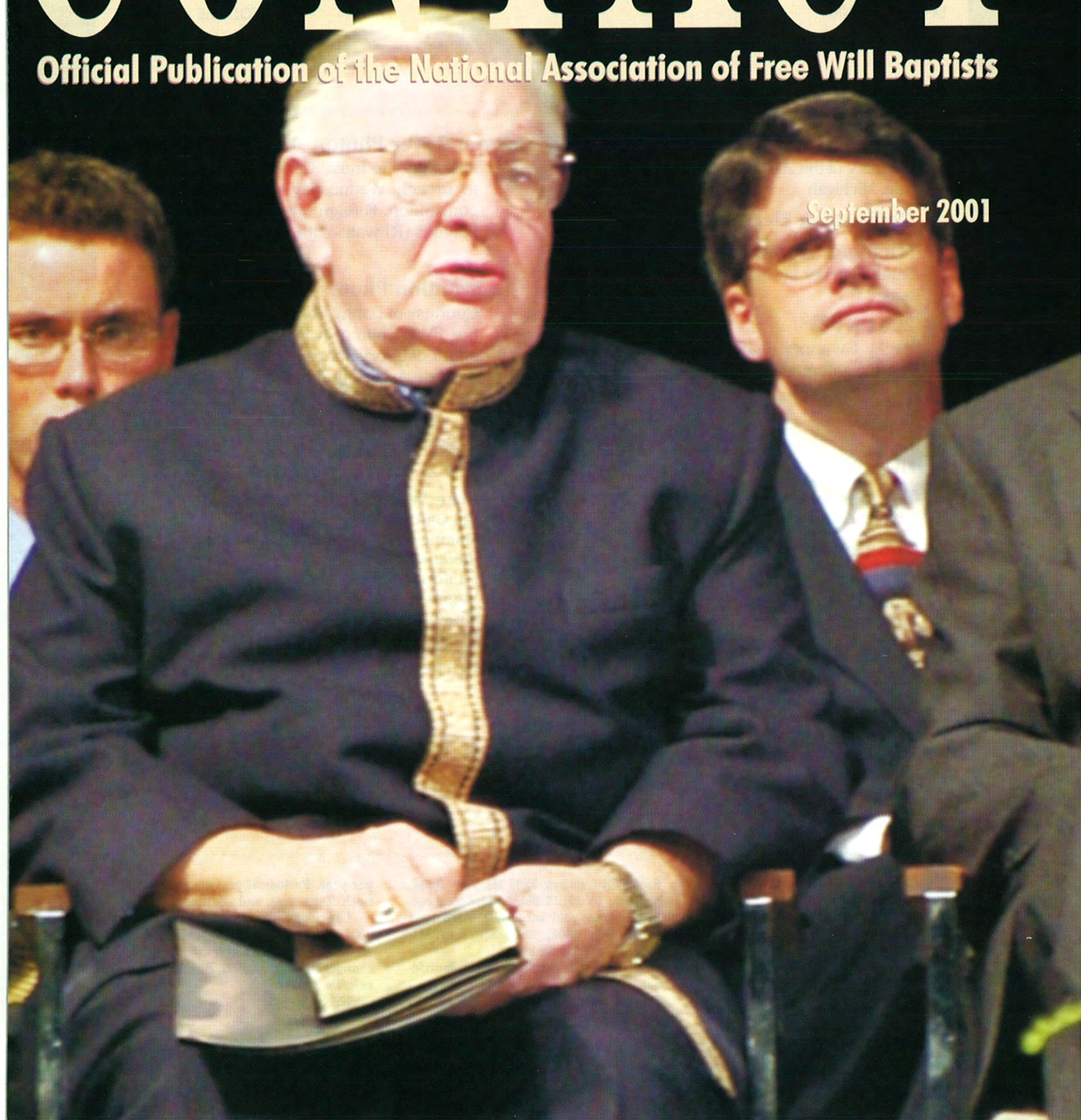


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Official Publication of the National Association of Free Will Baptists

September 2001



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Missionary to India, Carlisle Hanna, prepares to preach Wednesday night at the Detroit convention. Foreign Missions director James Forlines (R) waits with Reverend Hanna.

Convention Photos

Courtesy of Danny Conn, pastor of Soul's Harbor FWB Church in Pensacola, Florida, and editor of *Coordinator*, publication of the Florida State Association of Free Will Baptists.

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THE SECRETARY SPEAKS



Melvin Worthington

Organized for Outreach

The National Association was formed in order to help Free Will Baptists fulfill Christ's commission to go into the entire world, preach the gospel and make disciples of all men. The *responsibility* for doing the commission—to evangelize, to educate, to edify—was given to individuals.

The National Association of Free Will Baptists provides a channel for individuals to fulfill their global responsibility. Our founders believed we could do more together than we could individually.

Biblical Concept-Model

The model for the organization of the National Association is found in Acts 1:8. The denomination is organized on this model—individual Christians, local churches, district associations, state associations, national association and the international fellowship. The organizational model forms an ever-widening circle that affords individuals an opportunity to participate in worldwide outreach.

Christ gave the commission to *The Church* not a local church. Individual responsibility can not be transferred to a local church or any other organization.

The Acts 1:8 model *conveys* the basic mandate, the biblical motivation and *calls* for a balanced ministry as well as a bold mobilization of individuals to reach the world with the gospel.

Basic Components-Movement

Our Acts 1:8 model begins with the individual Christian in an ever-widening circle. Christians then organize a local church. Local churches organize a district association. District associations organize a state association. State associations organize a national association. National associations organize the international fellowship.

The fulfillment of the Great Commis-

sion requires obedience from individual Christians who compose the Church—the body of Christ. When we shift our focus from individual responsibility to institutional responsibility, we lose sight of the preciseness of Christ's commission which was individual obedience.

Big Challenge-Mobilization

Individual obedience to Christ's commission remains a big challenge for Free Will Baptists. In order to meet that challenge, we must address several elements.

We must *sharpen our focus* and see the precise difference between *preaching Christ* and *planting local churches*. Preaching Christ is the mandated responsibility. Those who come to Christ then plant local churches.

Another example is the difference between *missions—the work* and *missionaries—the workers*. We have tended to be missionary-centered rather than missions-centered. Christ's commission emphasized missions not missionaries. We must never lose sight of the work. Workers change but the work goes on.

We must sharpen our focus regarding the precise difference between *contributing* and *controlling*. Individuals often contribute if they can control. Biblical giving does not require that we control what we support.

We must sharpen our focus regarding the precise difference between *Christ-centered* and *culture-centered*. Christ is the preeminent One. We must

order our lives and labors according to His example. We must not conform to the culture around us but challenge it by precept and practice.

We must make *supplication to the Father*. The Lord of the harvest instructs us to pray for laborers. There has always been a shortage of laborers; this has not caught God off guard. He affirms this and tells us to pray for laborers.

We must *see the field*. Individuals must have a global focus. The field is the whole world. Whether we live in India, China, Korea, Japan, Cuba, Panama or the United States, we have individual responsibility to obey Christ's commission.

We must *secure the finances*. Adequate resources for carrying out Christ's commission rest with individual Christians. Free Will Baptist outreach depends on individuals who give money. Emphasis on individual stewardship responsibility regarding finances will, in time, provide financial resources for ministries throughout the denominational structure.

We must *support the family*. Individuals must come to grips with their responsibility to support the Free Will Baptist family. Membership in the Free Will Baptist family establishes a relationship, embraces responsibility and enjoys the realities of the diversity that both characterizes us and expends resources to benefit the family.

We must *shore up the foundation*. Each generation needs to be taught Free Will Baptist doctrine, organizational structure and individual responsibility. Ignorance of our denomination invites disaster. Preserving our heritage and passing it on to succeeding generations will promote growth, giving and godliness.

As a denomination we are organized for outreach. The challenge that remains is to mobilize individuals to seize the opportunity and use the organizational structure as a vehicle to fulfill individual responsibility—worldwide evangelization. ■

The Secretary's Schedule

September 2001

3-7 Convention Planning Trip
Memphis, TN

15-17 CSA Conference
Indianapolis, IN

22-26 Michigan Ministers' Retreat

Return to Motor City

By Jack Williams



Michigan Free Will Baptists had all the answers.

Twenty-four years ago, some 3,462 Free Will Baptists tiptoed into Detroit battling the mother of all July heat waves, afraid of the much-publicized mean streets of what was then known as "Murder City," only to find no air conditioning in the headquarters hotel and long irritating lines waiting to register for the national convention. There was not a computer among us. That was 1977.

What a difference computers and a quarter-century make. This July 5,031 Free Will Baptists roared boldly into downtown Detroit where the Tall Ships came to help the city celebrate its 300th birthday. More than 2,700 of us pre-registered for the convention (including 1,148 on-line), and laptop

computers sprouted from the hands of the wired and busy people.

Registration badges sported colorful car parts and the lines were short, kept that way by a dozen high-speed computers in Michigan Hall, a well-trained staff and the dazzling smile of Dari Goodfellow, registration coordinator.

And just in case you wondered: The old, hot headquarters hotel with no air conditioning that we all hated 24 years ago was paved over by progress. The new headquarters hotel had more sleeping rooms and lots of cool, but no full-service restaurant because of on-going renovation.

The mean streets? The only thing mean about the streets was the broken

concrete on the quarter-mile walk to the convention center. Many rode the convenient People Mover on its three-mile downtown loop between hotels and the 2.4-million-square-foot, four-level Cobo Center where the national convention happened. The dreaded *Showdown in Murder City* morphed into a relaxed *Return to Motor City*. Detroit was on its best behavior, and so were most Free Will Baptists.

The lion's share of credit for all that good will goes to 37-year-old Dean Jones, the nearly omnipresent 6'-4" Free Will Baptist convention manager from Illinois who lit the technology afterburners and moved the convention firmly into the 21st century.

Jones brought his CMP (Certified

Meeting Professional) designation and 12 years' experience as director of the National Youth Conference to the convention manager's role. He made an early impact on the 2001 convention by creating a 12-page, four-color information brochure for state editors this spring.

Low-keyed Dean streamlined pounds of event paperwork by producing a combined three-convention set-up chart and function sheets his first few days on the job. He also designed a collegiate intern program to baptize youth in the intricacies of behind-the-scenes convention management. Jones is recognized as one of the top professional meeting planners in the hospitality industry.

The 800-Pound Gorilla

A half dozen major issues confronted voters at Detroit—a resolution to combine five national publications, questions about Mexico, allegations of highhandedness by the Home Missions Board, wrangling over whether to change the name of Free Will Baptist Bible College, and impending leadership changes in two national agencies.

But as important as all those issues were and are, the 800-pound gorilla in Detroit was the announcement by Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington that he plans to retire in December 2002.



"I can't believe I just told them I want to retire," — Melvin Worthington.



Registration lines got shorter in Detroit.

Delegates sat somewhat stunned in Cobo Arena as the man who for two decades symbolized stability and dignity to the movement said it was time to hand his responsibilities to someone else. When he leaves office, Worthington will have served 23 years, by far the longest of the eight men who have held the position.

During Dr. Worthington's leadership tenure, the denomination purchased a \$1.8 million national office complex (1991) and relocated from Nashville to Antioch. In 1988 the denomination published a 720-page hymnal under his direction and in 1992 adopted a revised financial program known as The Together Way Plan.

Worthington's planning skills revamped the annual national convention into a model for the religious meeting industry. His influence prompted the organization of The International Fellowship of Free Will Baptist Churches in 1995.

One year ago in Anaheim, California, delegates at the 2000 national convention set in place a four-step procedure proposed by Worthington to expedite election of his successor. That procedure will be tested in the next 12 months as the Executive Committee initiates step one and serves as a search committee to screen potential candidates.

What We Heard General Board

The General Board jump-started the convention's business agenda Monday after a 7:00 a.m. breakfast in Marriott Renaissance Hotel. The five-

hour meeting brought together 13 national agencies who gave detailed reports to the General Board in preparation for Wednesday's business session at Cobo Center.

By 1:00 p.m. Monday, the proposed budgets had been examined, some hard questions asked, a few surprises explained and everybody headed down the street to the convention center.

Here's the short version of a long morning in Detroit . . .

Executive Office

The Executive Office brought Dean Jones on board this year as an effort to simplify the convention planning process. They share Jones with the Sunday School and Church Training Department where he serves as director of the National Youth Conference and vice-president of Randall House Publications Corporation.



Layman Charles Walden teaches Sunday School.

Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington's announcement that he will retire in 18 months set in motion a procedure to name his successor. After the Executive Committee recommends a candidate to the General Board and the General Board recommends a candidate to the voting body, delegates at the 2002 national convention will elect the next executive secretary.

FWB Foundation

Director Bill Evans said, "We faced the toughest experience of our short

history during the first half of last year. Due to requests by several agencies, we had a \$2 million drain in just over three months." The agency was able to meet all the requests.



Arkansas pastor Will Harmon (R) lays hands on a soul.

The Foundation's growth pattern has been steady for 20 years. It began at zero in 1980 and grew to \$8 million in 2000.

FWBBC

The Board of Trustees at Free Will Baptist Bible College named President Tom Malone as chancellor effective in 2002. This means that the search is on for a new president on West End Avenue. Officials want their man in place no later than January. A three-man search committee will direct the process.

Another major piece of the education puzzle for FWBBC focuses on relocation efforts to build a campus north of Nashville. The move is complicated by the fact that the college is currently located in one of Nashville's historical districts and is at odds with the neighborhood association who must agree to the property sale. College officials still hope to complete the sale by September 1, even though the association filed a lawsuit this summer to limit the number of students and parking spaces the potential buyer can have.

Foreign Missions

After unveiling a plan for total denominational mobilization last year in Anaheim, the Foreign Missions Department took four major steps to make the

vision a reality. They (1) reorganized the staff and named Dr. Neil Gilliland as director of member services; (2) named Cameron Lane volunteer coordinator of the Professional Volunteers Network; (3) produced a four-part video series for churches to use; (4) and conducted a spring consultation in Atlanta that included all current and former missionaries, staff and board members.

Director James Forlines said that a Free Will Baptist missionary force of 110 people serve in 10 countries. He reported 90 ordained ministers, 225 licensed and lay preachers, seven seminaries/Bible institutes with 137 students. There were 1,704 conversions and 1,466 baptisms among the 288 organized churches and 413 mission works. Overseas Sunday School attendance averages 17,789.

Sunday School and Church Training

Another agency in transition: That's the story at Randall House Publications after General Director Alton Loveless told the Sunday School and Church Training Board in April that he plans to retire in August 2002. Dr. Loveless will close out eight successful years of leadership with the denomination's literature program.

The agency printed more than a dozen new books last year in addition to publishing Sunday School and CTS literature for the 2,500 Free Will Baptist churches. Fifty-two Randall House books are available via the electronic book market. The new imagesetter purchased a year ago upgraded the graphics and production areas.

Home Missions

Rookie general director Larry Powell announced that five mission churches went self-supporting this year and 14 missionary couples appointed. Three military chaplains won approval and received endorsements. Powell succeeded Trymon Messer who retired in May after 22 years' service.

The department is deeply committed to cross-cultural outreach among Korean, Russian and Hispanic peoples in North America. Rick Bowling was named director of Hispanic ministries in the USA. The first FWB Hispanic Summit met in Miami during April.

Powell reported that the Home Missions Board's findings regarding issues raised by the late James Munsey concerning autonomy of the local church in Mexico were consistent with findings presented in a three-page report by the Mexico Arbitration Committee.

A letter will be printed in *A/M* magazine affirming that the late James Munsey used "no missions money... for any purpose other than for approved, legitimate missions projects in Mexico."

Board of Retirement

During the year 2000, the Board of Retirement showed earnings of 12.5% for enrollees, according to Bill Evans, general director. That was an amazing percentage considering the tremors in the stock market.

Over the life of the Free Will Baptist retirement plan (1969-2000), enrollees averaged 9.04% earnings. The plan enrolled 567 new participants in the past eight years. However, the agency reported a -3.9% earnings rate for the first six months of 2001.

Master's Men

In a surprise move, Master's Men general director Tom Dooley requested permission to designate Father's Day as "Master's Men Emphasis Day." While this allows the agency to receive a special offering that day, it removes them from participating in the "Rest of the Family" offering in September, effective 2002.

Master's Men presented its restated charter for denominational approval. The Master's Men Board agreed that



Ushers come in all ages — and sizes.



Mitzi Munsey speaks to delegates.

the organization would provide labor to assist in building the mission house on the new FWBBC campus. The board also employed Kenneth Akers as director of ministry development.

Master's Men plans a couples' retreat next year in cooperation with WNAC.

Commission for Theological Integrity

The second issue of *Integrity: A Journal of Christian Thought* will be published later this year. The first issue received favorable reviews at the 2000 convention in Anaheim. Matt Pinson and Paul Harrison serve as editors for the journal.

The commission sponsored a seminar on abortion and euthanasia at the convention. Former medical missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, Dr. Mark Paschall, spoke. The 2001 Theological Symposium will meet November 5-6 at Hillsdale FWB College.

Media Commission

The Media Commission's major project this year was producing the video, *A Free Will Baptist Gathering: He Keeps Me Singing*. The video includes 50 Free Will Baptist musicians and singers in a live concert.

The commission makes available two television spots, four radio spots, ad slicks and a customized church video brochure. They can also provide assistance to local churches who want to develop a web site.

Music Commission

The Music Commission plans to develop a network of musicians as a de-

nominal resource. They encourage continuing education through conferences, seminars and retreats, and encourage Free Will Baptist musicians to write and arrange songs for publication.

In recent years, the commission guided publication of *Rejoice* hymn book, conducted choral workshops at national conventions and produced two choral collections. They continue to coordinate music at the national convention.

Historical Commission

The Historical Commission's two on-going projects are to publish a Free Will Baptist historical guidebook and help furnish a "history" room on the new campus at Free Will Baptist Bible College. The commission has committed \$20,000 to the history room project.

WNAC

Women Nationally Active for Christ gave more than \$550,000 to Free Will Baptist missions outreach last year. In addition, items valued in excess of \$92,000 were placed in the Provision Closet for use by home and foreign missionaries.

Sarah Fletcher was named editor of *CoLaborer* magazine, succeeding Rhonda McReynolds who resigned after 18 months to teach in the classroom. The agency will join with Master's Men



Alabama pastor Danny Dwyer.

April 5-7, 2002, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, for a national couples' retreat.

What We Did **The Business Session**

Everything the General Board heard Monday was repeated to the entire voting body of the National Association Wednesday and Thursday. That's how the denomination's business is conducted—in an open forum with time for questions from delegates.

What the General Board con-



Sound on Sound's Dave Hash watches over the audio.

densed into five hours took longer when the voting delegation heard it. The session began Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., recessed at 5:00 p.m., then started again Thursday morning.

By the time Moderator Carl Cheshier gavelled adjournment on Thursday, delegates had elected 35 board and commission members, adopted a \$22.5 million budget, examined 25 reports, changed the *Treatise*, authorized publication of a new hymn book, launched a comprehensive publications study committee and voted to meet in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 2011.

No Name Change

"Don't change the name of Free Will Baptist Bible College." That's what delegates told the FWBBC Board of Trustees who proposed changing the school's name to "Palmer College: The Free Will Baptist Bible College."

After the proposal was removed from the table where it had been placed in Anaheim (2000), opposi-



Joan Gardner holds presentation from Media Commission chairman Ron Hunter (R).

director Larry Powell, Board chairman Jim Puckett and Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington met with the late James Munsey's family. The meeting resulted in a letter affirming that James Munsey used no missions money for any purpose other than approved missions projects in Mexico.

Mitzi (Mrs. James) Munsey thanked the Home Missions Department for the letter clarifying the question of Mexico finances. However, she expressed concern because her "husband's life was placed under a microscope . . . He did not deserve what was printed in the May/June 2000 issue of *AIM*."

Treatise Revision

Delegates approved a *Treatise* change that should prevent the necessity of future revisions regarding representation

tion to the name change quickly surfaced from several parts of the country and for a variety of reasons. One minister opposed the generic "Palmer College" sound. Another questioned using "The" in the title, as if there were no other Free Will Baptist colleges. Several wondered why "Bible" was considered a reason to change. Others asked if the name change would cause a loss of denominational distinctiveness.

Though some did speak in favor of the proposal, the vote clearly said that while the constituency seems ready to move the college to a new location, they want the same name on the mailbox.

More Mexico Questions

After an hour-long discussion that ranged from animated to eloquent to heart-rending Wednesday afternoon, delegates adopted a motion from the Virginia State Association instructing the Executive Committee to investigate the actions and statements of the Home Missions Department regarding the late James Munsey. The motion specified that their report be printed in *Contact* and brought to delegates at the 2002 national convention.

Questions about local church autonomy in Mexico occupied delegates at the 2000 convention in Anaheim. In December 2000, members representing the Aggrieved Minority and the Mexican Association met with the Executive Committee. This resulted in a suggestion from the Executive Committee that the Home Missions Board authorize a Mexico Arbitration Committee from members of the Executive Committee to arbitrate between the two Mexican groups.

The Mexico Arbitration Committee met with the two groups in Altamira, Mexico, on March 26, 2001. They prepared a three-page report containing seven general observations and four recommendations. The Home Missions Board concurred with the findings of the committee.

Subsequently, on June 27, 2001, Home Missions general



"Going Home" — John Gibbs (L), Scott Bullman, Doug Little.

fees for state, district and local church delegates. Until now, the *Treatise* listed a specific representation fee (\$50 per church, etc.) in Section 4, page 59. The revision eliminates the specific amount and cites, ". . . a representation fee per church established by the National Association."

Master's Men Emphasis Day

Beginning 2002, the Master's Men Department will no longer participate in the September "Rest of the Family Offering." The agency requested and received permission to designate Father's Day as "Master's Men Emphasis Day." The department will ask churches to receive a special offering on Father's Day.

Back to Charlotte

The national convention last met in North Carolina (Charlotte) in 1979. By unanimous vote, we're going back in July 2011.

Elected in Detroit

The following were elected during the 65th annual session of the National Association and will serve until the dates indicated:

General Officers

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

General Board

2004	Rick Cash	(Alabama)
	Charles Marshall	(Arizona)
	David Joslin	(Arkansas)
	Fred Hanson	(Atlantic Canada)
	Doice McAlister	(California)
	Mark Thomas	(Colorado)
	Tim Owen	(Florida)
	William Smith	(Georgia)
	Earl Jenkins	(Idaho)
	Ernie Lewis	(Illinois)

Executive Committee

2004	David Joslin	(Arkansas)
	Doice McAlister	(California)
	Rick Cash	(Alabama)

Home Missions Board

2003	Ron Parker	(Louisiana)
2007	Matt Upton	(California)
	Jerry Atwell	(Mississippi)
	Bobby Shepherd	(Arkansas)

Board of Retirement

2007	Bobby Bowers	(South Carolina)
	Craig Cook	(Tennessee)
	Jack Ward	(North Carolina)

Master's Men Board

2007	Roy Copeland	(Oklahoma)
	Charles Walden	(Mississippi)
	Rudy Taylor	(Michigan)

Free Will Baptist Bible College Trustees

2004	Billy Hanna	(Georgia)
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Media Commission

2002	Kevin Norris	(Michigan)
2006	Ron Hunter	(Tennessee)

Music Commission

2003	Jerry Carraway	(Tennessee)
2006	Scott Bullman	(Oklahoma)

Commission for Theological Integrity

2006	Paul Harrison	(Tennessee)
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Historical Commission

2006	Joe McKnight	(South Carolina)
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General Board Breakfast.

2002 Together Way Allocations

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

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

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

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



Truth and Peace students fold the evening news.



Chief usher Raymond Lee receives plaque for 20 years' service from Melvin Worthington.

New Hymn Book

Delegates approved a General Board recommendation authorizing the Music Commission to publish a new Free Will Baptist hymn book with the Executive Office giving oversight to the project. The last hymn book was published 13 years ago in 1988.

One National Magazine

Two state associations (Georgia, Florida) submitted similar resolutions requesting that a five-person Publications Committee study the feasibility of printing one enlarged monthly magazine and report their findings to the 2002 national convention in Memphis.

Citing rising costs in production, printing and postage, the resolution calls for national agencies to provide the committee with information regarding costs and editorial schedules. The committee will examine publications from six agencies (Executive Office, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Master's Men, FWBBC, Sunday School and Church Training Department) that currently mail monthly, bi-monthly or similar publications. Five of the publications are now mailed free to separate mailing lists. One (*Contact*) is mailed to a paid subscription list.

The five-man Publications Committee includes: Chairman Nathan Ruble (MO), William Smith (GA), Jim Marcum (NC), Edwin Hayes (OH) and David Williford (FL).

Well Done, Brothers

Four men left Detroit carrying plaques of appreciation for their

years of service on two denominational boards. The Board of Retirement honored Waymon Fields (12 years) and Jack Daniel (15 years). The Home Missions Board honored Earl Hendrix (12 years) and J. D. Norris (12 years).

One of the convention's most poignant moments came unexpectedly Wednesday morning when Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington called chief usher Raymond Lee to the podium and gave him a plaque for



Home Missions director Larry Powell presents plaque to Earl Hendrix (L).

almost 20 years coordinating usher volunteers. The 78-year-old North Carolina deacon has been a tireless leader of men for two decades, a stabilizing influence for the convention staff and an innovator who brought creative ideas to the ushering corps.



Gene Norris (C) and George Harvey, Jr., wait for the service to begin.

What We Preached

Worship services came early and often during the national convention. Before the first business session was called to order Monday morning, attendees had already heard two sermons and a Sunday School lesson.

Sunday School

Deacon Charles Walden, who also serves as moderator of the Mississippi State Association, taught Psalm 72 eschatologically for 45 minutes. A man at ease with leadership responsibility, Walden's well-prepared lesson ended with a plea, "Don't quit, Brother Pastor." He reminded delegates that it's the devil's business to disrupt convention plans and create hotel difficulties.

Sunday Morning

Arkansas moderator David Bishop preached from Luke 13:18-20 describing the Church as a seed planted, a tree growing, a shelter provided. He spoke of the Church as God's plan, God's idea. Pastor at Union Grove FWB Church for 21 years, Bishop said that Christ is unlimited and His Church satisfies all the Christian's needs.

Sunday Evening

Florence, Alabama, pastor Dr. Danny Dwyer told worshippers, "It's an honor to be a preacher." He spoke from Matthew 25:14-30 to a growing convention crowd about the uniqueness of each servant of

God. He explained what results from an investment of faith and from an investment of fear. He cautioned that all must give an account before God, and wondered aloud where were the youth ready to serve, to preach, to staff the mission fields.

Monday Evening

Fifty-three-year-old Oklahoma pastor Leonard Pirtle preached on the subject, "Occupied." He told ministers the secret to staying 20 years at one church—don't quit and



Moderator Carl Cheshier

don't get fired. Referring to Acts 1, Pirtle said, "The disciples proved that without the Holy Spirit, they couldn't even do nothing well. When they got tired of waiting as Jesus instructed, they made the mistake of electing an apostle who was not God's choice."

Tuesday Evening

Michigan promotional secretary Gene Norris titled his sermon from Luke 19:11-13, "The Dash Between the

Dates." Although he claimed that he was not very good at arranging sermons, he followed with, "But I've walked with the Lord a long time." He pled with the congregation to be available for God, to be accepting of each other, to admit personal limitations and expect God to multiply what was given Him.

During a stirring six-minute musical video presentation before the sermon, attendees heard the late Bill Gardner sing high tenor again, courtesy of the Media Commission.

Wednesday Evening

Veteran missionary to India, Carlisle Hanna, embraced the 5,000 worshipers as he preached his autobiographical sermon woven into II Corinthians 4:1-7. He traced 50 years in India where he



Clerk Keith Burden (C) tallies votes from ushers.



Delegates talk it over Wednesday afternoon.

"lived in an area with darkness so dark that it could be felt." He told of traveling overnight on a train with six Hindu holy men and witnessing to them of God's power. He challenged listeners to a life of service for others, a love for one another, and a message that Jesus is the only hope of mankind.

Prior to the message, the congregation viewed "Safely Home," a video of Free Will Baptist foreign missionaries and staff personnel who died since 1935.

What We Learned

Pastor/Layman Conference

"If Jesus pastored your church, every third sermon He would talk about stewardship," quipped Patrick McLaughlin, president of The Timothy Group, Monday afternoon. He warned, "The heart is



Patrick McLaughlin talks about stewardship.

the easy conversion; the checkbook is hard." McLaughlin assured the audience that while God does not have a cash flow problem, churches are full of people who are only tipping God.

Foreign/Home Missions Rally

Larry Reesor, president of Global Focus, spoke from Acts 10 and said, "It is evident that God is up to something big in the world." His presentation followed a 22-minute film on the challenge of the harvest. He presented a series of dynamic principles to

involve churches in global evangelism, reminding the 500-plus listeners that the pastor is the key.

Theological Trends Seminar

Dr. Mark Paschall, a Free Will Baptist physician and former medical missionary to Côte d'Ivoire, spoke for 90 minutes Tuesday afternoon on abortion and euthanasia. He spent most of his time in a powerful presentation explaining abortion and its devastating consequences worldwide resulting in 46 million abortions annually, nearly 1.8 million in the USA. He then demonstrated how abortion has coarsened the culture to accept euthanasia, citing Holland's runaway death culture as a possible scenario coming to America.

Master's Men Seminar

General director Tom Dooley led a 60-minute "Developing Godly Men" seminar on Tuesday. His four-page workbook-style handout made a strong case for an active men's ministry in every local church. Dooley called for men of priority, of prayer, of purpose, of purity, of passion. He said that effective men's ministries are built on relationships.

What We Remember

Balanced Music

The Music Commission brought the entire package to Detroit. Soloists soared and quartets harmonized. Choirs and chorales sang everything from old hymns to just-published music. Instrumentalists blew trumpets, played the grand piano and plucked an assortment of strings. Song leaders lifted and inspired attendees.

Tall Ships

They sailed down the Detroit River and dropped anchor a few feet from Cobo Center. Nearly a dozen of the grace-



Randall House sold Bibles in the exhibit hall.

2001 Registration Report*

National Convention	3,011
Ordained Ministers	504
Ordained Deacons	100
Local Church Delegates	34
State Delegates	71
Home Missionaries	64
Foreign Missionaries	27
National Board Members	46
Licensed Ministers	19
Visitors	2,146
National Youth Conference	1,265
Women Nationally Active for Christ	755
Grand Total	5,031

*This report reflects the total number who registered for the three combined conventions: National Convention, NYC, WNAC. By actual count, some 4,244 individuals registered, some for one or more conventions. At the same time, several hundred attend each year who do not register.

ful ships with sky-raking masts drew thousands downtown to help Detroit celebrate its tricentennial.

A Great Tackle

After Allen Pointer, director of Truth and Peace Student Leadership Conference, chased a local hood out of Cobo Center late Wednesday evening, Media Commission chairman Ron Hunter tackled the sweaty thief and held him until Detroit police arrived and cuffed him.

And Finally

Free Will Baptists came to Detroit and left the city a better place because we were here. Another denominational yearly cycle has ended. Next July—God willing—we'll do it again in Memphis. We may well break all previous convention attendance records in 2002 when we gather at the river—the Mississippi River, that is. See you there. ■



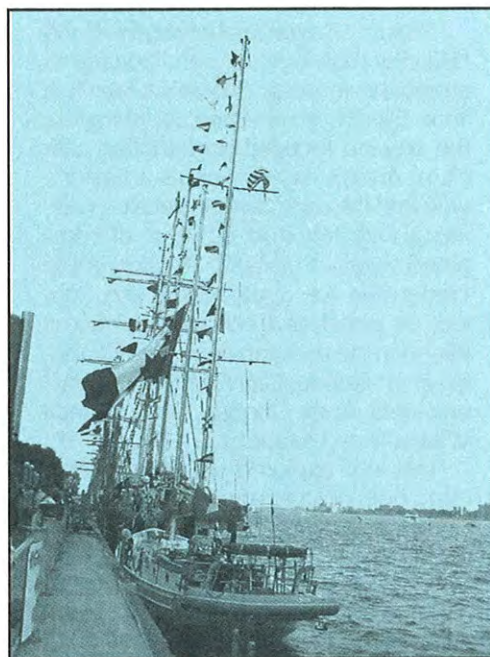
Anne Worthington and staff member assist pre-registrants. Did you notice — the lines are shorter in Pre-Registration.



Worship service in the Arena.

2002 Budgets Adopted

Executive Office	\$ 744,161.30
Administrative	\$ 411,000.00
Contact	93,105.00
Convention	240,056.30
Free Will Baptist Bible College	4,785,058.77
(Includes \$1,200,000.00 in unrestricted gifts)	
Foreign Missions	7,566,248.77
(Does not include <i>Vision</i> and other projects totaling \$2,604,500)	
Home Missions	5,000,000.00
Master's Men	194,362.00
Retirement and Insurance	373,344.00
Free Will Baptist Foundation	120,000.00
Sunday School and Church Training	3,529,403.90
Commission for Theological Integrity	8,250.00
Historical Commission	4,800.00
Music Commission	34,060.00
Media Commission	200,000.00
Total	\$22,559,688.74



Tall ships anchored on the Detroit River.



Executive Secretary Melvin Worthington presents Jack Williams (C) a plaque of appreciation for his 24 years' service as convention coordinator. Head Usher Raymond Lee looks on in agreement.

66th Annual Session of Women Nationally Active for Christ

Michigan Moments

By Sarah Fletcher

Michigan

Three-hundred-year-old Detroit—Motor City, USA, played hostess to 729 registered delegates, officers and visitors at the 66th annual session of Women Nationally Active for Christ, July 16-17. Michigan's Free Will Baptist women served as luncheon hostesses, welcomed conventioners at information tables and staffed a booth displaying Michigan's WAC activities. WNAC seminars, songs and special speakers sounded the 2001 theme of "Sharing Hope and Healing."

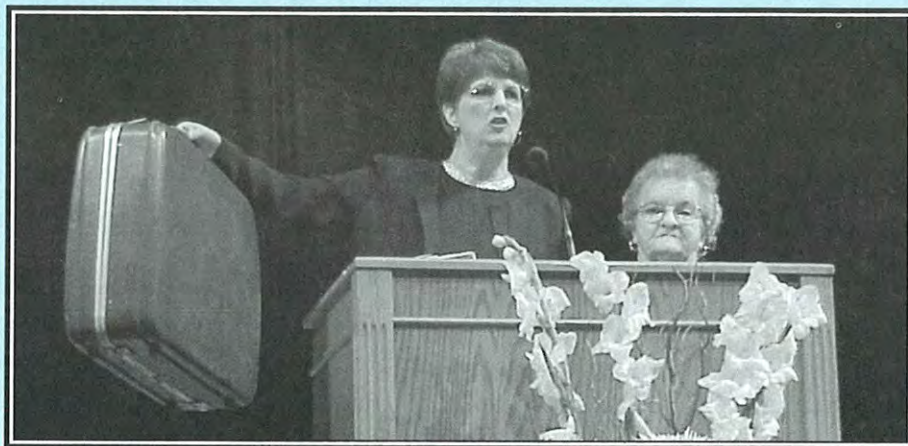
Monday

Nearly 170 women braved the Cobo Hall chill (sub-level air conditioning) to attend the seminar, "There's A Speck in Your Eye." Led by Anne Worthington, the session focused on handling criticism. Anne's experience as a pastor's wife and the executive secretary's wife, along with her over 50 years of combined service to WNAC, lent her ample credentials for approaching this subject. A panel of three pastors' wives joined in the presentation: Pam Flannagin from Florida; Gail Smith, state WAC president from Georgia; and Donnell Wilson from Oklahoma.

The four explored six types of criticism, both positive and negative, which Christian women experience. Using three Bible passages: Galatians 5:22-23; I Corinthians 13; and Matthew 7:1-5; the panel offered sound advice and practical responses to critical situations.

Mrs. Worthington noted, "If we are filled and walking with the Spirit, we will not be a critical speck detector." The group then cited biblical examples who handled criticism in a variety of ways—from fear, frustration and fighting to faith. Like Jesus, Stephen and Daniel, . . . "we must purpose in our heart how we will respond to criticism."

Executive Committee members Diana Bryant and Debbie Burden entertained and informed state leaders



Marjorie Workman (L) displays Lucille Steward's (R) suitcase that started the WNAC Provision Closet.

with "Just the Facts, Ma'am." This seminar focused on accurate record keeping. Mrs. Bryant (FL) related humorous minutes from past meetings. Through a series of comedy vignettes, she posed the question, "What would life be like if other people didn't keep records?" Mrs. Burden (OK) then shared biblical aspects and examples of proper records.

Music

Hope and healing resounded in the music. Michigander Rebekah Seymour led the assembly in singing, "He is Able," "His Name is Wonderful" and "The Haven of Rest." Michigan's WAC Ensemble urged attendees to "Let Them Know." Esther Harbart proclaimed "Hope for the Hopeless."

Missionaries

Missionary Carol Pinkerton of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa, gave the Tuesday morning devotion. In a moving Power Point presentation, she traced the growth of the Abidjan church as well as the lives of three Ivorian believers. The touching story of Rachelle, an Ivorian teen girl, revealed that living the Christian life in that region is both difficult yet rewarding.

Missionary to Spain Susan Turnbough challenged the sellout crowd of over 350 at the WNAC Luncheon. After almost 20 years in that country, she described herself as more Spanish than American. Her departure from Spain was "a time of mourning." Using Proverbs 4, she shared ways to "Guard Your Heart" from Satan's kingpins of pride, unbelief and fear.

Mexico to Madrid

Special guests from Mexico and Spain gave testimony and greeting. Mrs. Elvia Martinez de Escobar, president of Mexico's WNAC gave greetings in the Tuesday morning session. Aided by missionary translator Ruth Bivens of Puerto Rico, this Mexican pastor's wife told of their work and special projects in that country. Mexican women are involved in the construction of a Free Will Baptist convention center with seating for 1,500. Mexican women are also funding five new Sunday School rooms in the Hidalgo mountain region. Mrs. Elvia commented, "We should continue together united . . . knowing our work in the Lord is not in vain."

Yolanda Almeida del Campo, friend and spiritual fruit of Susan Turnbough, gave her testimony during the WNAC luncheon. She described her

life before conversion and praised the Lord for her salvation. She noted, "It is easier to speak in a virgin country, than in a culture that's experienced disillusionment." Christianity is not popular in Spain. MK Melissa Turnbough translated.

Message

"The role of women in world evangelism is essential," began James Forlines, director of FWB Foreign Missions. His Tuesday morning worship message cited three indispensable roles that women play in the expansion of the gospel. "How are we going to go from perilous times to the preaching of the Word?" he asked. "Through mothers." He cited the biblical example of Lois and Eunice. He noted that 85% of present missionaries responded to the call of missionary service before sixth grade. He urged mothers to make world evangelism part of the warp and woof of their being.

Women also have an indispensable role as partners. Offering Priscilla and Aquila, as well as modern life partners, Winford and Bea Davis, Carlisle and Marie Hanna and Raymond and Winona Riggs, as examples, Forlines stated, "The world will not be won without sacrifice."

The third indispensable role involves women with zeal. He challenged, "Rise up, O women of God. Your heathen sisters have no hope but in Christ through you." Brother Forlines paid special honor to one woman who has risen up. He presented Fern Phillips with a special gift, a signed copy of Laura Belle Barnard's biography, for her service as teacher in Brazil.

Meet the Winners

Sarah Fletcher, new editor of *CoLaborer* awarded winners of the annual Creative Writing Contest. This year's contest included 136 entries in five categories. Winners include:

Vickie Turner	(MO)	Poetry
Judy Delong	(KY)	Articles, Programs
Lee Ann Wilfong	(MO)	Plays
Janis Williams	(TN)	Art

Mrs. Foreign Missions

In a special Tuesday presentation, Marjorie Workman, WNAC executive

secretary-treasurer, recalled the ministry of Lucille Steward, once referred to as "Mrs. Foreign Missions." The present Missionary Provision Closet was the brainchild of this Michigan woman. Since its inception in 1962, this unique service has provided linens and household items to home and foreign missionaries. Mrs. Workman displayed the suitcase Mrs. Steward used to bring those first gifts to the Provision Closet, then presented her with a special certificate for her years of dedication and service. Mrs. Workman noted, "As long as she has a heart, she will serve."

Minutes and Motions

After an official Michigan welcome from Diane Worthington, President Debe Taylor called the assembly into its business session. Marjorie Workman, executive secretary-treasurer, presented her annual report, acquainting women with new books and available materials. She reported that WAC groups gave \$550,000 to mission-related causes. WNAC has a current membership of 6,593. Reports of various committees were received and approved.

WNAC passed two resolutions. One resolution limited the number of years a member can serve on the Executive Committee to eight. The second resolution awarded three \$1,000 scholarships from the Cleo Purcell Foreign Student Scholarship Fund to students in Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba and Brazil.

Delegates elected the following officers:

Debe Taylor	(AR)	President
Joanne King	(NC)	Vice President
Debbie Burden	(OK)	Secretary
Yvonne Brown	(CA)	Member-at-Large
Carolyn Hendrix	(AL)	Member-at-Large
Dawn Sweeney	(TN)	Member-at-Large

Ministries

Several new ministry opportunities surfaced during the session. Cheri Ham of the Foreign Missions Department introduced the Intercessors Prayer Network. A new brochure prepared by the Board of Retirement offers information concerning the WNAC Endowment Fund. A gift to this fund insures WNAC monies for future ministry.

A gift from South Carolina WAC enabled the office to buy a needed digital camera. This camera captured events at the convention and will be used in future production of the *CoLaborer*. WNAC announced a new cookbook project available for purchase at the 2002 session. Women may submit up to three recipes; deadline for submission is December 31, 2001.

WNAC is partnering with Master's Men to sponsor a Couples Retreat, April 5-7, 2002, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. The WNAC National Retreat will meet at Ridgecrest Conference Center, September 25-27, 2002, and in Branson, Missouri, in 2003.

Mementos

Michigan WAC districts prepared mementos for luncheon attendees. Gifts of candy cars, Michigan products, mini-cookbooks and homemade soaps, as well as centerpieces depicting Michigan's lakes revealed the diversity of the state and its peoples.

Memphis

WNAC encourages all women to attend its 67th annual session in Memphis 2002. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Sarah Fletcher is the editor of *CoLaborer*.



WNAC Executive Committee in session.

NYC 2001

By Becky Gwartney



We won! We won!

With “different strokes for different folks,” I know that the NYC staff has an overwhelming task—pleasing everyone. As I watched and participated in this year’s National Youth Conference, I noted that the staff did an incredible job ministering where it counts—in the hearts and minds of students. If this had been target practice, I’d say, “they hit the bull’s eye.” In a packed-out ballroom, the nearly 2,000 that attended participated in powerful worship services with tremendous speakers, topped with praise and worship that would stir any heart. Additional times were included for:

- visiting and sharing with fellow believers in Christ
- renewal during the concert of prayer
- learning and expanding horizons at various

- seminars/workshops
- shining during competitive activities
- serving the city of Detroit through *Reach That Guy* projects
- laughing at *Youth Blast* and other after-service activities
- shopping at the numerous exhibits



Little eyes eager to learn.

- challenging messages (like that of the National Youth Evangelistic Team’s program)
- refreshment with *APEX* (Bible studies and workshops for college-age and single adults)

Sunday morning began with Sunday School classes for all ages. Mark Stripling taught the teens about Micah’s dynamic dedication to tell others about the Lord. In Sunday morning worship, teens heard words of wisdom from Raymond Riggs. He used 1 Timothy 4:12 to challenge them to be an example of the believers in all that they do, and to be willing to follow God now, while they are young.

Sunday night’s service was energetic as Susan Turnbough, missionary to Spain, challenged all to say, “Here I am, Lord.” Susan used examples such as Daniel, Moses and

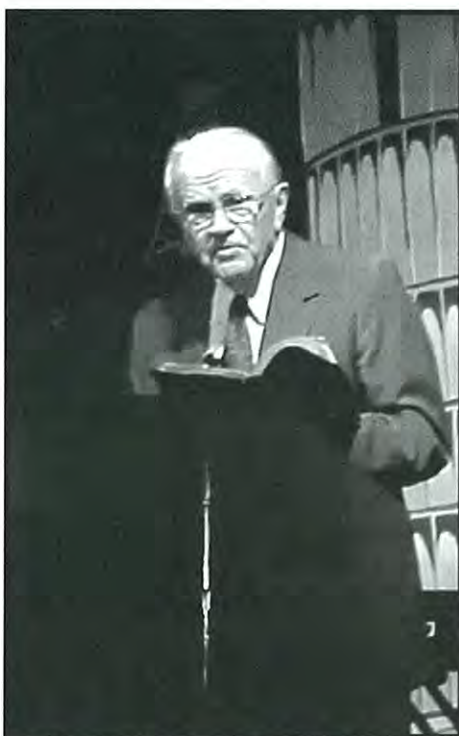
Deborah whom God utilized in His service, even though these people didn't feel they had much to offer God.

As Monday's activities began, people from 17 to 70+ years old participated in the Red Cross Blood Drive (sponsored by *Reach That Guy*) as others piled in rooms for workshops or competition. Children learned how to use their musical talents for the Lord in *Children's Choir Workshops*, spent time getting to know the FWB missionaries personally in *Meet Your Missionaries*, and served in projects designed just for their age group while preschoolers met for story time.

Monday night's youth service was extremely challenging as speaker Mark Roberts dared the students to take a stand for Christ on their school campuses. Mark gave practical examples of how Christian students can impact their world for God. When the invitation was given, many students responded to the challenge to "win their world for Christ."

After-service activities for all ages were held each evening (Sunday through Tuesday). Games were played, the National Youth Evangelistic Team performed their stirring program, a Christian comedian entertained several hundred at *Youth Blast*, while some were praying (during the *Concert of Prayer*) or studying God's Word (in *APEX*). Whatever the age, whatever the taste, the National Youth Conference provided something for everyone.

Tuesday was another full day as children, teens, college students and workers met in workshops or attended com-



Raymond Riggs — still young at heart.

James Forlines tearfully stood and listened as the teens worshiped the Lord and, in song, promised God, "I'm holding nothing back from You . . . though I live or die." Forlines used the story of William Borden, paralleled with the life of the apostle Paul, to challenge all to be focused on obeying God, even if it means denying self.

In completing a purpose for their lives, William Borden and Paul were both driven by eternal goals. Forlines urged students to do likewise. As the invitation was given, hundreds answered, "Yes," to God as they sang, "I give You all of me." What a stirring moment for all who were present!

On the last day of the National Youth Conference, workshops included a *See You At the Pole* information session for

students and youth workers, *Puppetry Explosion* for children, more *Meet Your Missionaries* sessions for children and students, *Standing While the World Bows* challenge for youth, and several additional sessions for workers.

Bible competition finals were held Wednesday morning as students amazed spectators on their knowledge of the Bible and Free Will Baptist trivia.

For the final service of the conference, the children and students met with adults for the joint missions service in Cobo Arena. *Truth and Peace* students sang, "Here Am I, Send Me," before Carlisle Hanna spoke from his heart about "his India."

With such a powerful emphasis on world missions all week, many hearts were stirred and challenged to "go!" In every service and every activity, no matter the age, all who attended were inspired to live a more committed life and to serve Christ wherever He sends them—with *No Reserves, No Retreats, and No Regrets*. ■

ABOUT THE WRITER: Becky Gwartney is a member of First Free Will Baptist Church in Locust Grove, Oklahoma.



Some committed their lives to Christ for service.

petition. Children made crafts, met more missionaries and learned additional songs in their workshops. Teens learned more from Mark Roberts about campus ministry, met missionaries and were encouraged by the Denton Brothers to be on fire for God.

As Tuesday night's service began,



Convention manager Dean Jones questions, "Oh, why did I accept this job?"

A First!

and Youth Audio Available!

Because of time and space restraints, we are unable to list all available tapes for this year's convention.

But we want you to know that tapes other than those listed on the order blank at right are available.

First: All convention worship services (including the music) were videotaped and are available for purchase. The cost is \$17 each (which includes postage and handling).

Second: For the first time this year, all youth worship services were audiotaped. These are available at the regular price: \$4 per tape (plus \$2 for the whole order's postage).

Space below is available for you to write in which of these video or audio tapes you would like to order.

[illegible]

2001 Convention Tapes

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MESSAGES ON AUDIO CASSETTE TAPES

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

<u>Tape No.</u>	<u>Speaker(s)</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
<i>Convention Messages</i>			
1.	David Bishop	Sunday Morning	_____
2.	Danny Dwyer	Sunday Evening	_____
3.	Leonard Pirtle	Monday Evening	_____
4.	Gene Norris	Tuesday Evening	_____
5.	Carlisle Hanna	Wednesday Evening	_____
<i>Women Nationally Active for Christ</i>			
6.	Carol Pinkerton	Devotional	_____
7.	Debbie Burden/ Diana Bryant	State Leaders Meeting	_____
8.	James Forlines	Missionary Service	_____
9.	Susan Turnbough	Fellowship Luncheon	_____
<i>Seminars</i>			
10.	Mark Paschall	Theological Trends Seminar	_____
11.	Alton Loveless	Sunday School Workshop	_____
12.	Tom Dooley	Master's Men Seminar	_____
<i>Miscellaneous</i>			
13.	Patrick McLaughlin	Pastors/Laymen Conference (\$5: 2 tapes)	_____
14.	Larry Reesor	Foreign/Home Missions Rally	_____
15.	Carl Cheshier	Moderator's Message	_____
16.	Charles Walden	Adult Sunday School Class	_____

Other Available Tapes

- ← Convention Worship Service Videotapes (list individually at left)
- ← NYC Audio Cassette Tapes (list individually at left)

Please complete the following:

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Total Tape Cost _____

Plus Postage \$2.00

Amount Enclosed _____

Please send **Check or Money Order to:**

Mike Anderson • 6521 Mercomatic Court • Nashville, TN 37209
or call 615/352-7489 to order

Bill Gardner, Singer and Minister, Dies

NASHVILLE, TN—Retired Free Will Baptist minister Reverend Willie M. (Bill) Gardner, Jr., died in a Nashville hospital June 15, one week after surgery. He was 65. Gardner went into cardiac arrest on June 13 and never regained consciousness.

Reverend Gardner retired from Fellowship FWB Church in Antioch last fall where he had pastored since 1987. Prior to his Tennessee pastorate, he pastored 13 years in Indiana and had also pastored churches in North Carolina, Mississippi and Georgia.

Brother Gardner was best known among Free Will Baptists for his clear, high tenor voice. He sang frequently at national conventions, state associations and Bible conferences. His last recording effort occurred this spring on Free Will Baptist Bible College campus during production of the "He Keeps Me Singing" video, an effort featuring 50 Free Will Baptist singers and musicians.

Nashville pastor Robert Morgan said at Gardner's funeral, "Bill could have had a music career anywhere in the world with



his voice, but he chose to sing one song—and that was the song of Jesus Christ."

One of his ministerial colleagues observed, "Bill Gardner was all right as a speaker, but he was all-world as a singer. His amazing tenor voice had the capacity to lift an audience to an almost unbearable emotional peak."

In addition to his pastoral and musical roles, Brother Gardner served on a broader denominational scale as well. At the time of his death, he was a member of both the Music Commission

and the Media Commission.

While he was pastoring at Fellowship FWB Church, Gardner served four years (1993-1997) as moderator of the Tennessee State Association of Free Will Baptists.

Born in Norfolk, Virginia, Bill was converted, answered the call to preach and attended Free Will Baptist Bible College. He later studied at North Carolina State University, and earned a master's degree in music at Mississippi State University.

Funeral services were conducted June 18 at Donelson FWB Church in Nashville. Reverend Robert Morgan and Dr. Paul Harrison officiated.

Reverend Gardner is survived by his wife Joan of Antioch; three children, Mrs. Debbie Mouser and Matt Gardner, both of Nashville; Mrs. Becky Drace of Missouri; one brother, Charles Gardner of South Carolina, and seven grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, gifts may be given to the Bill Gardner Memorial Fund, Music and Media Commissions at P. O. Box 5002, Antioch, TN 37011-5002.

FWBBC Names Malone Chancellor, Seeks New President

NASHVILLE, TN—The Free Will Baptist Bible College Board of Trustees announced that it is promoting FWBBC President Tom Malone to the office of Chancellor, effective January 2002, or as soon thereafter as a new president can be found.

In making the announcement, the trustees cited the urgent need to involve Dr. Malone more directly in relocating the college to Joelton. They said the move was being made "in order to best utilize the gifts and vision of President Malone and to expedite the relocation process."

A search committee composed of Board Chairman Gary Fry, Assistant Chairman Richard Bowers, and Secretary Larry Montgomery



has been appointed to find a new president.

Dr. Malone has served as president at FWBBC for 11 years. During his tenure, the college achieved re-

gional accreditation and purchased the property to which the college is moving in 2003. President Malone has been a driving force to advance the college.

"I have had three great loves in my life," he said: "The Lord Jesus Christ, my family and Free Will Baptist Bible College. It is my heart's desire to continue serving the college in whatever way I can that we may see more young people entering the whitened fields of Christian service."

The administration, faculty, staff, students and trustees request the prayers of the denomination as the search is conducted and as the transition takes place.

Indiana Opposes Masonic Lodge

WABASH, IN—Delegates to the 41st annual Indiana State Association adopted a strongly-worded resolution opposing the Masonic Lodge, according to promotional secretary Tim Harris. The resolution included a statement barring Masonic Lodge members from serving on state boards, as state officers or as standing delegates to the state association. Local churches were encouraged to inform members about the Masonic Lodge and other secret orders.

The June 15-16 session which met at Wabash FWB Church in Wabash, registered 79 attendees. Moderator Robert Helms was re-elected.

Three Indiana pastors preached sermons developing the association theme, "Growing Together in Vision." Wolcottville pastor Jim Caudill, Wabash pastor Doug Phillips and North Judson pastor Jerry Hall shared the pulpit.

The Indiana Women Active for Christ heard former missionary Anita Sparks give her testimony of 40 years in mission work. The state association and Indiana WAC honored Reverend Lonnie and Mrs. Anita Sparks for their years of dedicated service. Their son Noel shared in the time of celebration. The Sparks were given a \$2,191 offering.

The 2002 state association will meet at Emmanuel FWB Church in Wabash at a time to be determined.

California Elects Sasser as Moderator

FAIRFIELD, CA—Delegates to California's 58th annual state association elected El Sobrante pastor Millard Sasser as moderator, according to executive secretary, Nuel Brown. Sasser succeeds Matt Upton who served nine years as moderator.

The 61-year-old Millard Sasser pastors Sherwood Forest FWB Church near San Francisco. He recently returned to California from Florida where he served as that state's promotional officer and editor of the state paper.

Some 200 people registered for the May 17-19 state association which met at Fairfield FWB Church in Fairfield.

Four ministers preached sermons developing the association theme, "Missions Alive." Speakers included Shafter pastor Dean Long, new moderator Millard Sasser, Foreign Missions director James Forlines and Home Missions staffer David Crowe.

The 2002 state association will meet May 23-25 at California Christian College in Fresno.

Virginia Elects New Officers

WOODBIDGE, VA—When delegates drove home from the 63rd annual Virginia State Association, they left with new general officers. Woodbridge pastor Dave Nobles was elected moderator, succeeding Hal Jones. Stafford pastor Greg Bevan was elected assistant moderator; Richmond pastor Vergel Maness was elected clerk.

The June 14-15 session met at Bethel FWB Church in Woodbridge. Officials reported that 28 ministers, six deacons, nine lay delegates and 39 visitors registered.

Six ministers preached sermons developing the association theme, "The Local Church." Larry Haggard preached about the course for the church, David Reece the communion of the church, Karl Sexton the commitment of the church, Rick Gatten the cost of service, and Greg Bevan the contention surrounding the church.

In other action, delegates approved a constitutional change allowing the moderator to appoint a nominating committee before the state meeting.

Two new five-member boards were set in place—the Executive Board and the Home Missions Board.

Two resolutions were adopted. One resolution requested that the Commission for Theological Integrity examine the teachings of the Billy Graham ministries and report to the Virginia State Association.

The second resolution requested that the National Association's Executive Committee investigate the Home Missions Department regarding "the James Munsey situation," report its findings at the 2002 national convention and publish the findings in *Contact*.

The 2002 state association will meet June 13-14 at Esserville FWB Church in Norton.

Missouri Elects Richard Robinson Moderator

WEST PLAINS, MO—Missouri has a new moderator. Joplin pastor Richard Robinson was elected to succeed Rick Dablemont at the conclusion of the June 4-6 state association, according to Executive Secretary Nathan Ruble. Robinson pastors First FWB Church in Joplin and also serves as moderator of the Indian Creek Association.

The 88th annual Missouri State Association met at United FWB Church in West Plains. Some 407 people registered for the meeting, including 78 ministers, 92 delegates and 237 visitors.

The association theme, "Reaffirming Our Stand," was developed in five sermons by three Missouri pastors and two national agency speakers. The speakers included St. Clair pastor Jay Tilson, Park Hills pastor Wayne Phillips, Kansas City pastor Dan Minkler, Bible College president Tom Malone and Master's Men director Tom Dooley.

Two hundred people celebrated the Lord's Supper and Washing of the Saints' Feet after the Tuesday evening service.

Delegates adopted a \$1.6 million state budget with the following allocations: Co-op—\$500,000; Show-Me Plan—\$450,000; Bookstore—\$485,000; State Ministries—\$201,000.

Delegates also changed the purpose statement of the state's constitution.

Master's Men director Tom Dooley presented a seminar on organizing a Master's Men chapter. The Missouri WAC Convention met June 4 with foreign missionaries Carol Pinkerton (Côte d'Ivoire) and Ruth McDonald (Japan) speaking.

The 2002 state association will meet June 3-5 at Cowan Civic Center in Lebanon.

Preaching Highlights West Virginia Meeting

BRADLEY, WV—Six devotionals and three sermons in two days focused the attention of delegates on the Word of God at West Virginia's 56th annual state association, reported clerk Norwood Webb. The June 8-9 session met at Bradley FWB Church with 229 people registering.

The three association worship services featured two pastors and a national agency staffer who developed the theme, "Our Redemption Draweth Nigh."

Evergreen Hill pastor Mark

Price preached on "Redeemed Through Kinship" Friday morning. Pastor Wayne Runyon of Parsley Bottom preached Friday evening. Dr. James Cox from Free Will Baptist Bible College brought the final message Saturday morning on the "Believing Heart."

John Gorrell led a seminar for delegates on youth ministry.

Delegates re-elected moderator Ivan Asbury, adopted a co-op percentage budget, changed the constitution to reflect changes in

National Association representation fees and placed Women Active for Christ activities back in the state minutes with their duties stipulated.

Plaques were awarded to the top giving churches concerning the "March For Missions." The state Mission Board gave flowers to the Women Active for Christ for their giving to missions.

The 2002 state association will meet June 7-8 at Mona Hill FWB Church in Whitman.

currently

Let's hear it for home missionary **Robert Trimble** and members of **Berea FWB Church in Battle Creek, MI**. A mortgage-burning ceremony will highlight their fifth anniversary October 1. Pastor **Ron Helms** of Southgate, MI, will deliver the major address.

Home missionary **Terry Hardison** reports 11 conversions, five rededications and 13 awaiting baptism at **Faith FWB Church in Milwaukee, WI**. Hardison and the members made 1,457 local contacts last month. Morning worship averages 87. The mission work has numerous community outreach programs including the Milwaukee Rescue Missions, ministering to battered women, street preaching and more.

Evangelist **Wade Jernigan** did it again. He led Bible study activities at the 18th annual Lenapah Cowboy Camp Meeting in **Lenapah, OK**. The June 13-17 meeting included services three times a day, lots of cowboy stuff to do and free meals served chuck wagon style.

Pastor **Henry Van Kluyve** said that members of **First FWB Church in Beaufort, NC**, topped their faith promise goal by \$6,000. Members committed \$36,000 during their World Missions Conference. Van Kluyve is completing 16 years at the church.

Pastor **John Uder** baptized 14 converts at the Long Ford on the Gasconade River. Brother Uder leads **Sunnyview FWB Church near Lebanon, MO**.

There's a new Master's Men chapter in **Arnold, MO**. Pastor **Glen Rehkop** says that men at **Grace FWB Church** organized the chapter this spring. The group elected **Bryan Berrong** president.

Cavanaugh FWB Church in Fort Smith, AR, purchased 14.3 acres in Riley Farm just off Highway 71. Pastor **Will Harmon** said this purchase opens the relocation doors for the West Arkansas congregation.

Some 154 people showed up for homecoming activities at **Philadelphia FWB Church in Folkston, GA**, according to Pastor **Conrad Williford**.

The church celebrated by burning the mortgage on their 4,000-square-foot fellowship hall which was erected in 1999 at a cost of \$145,000. The hall includes three classrooms, a stage, large dining area and a kitchen. The church averages 100 in attendance.

In less than two years as pastor at **Mt. Trolly FWB Church in Galivants Ferry, SC**, Pastor **Marty Cox** reports 60 salvation or rededication decisions. Members surprised Pastor Cox at a Pastor Appreciation Day with gifts of cash, some special memories and a great lunch in their just-renovated fellowship building.

Pastor **David Young** and members of **Tabernacle FWB Church in Coward, SC**, did the nearly-impossible at homecoming celebration. They burned the mortgage on a 15-year, \$250,000 loan ... and they did it in seven years. Five new members joined the church the next Sunday.

Members of **West Side FWB Church in Johnsonville, SC**, welcomed 230 people to homecoming and dedication services, according to Pastor **Theron Scott**. The church dedicated their new family life center with special music and a message by Pastor Scott. The Church Praise Team provided a musical concert to conclude the day's festivities.

South Carolina promotional director **Mike Jones** accepted a \$5,000 computer from Southern Computer Systems. Jones said, "This fast, high-tech server has allowed us to connect all the computers at the promotional office/bookstore, which eliminates much duplication."

Pastor **Richard Huggins** reports a newly-paved parking lot at **Damascus FWB Church in Conway, SC**.

It took 106 years, but members of **Bethel FWB Church in Baxley, GA**, finally convinced Appling County officials to pave the road leading to the church. The paved road gives all-weather access to the church. **Jerry Rogers** pastors.

First FWB Church in Metter, GA, began with 13 charter members in 1934 in

a private home. Members built a 600-square-foot building then added a 960-square-foot addition in 1945 and a 7,200-square-foot building in 1995. Pastor **Johnny Beasley** says the church's \$700,000-valued property is debt-free. Members recently witnessed three conversions, two baptisms and numerous rededications.

Members of **First FWB Church in Blakely, GA**, celebrated 70 years of service to the community with day-long services, dinner and a special song service. Former pastor **Billy Bevan**, president of Southeastern FWB College, preached the 70th-year sermon. Activities included a candlelight memorial service. **Shane Carter** pastors.

First FWB Church in Raleigh, NC, reports nine conversions and over 1,000 in attendance for five consecutive Sundays. **Tim Rabon** pastors.

Members of **Peace Chapel FWB Church in Washington, NC**, purchased land on Highway 264 in order to relocate. **Edwin Hill** pastors.

Pastor **Jon Cannon** reports 21 conversions at VBS in **Victory FWB Church in Mascoutah, IL**.

Members of **Peace FWB Church in Wilson, NC**, voted to borrow \$2.9 million to build a 28,000-square-foot auditorium. The church began the building program with \$500,000 in the bank. They expect to complete the project by late spring 2002. **Gordon Sebastian** pastors.

Attendance at **Southern Hills FWB Church in Overland Park, KS**, climbed from 20 to 75 in 16 months. **Mark Braisher** pastors. ■

Directory Update

ARKANSAS

John High to Weavers Chapel Church, Batesville
from First Church, Henderson, TX

FLORIDA

Sonny Thomas to First Church, Titusville
Gustavo Abreira to Renacer Church, Miami
William Whipple to Solid Rock Church, Belleview

ILLINOIS

Tyler Penn to First Church, Decatur
Kenny Ellis to Oak Grove Church, Scheller

MICHIGAN

Tom Sienkiewicz to Liberty Church, Detroit

NORTH CAROLINA

Robert Harris to Harriett Memorial Church, Forest City

OKLAHOMA

Mike Hutsell to Grace Church, Broken Arrow

THE TOGETHER WAY

June 2001

Receipts:

State	Designated	CO-OP	Total	Year To Date Designated	Year To Date CO-OP	Year To Date Total
Alabama	\$ 234.60	\$ 332.67	\$ 567.27	\$ 2,395.78	\$ 1,147.07	\$ 3,542.85
Arizona	.00	.00	.00	30.00	204.60	234.60
Arkansas	29,738.16	15,233.43	44,971.59	132,517.30	102,445.64	234,962.94
California	.00	.00	.00	883.54	5,925.08	6,808.62
Colorado	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Delaware	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Florida	107.84	6,000.00	6,107.84	237.16	9,999.00	10,236.16
Georgia	38,198.48	1,543.17	39,741.65	200,858.52	10,177.36	211,035.88
Hawaii	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Idaho	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Illinois	5,458.78	1,382.97	6,841.75	50,053.71	12,193.59	62,247.30
Indiana	1,647.23	319.77	1,967.00	11,655.00	1,390.37	13,045.37
Iowa	.00	.00	.00	.00	796.30	796.30
Kansas	.00	.00	.00	.00	184.77	184.77
Kentucky	462.64	1,509.94	1,972.58	2,469.22	5,119.54	7,588.76
Louisiana	20.00	.00	20.00	50.00	20.00	70.00
Maryland	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Michigan	17,074.93	1,517.55	18,592.48	133,828.39	14,888.99	148,717.38
Mississippi	16,820.23	1,389.42	18,209.65	51,934.88	4,022.96	55,957.84
Missouri	31,931.10	12,719.38	44,650.48	253,713.82	86,261.48	339,975.30
Montana	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Nebraska	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Jersey	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
New Mexico	396.73	38.37	435.10	2,951.41	350.71	3,302.12
North Carolina	187.62	1,727.70	1,915.32	8,541.10	16,574.98	25,116.08
Ohio	10,078.80	2,000.08	12,078.88	90,018.77	18,682.77	108,701.54
Oklahoma	62,541.74	12,259.76	74,801.50	317,453.53	69,588.06	387,041.59
South Carolina	46,643.09	65.95	46,709.04	300,390.55	951.61	301,342.16
South Dakota	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Tennessee	15,462.46	2,103.99	17,566.45	69,129.88	13,612.82	82,742.70
Texas	9,705.77	359.62	10,065.39	46,278.14	1,806.09	48,084.23
Virginia	286.33	.00	286.33	1,903.43	473.46	2,376.89
Virgin Islands	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
West Virginia	114.10	.00	114.10	12,660.10	568.84	13,228.94
Wisconsin	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Canada	469.84	7.95	477.79	3,871.34	63.69	3,935.03
Northwest Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Northeast Assoc.	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00
Other	.00	(0.11)	(0.11)	.00	(0.23)	(0.23)
Totals	\$ 287,580.47	\$ 60,511.61	\$ 348,092.08	\$ 1,693,825.57	\$377,449.55	\$ 2,071,275.12

Disbursements:

Executive Office	\$ 2,266.76	\$ 27,230.30	\$ 29,497.06	\$ 11,670.32	\$169,852.46	\$ 181,522.78
Foreign Missions	175,649.41	7,654.71	183,304.12	973,208.37	47,747.35	1,020,955.72
FWBBC	26,054.55	7,654.71	33,709.26	153,306.51	47,747.35	201,053.86
Home Missions	76,057.74	5,990.65	82,048.39	458,809.01	37,367.53	496,176.54
Retirement & Insurance	406.48	4,659.40	5,065.88	2,798.37	29,063.63	31,862.00
Master's Men	290.48	4,659.40	4,949.88	2,452.30	29,063.63	31,515.93
Comm. for Theo. Integrity	45.22	166.39	211.61	281.15	1,037.93	1,319.08
FWB Foundation	283.44	1,996.88	2,280.32	1,704.65	12,455.88	14,160.53
Historical Commission	27.87	166.39	194.26	194.39	1,037.93	1,232.32
Music Commission	53.35	166.39	219.74	83.40	1,037.93	1,121.33
Media Commission	190.70	166.39	357.09	940.15	1,037.93	1,978.08
Hillsdale FWB College	1,753.54	.00	1,753.54	11,325.68	.00	11,325.68
Other	4,500.93	.00	4,500.93	77,051.27	.00	77,051.27
Totals	\$ 287,580.47	\$ 60,511.61	\$ 348,092.08	\$ 1,693,825.57	\$377,449.55	\$ 2,071,275.12

Coming Next Month

- E-Ministry Guidelines
- Real Men Go to Church
- Play it Safe in Cyberspace
- Do We Trick or Treat?

Do you remember the first time a missionary came to your church? For most people, they were excited to hear the stories, excited to see the enthusiasm in the eyes of the missionaries, and they were impressed by the love that God had given to these families for lost souls.

After the service, many of us would talk to these men and women of God. We would stand amazed hearing the story of how God had called them to the mission field. We would hear how they would leave family and friends to go where God sent them. We would hear of their triumphs and of their disappointments.

Last year on September 30, Free Will Baptists from around the country united to support, uplift and encourage the people whom God has called to be our home missionaries. From Alaska to Alabama and from Pittsburgh to Puerto Rico, Free Will Baptists were knocking on doors, hanging information on doorknobs, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and helping Free Will Baptist home missionaries build churches.

The reports were encouraging. Our people were witnessing and leading people to Christ. They were inviting people to church who had never been to church and many had never heard of Free Will Baptists.

You might be saying, "I can't do that!" If you can walk and hang a bag on a door, you can help. Last year a group went to Puerto Rico. There were two ladies who asked God for just enough strength to go and help, and God provided in abundance. They walked the neighborhoods in the heat of the day without one complaint.

Last year around 1,800 people turned out to help. Approximately 80,000 homes were reached for Free Will Baptist Home Mission churches. How many souls were reached will probably never be known to anyone but God, but we have heard of many who came to know the Lord from this outreach.

Operation Saturation

September 29, 2001

Ask yourself how you would feel if you uprooted your family and moved where you probably didn't know anyone, to do God's will. If the opportunity came for your Free Will Baptist brothers and sisters to come and help you, but they didn't heed the call, how would you feel?

Then ask yourself how you would feel if weeks before the event was to happen, people started calling to tell you they were coming to help. They tell you that their church has taken up a special offering to help pay for your materials. When that day comes, you see dozens of smiling faces there waiting to help you tell the people in your area that you are there and planting a church where they will be welcomed

and loved.

Your opportunity will be here again on September 29. Home missionaries across America are preparing for Operation Saturation 2001. They will again be going into neighborhoods in their cities and letting people know they are there. You can help.

You can help in a number of ways. You can start praying for God's blessings. You can help financially. Each missionary must pay for the materials they use. Finally, you can go.

Ask God what He would have you to do. Do as much as you can. Do what God wants you to do.

Everyone can help. Master's Men chapters, WNAC ladies groups and church youth groups.

Everyone can do something. Pray about it and act now. Don't let this opportunity pass you by.

For information about a home missionary you can help or for other information on the many ways you can be of service, please contact the Home Missions Department at 1-877-767-7674 (toll free) or Master's Men at 1-877-767-8039 (toll free). ■

Home



Missions

The objective of the Sunday School must be derived from the objectives of the church. These are clearly defined by the Great Commission: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you," (Matt. 28:19-20). This passage summarizes New Testament teachings of the purpose of the church.

The Sunday School is the entire body of the church, including members, non-members, children and adults, administratively organized with definite responsibilities for teaching, outreach, ministry and fellowship. Thus Sunday School is simply the church organized to carry out the Great Commission.

Asuch, Sunday School is directly responsible to the church (by whatever polity the church operates) to accomplish these goals. At the highest level, the objectives are:

"teach all nations"—outreach and education

"baptizing them"—outreach and evangelism

"teach them to observe"—education and application.

From another perspective, objectives of Sunday School are to provide a comprehensive organization with assigned responsibility to reach all prospects for the church; engage members in regular, meaningful, relevant Bible study; equip the organization with resources and leadership for effective ministry; and lead members to salvation and development in their Christian life.

The basic task of the Bible teaching program (of which Sunday School is the on-going permanent organization) is to reach people for Bible study. We cannot teach people unless we first reach them. The Sunday School is the most likely arm of the church for outreach because of:

Its organization which provides specific responsibility for reaching each prospect in a grouping consistent with their developmental and social needs.

Its meeting time, Sunday morning, remains the best time to reach the majority of people (although provision of alternative times is important as well).

Its content, the Bible, is the basic curriculum of Sunday School and provides an anointed vehicle for meeting people's spiritual needs.

Its focus on fellowship and ministry is basic to meeting felt needs of individuals.

How Effective Is Your Church?

By Alton Loveless

The Sunday School class can become a cohesive unit in which individual needs of all kinds are recognized and dealt with in a context of rich relationship. Benevolence, social, physical, intellectual and emotional needs, as well as spiritual needs, can often be met most effectively through Sunday School class.

One natural outcome of weekly study of the Bible is dynamic encounter with God. Of

course, Sunday School supports and encourages participation in worship service. The class is also in the best position to encourage and support personal and family devotions. Excellent support publications are available to help people in these areas, which can be provided through Sunday School class.

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

The only viable approach to Sunday School organization that will succeed is to grade by age or school grade. Further groups may be provided, as numbers increase, to provide individuals within the local church who have common life needs a source of help for learning and growing. ■



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

Randall



House

With an awareness of the denomination's great debt to its pastors, Free Will Baptist Bible College has announced that it will give a \$2,500 per year scholarship to the dependent children of Free Will Baptist pastors. The program could potentially save our pastors \$10,000 on each child's education.

Many of our pastors have had to labor for wages well under what they could have earned in the secular marketplace. They, their wives and children have sacrificed to labor in the Lord's vineyard, enduring countless hours of toil and the heat of long days. The College trustees and administration felt that it was time to extend to them the benefits of a special scholarship, so that their children could get the Christian education so many of them want them to receive.

Pastors' Children To Be Awarded Legacy Scholarship

By Bert Tippet
Public Relations Director

The new Legacy Scholarship will be extended to the senior pastors—part- or full-time—of Free Will Baptist churches. Each recipient will be required to:

- live in the dormitory,
- take a full load (12 hours or more),
- be making satisfactory progress toward a degree offered by the college,
- and maintain consistent Christian character.

The scholarship began with the 2001-02 school year and is good for up to eight semesters to qualifying students under 24 years of age.

For more information and/or an application, interested people may contact:

Free Will Baptist Bible College
3606 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37205
1-800-76-FWBBC ■

The "Undecided" Major

By Stewart-Allen Clark
Acting Director, Enrollment Management

You may be saying to yourself, "I have heard of all types of majors, but never have I heard of an Undecided major!" In the next few paragraphs I think I can answer some questions about it for you.

WHO?

This degree is for high school graduates who want to discover God's will for their lives. They know they want to begin college, but have no idea what they want to major in.

WHAT?

This is a two-year program leading to the Associate of Arts degree. Its core involves general education classes like those you would receive at a secular college, but taught here from a Christian worldview. Twenty-one of the 65 semester hours involve Bible and Theology.

WHEN?

If after completing the Associate of Arts program you decide to enter a four-year major offered at FWBBC,

you can do so with ease. If you decide that FWBBC does not have the major you need, you can transfer your credits with ease to any other regionally-accredited college or university.

WHERE?

Where can you receive further information about the Associate of Arts degree offered at FWBBC? Just contact the Enrollment Management Office at 1-800-76-FWBBC or, if you prefer, email us at recruit@fwbbc.edu.

DID YOU KNOW?—FWBBC offers two other Associate degrees. They are:

- Associate of Christian Ministries (3 years): For those who want to be involved in a ministry, but do not desire to further their education.
- Associate of Science in Business (2 years): For those who want to prepare for a ministry in the business world. ■

Free Will Baptist Bible College

Tithing is a concept that is not taught much today in church. Pastors rarely preach it and Sunday School classes do not teach it often. Thank God for those who faithfully tithe each week in our congregations, but even many of these individuals may not have considered tithing on their estate or its appreciated value.

Tithing on your estate is the practice of either during your life or at your death giving a tithe on the estimated value of your estate. Two different methods could be used to tithe on your estate.

The most frequent method is to make a bequest in your will with an outright or testamentary agreement. Your executor could choose to liquidate your estate and give 10% to the Lord's work or he could choose a particular asset that is equal to 10% of the estate and transfer that asset to the chosen ministry(ies). Often, some assets in an estate have higher tax consequences to the heirs. These assets are better for bequests.

Another way to tithe on your estate is to do so while you are alive either by cash, transferring a specific asset or funding a planned gift. The tithe of your estate may be transferred to a planned gift, which has many benefits to the tither such as a partial tax deduction, a lifetime income stream and, ultimately, upon your death the tithe principal will go to the Lord's work.

In either case you should choose to tithe on your estate in a way that is most tax advantageous for all parties. Assets such as retirement accounts and IRA accounts have the highest tax liability to an heir and, therefore, are the best assets to use for a bequest or planned gift. Through the will, you fund a charitable trust with a tithe of the estate with payments to your heirs for a period of years. Eventually, the chosen ministry(ies) receive(s) the assets of the trust.

In addition to how we choose to tithe on our estate is another decision as to what type of gift it should be. We could choose for the tithe on our estate to be a

Tithing Your Estate

By David Brown

lump sum immediately available to the ministry(ies). Perhaps a better choice is to direct the tithe of our estate into an endowment, which will make our gift perpetual until Jesus returns.

Endowments have their roots in an Old Testament mandate: Use the land, but do not consume it. In ancient Israel, the land that God distributed among the Hebrew tribes was never sold. In times of deepest poverty, a family could give up the land under a long-

term "lease." Under this law the "purchaser" bought the use and the fruit of the land not the land itself. During Jubilee, all lands reverted to their original family owners.

It is God's intention that His people become managers of the property He gives them. His law is, "live off the land, but do not consume it." Like the land of ancient Israel, endowment gifts are preserved so that the principal is never consumed. While earnings are harvested to support the Lord's work, the original gift remains in place perpetually to earn income.

When we choose an endowment for our estate tithe gift, we are continuing to give to the Lord even though we have gone home to be with the Lord. Consider the example of Tommy Tither, who has an income of \$75,000 a year and an estate worth \$1,000,000. Brother Tommy has faithfully given a tithe to the Lord of \$7,500 a year. The Lord calls Brother Tommy home and in his will he tithes on his estate. The \$100,000 funds an endowment that earns 7.5% a year, which means Brother Tommy continues to give \$7,500 a year to the Lord even after he has gone home.

To do everything the Lord wants us to do as Free Will Baptists will require the gifts of those living on this earth as well as those who have been promoted to heaven. Contact the Free Will Baptist Foundation toll free at 877-336-7575 about how you can tithe on your estate. ■

Bill Gardner Memorial Endowment

Donors

Home Missions
Executive Office
Garnett and Carol Reid
John and Vivian Mouser
Building Owners and Managers
Matt and Terri Martin
Loetta Williams
Billie Shelton
William and Brenda Evans

Free Will Baptist



Foundation



Garnett Reid

Amos, The Burden-Bearing Prophet (Part VIII) Smoke and Mirrors

The old adage, "Things aren't always what they seem," may sound trite, but is often true. A visit to the Winchester Mystery House in San Jose, California, impressed that lesson on me. I was in the Silicon Valley area for a conference. One of my afternoons was free, so I visited the unusual mansion built by Sarah Winchester (heiress of the Winchester Rifle family). Some stairs in the house led nowhere; doors opened to nothing; a few halls were dead ends. Often on the tour I couldn't trust what my eyes were seeing.

As we have noted in our study of Amos, things in the spiritual realm of the Northern Kingdom were not what they seemed, either. In 5:18-27, the prophet's oracle exposes two areas of latent corruption in Israel: *false confidence* and *false worship*.

False Confidence (5:18-20)

Amos begins this section with a scathing rebuke of those Israelites who were longing for the day of the Lord to come. This key phrase, "day of the LORD," occurs nearly 20 times in the Old Testament prophetic books. It refers to that time when God will conclude His work of setting up His kingdom. The New Testament links it with the second coming of Christ (II Thess. 2:1-2). For those faithful to Him, that day will bring reward.

However we often neglect the *other* side of those final events: the punishment that looms for the wicked. The judgment awaiting eighth century B.C. Israel was merely a sampling, a type of that final day of judgment.

Darkness, Not Light (18, 20)

The question in verse 18 has the idea of, "What benefit will the day of the LORD be for those of you who desire it?" The verb translated "desire" (KJV) is an unusual one. Most of its 15 uses in

the Old Testament refer to inappropriate, ill-fated longings. No doubt Israel longed for that day because it would bring punishment for the Gentiles; God now tells them that *they, too*, will face His rod if their hearts are unfaithful.

Verses 18 and 20 depict that coming time as dark, not bright. The people may look to it for light, but its darkness is "very dark," with "no brightness in it," (see Isa. 59:9 for the same expressions).

Lions and Bears and Snakes, (Oh My!) (19)

In verse 19, Amos offers two startling illustrations of Israel's misplaced confidence. In the first, a man escapes a deadly lion, only to run into a bear! In the second, he flees to the apparent security of his house; safe at last, or so he thinks, he leans against a wall and a snake bites him. This lesson applies to an over-confident covenant nation living in rebellion against God. *Election* does not guarantee *exemption* from punishment (see 3:2).

False Worship (21-27)

We saw in 4:4-5 that God detests those external forms of worship not prompted by an internal faith. In graphic terms, the prophet now echoes that censure.

"I Hate Your Sacrifices," (21-22)

God Himself speaks in verses 21-22: "I hate, I despise your feast days," He thunders. The verb translated "despise" or "reject" (Hebrew *ma'as*) is often used of Israel's rejecting God (see Amos 2:4; also Lev. 26:43; Num. 11:20; I Sam. 8:7).

He is not impressed with their worship charade at Passover, the Feast of Tabernacles and the Feast of Weeks—the "solemn assemblies" of verse 21. God even rejects the sacrifices they try to offer Him (v. 22). We must not miss

the lesson for us, as God's new covenant partners: heartless sacrifices are meaningless sacrifices.

Stop the Music! (23)

Now in verse 23 the Lord commands each Israelite, "Remove (Hebrew: singular imperative) the noise of your songs." Their music is only a loud, dissonant sound, the Hebrew noun suggests. He refuses to hear the "melody of [their] viols (harps)."

In a day when music plays a prominent role in our renewed emphasis on worship, we should heed Paul's counsel: "Be filled with the Spirit . . . singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord," (Eph. 5:19).

Righteousness on a Roll (24-27)

Verse 24 is one of the Old Testament's greatest exhortations to covenant loyalty. "Justice" and "righteousness" refer to God's law applied to life—working out the character of God in how one lives. Amos pictures these virtues like a rushing torrent flooding the nation with faithfulness and devotion. If only the reality were true to the portrait!

Instead, Israel's present spiritual state in Amos' day resembled their experience some six centuries earlier when they worshiped idols in the wilderness. The "tabernacle of your Molech," (v. 26) likely refers to an Assyrian war god (NAS: "*Sikkuth* your king"). "*Chiun*" (*Kiyyun*) is probably another name for the planet Saturn.

The fact that God's people devoted themselves to these "images" should come as no surprise; remember the golden calf episode (Ex. 32-34). His response to their rebellion? "You will go into captivity," He decrees (v. 27).

In 722 B. C., the Assyrian conquest of Israel proved that, unlike our pretentious promises, God's word is *always* what it seems. ■



Melinda Pinson

The Ideal Place to Raise Children (Part One)

While pastors' wives are learning to adjust to a life on public display, our children are born into a fish bowl. Many pastors' kids—"PKs"—grow up under the watch of the church spotlight from infancy through adulthood.

Potential of the Pastor's Home

The pastor's home can be a difficult place to raise children. Or, under God's guidance, it can be an ideal place to raise children, as we model God's love and truth before our PKs on a daily basis.

Every Free Will Baptist pastor's home has the potential to be a godly, Christian home, in which children are raised in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). We ministry wives have the biblical knowledge and are equipped with the biblical principles needed to raise emotionally healthy children. Our husbands preach the Word of God teaching congregations to model Christ-likeness before their children.

Responsibility as Pastors' Wives

As pastors' wives we must ask ourselves, are we putting into practice in our homes the biblical ideals we know to be true? Are we pleasing God as Christian mothers when we are in the privacy of our homes and the church spotlight is turned off?

Pastors' wives know God's plan for the home, and we have a sincere desire to build a Christian environment for our families. We even know that a Christian home is the only home that can enjoy the peace and tranquility that God has for us. However, to implement this truth, we must daily work to combat the various temptations and sins that cause a pastor's home to deteriorate.

Danger of Habitual Behavior

Habitual behavior is our foremost

enemy as mothers, and it is usually at the root of family problems. Our daily routines and rituals take control of our lives and set the tone of our spirit. We should strive to break free from destructive or mediocre patterns or habits of behavior with our children, making a decisive commitment to biblical child rearing.

Of course, the pastor's wife is just part of the parental equation, but as mothers we have inestimable influence on the development of our children. We should not use our husband's leadership in the home as a crutch that removes our own responsibility. Instead, we must embrace our role as chief nurturer of our children.

Living Consistently before Our Children

Let's examine a behavioral pattern that snares many pastors and their wives. One seasoned ministry wife has said that the greatest thing that causes children of ministers to leave the faith is the parents being one way in public—at church—and another way at home.

It is crucial that we avoid hypocrisy in the pastor's home. But how do we do it? The first priority is making a full commitment to live our faith consistently before our children. Not "practicing what we preach" in our day-to-day lives can be fatal to our children's spiritual development.

Modeling scriptural concepts of faith and life before our children teaches them there is validity to what the pastor preaches and teaches at church. Our children will know by our example whether or not the Christian life is really worth living—is there really a difference in the Christian's quality of life?

Living with Mistakes

Will we make mistakes even when we are diligently trying to live out our

faith consistently? Of course! It is important how our children see us respond to life's difficulties—those that result from our own failures, those that result from the sin and injustice of others, as well as tragedies and circumstances that beset us.

Our children will not label us hypocrites if they see that doing what is right before God is most important to us—much more important than putting on a good act in the church spotlight. When we do make mistakes or have a poor attitude, we must be willing to say "I'm sorry"—*especially* to our children.

Conclusion

To raise Christian children who will grow up to live productive, godly lives as adults, we as pastors' wives need to realize the potential of the pastor's home—we must see that a pastor's home *can* be an ideal place to raise children.

We must assume our rightful place as shapers and nurturers of our children. We must commit ourselves to practicing what we preach at home and everywhere else, living a consistent, Christian life before our children, so that they will see the lives we live and glorify our father in heaven. This is a unique and important opportunity that we have as ministry wives. Let's embrace it. ■



Randy Sawyer

The Reforming Power of Expository Preaching (Part 3)

Standing under the shadows of Martin Luther and John Calvin, Ulrich Zwingli has been called “the third man of the Reformation.” Zwingli was born on January 1, 1484, at Wildus, some 40 miles from Zurich. The home of his parents, Uly and Margaret, was crowded with 11 children, so Ulrich was sent to live with his uncle.

Life of Constant Learning

Zwingli enjoyed the advantages of a good education, eventually matriculating at the University of Basel in 1502. By the end of his university training, he emerged as a young man inspired by modern trends in scholarship but acquainted also with scholastic learning.

In 1506, Zwingli became vicar of Glarus. Although a busy and popular parish priest, he found time to continue his studies. Having missed an opportunity to learn Greek while at the university, he began to study it on his own using Erasmus' Greek New Testament.

Zwingli's career as a reformer began with his call as the people's priest at Zurich in late 1518. On January 1, 1519, he initiated a systematic exposition of the Bible, commencing with Matthew.

Through his study of the Pauline Epistles in Greek and his systematic exposition of the scriptures, Zwingli reached an evangelical understanding. He always maintained that he had discovered evangelical principles before he heard of Luther, but admitted that reading Luther's books was a valuable assurance to him that he was not alone.

Life of Considerable Courage

With his expository preaching, Zwingli laid the foundations for reform in Switzerland. By 1521, the city had accepted the scriptures as the standard, and the time was ripe for change. The transformation accelerated with astonishing speed between 1522 and 1526: the breaking of Lent, clergy marriage,

translation of the Bible, a new baptismal order, removal of images, criticism of the mass and severance from the Papacy.

But Zwingli was facing physical danger from the opponents of reform. It was imperative that he win the support of the Council of Zurich. The council agreed to consider the question of reform in a public debate on January 29, 1523. Zwingli drew up 67 theses in preparation.

The Bishop of Constance declined to attend the council on grounds that matters of theology should not be submitted to the judgment of laymen. Consequently, Zwingli alone was left to expound on his theses. The debate was a great success and Zwingli was allowed to continue to proclaim the pure “Holy Scriptures” in Zurich.

Life of Committed Exposition

Very few of Zwingli's sermons have been preserved for us to examine, partly because he did not preach from a manuscript. This is not to say that he did not prepare but rather that he wanted to be free to maintain close contact with the congregation.

Zwingli's sermons fall essentially into two categories. First, it was his practice to preach straight through a biblical book before going on to the next. He began his ministry in Zurich by announcing his intention to preach through the Gospel of Matthew.

This approach was a departure from the tradition of the scholastics who preached merely from the assigned texts for each week. This branded Zwingli as revolutionary, and the churchmen were justifiably worried. However, before three years had passed, the result of such expository preaching was evident to all observers.

Commenting on Zwingli's expository preaching, John Broadus writes: “Some friends objected that his expository preaching would be an innovation and injurious; but he justly said,

‘It is the old custom. Call to mind the homilies of Chrysostom on Matthew, and of Augustine on John.’”

Broadus adds that the preaching of the reformers (Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin) gave the most effective exegesis of scripture since the days of Chrysostom. In the *Archetyles* of 1522, Zwingli had occasion to defend the preaching he had done at Zurich.

“I have never planted any other plant than that which Christ planted at the direction of His Father, which cannot be rooted up. For three years ago now (to give you an account of the preaching I have done at Zurich), I preached the entire Gospel according to Matthew.”

He went on to document the other books he had used as the basis of his preaching. After finishing Matthew, he preached from the *Acts of the Apostles*. Following this, he preached from *I Timothy*, *Galatians*, *II Timothy*, *I* and *II Peter* and *Hebrews*.

Occasionally, Zwingli interrupted his series to preach on a particular theme. For example, in the summer of 1522 he preached two sermons on the themes of the Word of God and the Virgin Mary. However, even his topical messages were based entirely upon Scripture, with numerous Biblical passages cited as proof texts.

The Reforming Power of Expository Preaching

One biographer summarized the significance of Zwingli's preaching by remarking that as a result of his expository preaching, “the scripture now dominates tradition.” Another writer added, “Zwingli turned from what he thought to be mere human invention and creation to the primary source of true religion.”

Gordon Rupp noted, “Shortsighted and with a weak voice, he lacked the gifts of the popular orator, but his preaching is the secret of his dominance of the great city.” ■



Jack Williams

The Back Nine

Melvin Worthington, the ultimate road warrior, is coming in out of the cold after 22 years of 5:00 a.m. flights at airports from Norfolk to San Diego. That's what he told delegates this July at the national convention in Detroit.

He earned the right to hang up his spurs and go back to the farm in December 2002, but I'll miss his steady hand and his common sense approach to life and ministry as executive secretary for the Free Will Baptist people. For two decades now I've poured his coffee every morning, at least on those mornings when he was in town. He drank his coffee the way a grown man should—straight up.

The handsome Tar Heel's office was one filing cabinet down the hall from mine. Visitors knew at a glance who belonged in which office. His was the one with a quart jug of peanut butter above the computer, while mine sported a "Cowboy Corner" and a Louis L'Amour collection.

I've seen Melvin do some amazing things over the years, many of which involved chocolate. On a convention planning trip to Tampa after dinner at a quick food outlet, he bought three pounds of white chocolate and ate every ounce within 30 minutes. This is no rumor, friends. I was there and saw it all.

Melvin's personal library was my favorite hangout until July 1999 when he packed up his office and moved 260 running feet of double-stacked books to Ayden, North Carolina. He left nothing behind except the quart jug of peanut butter.

This is more serious than you know, because he owned the finest collection of commentaries and reference works this side of the Welch Library at Free Will Baptist Bible College. Whatever subject I needed to

know more about, those hundreds of volumes contained the answer.

We had but one disagreement about books . . . which we resolved as gentlemen. He agreed to hide his amillennial books on the top shelf if I'd put my premillennial books up there, too. A smart man that Melvin, just a little slow eschatologically.

The most consistent man I know, he kept his devotional life and his Bible reading in order. No matter what churned through the office regarding print deadlines or convention pressures, the one unchanging element in Melvin's daily schedule was the open Bible on his desk. He defined himself as a man of one Book.

You could set your clock by Wilbur Worthington's boy. His commitment to the authority of God's Word showed up everywhere in his conversation, his writing and, most of all, in his sermons. He knew only one way to preach—read a few verses of scripture and explain them. It made him a balanced man and a perceptive preacher.

Did he have faults, apart from eschatology, that is? Sure he did, and the worst one was his writing—not the content but the length. Melvin wrote 12 editorials a year for *Contact*. He understood syntax, language, grammar and style. But he was stubborn as a barn door when it came to word count.

Seven hundred words per editorial, that was his limit. But 90 percent of the time he would stack 1,800 words in his monthly column, smile at me on the way to the airport, and say, "You're the editor. Fix it!" Editors hate that, even when the extra 1,100 words sound good.

Fair play. The hallmark of a good leader is his sense of fair play. I've never known Melvin to belittle another

person because that individual disagreed with him.

Dr. Worthington frequently went to the wall in order to, in his words, "bring everybody to the table." For instance, he was the architect of that 1995 summit meeting when 400 of our state leaders gathered during the Leadership Conference and talked to one another non-stop for three days until we reached accord at a difficult time in our history.

He irritated his friends by insisting that those who criticize him and the denomination deserve to be heard. No one can walk away on Melvin's watch claiming that the executive secretary refused to give him a hearing.

The Bible says that leaders who rule well are "worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine" (1 Tim. 5:17). That's because those leaders are on call 24 hours a day for every imaginable question and issue. They can never cut and run at 4:00 p.m. and leave it for the night shift. They *are* the night shift.

My golf playing buddy from Pitt County is one of those unusual men who can wear the double honor mantle. Today, I salute him as a man of God and a man of the people. I wish he could do it all again.

The best thing about my time with Melvin is that in 1979 he arrived from Georgia with a blue 1973 Volkswagen. A year later he gave that delightful little Bug to the office, and I drove it until it was old enough to vote.

A search committee will soon be at work screening candidates to succeed Melvin Worthington. I hope they give priority to the candidate who likes peanut butter, owns a blue Bug . . . and will let me drive it after a certain fellow heads for the back nine at Ayden. ■

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