the task before us is so large, it would be easy to just quit and leave the area. We are here without another missionary couple to work with us and it is easy to be discouraged. We praise the Lord daily for Fern Phillips who ministers with us while teaching at the American school near us.

Second, the seriema **adjusted their lifestyle** to fit into the situation. We have had to learn to love big cities and apartment buildings and to make visits after 8 p.m. to build friendships outside the church. We cannot just knock on doors in the tall apartment buildings. We have to adapt our lifestyle to reach the young couples living here.

Living in a city of four million people is financially stressful, but we can reach many more with the gospel here. People can help financially by giving, and they can help with the stress by praying for us and our personal health needs. Pray for those with whom we work. Most of all, pray for hearts to be open to the gospel and for many to receive Christ as Savior.







Garnett Reid

## Amos, The Burden-Bearing Prophet (Part V): Prepare To Meet Thy God

**T**hough the actual body count was lower, estimates of the total dead ranged as high as 100,000 people. The cause? A massive earthquake earlier this year in Gujarat, India.

Devastating natural tragedies like this one, whether hurricanes, floods or tornadoes, prompt instant debates in street-corner theology. "Is there really a God? Where is He in all this? Why did He allow this to happen? Do things sometimes escape even His control?"

When personal tragedies occur in our own lives, we often ask these same questions. Spend time with a friend going through a divorce or suffering with severe illness or waiting in a hospital emergency room—you'll hear similar frustrations.

Amos 4:6-13 is a good place to turn in trying to find answers to these difficult questions. Recall that in 4:1-5, the Lord indicts His people for their sins, some of them coming in the guise of religious ritual.

Through His servant Amos, God now provides a behind-the-scenes look at His efforts to prompt repentance among His people. We learn that often God sends adversity into our lives to bring us back to Himself. God's purpose is thus to restore, not to ruin.

### *The Blows: Facing God's Hand*

Bam, bam, bam—like blows from a prizefighter, five devastating calamities send God's people reeling in this passage. These are not simply accidents or random catastrophes, however. They are signs from a loving, sovereign God designed to accomplish His purpose.

First, famine ("cleanness of teeth") hits (v. 6). Next comes drought, with just enough rain to grow frustration but not a crop (v. 7). Blight, mildew and pestilence follow (v. 9), then a plague

"after the manner of Egypt," apparently involving the ravages of war (v. 10). Finally, destruction on a level with Sodom and Gomorrah (see Deut. 29:23; Isa. 13:19; Jer. 20:16; Zeph. 2:9) engulfs nearly all of Israel (v. 11).

Keep in mind two important facts regarding these calamities. Number one, God had warned Israel long ago that He would send them should His people break covenant faith (Lev. 26:14-46; Deut. 28:15-68). Number two, these judgments are in actuality messengers of grace—faithful wounds of a friend designed to avert a far worse tragedy.

### *The "No": Rejecting God's Heart*

Even though God's purpose in sending these disasters was to lead Israel to repent, He will not perform that work *for* them. They must respond, as must we, by yielding their will to His initiative.

Tragically, each opportunity God gives His people here is met with rejection; they say "no" every time. "Yet you have not returned to me" becomes a sad, five-fold refrain leading to judgment (vv. 6, 8, 9, 10, 11).

The verb translated "return" (*shub*) is one used often in contexts of repentance (see Psa. 51:12-13; Isa. 19:22; 59:20; Jer. 3:12; 4:1; Hos. 3:5; 14:1). As Spurgeon reminds us, while we cannot always trace God's hand, we can always trust His heart—a heart that longs for sinners to come home.

### *The Woe: Knowing God's Name*

As a result of their refusal to heed the warning behind these acts of God, Israel must now "prepare to meet" Him in judgment, according to verse 12. The specifics of that "meeting" are left unsaid, giving its fulfillment a tone more ominous than any of those judgments already mentioned in verses 6-11.

What is detailed for Amos' audience, though, is an eloquent reminder of who this God, their divine covenant partner, really is. The brief poetic description in verse 13 (often referred to as one of Amos' "hymns," along with 5:8-9 and 9:5-6) serves to impress upon Israel just who it is she has spurned.

The first four lines of the verse describe the Lord by what He does:

"He that formeth the mountains" (*God of creation*)

"and declareth unto man what is his thought" (*God of revelation*)

"that maketh the morning darkness,

and treadeth upon the high places of the earth" (*God of judgment*)

The final line identifies Him by name, stressing the sovereign power of "The LORD, The God of hosts."

The awesome message of these oracles crosses the centuries to address you and me with our urgent need to repent. To whatever degree our lives are out of fellowship with the Lord, any calamity He allows to cross our path is His evangel inviting us to return to Him. ■



# THE PASTOR'S WIFE



Melinda Pinson

## Guard Your Marriage

**A**s we minister alongside our husbands, we are painfully aware of the crisis of the institution of marriage. Couples struggle with social trends and the contemporary perception of marriage and ask, *Can or should marriage last a lifetime? Many ask, If I find myself in an unfulfilling marriage, isn't it best for everyone involved to end it, move on and "find happiness"?*

### Take Heed

Biblical Christianity is combating current skepticism regarding Christ's commands on the sanctity and permanence of marriage. Yet statistics reveal that incidents of temptation, marital infidelity, separation and divorce are rising among Christians, including pastors' families. Pastors' wives are not exempt from marital problems just because they are married to the pastor.

We can all name at least one pastor's family that has been stricken with marital infidelity, separation or divorce.

### Don't Be Deceived

So how do once-healthy marriages become weak enough to succumb to temptation? Our identification as pastors' wives attributes godly and holy living to our lives. Our husbands are referred to as "God's man," set aside to shepherd his flock. People often have misperceptions about us. Many seem to think that we are not capable of failure and surely not susceptible to those big, public and embarrassing sins.

Pastors and their families live in the battle zone of this world just as other Christians do. Our families can be corrupted by sin if we do not remain focused on God's truth and guard our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

### Prevention

In order to guard our marriages, we must make a deliberate decision to maintain marital health through prevention. Prevention is an attitude that acknowledges three biblical facts.

### Ability to Sin

**Fact One:** *I have the ability to sin and fall short of the mark even as a Christian.* First Corinthians 10:12-13a underscores this: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man."

### Avoiding Tempting Situations

Knowing this to be true, we must not allow ourselves or our husbands to get into situations and vulnerable circumstances in which the flesh is tempted. We must safeguard ourselves and set up hedges around us.

### Accountability

The best preventative measure is accountability. Pastors' wives, it is our duty to make our husbands accountable to us. Pastoral counseling includes ministry to members of the opposite sex. You or someone else should always be present or in close proximity when your husband is visiting or counseling another female. Inconvenience is not a good excuse for not practicing this method of prevention. This is a necessity.

### Guidelines

Encourage your husband to help you make guidelines regarding dealing with members of the opposite sex. Both husband and wife should avoid being alone with another person of the opposite sex. Wives should talk with their husbands about circumstances or situations in which he is more likely to face temptation.

Hold your husband accountable to abide by the rules the two of you set for your marriage. Discuss openly

with him the temptation that can come by being in tempting situations with other women or with entertainment that encourages lust. Apply the same principles to yourself.

### Satan Is at Work

**Fact Two:** *Satan is alive and real and at work. He delights in seeing Christians fall.* This fact points to Satan's deceiving Christians and leading them into the trap of self-deception.

### Don't Be Desensitized

If Christians get to the point where they will commit marriage-destroying sin, they must first desensitize themselves to the sin, so they can justify their behavior.

Pastors' wives must be armed for battle with the devil. Read carefully Paul's warning in Ephesians 6:10-12.

### Grace of God in Us

**Fact Three:** *I am who I am only by the grace of God. It is He who sustains me.* Paul exemplified this attitude in his words to the church of Corinth, (1 Cor. 15:10).

We must rely on God's grace in Christ in our lives if we are to prevent temptation and sin from destroying our marriages. We must apply that grace by devoting ourselves to Christ, feeding on His Word, talking with Him in prayer and being holy as He is holy.

Challenge yourself constantly to engage in self-examination with the teachings of scripture. A willingness to accept admonition from messages we hear and our own spouses is the humble attitude we must have.

### Conclusion

Yes, even pastors' marriages can fall prey to temptation, sin and breakdown. Yet you as a pastor's wife *can* maintain marital health through prevention by realizing that even your marriage can succumb to sin and building hedges in your marriage to avoid temptation. ■





Randy Sawyer

## *The Biblical Mandate of Expository Preaching*

**T**he rich heritage of expository preaching stems from preaching patterns found in scripture. If we define expository preaching as "bringing out of the text what is there and exposing it to view," then we have solid evidence that scripture does support, and even mandates expository preaching.

### *Old Testament Roots*

According to the James F. Stitzinger of the Master's Seminary, "Preaching in the Bible is in two basic forms: revelatory preaching and explanatory preaching." Both types can be easily seen in the Old Testament.

Those originally charged with the task of preaching were called to reveal God's words to man. This word from God came through the prophets who spoke God's word after Him, the priests who were charged with interpreting the law and the sage who offered wise counsel.

In the case of the prophets, the message combined the foretelling of future events with the forth-telling of God's revealed truth. The priests and sages delivered a message that was mostly explanatory, exposing God's words to view.

One of the earliest examples of preaching is the final charge from Moses to Israel (Deut. 31-33). Stitzinger observes, "This masterful address was delivered with tremendous ability and clarity by one who considered himself as slow of speech and slow of tongue. The message is both explanatory, reiterating God's requirements of His people, and revelatory, offering either blessings or cursings, depending upon how the people responded."

David and Solomon give us profound examples of revelatory and explanatory preaching in poetic form.

The greatest examples of Old Testament preaching are found among the

prophets. An examination of their message reveals both revelation and explanation. The prophetic messages were not only predictive of future events, but often called the people back to God or offered an explanation of the word God had spoken.

The passages in which reform was the focus and purpose would include Josiah's command to repair and reform the house of the Lord (II Kings 22-23), Ezra's study and teaching of the law (Ezra 7:10), Nehemiah's comments about the law (Neh. 8:1-8) and Daniel's explanation of his vision of the 70 weeks (Dan. 9).

### *New Testament Pattern*

A look at expository preaching in the New Testament must begin with Christ, who is both our model in preaching and the message that we preach. As with earlier spokesmen, Christ's preaching included both revelation and explanation.

The Gospel writers have preserved a number of Christ's sermons. The Sermon on the Mount, for example, is a model of exposition. In Matthew 5 Jesus said, "Ye have heard that is hath been said . . . but I say into you." In so doing He instructed and enlightened His listeners, all the while amplifying the text. The same can be observed in all Christ's sermons.

Professor Stitzinger argues that a study of Christ's recorded messages reveals several characteristics. Among them are the following:

- 1) He spoke with authority (Matt. 7:29);
- 2) He made careful use of scripture;
- 3) He lived out what He taught;
- 4) He taught simply, adapting His words to the common man;
- 5) His teaching was often controversial.

The preaching of the apostles and other early church leaders also supports an expositional ministry. The

messages of Peter (Acts 2:14-36), Stephen (Acts 7:2-53), Paul (Acts 17:6-31) and James (Acts 15:14-21) have elements of both revelatory and explanatory preaching. Furthermore, the epistles themselves are, for the most part, written expositions which support the verbal expositions already given.

In an excellent new look at Paul's preaching, Professor James W. Thompson argues that the epistles "serve as windows to Paul's ministry, they provide a strong echo of his actual preaching." The close relationship between Paul's oral address and his letters is suggested by the fact that he, like other writers of antiquity, dictated his letters to an amanuensis. Therefore, the letters were the results of an oral event, and Paul's communication was meant for the ear, not for the eye.

Also, we may note that Paul's letters actually repeat what he had said to the community already (see: Gal. 1:9; Gal. 5:21; I Thess. 3:4; II Cor. 13:2). This clearly fits the pattern of preaching prevalent throughout scripture.

### *The Mandate*

Consequently, we might observe, that when Paul instructed young Timothy to "preach the word" (II Tim. 4:2), to teach and preach "the doctrine" (I Tim. 6:12), and "to instruct" (I Tim. 6:17), he must have been referring to the preaching Timothy had heard from Paul himself. Timothy was sent out to concentrate on explanation, to expose the Word to people who needed to understand the truth.

That mandate given to Timothy, by extension, applies to preachers and teachers in succeeding generations. With the body of revelation completed, ours is the task of explanation, of exposing the meaning of the message and its implication for our listeners. Scripture not only supports an expository ministry, it mandates such preaching. ■



## Directory Update

### ALABAMA

Charles Jernigan to Bethel Church, Phenix City

### CALIFORNIA

John Smith to First Church, Chula Vista

### GEORGIA

Henry Shellman to First Church, Thomaston  
from Trinity Church, Mauk  
William Selph to White Hall Church, Waycross  
Talmadge Worsley to Corinth Church, Iron City  
Brian Clair to Sand Hill Church, Baxley  
Dale Yarborough to Corinth Church, Alma  
Michael Bryan to Ebenezer Church, Glennville  
Brett Sanders to Weems Church, Columbus

### MISSOURI

Robby Rutledge to First Church, Springfield  
Harlen Johnson to Willow Springs Church,  
Mountain Grove

### OKLAHOMA

Dan Harper to Christ Chapel, Blanchard  
Steve Shaw to Skyridge Church, Noble from  
First Church, Chula Vista, CA



## Day of Prayer for National Convention

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**July 8**

# THE TOGETHER WAY

March 2001

| Receipts:<br>State    | Designated           | CO-OP               | Total                | Year To Date<br>Designated | Year To Date<br>CO-OP | Year To Date<br>Total  |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Alabama               | \$ 520.70            | \$ 315.29           | \$ 835.99            | \$ 1,331.19                | \$ 620.08             | \$ 1,951.27            |
| Arizona               | .00                  | 121.80              | 121.80               | 30.00                      | 204.60                | 234.60                 |
| Arkansas              | 11,697.84            | 7,648.04            | 19,345.88            | 62,377.34                  | 49,743.11             | 112,120.45             |
| California            | .00                  | 1,332.68            | 1,332.68             | 883.54                     | 3,422.07              | 4,305.61               |
| Colorado              | .00                  | .00                 | .00                  | .00                        | .00                   | .00                    |
| Delaware              | .00                  | .00                 | .00                  | .00                        | .00                   | .00                    |
| Florida               | 129.32               | .00                 | 129.32               | 129.32                     | 3,999.00              | 4,128.32               |
| Georgia               | 30,155.65            | 1,891.80            | 32,047.45            | 100,170.57                 | 5,480.88              | 105,651.45             |
| Hawaii                | .00                  | .00                 | .00                  | .00                        | .00                   | .00                    |
| Idaho                 | .00                  | .00                 | .00                  | .00                        | .00                   | .00                    |
| Illinois              | 8,654.08             | 1,829.39            | 10,483.47            | 23,332.30                  | 6,386.21              | 29,718.51              |
| Indiana               | 2,014.66             | 137.99              | 2,152.65             | 6,349.60                   | 740.20                | 7,089.80               |
| Iowa                  | .00                  | .00                 | .00                  | .00                        | 796.30                | 796.30                 |
| Kansas                | .00                  | .00                 | .00                  | .00                        | 106.55                | 106.55                 |
| Kentucky              | 650.00               | 803.07              | 1,453.07             | 1,682.04                   | 2,786.47              | 4,468.51               |
| Louisiana             | 10.00                | .00                 | 10.00                | 20.00                      | 20.00                 | 40.00                  |
| Maryland              | .00                  | .00                 | .00                  | .00                        | .00                   | .00                    |
| Michigan              | 17,671.77            | 1,649.33            | 19,321.10            | 74,240.08                  | 7,438.04              | 81,678.12              |
| Mississippi           | 11,341.16            | 485.58              | 11,826.74            | 26,289.85                  | 1,713.77              | 28,003.62              |
| Missouri              | 46,717.29            | 14,613.73           | 61,331.02            | 132,943.25                 | 42,526.05             | 175,469.30             |
| Montana               | .00                  | .00                 | .00                  | .00                        | .00                   | .00                    |
| Nebraska              | .00                  | .00                 | .00                  | .00                        | .00                   | .00                    |
| New Jersey            | .00                  | .00                 | .00                  | .00                        | .00                   | .00                    |
| New Mexico            | 436.32               | 58.16               | 494.48               | 1,272.04                   | 151.02                | 1,423.06               |
| North Carolina        | 330.80               | 3,054.36            | 3,385.16             | 4,090.57                   | 8,235.38              | 12,325.95              |
| Ohio                  | 9,780.12             | 1,478.01            | 11,258.13            | 33,299.42                  | 8,794.37              | 42,093.79              |
| Oklahoma              | 5,204.68             | 11,258.95           | 16,463.63            | 121,380.06                 | 31,636.57             | 153,016.63             |
| South Carolina        | 45,330.44            | 98.61               | 45,429.05            | 182,625.87                 | 649.17                | 183,275.04             |
| South Dakota          | .00                  | .00                 | .00                  | .00                        | .00                   | .00                    |
| Tennessee             | 25,501.44            | 539.32              | 26,040.76            | 39,774.58                  | 8,537.57              | 48,312.15              |
| Texas                 | .00                  | .00                 | .00                  | 18,276.36                  | 637.77                | 18,914.13              |
| Virginia              | 393.07               | 131.25              | 524.32               | 1,333.45                   | 131.25                | 1,464.70               |
| Virgin Islands        | .00                  | .00                 | .00                  | .00                        | .00                   | .00                    |
| West Virginia         | 114.10               | .00                 | 114.10               | 10,327.25                  | 178.40                | 10,505.65              |
| Wisconsin             | .00                  | .00                 | .00                  | .00                        | .00                   | .00                    |
| Canada                | 602.76               | 7.37                | 610.13               | 2,164.47                   | 31.49                 | 2,195.96               |
| Northwest Association | .00                  | .00                 | .00                  | .00                        | .00                   | .00                    |
| Northeast Association | .00                  | .00                 | .00                  | .00                        | .00                   | .00                    |
| Other                 | .00                  | (0.01)              | (0.01)               | .00                        | .09                   | .09                    |
| <b>Totals</b>         | <b>\$ 217,256.20</b> | <b>\$ 47,454.72</b> | <b>\$ 264,710.92</b> | <b>\$ 844,323.15</b>       | <b>\$ 184,966.41</b>  | <b>\$ 1,029,289.56</b> |

### Disbursements:

|                           |                      |                     |                      |                      |                      |                        |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Executive Office          | \$ 2,257.38          | \$ 21,354.63        | \$ 23,612.01         | \$ 5,507.25          | \$ 83,234.87         | \$ 88,742.12           |
| Foreign Missions          | 129,676.61           | 6,003.03            | 135,679.64           | 485,390.39           | 23,398.23            | 508,788.62             |
| FWBBC                     | 26,541.09            | 6,003.03            | 32,544.12            | 73,302.63            | 23,398.23            | 96,700.86              |
| Home Missions             | 45,715.22            | 4,698.00            | 50,413.22            | 221,630.11           | 18,311.67            | 239,941.78             |
| Retirement & Insurance    | 756.01               | 3,654.04            | 4,410.05             | 1,623.78             | 14,242.41            | 15,866.19              |
| Master's Men              | 832.68               | 3,654.04            | 4,486.72             | 1,525.06             | 14,242.41            | 15,767.47              |
| Comm. for Thea. Integrity | 43.93                | 130.49              | 174.42               | 133.34               | 508.67               | 642.01                 |
| FWB Foundation            | 499.99               | 1,565.99            | 2,065.98             | 933.84               | 6,103.91             | 7,037.75               |
| Historical Commission     | 26.58                | 130.49              | 157.07               | 98.64                | 508.67               | 607.31                 |
| Music Commission          | 4.80                 | 130.49              | 135.29               | 14.33                | 508.67               | 523.00                 |
| Media Commission          | 152.15               | 130.49              | 282.64               | 429.03               | 508.67               | 937.70                 |
| Hillsdale FWB College     | 1,971.11             | .00                 | 1,971.11             | 5,638.75             | .00                  | 5,638.75               |
| Other                     | 8,778.65             | .00                 | 8,778.65             | 48,096.00            | .00                  | 48,096.00              |
| <b>Totals</b>             | <b>\$ 217,256.20</b> | <b>\$ 47,454.72</b> | <b>\$ 264,710.92</b> | <b>\$ 844,323.15</b> | <b>\$ 184,966.41</b> | <b>\$ 1,029,289.56</b> |





## National Youth Evangelistic Team

### Summer 2001



*Emily Cook*



*Renee West*



*Greg Harrell*



*Jesse Fletcher*



*Matt Jones*



*Beth Nethereutt*



*Teri Deel*



*Laura Ellis*



*Ryan Lewis*



*Nathan Marti*

6/15 Mount Vernon, Illinois

6/16 TBA

6/17 Unity Free Will Baptist

6/18 Butterfield Free Will Baptist

6/20 Kirby Free Will Baptist

6/21 First Bible Free Will Baptist

6/22 Westerville Free Will Baptist

6/23 Union Free Will Baptist

6/24 Wooddale Free Will Baptist

6/25 Cookeville Free Will Baptist

6/25 Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist





Thomas Marberry

## *The Free Will Baptists in History*

By William F. Davidson

(Nashville: Randall House Publications, 2001, 384 pp., paperback, \$28.95, hardback, \$33.95).

**D**r. William F. Davidson is the foremost church historian in the Free Will Baptist movement. He has served since 1973 as professor of church history at Columbia International University. He is an alumnus of the following colleges and seminaries: George Peabody College, Free Will Baptist Bible College, Columbia Bible College, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

This book is a major revision and updating of the author's 1985 book, *The Free Will Baptists in America, 1727-1984*. It is the most comprehensive survey of Free Will Baptist history available. It outlines the growth, organizational development and doctrinal perspective of the Free Will Baptist movement. This revision includes significant pieces of information that came to light after publication of the original edition.

The work is divided into three major divisions. Part I analyzes the denominational roots in North Carolina, Tennessee and New England. It outlines the most important leaders and their contributions. It also presents the initial stage of Free Will Baptist doctrinal development.

Part II summarizes major events that occurred between 1800-1935. Davidson notes that the 19th and early 20th centuries were a period of development in spite of significant controversies, loss of most of the northern churches in the 1911 merger with the Northern Baptists, and the tragedy of civil war that destroyed much of the denominational work in the South.

The merger with the Northern Baptists left the denomination with no national organization, and scattered groups of Free Will Baptists around the country soon began to form various associations to facilitate cooperation and fellowship.

As Davidson correctly notes, "The loss of New England vividly reminded the Free Will Baptist remnant of the dangers of fragmentation and isolation. If survival was at all possible, it would depend on the cooperation of churches and associations in a united denomination."

Part III describes how our present National Association was formed in 1935. It outlines how Free Will Baptists from several parts of the country saw the need for an organization that would bind them together and help them serve Christ more effectively.

Part III also summarizes our denomination's growth and development since that time. Davidson discusses our work in home missions, foreign missions, Christian education, youth ministry and other areas. He writes about our good times and our bad times, our victories and our conflicts.

The question of origins has perplexed Free Will Baptists for many years, and Dr. Davidson devotes considerable attention to it. One view is that the present National Association of Free Will Baptists owes much to the Randall movement in the North and little to the Palmer movement in the South. The other view is exactly the opposite, that modern Free Will Baptists have largely southern origins because most of the Randall influence was lost in the 1911 merger.

It is generally agreed that the northern movement arose independently as a result of Randall's rejection of the then dominant Calvinistic theology of New England. There is some disagreement on how much southern Free Will Baptists were influenced by the General Baptists of England.

Davidson takes a mediating position on the issue of origins; he argues that the modern Free Will Baptist denomination is the result of a variety of differ-

ent influences. He writes, "While it seems evident that the first Free Will Baptists in America came out of the old General Baptist movement, other segments of the modern denomination can be traced to numerous other backgrounds."

This book is an introduction to the history of our movement. It contains the kind of basic information that every student of Free Will Baptist history needs to know. In the notes and bibliography the author points the reader to many other sources that can be consulted for more detailed information.

The first edition of this book was a quality product; this one is even better. It is shorter than the original edition; it reads better and contains more penetrating analysis of the forces that have shaped our denomination. The last chapter is particularly insightful. In that chapter the author confronts several important issues that our denomination is facing today. This is a good book. It belongs in every Free Will Baptist home. ■





Jack Williams

## Trouble in Purple Two

**L**ate Tuesday afternoon the phone rang and a woman said, "I've been in an accident on I-65. I think my car is totaled." The voice belonged to Marilyn, my smart editorial assistant who had left the office 15 minutes earlier for a cross-town doctor's appointment.

I rushed to the location she described and found her surrounded by policemen, orange traffic cones and emergency personnel. Pieces of her white Toyota decorated the interstate where she had collided with a guard-rail while trying to avoid another car. Amazingly, she kept it to a one-car accident. Told you she was smart.

**Before a wrecker** hauled away the deceased vehicle, we emptied her car into mine. Beats me how one small car trunk can hold enough stuff to fill my larger trunk and the back seat as well. Must be a woman thing.

By then it was 4:00 p.m. and time to get Marilyn checked out at Baptist Hospital. She had banged her head on the driver's side window. That's when a comedy of errors started that didn't end until 8:30 p.m.

**For the record**, hospital emergency rooms operate in a galaxy far, far away from the swiftly-moving *ER* television series. What they do, they do well, of course. What they do, they also do excruciatingly, painfully slowly . . . in a place with no carpet on the floor and no fresh coffee.

A blond-haired staffer waved Marilyn behind a glass-enclosed area and began asking a thousand questions. When I stepped into the area, Blondie stopped, looked up at me and said, "I know you. You were in here last week with another woman. And she had a head injury too. If you bring a third woman in here with a head injury, I'm calling the cops."

Marilyn howled. Blondie smiled. I swallowed and hoped her smile was real. The other woman with the head injury was my wife Janis who had a close encounter with a concrete sidewalk and bled all the way from Antioch to Baptist Hospital where I met Blondie of the thousand questions.

**At 4:30, a man** took Marilyn down a maze of hallways. After waiting for her to get settled, I asked two busy people which room contained Marilyn and her hurting head. Nobody knew.

They consulted their computers, asked other people's computers . . . but she had vanished off their radar. *Great*, I thought, *Now I've gotta explain to the gang at the office that I found Marilyn beside the road in a wrecked car, then lost her in the hospital emergency room.*

Finally, I spotted the staffer who had taken her away. He looked puzzled when I inquired about our patient. When I said *head injury*, he responded, "Oh, she's in Purple Two," which didn't help. They put her in a purple room? The girl must be frantic locked away in a purple world with no windows.

I found Purple Two at the end of the hall, and it was not purple, but the corridor walls in that area were. There she sat, growing more stiff by the minute. Half an hour later, a physician's assistant came by and played the question game again. I did discover that she's allergic to tape—Marilyn, that is, not the P.A.

**At 5:30, a staff lady** told Marilyn that a doctor who had not seen her had ordered a CT Scan. She produced a wheel chair, told me to wait and disappeared with Marilyn. *I'll never find her this time.*

Half an hour later, I overheard the staff lady tell someone, "I'm taking Purple Seven up and bringing down

Purple Two." By now, I realized that Marilyn was Purple Two.

A real doctor dropped by at 6:45 to tell her she will be sore tomorrow. Before leaving, he offers to write a prescription for her headache.

At 7:15 p.m., we decide to leave since the doctor has obviously forgotten her. As we step outside Purple Two, the same doctor walks by with a quizzical expression on his face. He can't understand why she is still here. Neither can we.

**Turns out they lost** Marilyn on the shift change. Honest, that's what the embarrassed doctor and two sputtering staffers told us, along with apologies all around. At last, we're out the door, zipping down I-24 East. Marilyn can't wait to get home and see her dog, an absurd fuzz-ball named Eskimo who hasn't been out of his wire crate in 12 hours. Need I say more?

While I unload the car, Marilyn walks the dog. He's an evil canine that once mistook my dress boots for a latrine. I stay as far away from the hairy beast as possible.

Since Marilyn's head hurts, I trot over to the drug store to get her prescription filled. The druggist glances down at me and says, "You're not Marilyn." I agree with him and try to explain.

By 8:30 p.m., I'm at home climbing into the shower. Long day.

**The doctor told** Marilyn that she needed to wake up twice during the night, something about head injuries and such. So, I got up at 2:30 a.m. and dialed her number. Umm, how shall I put this . . .

Have you ever called a woman at 2:30 a.m. who just wrecked her car and sleeps with an ugly dog? Her response almost made the three hours in Purple Two worthwhile. ■



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